EVENT BRIEFING MEMO: Tennessee Air National Guard
4593 Swinnea Road ★ Memphis, TN 38118

EVENT DATE AND TIME: August 17th, 2018 | 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Staff Lead: Keri Lowry

Conversation with National Guard Leadership
Commissioner Lead: Debra Wada
Support Commissioner: Steve Barney

Conversation with National Guardsmen
Commissioner Lead: Shawn Skelly
Support Commissioner: Edward Allard

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:
Commissioners will engage in a discussion in Memphis with members and leaders of the Tennessee Air National Guard’s 164th Airlift Wing. While the 164th Airlift Wing serves primarily under the command of the Governor of Tennessee, it has also provided its airlift capacity in response to major military and humanitarian missions, such as to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to Haiti for earthquake relief, and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The purpose of this meeting is:
➢ To provide the Commissioners with a better understanding of the experiences of Air National Guard members and their perspectives on military service.

PARTICIPANTS:
Participants will be approximately five members of their leadership and twenty guard members (group breakdowns in Appendix A). Key participants include:

- Col Raymond (Ray) Robinson IV - Wing Commander*
- Col Brandon Evans - Operations Group Commander
- Col Johnny Howard - Maintenance Group Commander
- Col John Brinkley - Mission Support Group Commander
- CMSgt Jimmie Jones - Wing Command Chief

*Bios and additional information on participants can be found in Appendix A.

AGENDA:
1:00 – 1:30 Conversation with Guard Leadership
  1:00 – 1:05 Welcome remarks
  1:05 – 1:25 Roundtable Discussion
  1:25 – 1:30 Closing Remarks
1:30 – 3:00 Conversation with Guardsmen
  1:30 – 1:50 Small group conversation to include intros and motivations for service
  1:50 – 2:50 Roundtable conversation with whole group
2:50 – 3:00 Closing remarks

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
The questions below are provided for guidance only and are not intended to serve as a protocol or script for the meeting.
Any other question as it relates to the scope of the Commission’s work:

- 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?
Bios

**Col Raymond S. Robinson IV** is Commander of the 164 Airlift Wing, Memphis, Tennessee. One of the Air National Guard’s five strategic airlift wings, the 164th is trained and equipped to provide rapid global mobility in C-17 aircraft supporting National Security Objectives. In peacetime, the 164th reports to the Governor of Tennessee providing emergency relief and support to civil defense authorities preserving peace, order and public safety. The Wing comprises approximately 1000 personnel with over 300 military civil service and civilian employees.

Col Robinson graduated from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School in May 1987. Next, he received his commission as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy in May 1991. He has previously been assigned as the Vice Wing Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing. While serving as the Vice Wing Commander, he was deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar as the Commander of the 385 Air Expeditionary Group. As a Command Pilot, he has commanded combat support missions during Operations NORTHERN WATCH, SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM and NEW DAWN. In addition, he is a MD-11 Pilot with a major commercial parcel service.

Groups for Beginning of Conversation with Guardsman- including rank, name and years of service:

GROUP #1
PA A1C Trevonna Hawkins <1
HQS A1C Tanika Lewis <1
OG A1C Christopher Mimms 1

GROUP #2
MDG SrA Brandon Moses 2
MXS A1C Anfranee Seals 2
MXS A1C Jordan Church 2

GROUP #3
CES SSgt Linda Phillips-Hendryx 5
MOF SSgt India Rivers 6
CES SSgt John Ferraro 7
FSS SrA Lindsey Bussenger 7

GROUP #4
OG 1st Lt Billy McCann 9
FSS TSgt Shinika Gulledge 9
PA SrA Leon Bussey 12
OG MSgt Melissa Smith 13
CF TSgt Nathaniel Von Allmen 15

GROUP #5
Commissioner
Staffer
CF TSgt Robert Morgan 17
AMXS TSgt Michael Higginbotham 17
MDG MSgt Anna Marshall 19
FSS MSgt Patrick Parson 20

GROUP #6
Commissioner
Staffer
RR SSgt Rod Davis 6
RR SSgt Chris Fant 6
RR MSgt Rusty Weaver 24