



## **National Commission on the Future of the Army**

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000  
Arlington, VA 22202

**SUBJECT:** National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement – 28 MAY 15, Engagement with Soldiers from USARPAC

**Date:** 28 May 2015

**Time:** 1500 - 1700

**Location:** Fort Shafter, Post Theater, Oahu, HI

**Format:** Single Commissioner and NCFA Staff interaction with Soldiers

**Attendees:**

Commissioner Ray Chandler

Ms Cherie Emerson – NCFA Staff

Mr. Johnny Thomas – NCFA Staff

LTC Greg Hartvigsen – NCFA Staff

Mr. Kerry Schindler – NCFA Staff

Mr. Mark von Heeringen – Alternate Designated Federal Officer

25 Officers and NCOs from USARPAC

**Documents Submitted to Commission:** None at this meeting

**Meeting Summary**

Commissioner Chandler and NCFA Staff met with 25 Officers and NCOs (about 60% were either Reservists or AGR) with the intent of informing them of the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and gleaning from them any insights they might have on what the future Army should look like. Commissioner Chandler stated there were several broad areas of intent the National Commission on the Future of the Army needed to address and as a minimum those included the Aviation Restructuring Initiative (ARI), Size of the Army, Force Mix (AC/RC), the Shape of the Institutional and Operational Army and Force Generation.

Individual Soldiers expressed numerous thoughts and opinions on training and mission requirements with the following as typical examples:

- Pre-mob training is like cramming for finals and it would be better to have more routine training with AC units to be better prepared.
- RC training time constraints were preventing them from being operationalized.

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- The RC is instrumental to overall mission and funds are too lean to make best use of 12304 (a) and (b) authorities to order select Reservists to activate duty.
- Some mentioned training was difficult in a previous unit because nearly a full day was often lost transiting to and from the training area.
- One Soldier mentioned his previous RC unit had to be creative in the use of its Multiple Unit Training Assembly (MUTA) periods to enable sufficient training time for transit to and from training areas.
- A Soldier opined that the RC was very heavy on enablers and wondered if Army needs more port opening and CSS capability on the AC to support Phase 0 and Phase 1 missions.
- Several Soldiers thought Army should bring the AC-RC Concept back, where Soldiers from each respective Component serve some amount of time in another Component. One Soldier thought this might be particularly useful in units requiring technical skills that are mirrored in the civilian community, such as with MPs, Engineers, and or organizations requiring heavy computer/automation skills.
- Another Soldier expressed concern about reduced funding affecting some of the “great AC/RC relationships that were forged during the war years.
- Another offered that there was good AC/RC interaction in Alaska and perhaps the Commission should examine those relationships.
- Many thought the AGR program required better funding to enable improved continuous preparation and training.
- A Soldier said the Army needs one data system that has all (AC and RC) people in it to ease management and enable authoritative knowledge of a Soldier’s training status.

The meeting closed with Commissioner Chandler thanking the Soldiers for offering their opinions and personal experiences and he offered that more information about the Commission’s activities, along with the ability to provide input, could be found at [www.ncfa.ncr.gov](http://www.ncfa.ncr.gov).