



Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211

October 24, 2012

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
100 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700
Washington DC, 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Committee (ANCAC), now a congressionally mandated non-discretionary advisory committee established under Title 10 United States Code § 4723 on September 13, 2102 at the Women in Military Service to America.

The ANCAC is a vehicle through which the Army receives advice and recommendations which is a complement to command and staff actions, not a substitute. The Department of the Army provides support through the Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery. The Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery serve as the Principal Executive and a nonvoting member of the Committee. The committee, with DoD approval, operates through 3 authorized subcommittees:

- (a) Honor Subcommittee – to review and provide recommendations to the parent Committee on extending the future of active burial gravesites, veteran eligibility criteria and master planning.
- (b) Remember Subcommittee – to review and provide recommendations to the parent Committee on efforts to preserve and care for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- (c) Explore Subcommittee – to review and provide recommendations to the parent Committee on efforts to preserve the historic essence of Arlington National Cemetery and development of an interactive means to share this unique history with the nation and the world.

The Committee takes seriously its mandate to provide independent advice and is encouraged by the significant progress made in the past two years by the current leadership. The agenda, attendees and Committee recommendations are included in the 2012 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery at Tab A. We look forward to working further with your staff to continue to enhance the service and experience provided to veterans and their loved ones as well as our nation at Arlington National Cemetery.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Honorable Maxwell Cleland
Co-Chairperson, Advisory Committee on
Arlington National Cemetery

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1. References.

- a. Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, Title 5, United States Code, Appendix 2.
- b. The Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. § 552b)
- c. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012, Advisory committee on Arlington National Cemetery (10 U.S.C. § 4723)
- d. Department of Defense Instruction 5105.04.
- e. Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery Charter, August 2012.

2. Background.

a. The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (Committee) met for its Fall 2012 Organizational Meeting at the Women in Service to America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery on 13 September 2012. This was the inaugural meeting of the Committee under its new name and charter, as codified within 10 U.S.C. § 4723.

b. Originally established by the Secretary of the Army as the "Army National Cemeteries Advisory Commission," Congress mandated within the NDAA 2012 that "the Secretary of the Army shall advise and consult with the advisory committee with respect to the administration of Arlington National Cemetery, the erection of memorials at the cemetery, and master planning for the cemetery."

c. The 10 U.S.C. § 4723 also stipulates that "not later than 90 days after receiving a report or recommendations from the advisory committee..., the Secretary of the Army shall submit the report or recommendations to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and include such comments and recommendations of the Secretary as the Secretary considers appropriate."

3. **Report.** All seven re-nominated and re-appointed Committee members, a quorum, were present for the meeting, including:

Honorable Maxwell Cleland, Co-Chairperson
Mr. Russell Davis, Lieutenant General (USAR retired)
Mr. Thomas Chet Edwards, American Battle Monuments Commission nominee
Mrs. Debra Lopez Fix, Colonel (USA retired)
Mr. Thomas G. Kelley, Captain (USN retired), Veterans Affairs nominee
Mr. James V. Kimsey
Mr. James Peake, Lieutenant General (USA retired)

a. The subcommittees received updates on 12 September, which included:

(1) Honor: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided an update on the Millennium Project expansion and briefed ANC's process to complete a major revision of its Master Plan. The Engineers also provided an update on ANC's efforts to restore the historic War Department pillars and gates, which once served as two entrance gates for the cemetery.

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(2) Remember: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided an update on the repair to the Tomb of the Unknowns large marble memorial. These repairs are still holding well.

(3) Explore: The U.S. Army Center for Military History briefed their ongoing efforts on Section 60 and the redesign of Visitor Center Main Hall and Memorial Amphitheater Trophy Room. The ANCP Chief Information Officer also provided an update and hands-on demonstration for the ANC's upcoming release of its mobile phone application.

b. The Co-Chairman, the Honorable Max Cleland, presided over the Fall 2012 meeting on 13 September. Honorable Cleland praised the ANCP leadership for the tremendous job they have done, and welcomed the Army's commitment to this critical mission to our veterans, families and Nation. Committee members appreciated the recent changes made to institutionalize ANC and its importance to the Army, including Congress' and Secretary of the Army's decision to place the Executive Director position into law; assign the Executive Director as a Headquarters, Department of the Army Staff Principal reporting directly to the Secretary of the Army; and identify ANC as an Army Direct Reporting Unit. Committee members also expressed their appreciation to the ANCP leadership for their attention to the historical care and preservation of the cemetery, including its natural and memorial components. Committee members discussed required actions to address the subcommittee focus areas, and they also received briefs on:

(1) Leadership update from the Executive Director, Army National Cemeteries Program and Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery

(2) Horticulture update from the ANC Horticulture Chief.

4. Recommendations. By unanimous vote, the Committee concluded two recommendations to the Secretary of the Army during the Fall 2012 meeting:

(a) To help recognize and further institutionalize the long-range planning efforts to preserve ANC's cultural and natural history, ANC should pursue designation as an arboretum, including on the ANC's proposed timeline to be completed by the cemetery's 150th anniversary in 2014.

(b) To help correct the excess and preserve the uniqueness of Section 60, ANC should remove all non-natural items (e.g., wind chimes, lights, trinkets, etc.) from the trees, shrubbery and bushes in Section 60.

5. Requested Briefs. The Committee takes seriously its mandate to help advise the Secretary of the Army on Arlington National Cemetery. As such, the Committee requested to receive the following briefs related to its subcommittees:

(a) Honor: An update on the Millennium Project and more detailed brief on the Master Plan in early November.

(b) Explore: A more detailed update on the Visitor Center Main Hall upgrade as soon as possible, and an update in October/November on the ANC's current and future plans for the website and mobile phone application.

6. Requested Information. To help the Committee make more informed recommendations, they also asked to receive the following information:

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- (a) Identify requirements for a public-private partnership or foundation opportunity;
 - (b) Provide updates, as the plan is developed, on the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's interment at ANC in November 2013;
 - (c) Provide updates, as the plan is developed, on the 150th anniversary of ANC;
 - (d) Provide the final report for the evaluation of the repair to the Tomb of the Unknowns marble memorial;
 - (e) From the person or family who proffered to the Army the large marble slab in Colorado, determine what is the exact nature of the proffer; and
 - (f) Provide details on the cost and logistics associated with moving and storing the large marble slab, currently in Colorado, if the Army would want to pursue this course of action.
7. The Designated Federal Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Stephanie Ahern, was present. The meeting was video recorded. Minutes and a formal Congressional report are being developed as required.
8. The Committee Fall 2012 meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved as required by the business rules. The next meeting will be at a date and time to be determined in March 2013.