



National Commission on the Future of the Army

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

Killeen, Texas Minutes

Open Meeting Courtyard Marriott Killeen, TX: July 9, 2015

Present:

Vice Chairman – HON. Thomas R. Lamont (ARNG, 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)
MG Raymond Carpenter (ARNG, Ret) Executive Staff Director
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 125 members of the public present for this event.

Documents provided to the Commission: noted by speaker below.

The DFO called the meeting to order at 1504 hrs.

[GEN (R) Thurman]: Welcome to this public hearing for the National Commission on the Future of the U.S. Army. The purpose of today's hearing is to hear from individuals and groups with expertise in matters related to the tasks assigned to the commission in the National Defense Authorization Act. The Commission's Designated Federal Officer, Mr. Don Tison, will now set the ground rules and discuss compliance with laws and policies that guide the Commission.

[Mr. Don Tison]: I am the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the National Commission; all information presented in this forum will be on the record in accordance with all FACA and Government in the Sunshine Act guidelines, policies, and regulatory requirements. The National Commission has a public website for viewing Commission's information @ www.ncfa.ncr.gov. Please limit your public comments to five minutes if possible, due to the amount of twenty speaking engagements we have today. Thank you very much, I'll turn it back over to GEN (R) Thurman.

[GEN (R) Thurman]: The Commission is charged by Congress to assess the structure, size and force mixture of the Army and render a report to the President and Congress by 1 February 2016. I would like to point out and emphasize that we are not a base realignment and closure (BRAC) Commission and will not be making any base closure recommendations as part of this effort. Thank you for taking this into consideration today.

The Commission was initially organized in April and has already undertaken a number of important activities and conducted several site visits. We held open and closed meetings in both May and June in the National Capital region with a wide variety of current and former senior Defense and Army leaders, including the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the Chief of the Army Reserve, and both the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army. We also met with the National Governors Association and the Adjutants General Association, as well as with several other military associations representing all Army components. Secretary Lamont and former Sergeant Major of the Army Chandler visited Hawaii and met with the leadership of 25th ID, U.S. Army Pacific, the TAGs of Hawaii and Guam, the Army Reserve regional leadership, as well as the Governor of Hawaii. Earlier last month, we had six commissioners travel to Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, and Raleigh, North Carolina to meet with Forces Command, U.S. Army Reserve Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, First Army and several Reserve and Guard units.

As we are doing during this Texas visit, we held an open hearing in Fayetteville North Carolina and met with the TAGs of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Louisiana. Earlier today, we visited with III Corps leaders and several III Corps units at Fort Hood. We also met with First Army's Division West and visited mobilization training sites and facilities used for Reserve Component units who are deploying. Tomorrow we will meet with the Texas Governor and Adjutant General in Austin and look forward to engaging with National Guard and Reserve aviation units located near Houston. These activities are all indicative of how we will continue to operate.

The DFO invited public comments from those who registered to speak.

Public Speakers:

Darren Owens, MG (Ret): He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. The National Guard has much experience from recent deployments. We need to have the greatest capability possible within the current budget to meet all the missions given the Army. We need a National Guard that retains or increases its authorized end strength and that is organized and equipped like the active component and used as a combat reserve. 1:5 is much more sustainable rotation model.

Mark Campsey, COL (Ret): He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. Army support to Civil Authorities is key mission. The National Guard is not a complementary force, it is interchangeable.

Cindy Smith, COL (Ret): Best Value composition is the Guard and the Reserve. Advocate for a larger RC presence at Ft. Hood. Guard is relevant able and ready.

Anthony Triola (for REP John Carter): He read from Representative John Carter's (R TX) letter and submitted the letter to the Commission along with a letter from Representative Roger Williams (R TX).

Candis Martin, Army Reserve Ambassador: See the value of the Army Reserve, there are more than 15,000 USAR troops that call Texas home. The USAR provides quick access to trained ready forces; and a recent study says that the USAR has an economic impact of ~\$1 Billion. Personal experience: In my unit, there was only 1 full-time person and when he retired, I got the keys to the building as a Specialist 4 in a non-paid status. I recommend that we don't return to this as that means we are doing less with less.

Dave Palmer, LTG (Ret): One flaw with the Chief of Staff of the Army statement is that they only go back about a decade. Consider two quotes - half a century ago – we need to effectively handle contingencies we cannot predict and another from 4 decades ago – we cannot win without the unique abilities of the total Army. Examples from history: Cuban Missile Crisis we were not ready; GEN Abrams had the job to fix the Army that was in really bad shape out of Viet Nam; I would suggest you pull out what Abrams did – you cannot fight without the Reserves. [Commissioner Hale comment] Secretary Gates said – “We are 100% right in forecasting wars, we never get them right.”

Paul Funk, LTG (Ret): The Total Force is not about "us against them." All three components are too small. We have moved away from lethality to deployability and this is a dangerous trend. Warfighting is about mobile protective firepower. Sad to say that the force is budget driven and has not fielded a major program since the revision of the Acquisition Corps. Look hard at the process. I am tired of hearing that the Army is not relevant anymore. The commission has the opportunity to speak up and get it right. [Commissioner Lamont]: Resource situation: we wouldn't be here if we didn't have a resource situation. We had the best Army we needed. We are dealing with the problem of a shrinking pie. [Commissioner Thurman:] everyone has a voice in this deal. The value of the commission is to get candid responses about national security, we will be transparent. We will take the feedback so we can do what we have been asked to do for the Nation. [Commissioner Hicks:] Do you believe the Army is sufficiently deployable to the extent that it should be? We could move multiple Divisions, by ship. We need to be able to reinforce quickly. This business of deploying light forces all over, we need to give them the equipment they need. The Army has not fielded one new system. We need modern equipment – modern lethality.

Pete Taylor, LTG (Ret): Discussed his experience with Multi-Compo units that shows if you have time to train together, it will work. Round out Brigades of the Reserve Components need to continuously train alongside Active units. Time is the biggest challenge; the leaders must get to know each other. [Commissioner Thurman]: You had experience with multi compo units – what is your opinion on maneuver and aviation units mixed? Time is the factor; if you meet together for the first time in the dust bowl you know it was going to be tough.

Joe Gainey, CSM (Ret): I am going to talk about training. We have to get back to the Doctrine of training. We are one entity when it comes to fighting – the US Army. In 1975, I was told “your job is to find fix and eliminate the enemy.”

Kenneth J. Crawford, COL, USA (Ret): He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. Discussed the Total Army Capabilities to execute the Army's mission to fight and win our nation's wars. The future size and mix of the Force must ensure success in any future engagement and they need to fully understand the complexities of modern warfare. (a) It is not feasible to expect Army Reserve and National Guard to focus on "full spectrum" due to their training resources limits; (b) The focus should be on elements that are organic to their Soldiers' skills, talents, and experience that may benefit the warfighter in and after combat operations, (c) We need to consider the incredible capabilities our RC/NG Soldiers can provide based on their civilian skill sets.

COL(R) John White: He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. Presented his view fully supporting the Army's Aviation Restructuring Initiative that consolidates the Apaches in the Active Component and four proposals for the Commission to consider: (a) The National Guard must have the same equipment as the Active Component to accomplish the mission, (b) National Guard Apache aviators have a vast amount of combat experience, (c) National Guard units are less expensive when compared to AC units, (d) the National Guard must look the same as the Active Component. He also commented on Unit Fielding Training Plan.

Robert Shoemaker GEN (Ret): Are you going to optimize where you can put super units who can do the great job we're going to ask them or are we going to be fair and leave everybody at the same level? I envy your great task, I urge you to continue to listen to all these great people and do whatever you can, and on both those questions, goodness or fairness, I always vote for goodness.

Scott Cospers, Mayor of the City of Killeen and Vice Chairman of the Killeen Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization known as KTMPO: He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. Presented three key points demonstrating how they are enhancing Ft. Hood's Power Projection capabilities and supporting all of the soldiers and missions at Fort Hood: (a) the State and Region recognize and respond to the transportation priorities of the Fort Hood Leadership; (b) the State, Region and local communities have committed over \$470 million in upgrades to the local transportation infrastructure in support of Fort Hood's requirements; (c) the Region understands that Fort Hood's significant Power Projection capability must interface with robust transportation capabilities outside the fence lines.

Dr. John Craft, Superintendent of Schools for Killeen Independent School District: Killeen ISD educates a total population of approximately 43,000 students, of which 47% or 20,000 are federally connected. ISD has 52 campuses district-wide, nine of which are located on post within military housing communities.

Dr. Marc Nigliazzo, President Texas AM: He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. He discussed the educational opportunity available to Fort Hood Soldiers and their families in Killeen.

John L. Ballantyne, COL (R), Chief Operating Officer, Military Child Education Coalition: presented his perspective on how the size and force mix of the Army impacts the children connected to the Army. He also provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments.

Glenn Morrison, Killeen City Manager: The Greater Fort Hood Area is served by two primary sources of water, Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir and Lake Belton. Both are Corps of Engineer Lakes providing for Flood control and as a source of water. Whether troop strength is at 35,000 or 50,000 plus, Fort Hood will never have an issue with water. He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments.

Don Daniels MD: Metroplex Health System: He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. S&W Memorial, McLanes's Children's Hospital, Metroplex and Seton Medical Center Harker Heights are capable of supporting the military and their families. We all have the traditional and unique capabilities located right here, all within a 30-mile drive from Fort Hood. We retain Soldiers based on the Quality of life and Quality of Healthcare.

Susan Kamas, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions of Central Texas: She provided a written statement to accompany her verbal comments. Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, and many other community organizations, greatly value the soldiers and military families. Her organization manages public workforce funds for the Central Texas region. Their mission is to provide quality education, training and labor market services that give employers and residents of the region a competitive advantage in today's global economy. They service 9,000 Veterans of which 2,000 are disabled.

Bill Parry, the City Manager of the City of Gatesville, TX: He provided a written statement to accompany his verbal comments. The reduction of 1,000 Soldiers at Fort Hood results in a corresponding loss of nearly 1,500 jobs statewide, a direct payroll loss locally of nearly \$75 million annually, and over \$40 million statewide. If that reduction triples to 3,000 fewer Active Component Soldiers, the statewide loss exceeds \$1 billion annually.

[GEN (R) Thurman]: Thank you all for coming today and providing your valuable insights on issues impacting the future of the Army. With the DFO's permission, we stand adjourned.

[Mr. Don Tison]: The meeting is adjourned. **End Time: 1724**