



National Commission on the Future of the Army

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

National Commission on the Future of the Army

Open meeting, July 16, 2015

Commissioners Present:

Chairman – GEN Carter F. Ham (USA, Ret)
Vice Chairman – HON. Thomas R. Lamont (ARNGUS, Ret)
Member – GEN James D. Thurman (USA, Ret)
Member – GEN Larry R. Ellis (USA, Ret)
Member – LTG Jack C. Stultz (USA, Ret)
Member – HON. Robert F. Hale (Former USD Comptroller)
Member – HON. Kathleen H. Hicks (Former PDUSD Policy)
Member – SMA Raymond F. Chandler (USA, Ret)
Designated Federal Officer – Mr. Don Tison (DFO)

Attendees: In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 9:00 A.M. to 12:04 P.M. There were approximately 47 members of the public present for this event.

The DFO called the meeting to order @ 0802.

Procedures for speakers – DFO discussed the meeting procedures and also explained rules regarding the Federal Advisory Committee Act statutes and policies governance

Chairman's update – Commission Chair provided an update on Commission activities since the last public meeting.

Site visit updates – Members provided updates on site visits to Fort Hood Texas; Killeen, Texas; Austin, Texas; Houston, Texas; and Fort Meade, Maryland.

Sub-Committee meeting updates –

GEN (R) Ham provided an update on the activities of the Drafting Subcommittee, discussed the draft working outline for the Commission's final report, and the Commission unanimously agreed to use the working outline going forward;

HON. Hale gave an update on the Aviation Subcommittee activities which included meetings in Texas and Crystal City VA;

LTG (R) Stultz provided the Institutional Subcommittee update including preparing for site visits at FT Knox, Kentucky, and Camp Atterbury, Indiana;

GEN (R) Ellis gave an update on the Force Generation Subcommittee addressing work on key questions;
HON. (Dr.) Hicks provided the Operational Force Subcommittee update including receiving unanimous approval from the Commission for the analytical framework for the subcommittee's work moving forward.

Speakers from:

Army Manpower and Reserve Affairs
Public Comments
DFO Closing remarks; Chairman closing remarks

Army Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Assistant Secretary of the Army
Honorable Debra S. Wada

HON. Wada provided written statement and verbal summary of her principal responsibilities and statutory duties. She explained that she is fully committed to implementing the Army Total Force Policy as outlined in Army Directive 2012-08, which establishes policy for Total Force integration of the Active and Reserve components. She stated that two important strategic focus areas exist, that warrant scrutiny as the policy is fully implemented: (1) achieving the optimal balance of depth, responsiveness and cost effectiveness, and (2) achieving unity of effort and unity of command. She answered questions regarding efforts to improve the ability of Regular Army Soldiers to transition to Reserve Component units. She further stated that full implementation of Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (IPPS-A) would greatly assist in Total Force integration.

Reserve Components

Major General Arnold Punaro, USMCR, Retired

MG (R) Punaro provided a written statement. He thanked the Commission for their service and stated he was confident that Army leadership, enacting the Commission's recommendations, would improve National Security and make a positive difference in the way the Total Army is structured. He explained that the greatest threat to readiness is budget cuts resulting from Sequestration, which has left the Army smaller, less ready, and less well trained. He discussed the importance of the Army Reserve and National Guard Components as an adjunct to the Regular Army. He stated that the Regular Army should promote transition to the Reserve Component among personnel. He spoke about the importance of maintaining an operational Reserve and the associated costs.

Public Comments

Mr. Ben Banchs, Business Manager, Laborers International Union of North America, National Guard Council 1776, provided a written statement and comments regarding the removal of Apache helicopters from National Guard units.

DFO Closing remarks; Chairman closing remarks

The Chairman noted the Commission will conduct upcoming site visits to Fort Knox, KY, Camp Atterbury, IN, Fort Campbell, KY, and Camp Shelby, MS. The next general public hearing will be held in the Polk Building, 12th Floor, Arlington, Virginia, August 18th, 2015 from 0900-1245.

The DFO adjourned the meeting at 1109 hours.