

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 2018

1. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS:** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), opened the 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 1300.

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, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley, and Ms. Ryan Manion

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: Mr. Robert Hess

3. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the January 30, 2018 Honor subcommittee meeting were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables throughout the room.

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4. **CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. James Peake called the meeting to order and welcomed members noting the importance of the days' work for the subcommittee. He then called for the first presentation.

5. **ANC MASTER PLAN AND SOUTHERN EXPANSION / UPDATE:** COL Peloquin, ANC Engineering provided the subcommittee with an update to the ANC Master Plan. The plan seeks to improve operations, the visitor experience, and longevity of ANC infrastructure. The main challenge to development is to maintain the iconic stature of ANC as an active cemetery while enhancing the visitor experience to a National shrine. While there are numerous projects in the program of work, the plan is comprised of efforts in four principle Area Development Plans (ADP): the Entry Corridor, the Memorial Amphitheater, the Maintenance Service Complex, and the Meigs-Tanner Amphitheater area.

- ADP 1 – Entry Corridor. The desired outcome are to make visitor screening a separate function from “entering”; allow 100% vehicular screening; increase access to the WIMSA Memorial, increase overall interpretative / education areas, and deconflict pedestrian and vehicular traffic crossing.

- ADP 2 – Amphitheater. Outside, the desired outcomes are to deconflict tour/ tram traffic, improve visitor flow to nearby memorials, create low profile interpretative spaces, improve guest amenities, and create quarters for overnight accommodation of Tomb of the Unknown Soldier guards. Additionally, planning for development inside the Amphitheater includes constructing visitor restrooms, remodeling existing guard quarters, remodel ANC Historian office spaces, create catacombs for storage, add education / interpretive space, and enhance ADA compliance with new elevators and ramps.

- ADP 3 – Service Complex. As a part of the overall Southern Expansion project, the development plan for the maintenance complex will be constructed in a new area to allow the current land to be used for interments. Some existing structures will be repurposed to accommodate visitors learning / IT functions. Planned actions include developing satellite operations / laydown to support maintenance activities throughout ANC, develop administrative spaces, and security interface for visitor and vehicle screening. Development requires possible joint-use coordination with Joint Base Myer / Henderson Hall (JBMHH).

- ADP 4 – Meigs -Tanner Amphitheater area. Functions in this area include Adding administrative space, improve pedestrian / vehicle circulation, add educational / interpretive space, visitor and tour support, ceremonial space, and security interface. The desired results of the development plan include enhancing safety at the tram area, improve pedestrian navigation, repurposing the current receiving vault, reconfigure buildings 313 and 314, and build a pedestrian walkway from the Millennium area to Section 1.

In addition to presenting the ADPs, planning to improve overall security was briefed. In the planned Security Annex (ADP 1) area, the focus areas to improve existing

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conditions include potential perimeter vulnerability, vehicle entrance / exit areas, high visitor volume areas, and low density / isolation areas. Planned improvements to the general security profile will mitigate perimeter security gaps, add vehicle screening / pull-off areas, create unobstructed space around buildings, add CCTV coverage (in coordination with JBMHH), and adding operational Access Control Points with stand-off areas.

The timeline / schedule for Master Plan implementation was briefed. The planning charrette, ADP 'deep-dives', and comment resolution to the 35% draft plan were completed between November 2017 and April 2018. The way ahead comprises receiving the 65% draft plan, the 95% revised plan (with public comment), Commission of Fine Arts review, State Historic Preservation Office review, and Description of Proposed Actions and Alternatives, and the final Master Plan by December 2018.

COL Peloquin then updated the subcommittee with a brief overview of the latest information regarding the Southern Expansion project. He noted that design considerations and studies are ongoing to determine maximum capability / yield while ensuring design characteristics reflect the overall iconic nature of ANC. He summarized the design concept outlining proposed areas of development for Columbarium inurnments, in-ground internments and inurnments, the new service and maintenance complex, parking and staging areas, and how the existing Air Force Memorial area might be restructured to blend into ANC without detracting from the significance of the memorial itself. Issues still under consideration are security screening, pedestrian and vehicle access to the area, and possible modifications to the entry and circular drive currently in place.

With an operational area of approximately 34 acres coupled with a one-third each Columbarium, in-ground interment, and in-ground inurnment planning factor, the operational yield is targeted for 47,000 to 70,000 opportunities during approximately 15 to 20 years of additional operational service life for ANC. He then reviewed a land grading study which will accommodate preset crypt placement in the project. Following the capacity analysis, he presented a proposed tree and shrub planting plan which will support the iconic nature of the cemetery as well as provide privacy and screening. He noted the timeline and way ahead with 15% design and CFA review completed, the next milestones are the National Environmental Policy Act review and 35% design completion by fall 2018, 65% design completion by spring 2019, and 100% design completion by fall 2019.

6. NATIONAL DIALOGUE / PUBLIC SURVEY 2 STATUS: Major Way, ANC Strategic Planner, presented the subcommittee with a briefing which outlined interim results of an ongoing survey to further gauge public opinion regarding the strategic future of ANC well in to the future. This survey was developed to refine the data collected and analyzed as a result of an initial public survey conducted between July 20 and

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November 15, 2017. He noted that the volume of responses collected from this first survey exceed all expectations at over 28,000 completed surveys which was representative of 100,000 (28%) total surveys that were at least begun. He then briefed that the in-stride volume of completed surveys as of subcommittee meeting was nearly 215,000 and growing. The survey is expected to close by early June 2018 with analytical results available for consideration by early July 2018. He noted that outreach effort was enhanced by support through the VSO / MSO communities, major media outlets Fox & Friends, NY Times interview, Washington Post interview, FM radio station WMAL interview, and ANC website and Facebook information.

He noted that while the final analysis is yet to be completed, initial results reveal a majority believes:

- ANC is a symbol of military service and sacrifice to our Nation;
- Something should be done to keep ANC an active burial cemetery well in to the future;
- ANC should expand where possible but limit eligibility when needed;
- ANC should restrict eligible populations to extend the future of active burials beyond 2055;
- Those that agree with the previous statements found if eligibility changes are required to keep ANC open, the highest rated groups (1 to 10 scale) to remain eligible for ANC were:
 - Medal of Honor recipients
 - Killed in Action
 - Awards for Valor (Silver Star, Service Cross)
 - POW
 - Purple Heart recipients
 - WWII Veterans
- Other categories of service also rated (with lower overall scores) are:
 - Active Duty deaths;
 - Retirees (without further qualifying consideration, i.e., MoH, POW, PH);
 - Traditional Veterans;
 - Elected Officials (with military service); and
 - Active Duty Designees

Formal analysis of data by ForeSee will be considered during preparatory work by the Honor subcommittee shortly after the survey closes and results are available. The subcommittee will then report to the next Full Committee meeting for consideration in developing possible recommendations to the Secretary of the Army per the ACANC Charter.

7. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE: Major Way, ANC Strategic Planner, presented the subcommittee with a review of proposed strategic initiatives being considered by ANC.

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- Past initiatives under consideration by ANC were changes to policy regarding elective rescheduling of services and modifying the funeral escort / honors policy. These issues were reported to the Full Committee in the November 2017 meeting. The Committee agreed that scheduling and conducting FMFH are operational policies and recommended ANC adopt a change to both business practices. The issues remain under consideration by ANC leadership.

- A current strategic initiative underway is developing a plan which will support the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, in prescribing revised criteria for internment at Arlington National Cemetery by September 30, 2019 in accordance with language proposed in the NDAA 2019. Secondly, an initiative in final planning with ANC leadership is developing an ANMC Strategic Plan with utility for both internal and external audiences with a revised mission statement for ANMC and ANC. The plan is a strategic framework addressing mid-to-long range efforts. Publication is targeted for summer 2018 to coincide with ANC outreach activities with MSOs and VSOs.

- Two proposed strategic initiatives were then presented to the subcommittee for consideration. First, recognizing that operational tempo at ANC has had the impact of lengthening waiting times of families for an increasingly aging Veteran population, a thoughtful strategic analysis is necessary to address the issue. It was noted that approximately 17% of those families awaiting a service were for subsequent interments of eligible dependents. Statistically, if the daily operational schedule was changed to accommodate an increased number of second interments, the waiting time may be reduced for the more aged portion of the eligible population at the expense of possibly extending waiting time to some degree for first / initial interments.

Secondly, the subcommittee was briefed on the projected effect of modifying the current policy for military escorts for those currently eligible. The strategic initiative is to reduce waiting time for Full Military Funeral Honors. It was noted that the standard compliment of military personnel required for Standard Honors services are approximately 16 to 18 personnel (depending on military service), while personnel escorts required to support Full Military Funeral Honors range up to 75 escort personnel. Wait time is significantly impacted by the Branch of Service's ability to support escort duty. A key point for consideration is that most company grade Veterans are not eligible for in-ground interment, thus a strategic consideration to reducing waiting time for escort services is to recommend that funeral escorts at ANC be provided only to E-9, CW4 and above, and O-4 and above.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: At the conclusion of the presentations and subcommittee discussions, the Chair informed members that he believed it to be in the best interest of the Honor Subcommittee, the ACANC, and ANC to more equitably distribute leadership responsibilities of the committees. He stated a desire to depart his position as Chair of the Honor Subcommittee. After a brief discussion, a motion was made nominating Mr. Gene Castagnetti to succeed Mr. Peake. The motion was

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seconded and carried. The DFO noted that administratively, designation of Mr. Castagnetti as Chair of the Honor Subcommittee, if approved by the Full Committee, would be recommended to the Secretary of the Army for appointment.

9. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 1645



JAMES PEAKE
Chairman