



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 24 JUL 15, Engagement with Governors from National Governors Association

Date: 24 July 2015

Time: 1015 - 1330hrs

Location: Crystal Room, Greenbrier Resort, Whites Sulphur Springs, WV

Format: Open discussion with State Governors

Attendees:

Commissioner Hon. Thomas Lamont (Vice Chairman)
Commissioner LTG(R) Jack Stultz
MG(R) Ray Carpenter – NCFA Staff, Executive Director
COL Richard Miller – NCFA Staff
Mr. Anthony Boyda Palmer – NCFA Staff
MAJ Cory Simpson – Legal Advisor
Mr. Mark von Heeringen – Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)

Gov. Terry Branstad (IA)
Gov. Bill Walker (AK)
Gov. Pat McCrory (NC)
Gov. Asa Hutchinson (AR)
Gov. Doug Ducey (AZ)
Gov. Jack Markell (DE)
Gov. Jeremiah Nixon (MO)
Gov. Mary Fallin (OK)
Gov. Dennis Daugaard (SD)
Gov. Robert Bentley (AL)
Gov. Jack Dalrymple (ND)
Gov. Steven Beshear (KY)
Gov. Kate Brown (OR)
Gov. Steve Bullock (MT)
Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (WV)
Gov. Matthew Mead (WY)
Gov. Maggie Hassan (NH)
Gov. Richard Herbert (UT)
Gov. John Hickenlooper (CO)
Gov. Terry McAuliffe (VA)
Gov. Gina Raimondo (RI)
Gov. Dan Malloy (CT)

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Documents Submitted to Commission: none

Meeting Summary

Commissioners Lamont and Stultz met with 22 state governors during a working lunch organized through the National Governors Association to discuss the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and to gather input on the issues before the Commission.

Following Governor Herbert's (UT) introduction of the NCFA to the rest of the Governors, the ADFO explained his role with respect to the Commission and the applicable provisions from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Commissioner Lamont discussed the Commission's work to date and highlighted some of the locations and individuals the Commission visited – e.g., State Adjutants General, Chiefs of the National Guard Bureau and Army Reserve, and Combatant Commanders. He explained NCFA Chairman Ham's letter to the Governors requesting their input for six questions.

Governors Branstad (IA) and Malloy (CT) said the Air Force Commission was very constructive and hoped it would be similar for the Army Commission. Moreover, Governor Branstad thought he and the other governors were united in believing the helicopters [meaning AH-64 Apache] should stay in the Guard and are an important part of their formations and asked that the Commission not take any actions detrimental to the use of helicopters for the National Guard.

Governor Malloy (CT) indicated his was a small state, but nonetheless, deployed some 5,200 Soldiers to Afghanistan and achieved that within 90 days. He further underscored that kind of force with that kind of response is what the U.S. needs. He went on to highlight various support activities the Connecticut National Guard provided the State with respect to emergency response. Governor Malloy explained that while his State had no AH-64 helicopters, he would make the argument on behalf of all the States that the helicopters should not leave the States. He particularly criticized the idea of "parking" AH-64s in Korea at the expense of capability in the States. Moreover, he argued that overturning the aviation restructure initiative transfer of AH-64s would not necessitate purchase of new aircraft with a \$4.4B cost. He thought with 700 some Apaches there were sufficient aircraft in the inventory to preclude having to remove them from the States to support the Korea mission. He further explained the governors remain committed to achieving whatever budget constraints are provided; sequestration has been bad for the military, but the governors felt they weren't being heard on other areas to look for savings and, therefore, asked for the Commission to be established.

Commissioner Lamont discussed the Commission's approach to the AH-64 study, and highlighted the tremendous experience level of some of the Commissioners and NCFA staff in Army aviation. Commissioner Lamont also noted many aviation subject matter experts had already met with the NCFA.

LTG (R) Stultz provided a brief history of how support and logistics capabilities were increasingly pushed into the Reserves as Active end strength was increasing. With end strength reductions coming, there would likely be increased dependence on the National Guard and Army

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Reserve. He said this is why the Commission hearing from as many relevant sources as possible is important to help shape a sense of capability and strategic depth, particularly with respect to aviation.

The Commissioners further discussed the need to make the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Regular Army more “one force,” where skills and capabilities can move back and forth with greater agility.

The conversation then turned to budget issues with Governor Malloy expressing concern about the overall proposed numbers leaving Army forces below pre-9/11 level and Governor Mead (WY) was concerned that cuts always seem to come to the National Guard.

Governor Hutchinson (AR) briefly highlighted how his Adjutant General worked to close six armories to do the right thing when reductions were pending. He then expressed concern that there might be further budget pressure. Commissioner Lamont indicated there likely would not be a great deal of relief.

Governor Nixon (MO) said it is important to talk about equal capacity with respect to Active and Guard and in multiple meetings with 2-star and above general officers in Afghanistan and Iraq, each indicated they couldn't tell the difference between AC and RC when they rolled out on a mission.

Governor McAuliffe (VA) spoke of the potential for a Continuing Resolution (CR) because of difficulty in Congressional budget talks and that Under Secretary for Defense Work indicated a CR would have the same effect as sequestration. Governor McAuliffe, therefore, implored the governors to work with their Congressional delegations to urge moving forward on the budget.

The meeting concluded at 1330hrs with Commissioner Lamont reminding the group to respond to the questions in Commissioner Ham's letter.