



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 – 29 MAY 15, Engagement with USARPAC Commander and Staff (Roundtable)

Date: 29 May 2015

Time: 1330 - 1500

Location: USARPAC Head Quarters Bldg, Fort Shafter, Oahu, HI

Format: Two Commissioners met with USARPAC Commander and Staff

Attendees:

Commissioner Thomas Lamont
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
GEN Brooks (CG, USARPAC)
MG Bilton (DCG-N)
MG McCaffrey (Chief of Staff)
MG Brock (Cdr 311th (USAR))
Mr. Lee (9th MSC (USAR))
Mr. Lee (351st Civil Affairs Command (CACOM))
MG Hara (DCG HIARNG)
BG Guerrero (Guam TAG)
BG Logan (Hawaii TAG)
BG Ulses (USARPAC G-3)
COL Mitchell (196th Inf Bde)

Documents Submitted to Commission: Briefing Charts presented during roundtable discussion

Meeting Summary

Commissioners Lamont and Chandler and NCFA Staff met with General Vincent Brooks, Commander, USARPAC and his Staff, to discuss the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and to gather insights on the role of USARPAC in the Army. Key threads of the discussion included the following:

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- GEN Brooks made introductory remarks and set a very multi-Component tone, underscoring the complimentary capabilities of the USAR and ARNG and the integration of General Officers from the Guard and Reserve on his staff.
- USARPAC Staff presented a briefing highlighting Army rebalance in the Pacific and some of the impacts – e.g., in addition to the 4-Star billet, the CoS and G-3 positions were upgraded to MG and BG respectively. This has also enabled dual roles in many portfolios, such as the Deputy Commander, HIARNG functioning as a DCG for Civil Defense missions on the USARPAC staff.
- There is general concern about the impact of sequestration on State Partnership Program missions and the message sent if participation is reduced. Response time, unit fill, Stryker and Airborne combat teams would all be at risk. HIARNG thought they would lose about 100-120 spaces, mainly engineers, and the USAR (Commander, 311th Signal) indicated eventually they would have civilian spaces lost and OPLAN execution would be hindered.
- 7 State Partnership Programs credited for enabling building of capacity through engagement and forward presence, as well as creating opportunities for AC and RC to train together. (Should this process be a policy issue or at least a more deliberate process where it becomes common practice for AC, USAR, and ARNG coordination with ASCC to include State Partnership program requirements?)
- USARPAC Staff is studying whether RC should be able to tap into AC exercises with partner nations or should RC elements be incorporated into AC CTC rotations to maximize training dollars and enable better trades in training and readiness, perhaps where one set of dollars will train all Compos. (Is this an area where legislative or policy changes could make a difference?)
- There are challenges with 12304(b) funding – e.g., How do one project a varying mission on a stable funding line, that is to say if we program 12304(b) at a constant level, but the actual execution varies.
- USARPAC CG supports ARI and cites potential effects in terms of aircraft fielding timelines and corresponding combat capability, as well as ability to showcase capabilities with partner states. Additionally, without the current ARI plan, USARPAC CG anticipates an increase in transportation costs because of having to pair troops and attack aircraft from disparate locations for lack of cascading them into the Pacific.

The roundtable engagement closed with General Brooks once again thanking the Commissioners for taking on their important endeavor and invited the Commission to contact him or his staff should there be requests for further information.