



## RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2024



The Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) met on March 6, 2024, in Falls Church, VA.

**CLEARED  
For Open Publication**

### RFPB Members Present

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Chair – Hon. Lisa Disbrow                       | 9. Ms. Michele K. LaMontagne |
| 2. MG John B. Hashem, USAR, Military Executive     | 10. Hon. Dr. Paul Stockton   |
| 3. SGM Stuart Coupe, USAR, Senior Enlisted Advisor | 11. Hon. Ms. Debra Wada*     |
| 4. MG Susan E. Henderson, USAR                     | 12. Ms. Michelle M. Lenihan* |
| 5. RADM Miriam L. Lafferty, USCGR                  | 13. Ms. Phyllis J. Wilson*   |
| 6. MajGen Karl D. Pierson, USMCR*                  | 14. Ms. Sid Ashworth         |
| 7. Mr. Eric Overturf*                              | 15. Mr. Atul Vashistha       |
| 8. Mr. Carlos E. Martinez                          | 16. Ms. Stacie Pettyjohn     |

\*Virtual

Apr 02, 2024

Department of Defense

OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

### OPEN SESSION

Hon. Lisa Disbrow, new RFPB Chair, presented her vision for the board and discussed potential topics of interest for the Board's consideration. Her vision sees the RFPB providing the Secretary of Defense with high-impact reserve component recommendations for total force decision-making to meet National Defense requirements. She further discussed development of a persistent campaign to garner mutual respect for and between the active and reserve components that leads to responsible, integrated decision-making for the Total Force and DoD.

Hon. Disbrow highlighted current RFPB topics: Utilization of the Reserve Component (RC) for Homeland Defense (HD) and Permeability, under the Subcommittee for Total Force Personnel. She discussed the next topics for the RFPB's to include shaping the future of the RC, continuing work on HD involving critical infrastructure and utilities to include water, and reviewing DoD strategic depth/management of the IRR.

General Charles Q. Brown, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) highlighted the diverse strengths the RC brings to the fight and that it is the combination of different (individual and component) skills, talents, and abilities that makes us the finest fighting force in the world. He stated the U.S. engages our partners and allies effectively because of our RC.

The CJSC noted the importance of the permeability challenge and the criticality of duty status reform. He emphasized medical standards for a currently serving members transitioning to another component should not be the same as for initial entry into military service. Improvements in these three areas would help the Department retain talent to continue to serve but in a different way.

General Brown noted HD requires more than just the DoD – it requires community, state, and industry partners: a whole-of-nation approach with a critical look at dependence on cyber capabilities and infrastructure. He discussed his personal experience with RC management highlighting the importance of educating the active component (especially senior decision makers and commanders) about the reserves, the value they bring, and how best to access them. General Brown reminded the members to think about what's happening to an RC member when called up – they have civilian jobs, families, etc. He also lamented the tendency to do things a



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particular way just because that's how it's always been done and reinforced the need to do deep analysis of policies to identify specific barriers to change.

The Chair recognized Mr. Judd Lyons, DASD Reserve Integration, who retires in May 24. The Chair thanked him for his support over the years. DASD Lyons thanked the Board for their partnership and asked for the Board's continued support to ensure Total Force Policy/Optimization gets across the finish line.

Hon. Paul Stockton provided an update focused on RC support and opportunities in HD. The Board voted unanimously to send the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations to send to Secretary Austin.

Col Megow-Jones provided a Personnel Policy Subcommittee update focused on permeability. The Board will hear findings and recommendations in June 24.

## **ADJOURN OPEN SESSION**

By my signature, certified to be accurate and complete.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Disbrow", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Disbrow  
Chair  
Reserve Forces Policy Board



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## Additional Information

### RFPB Members Not Present

1. Ms. Kathy Roth-Douquet
2. RADM Eric C. Ruttenberg, USNR
3. Mr. John F. Sampa
4. MG Haldane B. Lamberton, ARNG

### RFPB Staff

1. Mr. Eric Flowers, Designated Federal Officer
2. COL Sean Counihan, USAR, Chief of Staff
3. COL Richard Sudder, ARNG
4. Col Gary Beckett, USAFR
5. CAPT DeWuan Booker, USNR
6. Col Tammy Megow-Jones, USMCR
7. LTC Stephen Hedger, USAR
8. LCDR Daniel Sweeney, USCGR
9. CMSgt Nina Reiss, ANG
10. Ms. Margaret Odhiambo, Executive Assistant

### RFPB Consultants

1. Mr. David Batz, RFPB Consultant
2. Mr. Timothy Orr, RFPB Consultant
3. Mr. Tim Williams, RFPB Consultant
4. GySgt Jason Greene, USMCR, Consultant

### RFPB Fellows

1. Mr. Bobby Green, former RFPB Member
2. Mr. Larry Taylor, former RFPB Member

### Speakers

1. General Charles Q. Brown, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

### Public / Virtual Attendees of Interest

1. Mr. Judd Lyons, DASD RI
2. COL John Blackburn, ARNG
3. CDR Keedah Ray, USCG
4. Professor Bert Tussing, USAWC
5. Mr. Stephen Austin, OCAR (virtual)
6. SFC Omar Rodriguez, OCAR (virtual)
7. Ms. Christina Trader, DASD-RI
8. CAPT Jeffrey Shanahan, USN, DASD-RI
9. Col Mark Wernersbach, HAF, NGB
10. Mr. Ted Graham, OSD P&R
11. Mr. Michael Petring, NG NGB
12. Col Christopher Wolter, USAF ANG
13. Mr. Jay Steffenhagen, OCNR
14. CDR Jesse-LaRou Walsh, OCNR
15. Ms. Angela Giddings, SES, OSD CAPE
16. Ms. Christine Boyette, CTR USAF
17. Ms. Susan Lukas, VP Air Force Section, ROA
18. LtCol Dana Brown ANG
19. Mr. Rich Rico, Exec Dir, Space OPS, NG