Weekly Report
National Security Division
Week ending 18 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**

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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**

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National Military Strategy Addresses Changing Character of War

Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford recently said the strategy, which is classified, governs how the U.S. military will implement the National Defense Strategy. Dunford began writing the strategy soon after taking office in 2015. The strategy was rewritten in 2016 and last year. An unclassified description of the strategy is now available.

"The National Military Strategy provides a basic framework consistent with the National Defense Strategy, including the problem sets of Russia, China, Iran, North Korea and violent extremism," Dunford said in a recent interview.

"The key thing is we have campaign plans written to address each of those challenges on a day-to-day basis," he said. "Then we have integrated base plans so if there is a contingency it is a global perspective of what we need to do in the context of a given contingency."

Under the chairman's direction, the Joint Staff developed the National Military Strategy. The staff also oversees the development of the campaign plans with an eye to the transregional all-domain battlefield the United States military would have to engage upon. "It gives you a much better start point than a narrow [combatant command-specific] operations plan," Dunford said.

The military strategy deals with the threats enumerated in the National Defense Strategy: the reemergence of great power competition from Russia and China; dealing with the threats emanating from Iran and North Korea; and maintaining vigilance to combat terrorism. But the strategy is not a straitjacket. "The full scope of global integration must recognize uncertainty and be vigilant for emerging threats to the security and interests of the United States, its allies and partners," Allvin said.

The military strategy introduces a new concept called the "continuum of strategic direction," he said. This is three overlapping strategy horizons for the Joint Force. "Force employment is how the Joint Force will meet the challenges of the current strategic environment," Allvin said. "Force development describes adaptation of the current Joint Force to do what it does better. Force design describes innovation to enable the Joint Force to do what it does differently in a fundamentally disruptive way."

The continuum looks to address operations from today to the future.

Dunford has often said that the nature of war has not changed, but the character of war has, and the National Military Strategy builds on this reality. It recognizes that future conflicts will be increasingly transregional and cross all domains: land, sea, air, space and cyberspace. Planning, force management, decision-making and force development and design must be considered as decisions are made at the highest levels of the government.

With the emergence of great power competition with China and Russia being the main threat to the United States, building a force to counter these near-peer competitors now and in the future will be an important part of the National Military Strategy.

"The nation's allies and partners are indispensable to safeguarding a free and open international order; they remain a strategic source of strength for the Joint Force," Allvin said. "Assuring allies and partners remains a crucial mission area for the Joint Force in the 2018 National Military Strategy."

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USFK confirms North Korea’s Hwaseong-15 ICBM can target all of US mainland

United States Forces Korea (USFK) has confirmed North Korean claims that the Northeast Asian country's Hwaseong-15 (also spelled Hwasong-15) road-mobile, intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) can strike targets anywhere in the US mainland.

The weapon, which was test-fired by North Korea on 29 November 2017, has an estimated range of 8,000 miles (12,875 km), meaning that it is "capable of striking any part" of the US mainland, said USFK in its '2019 Strategic Digest', which it published jointly with United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command.

For comparison, in its 2018 Defense White Paper the Japan Ministry of Defense (MoD) had put the weapon's range at "more than 10,000 km".

On the day the ICBM was test-launched Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) stated that the Hwaseong-15 had reached an altitude of 4,475 km and flown a linear distance of 950 km before coming down, making it the ballistic missile with the potential for the longest range so far tested by Pyongyang.

As for the Hwaseong-14, which was first test-fired on 4 July 2017, USFK said that the missile could reach "most" of the US mainland, given its estimated range of 6,250 miles. The Japanese MoD had put the range of this weapon at "more than 5,500 km".

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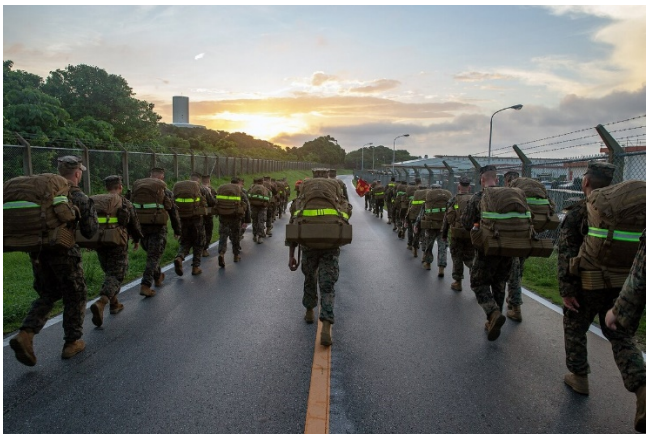
New commandant considering 1 year leave of absence for moms and changes to evaluating and promoting Marines



Marines participate in a 10 km hike on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, July 12. (Lance Cpl. D'Angelo)

Commandant Gen. David Berger laid out guidance for reshaping the Marine Corps in a planning document posted late Tuesday evening.

Among consideration is a new policy that would afford moms up to a year leave of absence to stay with their kids before they return back to duty and complete their service obligation.

Berger described the current parental and maternal leave policy as "inadequate" and noted that the policy has "failed to keep pace with societal norms."

"We should never ask our Marines to choose between being the best parent possible and the best Marine possible," Berger wrote in his guidance message. "These outcomes should never be in competition to the extent that success with one will come at the expense of the other."

The Corps recently updated its parental and maternal leave policy in 2018. Currently moms can take primary caregiver leave in conjunction with maternity convalescent leave for a total of 12 weeks — which matches the current Defense Department policy.

However, the Corps does afford some flexibility that allows mothers to take the first six weeks of maternity convalescent leave and delay the rest for up to a year or transfer the other six weeks to a spouse if they are a dual military household.

The top Marine is also interested in overhauling the work evaluation process known as the fitness report, which looks at the performance of sergeants through the officer ranks.

Berger said in his guidance that "there is a growing lack of faith within our ranks in the system's ability to accurately identify their skills, performance, and future potential."

"Upward growth and mobility must favor the most talented within our ranks while facilitating the identification of those with a special aptitude as instructors, educators, commanders, staff officers, mentors, or with special technical skills," Berger's guidance reads.

"As the complexity of the world has increased, the spread between physical jobs and thinking jobs has increased dramatically," Berger wrote.

"The only way to attract and retain Marines capable of winning on the new battlefield is to compete with the tools and incentives available to them in the marketplace," Berger said in his guidance message.

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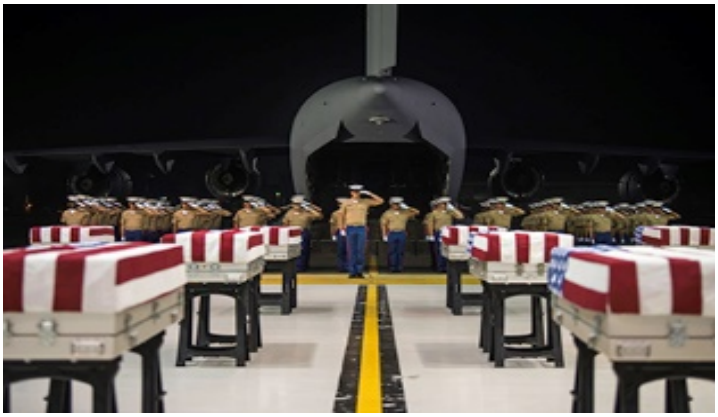
U.S. Servicemen Killed During Battle of Tarawa To Be Returned to United States



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today the remains of at least 22 servicemen, killed during the battle of Tarawa in World War II, are being returned to the United States in an Honorable Carry Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, July 17, 2019.

The Battle for Tarawa was part of a larger U.S. invasion (Operation GALVANIC) to capture Japanese-held territory within the Gilbert Islands. The operation commenced on November 20, 1943, with simultaneous attacks at Betio Island (within the Tarawa Atoll) and Makin Island (more than 100 miles north of Tarawa Atoll).

Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Servicemen killed in action were buried where they fell, or placed in large trench burials constructed during and after the battle. These graves were typically marked with improvised markers, such as crosses made from sticks, or an up-turned rifle.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,692 service members still unaccounted for from World War II, of which approximately 30,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable.

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 participated in the Defense Health Agency monthly working group which provides updates to Military health care transition. Each Service provided an update of their progress to me the 1 October transition deadline. All Service are focused on the readiness and lethality of Service Member while ensuring quality health care of family member and retirees.
- Wednesday, staff (Gold Star Coordinator) provided written inputs for HR 2277 testimony focusing on extending Gold Star Benefits for spouses according to the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA).
- Thursday, Staff (Gold Star Coordinator) continues Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), in the TAPS headquarter in Arlington, VA to strengthen relationships. Gold Star coordinator is working with National President of American Gold Star Families Inc. to build a strong combined voice to advocacy.

Frederick Gessner, Assistant Director
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