



## **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 – 28 AUG 15, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

**Date:** 28 August 2015

**Time:** 1425 - 1515

**Location:** Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 3522 International Ct. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008

**Format:** Round table discussion

**Attendees:**

Hon. Dr. Kathleen Hicks – Commissioner

Mr. Scott Sharp – NCFA Staff

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

BG Abdelraham Almazmi – Defense Military Attaché Embassy Staff

Obaid Ali Al Mansoori – Deputy Defense Military Attaché Embassy Staff

**Documents Submitted to Commission:** None during this session

**Meeting Summary**

The Commission continues to meet with partner nations to capture their perspectives as the United States balances the size and mix of the Army and resources. The Commission is cognizant of United States security interests, and those of its partners and allies are inextricably linked. Engaging key partners to understand their perspectives in balancing national security risk in light of declining defense is an important element of the Commission's deliberative effort.

Dr. Hicks and a NCFA Staff member met with the UAE Military Attaché staff for about an hour to discuss the purpose of the Commission and obtain the attaché's view on the US Army's role and key capabilities or attributes important to the UAE.

The engagement began at 1425 hours with the ADFO discussing his role with respect to the Commission and application of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Sunshine Act. The ADFO also discussed the relationship between Commissioners, NCFA Staff, DOD, and the mission support structure used by DOD and Army to enable the Commission to function within FACA provisions.

Dr. Hicks asked the attaché staff their thoughts on the future security environment and how they believe the US Army fits in the UAE security construct. This discussion included the regional

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security outlook, current emerging threats, current political issues and possible application of ground forces.

The Deputy Attaché responded by indicating more cooperation and support is needed to curtail Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) social media efforts aimed at recruiting going on in Belgium, Germany, U.K. and other places. He also said there needed to place greater emphasis on corralling sources of funding and other resources such as training obtained by ISIL and Al Qaida. He thought early action or intervention and cooperation with sharing of information are important and, ultimately, a coalition of land forces would likely be needed to thwart these groups.

The discussion turned to considering ways to look at countering the influence terrorist groups like Al Qaida and ISIL are having on young children and how to counter that when those children reach an age of potentially being able to carry out harmful activities.

The meeting concluded with a few final comments about the growing potential threat posed to the region by Iran, and where the UAE is investing to counter this potential threat. The conversation led to an exchange on whether the U.S. should be making similar efforts. The Attaché staff generally thought counterterrorism and intelligence sharing capabilities are the key focus areas needed.

The meeting adjourned at 1515hrs.