EVENT BRIEFING MEMO: Experience of Active Duty Mid-Career Officers

★Fort Hood, TX★

EVENT DATE AND TIME: July 20, 2018 | 1:00 – 2:00pm

Staff Lead: [Redacted]

Commissioner Lead: Kilgannon

Commissioner Co-Lead: Davidson

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: Participants in this engagement will be mid-career officers – defined for this event as senior Captains (O-3s) and junior Majors (O-4s). Captains and majors play a crucial management and leadership role in the U.S. Army. Many have one or more combat deployments under their belts and have reached an inflection point in their career: stay in and make a career of their military service or leave the Army and pursue other career paths.

Captains command and control company-sized units (62 to 190 Soldiers) in coordination with their NCOs. Captains also instruct skills at service schools and US Army combat training centers and often serve as Staff Officers at the battalion level. Majors typically serve as primary Staff Officers for brigade and task force commands, handling personnel, logistical, and operational missions.

The purpose of this meeting is:

➢ To understand the experiences of mid-career officers and how these experiences have influenced their decisions to join, stay in, or leave the Army

➢ To understand the perspectives of mid-career officers regarding military service and civilian-military relations

PARTICIPANTS:
Participants will be approximately ten senior Captains and junior Majors from units based on Fort Hood.
AGENDA:
Conversation with mid-career officers
1:00 – 1:05 Commission Welcome Remarks
1:05 – 1:10 Roundtable Introductions
1:10 – 2:00 Roundtable discussion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
The questions below are provided for guidance only and are not intended to serve as a protocol or script for the meeting.
Other questions related to the Commission’s mission:

- Is a military draft or draft contingency still a necessary component of U.S. national security?
- Are modifications to the selective service system needed?
- How can the United States increase participation in military, national, and public service by individuals with skills critical to address the national security and other public service needs of the nation?
- What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?
- Does service have inherent value, and, if so, what is it?
- Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?
- How does the United States increase the propensity for Americans, particularly young Americans, to serve?