



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Minutes of April 2019 Commission Meeting

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (the Commission) held a meeting on April 24-26, 2019, in Washington, DC, and Arlington, VA. Portions of this meeting concerned organizational and other pre-decisional and deliberative matters and were closed to the public pursuant to Public Law 114-328, section 554(b)(3).

Attendance

Commissioners present:

- Mr. Edward Allard
- Mr. Steve Barney
- The Honorable Dr. Janine Davidson
- The Honorable Mark Gearan
- The Honorable Avril Haines
- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck
- Ms. Jeanette James
- Mr. Alan Khazei
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon
- Ms. Shawn Skelly
- The Honorable Debra Wada

Staff present:

- Kent Abernathy, Executive Director
- Paul Lekas, General Counsel
- Jill Rough, Director of Research and Analysis
- Keri Lowry, Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement
- Peter Morgan, Director of Operations
- Other Commission staff

April 24, 2019

Business Meeting

The Commission convened at the Peikoff Alumni House at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, shortly after 0815 ET until approximately 0830 ET. Ten Commissioners were present; Mr. Allard arrived at the conclusion of the business meeting. The Chairman moved to close this and other business meetings to occur on April 24-26, 2019, because pre-decisional and organizational matters would be deliberated. A motion was made and seconded, and all Commissioners present agreed.

Chairman Heck moved to approve minutes from the March 2019 Commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the March 2019 minutes with minor clarifications and technical edits.

Chairman Heck and Mr. Abernathy reviewed the agenda for the April meeting. Jeff McNichols, Deputy Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement, briefed the Commission on the panelists for the day's two public hearings and hearing preparations undertaken by staff. Erin Schneider, Public Affairs Officer, provided an update on expected press coverage and RSVPs for the public hearings. Mr. Lekas provided an update on the Selective Service System (SSS) litigation pending in Texas.

Public Hearing: Future Mobilization Needs of the Nation

From 0900 to 1200 ET, Commissioners held a public hearing titled Future Mobilization Needs of the Nation. Panelists included the Honorable James Stewart, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense; Rear Admiral John Polowczyk, Vice Director for Logistics, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Ms. Loren DeJonge Schulman, Deputy Director of Studies and the Leon E. Panetta Senior Fellow, the Center for a New American Security; Major General Peter Byrne, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Northern Command; and Ms. Elsa Kania, Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Technology and National Security Program, Center for a New American Security. A live stream of the hearing is available on the Commission's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Public Hearing: How to Meet Potential National Mobilization Needs

From 1300 to 1600 ET, Commissioners held a public hearing titled Answering the Call: How to Meet Potential National Mobilization Needs. Panelists included the Honorable Donald Benton, Director of Selective Service, U.S. Selective Service System; Major General John Evans, Representative of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; Major General Linda Singh, Adjutant General of Maryland, Maryland National Guard; Dr. Jacquelyn Schneider, Assistant Professor, U.S. Naval War College; and Dr. Bernie Rostker, Senior Fellow, RAND Corporation. A live stream of the hearing is available on the Commission's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Business Meeting

At 1620 ET, the Commission reconvened for a business meeting. The first portion of the business meeting consisted of an update and discussion on engagement and outreach activity led by Ms. Lowry. All Commissioners except for Vice Chair Gearan were present for this discussion. From 1650 to 1815 ET, the Commission deliberated about the day's public hearings on mobilization needs. All Commissioners participated in the meeting.

April 25, 2019

Business Meeting

The Commission convened at the Peikoff Alumni House at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, at 0815 ET for a business meeting that concluded at 0830 ET. All Commissioners were present. The Chairman introduced Mr. McNichols to brief the Commission on the day's two hearings. Mr. McNichols described the structure of the hearings and provided an overview of the panelists' background. He answered questions from Commissioners about panelists, their organizations, and their testimony. Dr. Rough set out the research objectives of the two hearings.

Public Hearing: Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans? Arguments against Expansion

From 0900 to 1200 ET, Commissioners held a public hearing titled Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans? Arguments Against Expansion. Panelists included Dr. Mark Coppenger, Professor of Christian Philosophy and Ethics, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ms. Jude Eden, U.S. Marine Corps Iraq veteran and freelance journalist; Mr. Edward Hasbrouck, Editor and publisher, Resister.info; Ms. Ashley McGuire, Senior Fellow, the Catholic Association; and Ms. Diane Randall, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation. A live stream of the hearing is available on the Commission's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Public Hearing: Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans? Arguments for Expansion

From 1300 to 1600 ET, Commissioners held a public hearing titled Should Registration be Expanded to All Americans? Arguments for Expansion. Panelists included Lieutenant General Flora Darpino, retired U.S. Army, former Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army; Dr. Jason Dempsey, Senior Advisor at the Columbia University School of Professional Studies; Professor Jill Hasday, Distinguished McKnight University Professor & Centennial Professor in Law, University of Minnesota; Major General Bengt Svensson, Defense Attache, Embassy of Sweden; and Ms. Katey van Dam, U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran. A live stream of the hearing is available on the Commission's Facebook and YouTube pages.

April 26, 2019

Legal Update

The Commission reconvened at 0700 ET at its offices in Arlington, VA. All Commissioners were present. Until 0730 ET, Mr. Lekas and Rachel Rikleen, Deputy General Counsel, provided a briefing on the Anti-Lobbying Act and Hatch Act restrictions on Commission official activities.

General McChrystal Discussion

From 0730 to 0800 ET, the Commissioners had a discussion with General Stanley McChrystal (Ret.) about his efforts to promote national service and to seek his expert advice on issues within the Commission's mandate. All Commissioners were present for this discussion.

Public Hearing Debrief

From 0840 to 1000 ET, the Commission held a deliberation regarding the prior day's hearings on expanding the registration of the selective service. Chairman Heck led the discussion and all Commissioners participated.

Deliberation: Framing the Commission's Eventual Recommendations

From 1015 to 1215 ET, Chairman Heck led a discussion about overall objectives for and framing of the Commission's eventual recommendations.

Executive Session

Beginning at 1245 ET, Commissioners held an executive session outside the presence of staff.

Preparation for May Hearings

Vice Chair Gearan and Mr. Barney, assisted by staff, briefed the Commission on content issues relevant for the May 2019 hearings on military and public service from 1400 to 1600 ET. The full Commission was present for the start of this discussion although Chairman Heck, Vice Chair Gearan, Ms. James, and Mr. Khazei departed early for travel. Following this session, the Commission concluded its April meeting.

Prepared by Paul Lekas, General Counsel

Adopted by the Commission on May 15, 2019