



National Commission on the Future of the Army

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

MINUTES

Subject: Staff Meeting with SASC 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
SASC PSM Mr. Jim Hickey
SASC PSM Ms. Jody Bennett

Date and Time: July 17, 2015, 1000-1055hrs

Meeting Minutes:

NCFA staff met with SASC PSMs at the Russell Senate Building to discuss the NCFA's methodology, structure, and staffing. Mr. Smith began with a discussion about staffing and subcommittees. Smith described how NCFA obtained staff and how subcommittees help NCFA manage its work. Mr. Tison discussed the role of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), how the DFO staff is organized, and how DFO staff operates.

Mr. Smith then discussed the website as an information source for the public, e.g., posting minutes, sharing documents provided to the NCFA, etc. He then went over the report outline approved at the open meeting the previous day and walked the PSMs through the subcommittees and their assigned tasks.

MG Carpenter informed the staffers the Commission will be well under budget and estimated that the NCFA was a month or two ahead of the Air Force Commission at the same time period.

PSM Hickey wanted to know if NCFA was leveraging the AF Commission and if NCFA would produce its report on time. NCFA staff said "Yes" to both.

Mr. Smith then talked about NCFA engaging every combatant command and the many Adjutants Generals the commissioners have met with.

PSM Hickey asked how Ft. Hood personnel reacted to the Army's recent announcement on troop reductions, since NCFA was in Killeen the day the reductions were announced. After some discussion, Hickey said he thought it was important the NCFA take a close look at the Army's Title 10 responsibility to mobilize the Nation. He asked a series of questions: How long does it take to train Guard units to standard? How long for the Army to bring in new recruits and train

them to standard? He said the need for Army to respond is faster than it was in 1940. He said the American people need to understand how long it takes to build an Army and what the risks are if we become too small. He said the Army has a responsibility to be ready for a big war.

Smith and NCFA staff said ability to expand Army was a topic the Commission was looking into carefully.

Tison asked Hickey and Bennett if they had any issues with the NDAA amendment that specifies certain FACA provisions not apply to a meeting of the Commission unless the meeting is attended by five or more members of the Commission. Bennett noted the amendment was generated in the HASC and offered no concerns or objections concerning the amendment.

Hickey and Bennett also stated that the Army is dependent on the Defense industrial base and that should also be taken into account. Lastly, Hickey said that readiness was a crucial issue for the Army, saying that the 1st Army had a “shallow bench.”

NCFA and SASC staff concluded by discussing when best to arrange a meeting between the NCFA leadership and the Chair and Ranking Member of the SASC.

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