



## **National Commission on the Future of the Army**

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

### **MINUTES**

**Subject:** Staff Meeting with HASC Professional Staff

#### **Attendees:**

NCFA Executive Director Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Ray Carpenter  
NCFA Staff Director Mr. Rickey Smith  
NCFA Director of Communications Mr. Joseph Eule  
Designated Federal Officer Mr. Don Tison  
HASC Majority Staff Director Mr. Rob Simmons  
HASC Minority Staff Director Mr. Paul Arcangeli  
HASC PSM Mr. John Wason

**Date and Time:** August 11, 2015, 1000-1100hrs

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

NCFA staff met with HASC PSMs at the Rayburn House Office Building to discuss the NCFA's methodology, structure, and staffing. After introductions, Mr. Tison discussed the role of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), how the DFO staff is organized, and how DFO staff operates. He talked about the subcommittee structure and how subcommittees overlap various issues. Mr. Tison said the Commission in trying to ensure that every part of NDAA 15 bearing on the Commission is being examined.

Mr. Smith began with a discussion about staffing and subcommittees. He described how NCFA obtained staff, where they came from, and how they are organized. He also said NCFA will complete tasks well under allocated budget.

Mr. Tison began a discussion about Commission travel and the goal of visiting all components in all parts of the country. Mr. Simmons said it was important to get input from all around the country to be representative.

Mr. Smith then discussed public meetings and the NCFA website. Mr. Eule talked about the congressional outreach done for the public meetings. Mr. Arcangeli asked if the public meetings were worthwhile. MG (R) Carpenter and Mr. Tison both responded "Yes," adding that commissioners took away good comments and that the public meetings were beneficial in ensuring the process was transparent. Mr. Arcangeli asked if we still needed many of the directives currently in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), and Mr. Smith and Mr. Tison said they believed we still needed to do open meetings.

Mr. Wason said it seems like the pattern was 2-3 commissioners on every trip and Mr. Smith said we try to get commissioners on every trip.

Mr. Simmons wanted to make sure the mistakes made in previous similar commissions would not be made with the NCFA and urged the NCFA staff to ensure its report would “answer the mail.” This generated a discussion among the group about how NCFA has used the NDAA to organize itself and whether there would be a time before the report is released to for a “Tiger Team” type of effort to ensure there were no gaps. The conversation then veered toward a discussion on FACA. Mr. Smith went through the mechanics of the Drafting Subcommittee and explained the “hub and spoke” method for writing the report that may have to be used.

Mr. Simmons said it is important to remember Congress is the customer and the NCFA is a very important commission and we should all want to create a good environment for success. He said there was too much emotion and misinformation about these issues and the HASC was interested in getting to the facts. He offered staff assistance in ensuring there are no gaps in the final report that could cause it to be taken less seriously by Congress. He noted that the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) had an omission that would have been easily corrected. This led to a general discussion on how NCFA could avoid such omissions.

Mr. Wason talked about the timeline for the report in the context of the FY17 NDAA and Mr. Simmons added the MCRMC made it possible for them to include some of its recommendations in the FY16 NDAA.

There was then a general discussion on FACA requirements and how it has not kept pace with technology. For instance, FACA dictates NCFA have a physical reading room when the website could serve that purpose.

Mr. Wason said a new dynamic for the Commission was the Army’s new leadership, particularly a new Chief of Staff of the Army. Mr. Smith said we have not yet talked to Gen. Milley but would reach out to him once he is installed as the new CSA.

NCFA staff then thanked the HASC staffers for their time and the meeting ended.

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