



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: Meeting with USFK and USFJ Commanders – Unclassified Minutes

Date: 24 September 2015

Location: G8 Conference Room 3E387, Pentagon

Format: Roundtable discussion

Attendees:

Chairman - GEN Carter F. Ham (USA, Ret)
Member - GEN James D. Thurman (USA, Ret)
Member - HON Robert F. Hale
Member - HON (Dr.) Kathleen H. Hicks
Designated Federal Officer (DFO) – Mr. Don Tison
Staff Director - Mr. Rickey Smith
NCFA Staff - Mr. Scott Sharp
COL Weinand
LTC Steve Pierce
LTC Tim Palmer
LTC Sean Spence
MAJ Benjamin Fernandes
MAJ Doroneth White
Mr. John Thurman
Other Attendees - GEN Curtis Scaparrotti, US Forces Korea Commander (USFK CDR)
MG Theodore Martin, 2nd ID Commanding General (CG)
MG James Pasqualette, US Forces Japan Commander (USFJ CDR)
Mr. Christopher Howard, US Forces Korea (USFK Liaison)

Documents Presented to the Commission

None.

Agenda:

Call to order at 1400 hours. The Chair made introductory remarks explaining the meeting purpose. The DFO discussed the meeting procedures and explained the rules regarding the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Forward Stationing vice Rotational Forces:

Participants discussed the positive and negative costs and benefits of rotating units vice forward stationing different types of units in Korea.

Rotating BCTs provides USFJ and USFK with additional training opportunities for Reception, Staging, and Onward Integration (RSOI) activities. Units arrive in a high state of readiness after

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completing a National Training Center (NTC) rotation. Training and oversight from Second Infantry Division (2ID) occurs during the NTC rotation to ensure unit leaders are prepared for the Korea mission. Units arrive in Korea with the sense of fight tonight.

Aviation Restructure Initiative:

Participants discussed the unique flying conditions in Korea and the expected impacts from the Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI) on aviation capabilities for USFK.

Readiness and War Plans:

Participants discussed U.S. – Republic of Korea (ROK) relations, capabilities, and interdependence for potential war fighting scenarios.

Participants also discussed the benefits of U.S. Army Pacific’s (USARPAC) Pacific Pathways initiative in Korea as well as the region. The USFJ CDR noted the increased warfighting readiness Pacific Pathways caused by exercising Reception, Staging, and Onward Integration (RSOI), especially in Japan.

Budget Uncertainty:

Budget uncertainty has been especially difficult for the civilian workforce, which provides critical capabilities. The multiple budget and programming changes, recent furlough, and ongoing budget uncertainty adds to civilian personnel perceptions of poor treatment.

RC Integration:

Reserve component support has been great, especially in regards to counter-WMD and public affairs.

The USAR has provided the Army Reserve Engagement Cells (AREC). They see real time daily requirements and are very effective. Based upon the success in the Pacific, similar cells are now standing up around the globe.

Headquarters Reductions:

Commanders expressed an inability to accept more personnel reductions in headquarters. “We have already cut to the bone.” Commissioners asked commanders to come back with a position on what missions they would stop doing if further headquarters cuts were required.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1520 hours.