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The National Defense Transportation Association is a non-profit, non-political educational association committed to fostering partnerships between government, military and industry, and maintaining a strong and efficient global transportation, travel and distribution system in support of national security. There are over 8500 members in the association, comprised of both individual and corporate members. There are 60 plus chapters in the United States and overseas in Europe and the Pacific. The national headquarters office is located in Alexandria, VA.



SAVE THE DATE

SDDC Symposium & NDTA Expo

Atlanta, Georgia April 6-8, 2009

National Transportation Week

May 17 - 23, 2009

63rd Annual NDTA Forum & Expo

Nashville, TN September 19-23, 2009

Kenneth Wykle, NDTA President and former Administrator of the FHWA, invited to brief Obama's DOT Transition Team

The voice of Defense Transportation

[Alexandria, VA - January 6, 2009] --- On December 5th, LTG Kenneth Wykle, USA Ret. and representatives of the Coalition for America's Gateway and Trade Corridors, IANA, National Retail Federation, and The Waterfront Coalition were invited to meet with President-elect Obama's DOT Transition Team to deliver an informal briefing on transportation challenges as seen from the perspective of seasoned experts. The role of intermodal operations - rail, air, maritime and surface systems - was key to discussions.

The first 100 days will most likely determine the course that the new administration will take. All agreed that infrastructure improvements, and the resulting opportunity to provide jobs and revive the sagging economy, should be top priority. Equally important is the need to maintain a strong commercial transportation system; this benefits not only the economy and the transportation industry as a whole, but guarantees that the department of defense has access to vital assets so that mission requirements can be met and our Nation remains secure. Government policy should also be revised to ensure the most efficient use of federal funds in order to achieve infrastructure goals.

As Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration from October 1997 to January 2001 and current president of the National Defense Transportation Association, Wykle sees issues from various vantage points. Meeting representatives were supportive of his assessment.

MEETING SNAPSHOT

National Transportation Policy - Primary Factors for Consideration

Safety * Alternative Fuels * Environment * Mode Optimization
 Freight Corridors * Efficient Fund Distribution * Security

Major Topics (select) - By Mode

Electronic On-board Recorders (FMCA)
 Deteriorating Highway Infrastructure (FHWA)
 Next Generation of Air Traffic Control Systems (FAA)
 Piracy & need for National Policy (MARAD)
 Designated Freight Corridors & Double Track / Double Stack Capability (FRA)

Focus on Defense Transportation

- *CHANGE SFAR 77* to authorize US Flag air carriers to operate in Iraq. The threat is significantly less and air cargo carriers would like the ability to compete with foreign carriers for the business.
- *ENSURE IMMEDIATE & COMPLETE DEFENSE ACCESS* to public / private partnership infrastructure facilities /highways, e.g. privately operated toll roads must provide for the movement of Arms, Ammunitions and Explosives or other Government HAZMAT without pre-clearance or unnecessary restrictions.
- *CONSTRUCT/IMPROVE THE HIGHWAY CONNECTORS & MAJOR ARTERIAL HIGHWAY SEGMENTS* leading into critical defense installations, facilities, manufacturers, and air and ocean ports.
- *AUTOMATE & STANDARDIZE* the process for getting overweight / outsized permits for moving equipment on the highways so carriers can complete one form and submit it electronically to applicable state DOT's for proper clearance. TWIC implementation, while not a DOT responsibility, impacts the National Transportation System. Designate the TWIC as the standard transportation credential for all modes of transportation and for facility access across the government and industry facilities. Work to eliminate DOD, DOE, other government agencies, and industry having different credentialing requirements.
- *CHAMPION THE NEED FOR A COORDINATE US POLICY ON DIPLOMACY AND / OR USE OF FORCE* to counter threats of piracy. Piracy of ships in the gulf of Aden is of concern to US Commercial Maritime companies moving defense cargoes to the Middle East.