

MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)

HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

January 23, 2017

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ANC), ARLINGTON, VA

1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS: Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), opened the January 2017 Honor Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Yates noted that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner and Mr. Timothy Keating, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, ACANC. Ms. Yates stated for the record that the Subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The Subcommittee operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). The DFO, nominated by ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the Subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded Subcommittee members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the Subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also noted that the meeting was open to the public and reminded the attending public that they were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the Subcommittee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the Subcommittee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice provided in the binder at the entrance of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that minutes of the meeting will be prepared.

The meeting was called to order at 0900.

2. ROLL CALL: Ms. Yates noted a quorum for the record, with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. James Peake (Chair), Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Mr. Russell Davis, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley, Mr. Robert Hess.

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments nominee: Mr. Chet Edwards

Secretary of the Veterans Administration nominee: Mr. Thomas Kelley

The following member was not in present: Ms. Ryan Manion

3. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. James Peake opened by welcoming all members, thanking them for their service, and support for the Subcommittee. He noted that Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera, was appointed the new Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries and that Ms. Katharine Kelley had been confirmed as the Superintendent, ANC. He recognized public members of several Military Service Organizations representing Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines attending the meeting saying the Subcommittee recognizes the work and support of their organizations for ANC.
4. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the 24 October 2016 Honor subcommittee meeting were available for review in the members' binders.
5. **AIR FORCE MEMORIAL:** During the 24 October 2016 discussions about the Southern Expansion project, information was requested regarding the Air Force Memorial. The DFO briefed the Subcommittee that the Managing Director of the Memorial, Ms. Barbara Taylor was contacted and provided the following information. The Air Force Association and the Air Force Memorial Foundation raised \$53M to build and operate the memorial. She noted that while there has yet to be an official announcement, the Air Force is expected to assume responsibility for the memorial. She further informed that activities currently approved at the memorial include Promotion and Retirement ceremonies, Wreath laying, Funeral Services, Weddings, Receptions, and Air Force Band concerts.
6. **CONGRESSIONAL INTERIM REPORT UPDATE:** MAJ Way, ANC Strategic Planner, provided an update to the briefing presented to the Subcommittee during the October 24, 2016 meeting. He reminded the Subcommittee that Public Law 114-158 directed a report to include the estimated date that the Secretary determines the cemetery will reach maximum interment and inurnment capacity and also include recommendations for those legislative and non-legislative options that the Secretary determines necessary to ensure that the maximum interment and inurnment capacity is not reached until well into the future. Analysis reveals that if ANC operations continue status quo, the cemetery will reach full capacity in the early 2040s. The additional space created by the Southern Expansion project could extend the capacity limit by approximately 11 years. Given those projections, based on current operational data and life expectancy trends, ANC will reach full capacity before veterans of the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom can be interred – even if awarded the Medal of Honor. He then briefed past burial trends at ANC from 1921 to the present noting the precipitous drop in burials in 1968 after then Secretary of Defense McNamara limited eligibility to strictly KIAs, Medal of Honor Recipients, Active Duty deaths, and Retirees. He briefed that regardless of the recommendations provided in response to the 1973 National Cemeteries Act, eligibility was expanded in the early 1980s. He then noted that the ANC Columbarium opened in 1980 resulting in a steady increase of first interments per year when eligibility was extended to all veterans with Active Duty service (of at least one day, not for training) and an Honorable Discharge. These changes effectively returned ANC eligibility to pre-1968 requirements.

The next segment of the briefing presented information regarding development of sample Courses of Action (COA) for the Secretary to consider to meet the requirement of extending the active life of ANC “well into the future”. He stated that the development of these COAs was based on the precepts of Joint Military Planning that COAs must be “Feasible, Acceptable, and Sustainable”. To meet that objective, COAs were developed considering those options which were “Eligibility-centric”, “Expansion-centric”, and “Others” (blended or hybrid combinations of the above). He emphasized that many of the options considered were not mutually exclusive of the others and that the best COA may be a combination of options. In order to evaluate options, weighting criteria was developed and applied which resulted in a demonstration / explanation of the weighted numerical comparison technique as it applies to each option. He then demonstrated two sample COAs which illustrate how the Secretary might employ options to determine a way ahead to meet the requirements of the law.

Discussion / Comments. Individuals from various MSOs attended the meeting as public participants. After the briefing, the Chair acknowledged them and thanked them for attending. He mentioned that the Subcommittee is interested in hearing from Veteran and Military Service Organizations, especially senior leadership views and discussions. He then opened the floor for comments.

A representative of the Marine Corps League mentioned that he thought eligibility for burial at ANC was more restrictive than cemeteries in the NCA. He said he was surprised to learn that only one day of Active Duty (not for training) was required at ANC, while 24 months of Active Duty was required at VA cemeteries. A representative from the Air Force Association suggested that a blend of options might be necessary to achieve favorable results. A representative of the Association of the US Navy concurred regarding a blending of options. He mentioned that the Chief of Naval Operations, and likely other Service Chiefs, would be interested in a briefing of the Congressional Report, and whether some type of grandfathering clause would be considered. A representative from the Association of the US Army mentioned utility in querying its membership, perhaps with a survey, to gauge their members’ views regarding possible eligibility changes.

It was generally agreed by the group that MSO senior leadership / CEO engagement / attendance is likely premature. Timing of such engagement is important, perhaps an appropriate time to revisit and invite senior level engagement is after the report is sent to Congress.

In response to a question regarding the verification of data provided in the report, it was noted the data was developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers along with Center for Army Analysis modelling.

While the report provides a very good analysis for the Secretary to consider, determining Courses of Action that are feasible, acceptable and sustainable is a political decision. Ultimately it will be Congress to decide those parameters.

The report to Congress is produced by the HQ, Secretary of the Army with input / draft by ANC staff. The report is not designed to recommend any specific COA, but

provides a framework for a methodical process for decision. The report is currently under review by the Secretary of the Army's Staff.

1. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** The Chair then called for any other business. The DFO noted that during the next meeting, ANC Engineering will brief the Southern Expansion charrette and would like Subcommittee input. Mr. Edwards then made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Kelley seconded. All members voted in favor.

1100 Meeting Adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Peake', written in a cursive style.

JAMES PEAKE
Chairman



Honor Subcommittee
Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center
Arlington, Virginia 22211-5003
23 January 2017

SIGN IN

Name	Affiliation / Phone
Robert E. Beeber Jr	Marine Corps League
Michael J. Lin	Association of US Navy
Keith W. Zuegel	Air Force Assn
Thomas P. Blanford	AUSA
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JOHN GIFFORD	ASSN OF THE US ARMY
COL Joe Simorelli	ANC
Christopher Villmy	ANC/CTR
Simon Coon	SVAC