Weekly Report
National Security Division

Week ending 12 July 2019

National Security Strategy:

1. **Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life**
2. **Promote American prosperity**
3. **Preserve peace through strength**
4. **Advance American influence**

National Defense Strategy:

1. **Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force**
2. **Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners**
3. **Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance and affordability**

The next Joint Chiefs chairman: Milley throws support behind nuclear modernization, Space Force

U.S. President Donald Trump's choice for the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has thrown his full support behind nuclear modernization plans, the creation of a Space Force and developing new capabilities to offset China.

That easy questioning remained even after Milley voiced support when asked whether it would be "helpful" to place conventionally armed, ground-launched intermediate-range missiles in the Indo-Pacific region to help deter Chinese interests in the region.

Those weapons had previously been banned under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which the Trump administration exited earlier this year.

The response was equally calm when Milley called the development of low-yield nuclear weapons "an important capability to have in our arsenal in order to deal with any potential adversaries or contingency operations." Democrats from both chambers of Congress have raised objections to the creation of those systems, as well as the potential to deploy ground-based cruise missiles.

More broadly on nuclear issues, Milley aligned himself with a statement from former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, saying that the U.S. "can afford survival and we have to. It's imperative that we modernize and maintain the readiness of the conventional and strategic forces. No question about it."

"My view is that the [nuclear] triad has worked," he added.

Asked to name his three priorities for dealing with China and Russia, Milley expressed a view in line with the National Defense Strategy.

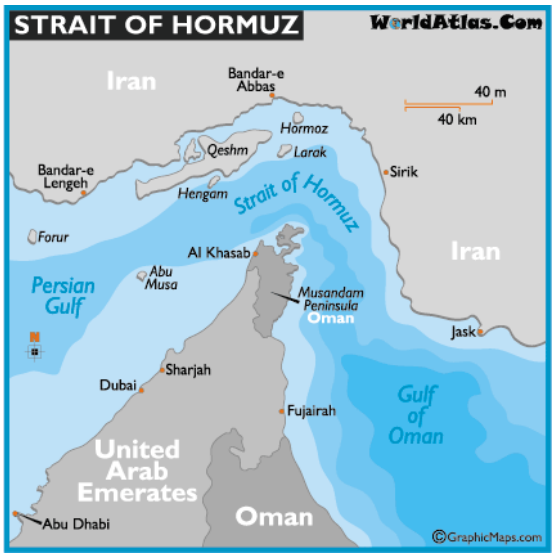
"I think the very No. 1 for me and No. 1 stated for the Department of Defense is the modernization, recapitalization of the nation's nuclear triad. I think that's critical. Secondly, I would say, is space. It's a new domain of military operations. We got a considerable amount of both commercial and military capabilities in space that need to be protected in this — and all the technologies that go with space," Milley said.

"In addition to that, I would say that artificial intelligence and hypersonics — and there's many, many other technologies — those two are at the top of my list for putting modernization investment."

Milley showed his support for the creation of a Space Force, but also showed patience with the process, saying the incremental steps taken by Congress to create a branch of the service that lives under the secretary of the Air Force but has a spot on the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the "appropriate" approach.

Click here to read more.

US proceeding with plan for coalition to deter Iran threats



The United States will move ahead with plans to build a coalition of nations to monitor and deter Iranian threats against commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf area and in a heavy trafficked waterway between the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said Tuesday.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford said the Pentagon has developed a specific plan, and that he believes it will be clear within a couple of weeks which nations are willing to join the effort.

"This will be scalable. So, with a small number of contributors we can have a small mission and we'll expand that as the number of nations that are willing to participate identify themselves," he said.

He said the U.S. military's main role would be to provide "maritime domain awareness" — intelligence and surveillance information — to the ships of coalition partners that would conduct patrols in vulnerable waterways like the Strait of Hormuz, which separates the Persian Gulf from the Gulf of Oman, as well as the Bab el Mandeb, a heavily trafficked strait between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa.

Click here to read more

Gold Star Families

Voiced by Linda Ambard, Gold Star spouse, this video is a solemn honor to the more than 2,900 Air Force Gold Star family members who are part of the Air Force Forever Families program. We remember them as the ones we loved. We remember them as heroes.

https://www.dvidshub.net/video/627247/gold-star-families

Staff Activities

- This week staff continued to developed briefing and sponsor pages for National Security Commission programs. These sheets will be used by the Marketing Division to seek corporate donors to fund The American Legion's National Security programs that promote community service.
- Wednesday, staff (Gold Star Coordinator) attended the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Event with Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and USAID Administrator Mark Green.
- Wednesday, Staff visited Capitol Hill to participate in an event sponsored by HillVets. The forum discussed the Veteran suicide crisis and the deportation of immigrant Veterans. Former Secretary of Defense Honorable Chuck Hagle spoke during the event with a focus on the selfless example of the Serving and Veteran of the Military.
- Thursday, Staff (Gold Star Coordinator) met with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS),in the TAPS headquarter in Arlington ,VA to strengthen relationships. TAPS offers compassionate care to all those grieving the loss of a loved one who died while serving in our Armed Forces or as a result of his or her service.

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 3 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
July 10, 2019
Airman Accounted For From World War II (Cybowski, P.)

July 8, 2019
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Trotter, G.)

July 1, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Ebert, L.)

Frederick Gessner, Acting Director
National Security Division