

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

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MOSELEY TO MEET WITH ALL AIR FORCE GENERALS IN U.S. THIS WEEK

Inside the Air Force
23 September, 2005

The new Air Force chief of staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley, will convene a "general officers call" this week with all his U.S.-based service brass, sister publication Inside the Pentagon has learned. At the meeting -- slated for Sept. 23 at Offutt Air Force Base, NE -- Moseley is widely expected to lay out his vision and priorities as the service's top officer.

The meeting comes three weeks after Moseley took the service reins from his predecessor, Gen. John Jumper. The new chief is a career fighter pilot who formerly served as Jumper's No. 2 officer. Moseley was the top air officer in Southwest Asia and the Middle East during 2002 combat operations in Afghanistan and the U.S.-led military effort to topple then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in 2003.

During the last week in July -- just over a month prior to becoming Air Force chief of staff -- Moseley met quietly with a small number of close advisers to glean their recommendations on how to address his first priorities, according to service officials.

Sessions similar to this week's much larger powwow in Omaha are anticipated in coming weeks at Hickam Air Force Base, HI, and Ramstein Air Base in Germany, as well,

allowing Moseley to meet with Air Force generals based overseas, service officials said.

The three meetings will include active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard leaders. National Guard adjutants general from each state have been invited, as has Army Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, according to air officials.

"This is a get-together to have a two-way chat with his general officers," Air Force Brig. Gen. Frederick Roggero, the service director of public affairs, said of Moseley's impending gathering. In a brief Sept. 23 interview with ITP, Roggero called the session an "exchange of his views and our ideas."

Although Moseley is not the first incoming Air Force chief of staff to gather his general officer corps early in his term for this purpose, many say the so-called "G.O. call" will offer him a critical opportunity to set a new tone in the wake of a series of crises affecting the service over the past few years.

The Air Force is struggling to restore its public reputation and credibility following allegations of pervasive sexual misconduct and Christian proselytizing at the service academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

Early this year, then-Maj. Gen. Thomas Fiscus was removed from his post as Air Force judge advocate general and demoted two ranks following revelations of numerous extramarital affairs over a 10-year period. A replacement for the service's top military legal officer is still pending.

The Air Force also is still reeling from an acquisition scandal in which a former top procurement official acknowledged improperly favoring Boeing, her future employer. Last year, Darleen Druyun pleaded guilty to violating federal ethics laws and is now serving time in prison.

The debacle ultimately led to the departures of Air Force Secretary James Roche and his acquisition deputy, Marvin Sambur, early this

year. It also has significantly delayed Air Force plans to replace its aging fleet of aerial refueling planes.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) was said to have held up most promotions for Air Force general officers for months as he investigated the tanker scandal, though the process appears to have normalized after Jumper met with the lawmaker last March, ITP reported earlier this year.

Early this month, the White House nominated Michael Wynne -- currently a top defense acquisition, technology and logistics official -- to become Air Force secretary. Moseley intends to hold a similar meeting with Wynne, pending his Senate confirmation, and with all senior Air Force civilians to discuss his vision and plans, according to service officials.

Some of the Air Force's troubles remain very live issues. The service's bid to close a number of Air National Guard bases across the United States has strained the active-Guard relationship, which was widely regarded as healthy prior to the so-called "BRAC" process.

"You'll see a very concerted effort by Gen. Moseley to reestablish a very solid relationship with the Guard and Reserve," retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, a former director of the Air National Guard, told ITP this week. Though lawsuits filed by adjutants general against the Air Force over the base closure and realignment process remain pending, Moseley has long shown an appreciation for reserve force capabilities and will "reach out to the [state Guard leaders] in all that he does," Weaver said.

The Air Force continues to battle the Office of the Secretary of Defense and critics on Capitol Hill over its stated need to buy 381 jets in its top-priority F/A-22 fighter acquisition program, following OSD's move late last year to reduce procurement to 179 Raptors.

Responding to questions from reporters in recent weeks, both Jumper and Moseley described how an aging fleet of combat and support aircraft is costing more and more to maintain, while the

price tag for replacing the planes with new-production jets also continues to rise.

Some officials and observers liken the service's morale challenges facing Moseley today to those confronting Gen. Ronald Fogleman when he became chief of staff in October 1994, following the stormy tenure of Gen. Merrill McPeak. (McPeak introduced many changes aimed at helping adapt his service to the end of the Cold War -- some generally regarded as prescient and longlasting, others highly controversial and overturned soon after his departure.)

At a similar G.O. call at the Offutt conference center 11 years ago, Fogleman discussed ethics and integrity, his vision of how to apply air power, and a sense of the direction in which he intended to take the service, according to Air Force officials. And Fogleman -- now widely revered as one of the Air Force's best chiefs -- made clear his top officers could either accept his leadership on those three issues or leave the service.

Some officers and observers urge Moseley to emulate Fogleman's decisiveness as a means of setting a clear direction for a service still in a somewhat defensive crouch and hungry for confident leadership.

The need to move on from the string of crises could not be much greater as Moseley faces "a pretty full plate and a pretty thin wallet," says one retired Air Force official, speaking late last month on condition of anonymity.

Roggero said the G.O. call would allow for "a higher, more strategic level" of discourse, rather than focus on the details of service crises. He noted Jumper held a "blue summit" with Air Force general officers and senior civilians in San Antonio, TX, earlier this year to address some of the more difficult issues facing the service.

Moseley told reporters last week his top priorities as he becomes chief are to offer "better ways" to use air power in current combat operations; to "take care of our people" in the Air Force; and to seek acquisition reforms and

transparency to more effectively recapitalize the aging fleet.

The new chief of staff has a window of opportunity in his first weeks on the job to help his top officers understand the critical role they can play in advancing his vision, according to several of those interviewed.

The meetings will help ensure "everyone gets started off on the same sheet of music," Roggero said. -- Elaine M. Grossman

AIR FORCE WRAPPING UP WORK ON NEW FUTURE TOTAL FORCE ROAD MAP

Inside the Air Force
23 September, 2005

The Air Force is wrapping up work on a Future Total Force road map that will establish new mission areas for Air National Guard units affected by the recent base realignment and close process, ANG Deputy Director Brig. Gen. Charles Ickes told Inside the Air Force this week.

The new missions, grouped into four "bands," will be presented by Guard officials to the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) for the first time Oct. 1, Ickes told ITAF Sept. 21. Guard officials met recently with AGAUS president Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general of Nebraska, and the group's committee chairs to lay out a schedule for the briefing, he added.

The Air Force in March stood up the Directorate of Future Total Force at the Pentagon, aiming to better address the challenges of a dwindling budget, an aging aircraft fleet and emerging defense missions. The directorate aimed to improve the service's overall effectiveness by basing and training active duty, Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel together in anticipation of those emerging missions.

Over the course of the past few months, FTF Directorate chief Brig. Gen. Alison Hickey, met

with major Air Force command chiefs to identify new mission areas and determine how best to address them, according to Ickes. Officials had to wait for the BRAC Commission to complete its work before they could know how much Guard and Reserve manpower would be available, he said.

Those mission sets were then banded together into Band One, Band Two, Band Three and Band Four, the one-star noted. Air Staff officials and the service's top commanders agreed that missions in the first band are the most likely to be supported and resourced, he said. He did not specify what missions comprise each band.

ANG chief Lt. Gen. Daniel James appointed a one-star in the Guard's strategic planning division to formulate future plans for the new mission sets, Ickes said.

The major command chiefs, along with Guard and Reserve officials, will now work with the states to determine what missions might replace those stripped by the BRAC process, according to Ickes.

"The way we've racked and stacked this is: The states that were most affected by BRAC movements will be the first ones that we work with to establish new mission areas," he said.

That approach is not without problems, however. Some missions are geographically centric, especially space missions, the deputy ANG chief noted. Due to the physics involved, there are only a few places in the world that can handle space launches, Ickes continued.

"So if a unit came in and said, 'Hey, we want to be in the space launch business,' we'd have to say, 'Fine, move to Florida and you've got a real good chance of doing that'," the one-star told ITAF, adding that such units might be able to find niches within the space program.

Guard officials might also be forced to deny a state's request for a new mission because other locations allow for greater personnel recruitment, Ickes said. Those same locations

also might encourage a certain skill set the Guard needs.

However, working with the states may cause officials to move missions up through the bands since collectively they are envisioned as "a living document." For instance, if a new technology comes on board next year or an unexpected "event" takes place, Guard officials will go back to the bands and examine what missions should be upgraded and where that needed task should be placed, Ickes said.

The one-star said the Guard has "not yet put almost any money into" the Air Force budget for the initiative and will not do so until the savings generated by the BRAC round are better portioned through the service. He added that money will be needed for training and re-training of personnel and for new equipment to allow units to transform viably.

Ickes predicted it likely will take a few years to complete the process of finding new missions for units. -- Martin Matishak

Local News Articles

BRAC defense committees get boost from grants

The News Herald, Panama City, Fla.
23September, 2005
By Ed Offley

PANAMA CITY -- Even though Bay County's two military bases survived major cuts in the current Base Realignment and Closure hearings, the local BRAC defense committee has no intention of disbanding, its chairman said.

That is in great part because Gov. Jeb Bush's administration has awarded Bay County and 10 other communities with a significant military presence more than \$ 1 million in grants to continue BRAC-related operations into next year, said Larry Dantzler, chairman of the Bay Defense Alliance.

The local alliance has received a \$ 120,000 Defense Reinvestment Grant that will be used to fund the group's administrative expenses and consultant costs on behalf of Tyndall Air Force Base and Naval Support Activity-Panama City, he said.

"We have found that we have a mission beyond BRAC itself," Dantzler said. "We will serve as liaison between the bases and the Pentagon and Capitol Hill ... to do some missions that the military themselves can't do."

In an announcement released late last Friday but not made available to local officials until this week, Bush seemed to echo the Bay County panel's stance: "Our Defense Reinvestment Grant program will assist Florida communities to understand and support their resident (military) installations along with the new missions and personnel expected to come to the state as a result of BRAC decisions."

Bush praised the Legislature for supporting the grant program as a means to make Florida "our nation's most military friendly state."

Other Panhandle organizations receiving the grants included the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council, \$ 101,000; the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, \$ 50,000; and Team Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, \$ 125,000.

The 2005 BRAC Commission imposed minor realignments on the two bases that if formally ratified by Congress will result in a net loss of several dozen positions. These include 33 slots in an F100 engine repair program slated to move from Tyndall to the New Orleans Air Reserve Station, and an unspecified number of jobs in the Deployable Joint Command and Control (DJC2) management office that would shift from the Navy base on Thomas Drive to Fort Meade, Md.

Pitts bill aims to turn closed bases into oil refineries

Lancaster New Era (Lancaster, PA)
23 September, 2005

Rep. Joe Pitts wants to build oil refineries on military bases scheduled to be shut down. The congressman introduced legislation Thursday calling on the Bush administration to identify three military bases slated for closure by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission that would be suitable for locating oil refineries. The plan would eliminate a big hurdle companies must clear before building a new refinery: Finding land. Our ability to refine oil and supply gas to consumers has not kept pace with demand for gasoline, said Pitts. That's because we have not built a new refinery in more than 30 years. Experts say just one new refinery would make a significant dent in gas prices here at home, Pitts said. Regulations and litigation costs prevent the construction of new refineries, but if the federal government would set aside land for refineries, several steps could be eliminated, Pitts said. If enacted, Pitts legislation would give the secretaries of Defense and Energy 90 days to identify three military sites being closed under BRAC that would be suitable for refinery construction. Once identified, that land would be set aside for two years, reserved exclusively for oil refineries. After that time, the land could be sold or otherwise used to meet the military needs.

Opinions/ Editorials

Virginia Needs to Step Up on the BRAC Game

Daily Press (Newport News, VA)
By JOEL RUBIN
24 September, 2005

There was a time when Virginia looked down its nose at other states, particularly those to the south.

Well, since North Carolina took all our banks and money, and now Florida is outflanking us on military assets, the time for snobbery is over.

What became quite evident through the BRAC process is that the loss of Cecil Field in 1993

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taught Florida a big lesson: If you want to secure your bases, you better understand the task, court the brass and get off your ... duff.

The Sunshine State has done all three, plus they have bought up land around potentially endangered installations, erasing encroachment as a reason to fear closure or realignment.

It all showed a few weeks back in Washington when Virginia's presentation to the BRAC commission was, according to witnesses, a middle-school play compared with Florida's Broadway production.

Should we be surprised? Virginia generally depends on volunteer commissions of retired congressmen and officers to protect its posts. Florida hires the former chief of naval operations and has experienced staff people reporting to its governor, whose relation to the president is really immaterial.

This week I asked a top Virginia legislator what he knows about military affairs in Virginia and he said, "less than I know about heart surgery," and he's no doctor.

Maybe it's because our governors serve just a single term; maybe it's because not one in recent years has had either local roots or high-level military experience. But we have had our lunch handed to us by states, and let's go one step further, competing regions like Jacksonville, who plan and invest, rather than take their federal payrolls for granted.

Is it too late to catch up?

Our competitors have the blueprint. The question now is whether Virginia and Hampton Roads have the will to implement it.

Rubin is host of "On the Record," which airs Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on WVEC-TV, Channel 13. *