MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)

HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

October 24, 2016

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ANC), ARLINGTON, VA

1. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS:** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), opened the October 2016 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 Committee still operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C.), the 5th US Code Appendix 2 and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). ANC is the agency that receives the benefit of the Committee's advice and recommendations. 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 Committee.

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 Committee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the Committee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice as 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.

The meeting was called to order at 0830.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Ms. Yates noted for the record, the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees:

Mr. James Peake (Subcommittee Chair)
Mr. Russell Davis
Mr. Mark Farley
Mr. Robert Hess
Ms. Ryan Manion (Initial Subcommittee meeting)

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

Secretary of the Veterans Administration nominee:
Mr. Thomas Kelley

The following members were not in attendance:
Ms. Rose Duval
Mr. Gene Castagnetti

3. **OATH OF OFFICE:** After introducing Ms. Ryan Manion, a Gold Star family member and newly appointed Subcommittee member, Ms. Yates asked all members to rise to reaffirm their Oath of Office. After the reaffirmation, Ms. Yates asked the Chair for opening remarks.

4. **CHAIRMAN OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. James Peake, Chairman, ACANC Honor Subcommittee opened by welcoming all members, thanking them for their service, and sharing his thoughts regarding the extremely important issues before the Subcommittee.

5. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**: The DFO announced that the minutes from the 23 August 2016 Honor subcommittee meeting were available for review in the members' binders at the table.

6. **REPORTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The DFO reported that there were no reports or any unfinished business from the Honor Subcommittee meeting on 23 August 2016. The Chairman then requested the meeting proceed with the agenda of the day.

7. **SOUTHERN EXPANSION:** COL Peloquin, ANC Engineering began the presentation with an update to the on-going construction progress of the Millennium Project. He noted that work was on-schedule and on-budget, with an expected first interment early in 2017. The DFO reminded the Subcommittee that a tour of the Millennium Project was part of the administrative agenda scheduled for later in the morning.

COL Peloquin then presented information regarding the status the Southern Expansion project noting that little had changed since the previous briefing on 23 August. He emphasized that the main considerations for the project were to ensure a careful balance of Character, Function, and Use. Regarding character, the design, while adding to the extended service life of active burials, must maintain the iconic nature of ANC. Improving the functionality of limited land resources requires the design to maximize yield while maintaining character. Planning and design must enhance the family experience which is paramount. Minimizing walking distances and gradients will enhance accessibility, but requires specific attention on the sloping grounds of the Southern Expansion land. Balancing these factors is critical to maximizing interment and inurnment while preserving the iconic nature of ANC.

The Southern Expansion timeline was then reviewed for the Committee noting the project arose from the NDAA 2000 wherein the Army received the land to prepare for use as part of ANC. The remaining milestones include publishing the Draft Environmental Assessment, Land Exchange Framework, Cemetery and Roadway design. The anticipated cemetery construction start is 2019 with an anticipated completion in 2022.

Discussion / Comments. Regarding cost, ANC estimates an additional $30M for Defense Access Roads (DAR) and $274M for development are projected to move the project forward. Of note, these costs do not include the sunk costs of demolition of the Navy Annex and subsequent preparation of the land for future construction.

The Air Force Memorial was discussed noting that while the site is maintained by the Air Force, which has an Operations and Maintenance Budget line for the site, the Army owns the land has provided an easement for the memorial. The current activities allowed at the site include official ceremonies and tributes, however since it is a public site, questions remain as to what public activities, such as weddings or receptions, are allowed. Information will be provided to the Subcommittee during the next meeting.

The issue of renewed interest by Arlington County was discussed noting that county officials now desire to review land usage with the intent of clarifying the Memorandum of Agreement. The county has issued a proposal to review the MOA, however there exists a higher level of interest with the Federal Highway Administration.

The essence of the presentation is that ANY expansion of ANC, including the Millennium Project, Southern Expansion, or *any future endeavor to expand*, is complex and time consuming. **Regardless of contiguous land availability or funding, time for necessary planning, negotiating, and construction is the principle limiting factor in expanding ANC.**

8. REPORT TO CONGRESS OVERVIEW: MAJ Way, ANC Strategic Planner provided an update to the briefing presented to the Subcommittee on August 23, 2016. He reviewed the timeline for the Secretary's report to Congress as required by PL 114-158. He briefed the Subcommittee that on October 17, 2016, the Executive Director, ANC provided a report to the Secretary in support of his report due to Congress on November 15, 2016.

Discussion / Comments. Multiple and diverse engagements took place in preparation of the report, including HQDA Staff, Congressional Committee Staffs, as well as Military and Veteran Service Organizations. Three common themes emerged while generating the report:

- Stakeholders desire ANC to remain active, at a minimum, for those who are Killed In Action or otherwise die on Active Duty.

- Any change to eligibility should come only after all efforts to expand the cemetery have been exhausted

- If a change to eligibility is deemed necessary, the starting point is to make eligibility for ANC and VA Cemeteries identical.

- It was noted that eligibility requirements to be interred at a VA cemetery requires a minimum of 24 months of Active Duty service with an Honorable Discharge, while ANC minimum service requirement is one day of Active Duty (not for training). The DFO informed the Subcommittee that there were approximately 200 inurned above ground at ANC that would not have been eligible at a VA cemetery because of minimum Active Duty service requirements.

- Further discussion centered on a recommendation to the Full Committee to consider a report to the Secretary. The Subcommittee discussed at length how ANC might be defined to capture its essence as a living / active National Shrine.

The Chair then called for any other business. With none noted, he called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Edwards made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Hess seconded. All members voted in favor.

1100 Meeting Adjourned.

JAMES PEAKE
Chairman

Honor Subcommittee
Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center
Arlington, Virginia 22211-5003
24 October 2016

SIGN IN

Name	Affiliation / Phone
Trina Fitzgerald	MOAA
COL Joe Simonelli	ANC/ANMC
Alyssa Schroeder	HVAC Majority
COL Mike Pelaquin	ANC
Kate Kelley	ANC
STEVE SMITH	ANC