

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

September 5, 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.

**2. FOR THE RECORD:** The meeting today with invited guests from the VSO / MSO community and Congressional staff members is the third of its kind to engage representatives with the subcommittee's work to consider various courses of action to keep Arlington National Cemetery open and active until well in to the future as required by law. (Note: the guest list is appended at TAB A)

On June 7, 2017, an inaugural meeting with VSOs / MSOs and Congressional Staff members was held to shape an initial public survey designed to gauge public opinion about possible changes to eligibility for interment in ANC and possible contiguous and non-contiguous expansion opportunities.

On January 30, 2018, a second meeting VSOs / MSOs and Congressional Staff members was held to share the results of the first survey analysis. Additionally, a second / follow on survey was discussed, determined necessary, and once again shaped with input from the VSOs / MSOs and Congressional Staff members.

(Note: Minutes of June 7, 2017 and January 30, 2018 meetings are a matter of public record on the ANC public website: [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil))

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The meeting was called to order at 0900.

**3. 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. Thomas Kelley, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley, and Mr. Robert Hess

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

The following members were not in present: Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Ms. Ann Rondeau, and Ms. Ryan Manion

**4. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the May 2018 meetings were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables.

**5. 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 and called for the first presentation.

**6. SOUTHERN EXPANSION UPDATE:** COL Peloquin, Chief ANC Engineering provided the subcommittee with an update to the ANC Southern Expansion plan with a review of the May 2018 discussion for the benefit of the invited guests. He noted the projected interment yield is targeted for approximately 60,000 interment / inurnment sites with a one-third each mix of in ground casketed remains, in ground inurned remains, and columbarium / niche wall inurnments. The overall 49.9 acres of land will result in 33.6 acres for burials after roads and setbacks are developed. He briefed that the expansion will accommodate pedestrian access from a new parking garage, security screening, and DV vehicle access for special events. The design concept includes enhanced views of the Air Force Memorial, adjacent Tram service, and consistent emphasis on maintaining the iconic nature of ANC.

In a timeline presentation he note the Defense Access Road land acquisition was pending funding and authority. He projected a 65% design completion by fall 2019 and 100% by winter 2020. Road construction is expected to begin in 2021 with an overall estimated project completion by 2025.

**7. PUBLIC SURVEY 2 RESULTS:** Major Way, ANC Strategic Planner, presented an analysis of public opinion regarding the strategic future of ANC. He noted that the volume of responses far exceeded all expectations at approximately 230,000 completed surveys. He noted that outreach effort was enhanced by support through the VSO /

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MSO communities.

Survey respondents to the second survey were categorized into four groups: Veterans, Service Members, Military Family Members and Unaffiliated. Key findings reveal near unanimous support for keeping ANC open; MOH recipients and those KIA have the most support for continued eligibility; over 75% of those in favor of expanding the cemetery recognize the need to restrict eligibility to keep ANC open; and 91% overall support eligibility that would leave retirees eligible for above ground inurnment.

Analysis of responses of the four groups reveals:

- Veterans comprise 77% of respondents. Of those, 89% agree that ANC should expand where possible and 76% agree If no further geographic expansion were possible, ANC should restrict eligible populations to extend the future of active burials
- Service Members comprise 17% of respondents. Of those, 90% agree ANC should expand where possible and 78% agree If no further geographic expansion were possible, ANC should restrict eligible populations to extend the future of active burials
- Military Family members comprise 5% of respondents. Of those, 87% agree ANC should expand where possible and 74% agree If no further geographic expansion were possible, ANC should restrict eligible populations to extend the future of active burials
- Those Unaffiliated were only 1% of the survey respondents. Most agree if no further geographic expansion were possible, ANC should restrict eligible populations to extend the future of active burials

He then presented key milestones along a decision timeline that included:

- **20 May 2016:** PL 114-158 signed into law. Requires Secretary of the Army to report to Congress on options/actions that will extend the life of ANC well into the future (150 years, as defined in the 2017 Report to Congress)
- **14 February 2017:** Acting Secretary of the Army submits report to Congress
- **November 2017:** First Public / National Dialogue Survey ends
- **11 January 2018:** HASC MILPER hosts preparatory / fact-finding roundtable with Advisory Committee representatives and ANMC leadership
- **8 March 2018:** HASC MILPER hearing with cemetery leadership, MSOs, and VSOs
- **10 June 2018:** Refined / second Public / National Dialogue Survey ends
- **13 August 2018:** H.R. 5515, NDAA FY19 signed by the President

Key actions to be completed include:

- **October 2018 through March 2019:**
  - Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery considers

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- recommendation to the Secretary of the Army
- Executive Director, ANMC:
  - Briefs SA on possible scenarios
  - Updates SA and other staff, as needed
- Secretary of the Army:
  - Socializes proposed rule sheet changes with service Secretaries
  - Consults with the Secretary of Defense on proposed changes
  - Describes proposed changes to Members of Congress
- **1 April 2019:** CFR Process begins public rule-making soliciting executive agency and public feedback
- **30 September 2019:** Revised criteria, informed by rule-making process, are prescribed by Secretary of the Army

Discussion points:

- The number of eligible retirees has significantly increased from approximately 3,000 in 1901 to approximately 500,000 in 1969. Today there are 2 Million retirees eligible today with approximately 101,000 new spaces remaining at ANC.
- Title 10 vs Title 32 deaths under identical circumstances result in different eligibility. Importantly, the difference is for in-ground burial. The subcommittee concurred the issue should be further analyzed regarding impact to overall active life span of ANC.
- Consistent public sentiment reveals WWII veterans should remain eligible regardless of changes to eligibility. Discussion followed as to whether Korean War veterans should be also eligible regardless of changes to eligibility.
- Past trends show that 25% ANC of interments / inurnments originate from the surrounding 5 states.
- The Advisory Committee is a statutory and independent chartered organization not bound by any specified timeline to make any recommendations to the Secretary of the Army. The Committee often makes recommendations which are congruent with Executive Director, ANMC but is not required to do so.
- Regardless of a subcommittee vote, the results of the meeting will be reported to the full / parent Advisory Committee. It is important to emphasize that the main thrust of the meeting was to further reinforce commitment and outreach to VSO / MSO leadership to garner insight into the overall view of community membership.
- VSO /MSO guests were asked to speak to any formal positions taken by their

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organization toward potential changes to eligibility for burial at ANC. Several guests acknowledged that while previously holding a firm stance against any changes to eligibility, the need for change, as articulated in NDAA 2019, necessitates a harder look at those military retirees without otherwise qualifying circumstances such as valor awards. The representative from the MOPH conveyed the position that the purple heart should be included under qualifying awards.

- Several guests favored postponing Advisory Committee recommendations to allow a further / deeper canvassing of membership to ensure organizational leadership had a clear picture of their member's opinions.
- ANC should consider increasing retiree awareness of ANC availability challenges and potential changes in eligibility for burial at ANC through respective services Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) classes.

Following the presentation and discussion, the Chair called for a short recess. The DFO then requested all guests reassemble to seats behind the tables to allow the subcommittee to deliberate possible recommendations for the full Advisory Committee to consider.

After reconvening, a briefing was presented to the subcommittee and all attendees of various Courses of Action (COAs) in development for the Secretary of the Army to review in order to prescribe revised criteria for interment at Arlington National Cemetery as required by law. Once the Executive Director proposes options, the Secretary will decide on the best Course of Action, socialize the recommended revised criteria with Service Secretaries, consult with the Secretary of Defense, and dialogue with Congress after which the Federal Rule Making process will occur to adopt changes to eligibility.

After a period of discussion, the subcommittee agreed to postpone a recommendation to the Advisory Committee to allow the VSO / MSO community to further engage their members given the mandate of NDAA 2019 for revised interment criteria.

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 1200

  
JAMES PEAKE  
Chairman