



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Commission on the Future of the Army Hears from
Governors Branstad and Dayton at Fifth DC-Area Open Meeting**

The National Commission of the Future of the Army (NCFA) this morning held its fifth open meeting in the Washington area, taking testimony from Governors Terry Branstad of Iowa and Mark Dayton of Minn. With all eight commissioners present, the session began with updates on: recent site visits to Fort Indiantown Gap, Fort Drum, Calif., Colo., and Minn.; the National Guard Association of the United States conference in Nashville, Tenn.; and a meeting with the Honorable Brad Carson, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Lastly, the commission received updates on the work of the five subcommittees (Drafting, Aviation, Institutional, Force Generation, and Operational).

The commissioners then took testimony from Governors Branstad and Dayton representing the National Governors Association. The Governors stressed the importance of the National Guard to their respective states and urged to commission to maintain the Guard as an operational reserve. They also underscored the importance that Governors, through the Council of Governors established by Congress and Executive Order, be included in the decision-making process from the beginning on issues dealing with the Guard.

Commission Chairman Gen. (Ret.) Carter Ham remarked, "We are extremely grateful that Governor Branstad and Governor Dayton took the time to come talk to us. As the commanders-in-chief of the Guard forces in their states, the input of the governors is critical to our work and their views will help inform our eventual recommendations."

The commission also heard from Brookings Institute Senior Fellow Michael O'Hanlon on the future of land warfare. O'Hanlon testified that stabilization and stability operations should remain a priority for the Army and the Army should be at least 1 million members strong. He added the Army should be ready to fight one major conflict while simultaneously conducting one or two stabilization operations and cited several potential scenarios to support his point.

Regarding O'Hanlon's testimony, Ham added, "We always learn something from Michael O'Hanlon; his remarks about the future of land warfare gave us a lot to consider. We are grateful for his contribution and thought-provoking testimony."

The NCFA has been charged by Congress to examine the structure of the Army and policy assumptions related to the size and force mix. The Commission will make recommendations on modifications to the structure of the Army based on current and anticipated mission requirements and acceptable levels of national risk, consistent with anticipated resources. The Commission will also specifically examine the transfer of Army National Guard AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the Army National Guard to the Regular Army. The Commission will issue its report no later than February 1, 2016.

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