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TASK GROUP**



**MACARTHUR SOCIETY
OF WEST POINT GRADUATES**



POSITION PAPER

TO RESTORE

PURPOSE, UNITY & TRUST

IN THE US MILITARY

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING TOGETHER
TO RESTORE PURPOSE, UNITY & TRUST
IN THE US MILITARY**



Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services (STARRS) is concerned about the divisive racist and radical CRT/DEI ideology infiltrating the military and service academies and seeks to expose, stand up against, and eliminate it in order to keep our country safe.

Col. Ron Scott, PhD, USAF ret, USAFA '73

PRESIDENT

719-482-5997 | mission@starrs.us

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**MACARTHUR SOCIETY
OF WEST POINT GRADUATES**

To preserve, defend, and advocate for
West Point's history, purpose, and
principles of Duty, Honor, Country.

Col. Bill Prince, USA ret, USMA '70

PRESIDENT

321-514-7177

mission@macarthursociety.org

MacArthurSociety.org



Support and defend the
Constitution of the United States,
the Navy and Marine Corps
and the U.S. Naval Academy

Capt. Tom Burbage, USN ret, USNA '69

PRESIDENT

404-583-2664

honor@calverttaskgroup.org

CalvertTaskGroup.org

POSITION PAPER

National Defense Reform

PROBLEM: The geopolitical and domestic situation has drastically changed since the Goldwater/Nichols Act (GNA) was enacted in 1986. The Soviet Union collapsed and the Warsaw Pact dissolved; China has emerged as our greatest peer competitor; global terrorism sponsored by Iran is causing conflicts and global unrest; NATO is weak; our military is weak; a Space Force has been formed; homeland security is threatened by open borders; etc. The 1998 U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century addressed many emerging threats but like the GNA, the current and emerging domestic and foreign threats have largely outpaced the study.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

- The 2024 report from the bipartisan congressional “Commission on National Security Policy” said: *“The United States confronts the most serious and the most challenging threats since the end of World War II. The United States could in short order be drawn into a war across multiple theaters with peer and near-peer adversaries, and it could lose.”*
- In its comprehensive annual report “Index of U.S. Military Strength” the Heritage Foundation rated the overall strength of our military as “**weak**”.
- We have the smallest active-duty military since before WWII.
- We’ve experienced the greatest recruiting crisis since the all-volunteer military began in 1973.
- The interest on the national debt exceeds the entire DOD budget.
- The Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) was formed and yet we have open borders with 10-20 million illegal aliens in our country, rising crime, ~100k fentanyl deaths per year, child and sex trafficking, and cartels controlling access across our southern border.

DISCUSSION:

- Since enactment of the GNA, the size of pentagon staffs have grown with duplicate organizational structure among the OSD, the service secretaries, and the uniformed services causing sluggish responses; a bureaucratic focus on processes; and continuous changes in the programming and budgeting cycles.
- The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) will be a key mechanism to address the inefficiencies inside the pentagon and the DOD at large.
- There are too many political social agendas driving policies at the pentagon, such as DEI, at the expense of a warfighting focus and readiness.
- The number of SES’s, generals, and admirals in the pentagon has expanded since the GNA of 1986; DOD civilian control of the military has concurrently grown to the point where it must be asked, “how much DOD civilian control of the military and inside the pentagon is enough and how much is too much”?
- The acquisition system remains sluggish, costly, and inefficient.
- Robots, hypersonic missiles, and the rapid expansion of AI applications will have an ever increasing

impact on warfighting strategy, tactics, techniques, and procedures requiring more robust interfaces among joint forces and the rapid application of new technology on the battlefield.

- Cyber operations are an ever increasing threat to our national security.
- Our defense industrial base, both organic and commercial, has been allowed to deteriorate causing major vulnerabilities in the capability to not only replenish expended materiel in a timely manner but also surge production during a conflict. Additionally, many components critical to our weapons and systems come from foreign sources to include China, our principle adversary.
- 20+ years fighting the GWOT with a force too small to meet national security requirements resulted in: multiple rotations of troops into the combat zone; the inability to adequately train for joint operations against a peer competitor; degradation of the readiness condition of major items and depletion of munitions and other materiel. The force structure size of our military was inadequate to meet the GWOT requirements and is certainly too small to meet a major contingency operation with a peer competitor.
- Increased DOD funding is essential to meet the requirement of the 21st century; increasing from the current 3% to ~5% of the GDP is needed along with eliminating the current wasteful spending and lack of accountability evidenced by DOD failing its annual audit for seven consecutive years.
- Considering the national and domestic security threats, should the U.S. Coast Guard with its law enforcement and national defense missions remain under the DHS or are there more effective alternatives?
- Projecting timely combat power requires a ready fleet of strategic transportation assets. Heavy ground combat forces must be moved by ships to overseas operations making our strategic sealift assets an essential national security capability. This capability has eroded under the Dept of Transportation and

serious consideration must be given to moving management of our strategic sealift capability and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy to the DOD.

- Combat readiness includes having a medical battlefield casualty treatment and evacuation system that is responsive, rapidly deployable and capable of supporting a MRC. Additionally, it must provide responsive care during peacetime to all eligible patients. The entire defense healthcare system requires a thorough review as the Defense Health Agency has become overly centralized and apparently focused on peacetime operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The POTUS through executive order, commission a blue ribbon panel in-depth study to identify what changes are needed to the GNA and the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century to address the facts and points raised in this paper and others not addressed.
- The results of such a comprehensive study be provided to Congress for their consideration regarding an updated GNA and any legislative changes needed to implement recommendations coming from the National Security/21st Century study.

POC:

Major General Joe Arbuckle, USA, Retired
STARRS Vice Charman of the Board
mission@starrs.us
719-371-8288



Col. Ron Scott, PhD, USAF ret, USAFA '73

PRESIDENT

mission@starrs.us | 719-482-5997

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