



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 - 14 JUL 15, 200th MP Command

Date: 14 July 2015

Time: 1000 - 1100

Location: HQs Bldg, 200th MP Command, 1250 Annapolis Road Fort Meade, Maryland

Format: Round Table with Commander and Staff

Attendees:

Commissioner Carter Ham (Chairman)

Mr. Rickey Smith – NCFA Staff, Staff Director

Mr. Scott Sharp – NCFA Staff

LTC Tim Palmer – NCFA Staff

MAJ Doroneth White – NCFA Staff

Mr. Mark von Heeringen – Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)

MG Phillip Churn, Commander, 200th MP Command

BG Marianne Garcia, Deputy Commanding General, 200th MP Command

COL Eric Folkestad – Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve

COL Robert Dinenna – G3, 200th MP Command

CSM Craig Owens – CSM, 200th MP Command

Documents Submitted to Commission: Command Briefing Charts: 200th Military Police Command National Commission on the Future of the Army Brief

Meeting Summary

The ADFO explained the application of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, including that all materials and discussions would be posted on the Commission's public website. Chairman Ham participated in a round table engagement with the 200th Military Police (MP) Command (Reserve) Commander and select staff to discuss the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and to gather input on the issues before the Commission. Key threads of the discussion included the following:

MG Churn introduced his key staff and other members of the 200th MP Command by asking each to briefly discuss their careers to include their civilian work experience. Some highlights from various resumes included 27 years with the Atlanta police, work with the FBI, a former

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poultry veterinarian, as well as corporate experience with major programs at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. MG Churn then covered the command vision and mission statements and explained a bit about the structure of the command, indicating there are some 13,000 Soldiers across 34 states and the MPs deploy roughly 15 formations with a total of about 1,200 Soldiers annually.

Commissioner Ham asked about the Guantanamo mission and command members explained nearly 75% of Soldiers providing security forces for that mission come from the 200th MP Command and that constitutes roughly 780 of the 1,200 required annually. Typical BOG time is nine months for this mission.

The Command's staff provided a lay down of the total MP capability and forces to include training relationships with 42nd and 8th MP BDEs. They further indicated the 200th MP covers nearly 97% of the Army Reserve MP formations and has developed training relationships with the remaining 3%. They also discussed Joint Strategic Partnerships and emphasized that civilian skill sets of their Soldiers are vital to achieving success – e.g., some Soldiers had prior Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) experience which was particularly useful working with SOUTHCOM drug suppression team coordination efforts. A key take away from this discussion was the Army's need to improve ability to see the civilian skillsets of the total force.

Other discussion items included considering ways the 200th MP Command could streamline its availability for State authorities use. Ideas included creating some form of “prepare to deploy order” aimed at specific mission sets in predetermined regions. MG Churn said all the brigades are working on obtaining DSCA qualifications to improve their working relationships with State authorities, but predictable, recurring requirements for these types of activities would be helpful.

MG Churn discussed the deployment rates, citing BOG : Dwell ratio as 1:3.2 at peak over the last several years, but current rates were between 1:4 to 1:5. He also indicated the higher rate of deployment has not had a negative effect on recruiting/retention.

The concept of multi-component units was also discussed, as were ideas such as formally identifying key jobs and placing Soldiers on Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) rotations for up to 18 months in these positions and cycling them back into Troop Program Unit (TPU) positions afterwards.

The meeting concluded at 1100hrs with a discussion concerning recruiting in general, where staff members said 15-20% of their Soldiers were coming from AC to RC. They noted an interesting trend appearing with new recruits off the street that are very smart, learn fast and come with good academic skills, but are not oriented on physical fitness. CSM Owens indicated that more serving Peace Officers could join if entry requirements could be adjusted, for example, perhaps they could receive constructive credit for Basic Combat Training or MP Advance Individual Training.