Public Hearings
Military Service

Increasing Awareness Among Young Americans and Lessening the Civil-Military Divide

MAY 16, 2019

Program
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Opening Statement and Remarks
Vice Chair Debra Wada

Panelists Testify

Panelist Q&A
(two rounds of questions directly from Commissioners)

Public Comments
(individuals will have two minutes to relate their comments)

Closing Statement
Vice Chair Debra Wada
CL J CHIVERS, AUTHOR AND WRITER, THE NEW YORK TIMES, FORMER MARINE

Chivers is a writer-at-large for The New York Times Magazine, covering conflict, crime, the arms trade and human rights. A former Marine infantry officer and veteran of the Persian Gulf War and peacekeeping during the 1991 Los Angeles riots, he is also the author of two books, THE GUN (a history of the proliferation of automatic weapons told through the development and mass production of the AK-47) and THE FIGHTERS (an examination of the human experience of American combatants in Afghanistan and Iraq), the latter a NY Times best seller. In 2007, Chivers received a National Magazine Award and a Michael Kelly Award for the reconstruction of the terrorist siege at a public school in Beslan, Russia. In 2009, he shared a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of combat in Afghanistan. For coverage of wars in Libya and Afghanistan in 2011, he received a George Polk Award and the Hal Boyle Award from the Overseas Press Club (OPC) for best newspaper reporting from abroad. In 2014, the OPC awarded its prize for investigative reporting for an expose of American and Iraqi troops wounded by abandoned chemical weapons; the report prompted the Pentagon to apologize. In 2017, he received a Pulitzer Prize for reporting on a Marine war vet imprisoned for a crime he could not recall; as a result of the reporting, the vet was released from prison.

DR. LINDSAY COHN, PROFESSOR, U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Lindsay P. Cohn is an Associate Professor of National Security Affairs at the US Naval War College. Her research focuses on civil-military relations, particularly the political economy of military manpower, as well as public opinion on military and foreign policy issues. As an undergraduate, she held an Army ROTC scholarship, but was medically discharged in lieu of commissioning. She completed her PhD in Political Science at Duke University (2007), and has held multiple fellowships, including from the Council on Foreign Relations and Harvard's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies. She has been invited to speak on civil-military relations or defense and security issues at the Bundeswehr University, Munich, the University of Southern Denmark’s Center for War Studies, Princeton’s Security Studies Colloquium, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Peruvian Naval War College, Good Governance Africa, and the USMA’s Modern War Institute. She has received the Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Commander's Award for Public Service from the Department of the Army.

ERNIE GONZALES, FORMER DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AND SENIOR POLICY AND PROGRAM ANALYST FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESERVE AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

From 1994 to April 30, 2019, Gonzales was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. He served as Director Youth Outreach Programs and a Senior Policy/Program Analyst. He was the program and resource manager for the Department’s Civil Military Programs and responsible for program policies, budget, and management of two Department of Defense Youth Outreach Programs (the National Guard Challenge Program and the DoD STARBASE Program), as well as, the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and related Community Outreach Activities. The JROTC program is at 3,000 high schools and reaches over 500,000 students.

MR. ANTHONY KURTA, PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS

Mr. Tony Kurta is performing the duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A member of the Senior Executive Service, he was responsible for recruiting, retention, compensation, travel, and the related human resource management for the 1.4 million Active Duty military members of the U.S. Armed Services. A native of Columbia Falls, Montana, he graduated with merit from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981, earned an M.A. in National Security Studies from Georgetown University, is a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, and was a National Security Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Kurta’s career includes over 52 years on active duty as a Navy Surface Warfare Officer, commanding at various levels most notably with the Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). As CJTF-HOA, his command included Active and Reserve, Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force, Special Operations, National Guard, inter-agency and coalition personnel. Mr. Kurta retired from the Navy in 2015 as a Rear Admiral.

DR. KATHLEEN HICKS, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, HENRY A. KISSINGER CHAIR, AND DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM, CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Kathleen Hicks is senior vice president, Henry A. Kissinger Chair, and director of the International Security Program at CSIS, which undertakes one of the most ambitious research and policy agendas in the security field. She served in the Obama Administration as the principal deputy under secretary of defense for policy and the deputy under secretary of defense for strategy, plans, and forces. She led the development of the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance and the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. She also oversaw Department of Defense contingency and theater campaign planning. She spent almost thirteen years as a career official in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, rising from Presidential Management Intern to the Senior Executive Service. Dr. Hicks is concurrently the Donald Marron Scholar at the Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She serves on the Boards of Advisors for the Truman Center and SoldierStrong and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Hicks served on the National Commission on the Future of the Army and the Commission on the National Defense Strategy. She is the recipient of distinguished service awards from three Secretaries of Defense and a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the 2011 DOD Senior Professional Women’s Association Excellence in Leadership Award. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an M.P.A. from the University of Maryland, and an A.B. magna cum laude from Mount Holyoke College.