



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Minutes of March 2019 Commission Meeting

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (the Commission) held a meeting on March 27-29, 2019, in College Station, TX. 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. 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

Commissioner absent:

- Mr. Edward Allard

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

March 27, 2019

Business Meeting

The Commission convened at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, shortly after 0900 CT. All Commissioners were present except for Mr. Allard. The Chairman moved to close this and other business meetings to occur on March 27-29, 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 February 2019 Commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the February 2019 minutes with minor clarifications and technical edits.

Chairman Heck continued the business meeting with an overview of the Commission's meetings and plans over the next several months.

Mr. Abernathy reviewed the schedule of events for March 27-29.

Vice Chair Wada, assisted by staff, briefed the Commission on content issues relevant for the April 2019 hearings on the Selective Service System.

Thereafter, senior staff provided briefings to the Commission on various topics. Ms. Lowry reviewed logistics for the March 28, 2019, hearings. Mr. Lekas provided an update on the Freedom of Information Act requests made to the Commission and the Commission's responses. Mr. Morgan updated the Commission on methods for distributing material for Commissioner review.

In the afternoon, Ms. Lowry briefed the Commission on outreach and engagement efforts. She addressed the status of public hearings scheduled for April and May 2019. Dr. Rough and Mr. Lekas provided input on the hearings scheduled for June 2019.

Thereafter, Ms. Haines led a full Commission discussion about issues under consideration in the Ends, Ways, and Means Work Group.

Dr. Rough continued the business meeting with an update to the Commission on the staff's research efforts. Dr. Rough also reviewed plans for providing Commissioners with further background research and analyses of policy options for the Commissioners to consider in the coming months.

The business meeting concluded at approximately 1645 CT, at which time the Commissioners departed to a reception with students from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

March 28, 2019

On March 28, 2019, the Commission convened at the Annenberg Conference Center at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, for two public hearings on national service. Nine Commissioners participated in the public hearings; in addition to Mr. Allard, who did not attend the March meeting, Mr. Barney fell ill and could not attend.

Public Hearing: Improving Current National Service Policies and Processes

From 0900 to 1200 CT, Commissioners held a public hearing titled “Improving Current National Service Policies and Processes.” Panelists included AnnMaura Connolly, President of Voices for National Service and Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President of City Year, Inc.; Chris Bugbee, Chief Operating Officer of the OneStar Foundation; Pierre Nguyen, Disaster Response Programs Manager for the Texas Conservation Corps of American YouthWorks; Michelle Brooks, Chief of Staff for the Peace Corps; and Barbara Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of CNCS. A live stream of the hearing was made available on the Commission’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

Public Hearing: Creating More National Service Opportunities

From 1300 to 1600 CT, Commissioners held a public hearing titled “Creating More National Service Opportunities.” Panelists included Jaime Ernesto Uzeta, Chief Executive Officer of Public Allies; Shirley Sagawa, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Service Year Alliance; Natalye Paquin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Point of Light; Brian Larkin, Program Officer of Flint for the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; and Kaira Esgate, Chief Executive Officer of America’s Service Commissions. A live stream of the hearing was made available on the Commission’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

March 29, 2019

Business Meeting

The Commission reconvened at 0830 CT in College Station, TX.

From 0830 to 1000 CT, the Commission held a deliberation regarding the prior day’s hearings on national service. All Commissioners except for Mr. Allard participated in the meeting.

From 1014 to 1115 CT, Ms. Lowry led a discussion about the Commission’s engagement efforts and planning for the Commission’s March 2020 final report release.

Executive Session

Beginning at 1120 CT, Commissioners held an executive session outside the presence of staff, after which they concluded the Commission’s March meeting.

Prepared by Paul Lekas, General Counsel
Adopted by the Commission on April 24, 2019