Weekly Report
National Security Division
Week ending 1 Nov 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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What's in the emergency defense policy bill?

(National Defense Strategy: Rebuilding readiness as we build a more lethal force)

With political gridlock stalling negotiations over the annual defense authorization bill, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday unveiled plans for his backup "skinny" version of the legislation to ensure critical military programs continue uninterrupted into next year.

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said he remains hopeful a compromise can be found on the massive $738 billion defense policy measure in the coming weeks.

"If for some reason we're not able to pass it, military operations will stop," Inhofe said on the Senate floor Tuesday. "A skinny bill is simple. It extends necessary authorities for military operations, takes care of the service members and their families, and authorizes essential military construction and acquisition programs. That's it. That's one paragraph."

The backup bill was drafted with guidance from Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., recently said negotiators will need to deal with the issue of restrictions on military construction funding (to prevent the president from using the money for his southern border wall project) for any legislation to advance in his chamber.

The stripped-down version of the annual National Defense Authorization Act — which has passed for the last 58 years — would remove nearly every other point of conflict for negotiators, so that it creates an easier path toward passage.

Here's a look at what stays in and the key items that drop out of the skinny NDAA:

What's in it?

- **Military pay raise:** The legislation calls for a 3.1 percent pay raise for troops in 2019, in line with the federal formula for troops' pay and the largest annual increase for service members in a decade.
- **Specialty pays and bonuses:** Those include specialty pays for troops serving overseas, targeted re-enlistment bonuses for skilled troops, pay authorities for civilians working with the military in combat zones and other recruiting incentives.
- **Counter-ISIS authorities:** The new bill still ensures that certain ongoing overseas operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan remain funded, such as those targeting the Islamic State group.
- **F-35 procurement:** Authorizes the purchase of long-lead items "economic order quantities" for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter from 2021 to 2023 to avoid higher costs associated with buying smaller quantities.
- **LCS maintenance:** Among the military construction projects included is work at Changi Naval Base in Singapore for the littoral combat ship, used to boost the U.S. presence in the South China Sea.

What's not in it?

- **Space Force:** A new military service dedicated to space has been a top priority of the Trump administration, but senators have resisted White House calls for full Defense Department authority to create the new branch.
- **"Widow's tax" fix:** Advocates have been pushing for a permanent fix to federal offset rules that take away tens of thousands in military benefits from some surviving spouses, but the price tag of the proposals — about $5.7 billion over 10 years — have made negotiations difficult.
- **PFAS restrictions:** Lawmakers considered new rules to limit the use of toxic firefighting chemicals at military bases and replace them in the coming years, but those provisions aren't in the new bill.
- **Nukes:** Among a range of partisan differences on nuclear issues, the House bill would bar funding for the deployment of a low-yield variant of a submarine-launched warhead called the W76-2. It would cut the entire $19.6 million Defense Department request and $10 million Energy Department request for the program. Those wouldn't be addressed.
- **Transgender protections:** Language from the House's NDAA version that would roll back President Donald Trump's restrictions on transgender military recruits had faced opposition in the Senate and is not in the stripped-down bill.
- **Feres Doctrine:** Provisions in the House's NDAA version allowing troops to sue the government for military medical malpractice needed approval from Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who said he sees no need for the changes.

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Russian Nuclear Submarine Fires Intercontinental Missile For First Time

A Russian Borei-class nuclear submarine

Russia's Defense Ministry says it has test-launched a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile from its most advanced nuclear-powered submarine for the first time, striking a target thousands of kilometers away.

The ministry said on October 30 that the missile was fired from an upgraded Borei-class nuclear submarine that was submerged in the White Sea near Arkhangelsk on Russia's northern coast. It said the missile carried a dummy payload that reached a test site in Russia's Far East region of Kamchatka.

Vice Admiral Aleksandr Moiseyev said the upgraded model of the Borei-class submarine is scheduled to enter service with Russia's Northern Fleet at the end of 2019 once it has completed trials that include weapons tests.

The test comes amid tensions between Moscow and Washington following the demise of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty that has sparked fears of a growing arms race.

Global arms controls set up during the Cold War to keep Washington and Moscow in check have come under strain since the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which banned the deployment of short- and intermediate-range missiles.

In August, the United States pulled out of the accord.

Washington said Moscow has openly disregarded the conditions of the treaty, a charge that Russia has denied.

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Gold Star Family Members Can Now Become Congressional Fellows

Jane Horton, widow of Army Spc. Christopher David Horton, guides members of the Golden State Warriors basketball team through section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Feb. 25, 2015. (DoD Photo)

To give members of Gold Star families first-hand experience in Congress, lawmakers approved a yearlong fellowship for them Tuesday. "It will allow Gold Star Families to both participate in and learn about the democracy their loved one gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-California, while introducing the resolution on the floor.

Passed by voice vote, the paid fellowship is named in memory of Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Cooley and Spc. Christopher Horton. The fellowship will be open to children, stepchildren, spouses and siblings of service members who died in action or from a training-related injury.

The fellowship will be in Washington, D.C., or in the district office of a representative or delegate in the House. Horton's widow, Jane, said the program will help Gold Star families "give purpose to pain" and have a "living legacy" close to representatives, reminding them of what their votes mean. Only 15 percent of Congress has served in the military. Horton worked with Rep. Trent Kelly, R-Mississippi, to create the program, which she said will probably take a few months to set up. It will mirror Congress' current wounded warrior program.

"It's a beautiful thing, you know, of the people, by the people and for the people," Horton said. "I really feel that this bill is the epitome of that process. It's something I was passionate about. I met a member of Congress who cared, and so we worked on the bill together, and here it is."

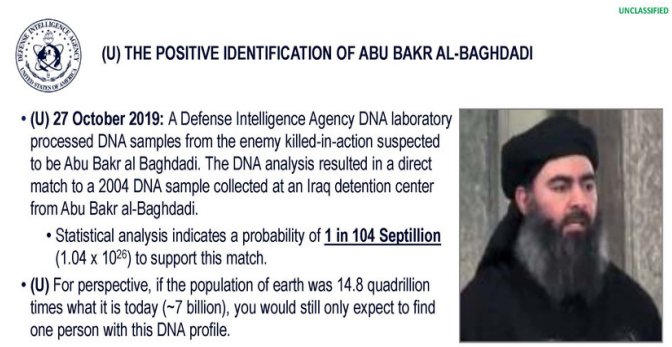
Cooley, 35, a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, died in 2005 during Operation Iraqi Freedom when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Horton, 26, died in 2011 during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was attached to the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of Oklahoma National Guard and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

"Nothing can ever fill the void left by the loss of a loved one who was killed serving the nation," Lofgren said. "But we in Congress should be doing everything we can to help lift up those who have suffered that unfathomable loss."

Click here to read more.

CENTCOM Commander gives Details on Baghdadi Raid

(National Security strategy: Protect the American Homeland, the American People, and the Amercican Way of life))



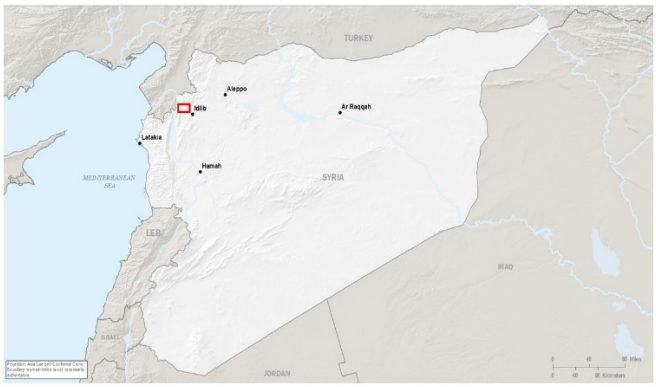
Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie briefed Pentagon reporters today on the Oct. 26 raid in northwestern Syria that resulted in Baghdadi's death. Pentagon officials also released videos of the raid.

Before and after strike imagery

McKenzie said planning for the raid began much earlier. He said Baghdadi was a priority target for CENTCOM, and as a result, was the subject of an intense effort to bring him to justice.

"As it became clear that we had gained clear and actionable intelligence on his hideout, we developed a plan designed to capture or kill him and started preparing a special operations team for the mission," he said.

McKenzie said he briefed Defense Department leaders on the intelligence and the plan on Oct. 25. With the approval of Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he briefed President Donald J. Trump on all aspects of the plan, including the risks involved in its execution.



Approximate location of compound within Syria

CENTCOM deconflicted operations in the area with Turkey and Russia, McKenzie said. The team was inserted by helicopter and protected by attack choppers, unmanned strike aircraft and fourth- and fifth-generation fighters, McKenzie said. The president approved the plan, and

As the U.S. aircraft arrived at the compound, the choppers started receiving fire from fighters on the ground. McKenzie said he believes those groups were not ISIS members. Still, he said, they demonstrated hostile intent against U.S. forces and were killed by two airstrikes from supporting helicopters.

U.S. forces located Baghdadi in a tunnel inside the compound. When capture was imminent, the terrorist detonated a bomb he was wearing, killing himself and two children.

"After Baghdadi's murder/suicide, the assault force cleared debris from the tunnel and secured Baghdadi's remains for DNA verification," McKenzie said, adding that the remains were positively identified. The body was appropriately buried at sea, in accordance with the law of armed conflict, he said.Aircraft destroyed the compound so it can't be used as a shrine to the murderer, the general told reporters. "It looks like a parking lot with big potholes," McKenzie said.

Click here to read more.
Video link can be viewed by following link above to read more

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 7 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
October 31, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Holmes, W.)
October 30, 2019
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Hatch, R.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Marquez, J.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Windle, E.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Banks, L.)
USS West Virginia Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Walters, B.)
October 29, 2019
Marine Accounted for from World War II (Morris, J.)

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
- Staff continues to refine and define The National Commander Indo-Pacific engagement
- Tuesday, Gold Star Family coordinator attended the signing of the Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Cooley and Spc. Christopher Horton Bill.

Freddy Gessner, Acting Director, National Security Division