Weekly Report
National Security Division
Week ending 2 Aug 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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PACAF Chief concerned by China-Russia Cooperation, Antarctic Competition

(National Security Strategy, Line of Effort: Protect the Homeland)

Joint exercises between Russia and China and a recent joint bomber patrol that violated South Korean airspace add a new, worrisome wrinkle to US security posture in the Indo-Pacific region, as does growing competition at the North and South Poles, the head of Pacific Air Forces said.

Gen. C.Q. Brown, at a July 30 AFA Mitchell Institute event, said the July 23 bomber patrol—in which Chinese H-6s and Russian Tu-95s flew together around Japan and South Korea, penetrating the Korean air defense identification zone and prompting intercepts from Japanese and South Korean fighters—is "a potential harbinger of things that could happen in the future."

Coupled with Chinese and Russian cooperation at the "Vostok" exercises last year, Brown said the nations' growing coziness is concerning. Russia also "circumnavigated" Taiwan with a bomber, Brown said, alleging Russia had diplomatic clearance from China to do so.

"I do have a concern that they may start collaborating or working together," Brown said. "It will make it more challenging for us and our partners, and doing things that will actually drive a rift or a wedge in certain areas."

He acknowledged that the 2018 National Defense Strategy pivots to great-power competition with China and Russia, but said the NDS didn't anticipate the two competitors joining forces: "It's something to pay attention to."

Of the two nations, Brown called China the chief US concern and noted that China is expanding the reach and frequency of its long-range air patrols well beyond its regional waters. Russia and China are also trying to partner with other countries as a "counterweight" to the US and its alliances, and have expanded their military cooperation since 2014, the report said.

Brown also pointed to state competition spilling into the Arctic and Antarctic regions, arguing now is the time to prepare to operate in those areas. The New York Air National Guard flies the service's only fleet of 10 ski-equipped LC-130s to Greenland and Antarctica. Brown said the US needs more icebreaking ships as well.

"If we're going to be challenged in the Arctic and the Antarctic, perhaps we need to preserve that capability—we may need more," Brown said.

The buildup of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters in the Pacific is capturing Brown's attention as well. Thirty Marine Corps, Japanese, Australian, and South Korean F-35s are in the region already, and 220 are expected to be based in the area by 2025.

Eventually, Brown expects 75 percent of F-35s in the Pacific will be owned by US partners. The Air Force plans to field the F-35A in the region next year, with a squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The service should start thinking about how it could spread out and deploy an aircraft unit to a more austere location that may not be able to talk to other parts of the military in case tensions rise with China, Brown added.

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How the Army is strengthening cyber cities

(National Security Strategy, Line Of Effort: Protect the Homeland
National Defense Strategy, Line Of Effort: Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance)

Cybersecurity has become an ecosystem in which the public and private sector must work together to ensure safety. Recognizing this, the Army's cyber think tank has staged an ongoing series of exercises looking at how domestic cities respond to major cyber incidents (and what testing the seams reveals about how the local infrastructure cybersecurity can affect overseas deployments).

The Jack Voltaic series, put on by the Army Cyber Institute (ACI) at West Point, is now in its third iteration. The next Jack Voltaic is looking not at one city, but at a whole region — Charleston, South Carolina, to Savannah, Georgia — and is also plugging into the Army's Defender 2020 exercise. Defender 2020 will simulate a deployment to Europe and game how quickly Army units in the United States can get all their equipment there.

"The theory is something happens and you need the forces to go to Europe ... so you've got forces that are at Fort Stewart [Georgia] that are going to need to go through Savannah to deploy. You're involving Savannah and you're looking at the critical infrastructure that goes from the post to the port [and] the different ways that someone could disrupt the movement," Col. Andrew Hall, director of ACI, told Fifth Domain during a July visit to West Point.

The fight to get to the fight

Overall, the Jack Voltaic series is aimed at empowering the local communities, building them up so they won't have to rely upon the military to defend them in the case of a massive cyber incident.

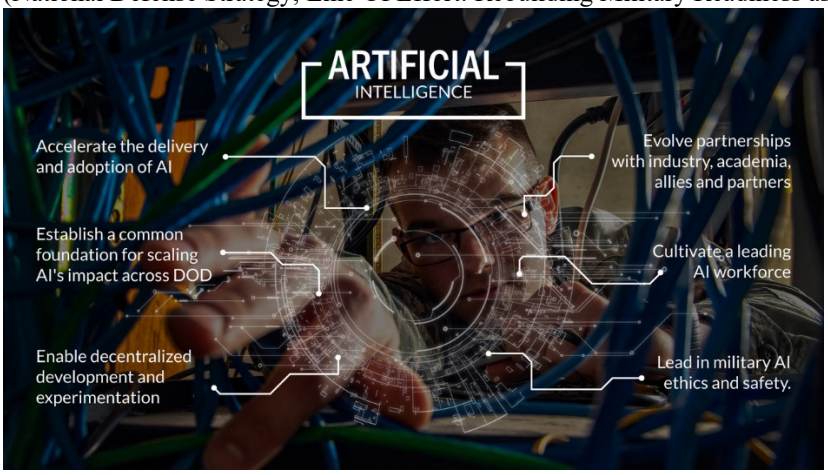
"One of the things that we found is that with us working with our partnerships, we would have access to critical infrastructure with some of the different organizations to look and help figure out how do we defend because it's much easier to enable a city to defend than to align the Army to defend the city," Hall said.

In part, Hall said the series and associated research efforts came about as a way for the military to think about how to defend the nation as a whole from a cyber perspective, a top, yet challenging priority for U.S. Cyber Command.

Click to read more here.

Can training with Artificial Intelligence create a 'bulletproof mind?

(National Defense Strategy, Line Of Effort: Rebuilding Military Readiness as we build a more lethal force)



Tactically efficient soldiers psychologically hedge against the consequences of war. Why? Because hedging is a behavior that's trained over time to increase effectiveness in the face of extreme uncertainty on the battlefield. By maximizing the perception of normality when it comes to lethal scenarios, the soldiers' physiological response to the unknown becomes more predictable.

Conventional training in support of that hedging centers on range qualifications, physical fitness, equipment-based instruction, and unit exercises. Whereas unconventional units may have additional access to sports psychologists and human performance experts. In both areas, the goal is to rewire residual biological synapses from the soldier's pre-military life. That is, the end state is to create muscle memory around activities such as engaging an adversarial element or carrying a 60-pound ruck.

The process of cognitive re-engineering – or creating a "bulletproof mind" – is not only doctrinally cemented but also culturally engrained. For example, there is widespread organizational adoption around processes such as stress inoculation and aggression calibration targeted at conventional military parameters.

Yet, the conflict landscape is changing. Offsets are shifting from peripheral advantages such as weaponry (precision munitions, nuclear technology) to more anthropomorphic ones. In this new landscape, the offset isn't a machine gun but a hyper-enabled operator. The problem is that the military hasn't yet adjusted its training paradigm to accommodate modern offsets.

Take, for example, the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) to the defense space. AI-enabled systems instigate a new era of teaming dynamics within the forces. Where "teaming" was previously thought of as human to human or even human to equipment, AI is an amalgamation of the two. It is neurological pathways architected into machines. Tactically, it's forward units supported by autonomous vehicle convoys; analysts augmented by real time multi-intelligence fusion; and swarm technology that maximizes ground movement and efficiency.

AI training can target all three features of future warfare by empowering the services with broad understanding, technical instruction, and teaming exercises. In an era were operational offsets are limited and where technology superiority is constantly challenged, the services cannot afford to neglect AI adoption.

Click to read more here.

11 brothers from Alabama, 158 years of US military service

(The American Legion Preamble: To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation)

The sons of Ben and Hattie Davis give special meaning to the term "band of brothers."

Eleven in all, their combined 158 years of service to the U.S. military make them brothers in arms as well as brothers raised on a family farm in rural Alabama. Seven of the 11 gathered in mid-July at a hotel and casino in Mississippi for a reunion thick with brotherly love and military pride. They laughed together, told stories from their days growing up and serving the country and reminisced about what it was like to be black in the U.S. military in the 20th century in America.

But in the end, they talked less about racism than the lack of respect all veterans feel from their fellow Americans. “Being in the military, it was a fine thing,” said Lebronze Davis, who fought in the Vietnam War and has survived cancer and heart surgery. “We all think we’ve done an outstanding job.”

In 2017, the Davis men were honored by the National Infantry Museum Foundation. The names of the 11 brothers and their uncle are engraved on four paving stones installed at the museum.
“What these brothers did out of love for both family and country is nothing short of remarkable,” foundation president Pete Jones said in a statement to The Associated Press. “Their sense of duty is unrivaled, and is the kind of spirit that makes our nation’s armed forces the greatest in the world.”

Sixteen siblings — the 11 veterans, plus three sisters and two brothers who did not enter the military — grew up on a 60-acre (24-hectare) cotton farm in Wetumpka, Alabama, where their parents worked hard to put food on the table. Mom was the disciplinarian, dad had a softer approach. “Their moral and ethical values were pristine,” said Arguster, the youngest at 67 years old. When the boys graduated high school, it seemed natural to enter the military.

Military experience runs long in the Davis family. The brothers’ uncle, 99-year-old Master Sgt. Thomas Davis, survived Pearl Harbor’s surprise attack.

Ben Jr. was the first brother to enlist. He joined the Navy in 1944, while World War II was still raging. Arguster served in the Air Force for four years and then the Air Force Reserve until 1998. Lebronze, 70, saw the heaviest fighting of the group: He survived jungle ambushes as an Army soldier in Vietnam.

In their years after serving, the brothers have worked for the U.S. Postal Service and the Bureau of Prisons, as electricians and businessmen. And they clearly have shared personality traits: friendliness, strong work ethic, mutual respect.

They remember being disrespected too, like the white-only drinking fountains and “colored-only” waiting areas they endured while growing up in the years of legal segregation.

“These were the norms we saw,” Nathaniel said. But the brothers said they didn’t experience much racism in the military. Julius does recall when his base in Mobile, Alabama, was put on alert the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

“Everybody thought that black people were going to tear the town up,” he said.

Octavious says the brothers don’t often talk with one another about their military experiences. Lebronze won’t watch war movies and he doesn’t even dream about his time in Vietnam.
But they all boomed a collective “no” in response to one question: Are veterans respected as much today as in the past?

His preference? “I would much rather hear them say, ‘Thank you for helping to keep this country free.’
Click to read more here.

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 4 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
July 31, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From Korean Wary (Gerrity, D.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Storms, H.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Pearce, H.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Phy, H.)

Important Date: 4 August, National Coast Guard Day

Semper Paratus: Always ready.

Coast Guard in Action: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQWcHOTdGgc

August 4 is celebrated as Coast Guard Day to honor the establishment on that day in 1790 of the Revenue Cutter Service, forebear of today's Coast Guard, by the Treasury Department. On that date, Congress, guided by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, authorized the building of a fleet of ten cutters, whose responsibility would be enforcement of the first tariff laws enacted by Congress under the Constitution.

The Coast Guard has been continuously at sea since its inception, although the name Coast Guard didn't come about until 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service was merged with the Lifesaving Service. The Lighthouse Service joined the Coast Guard in 1939, followed in 1946 by the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection. Finally, in 1967, after 177 years in the Treasury Department, the Coast Guard was transferred to the newly formed Department of Transportation.

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.
- Tuesday, staff participated in a Washington DC roundtable discussion with all Divisions presenting to The National Commander and three previous Commanders of focus areas, and achievements.
- Wednesday, National Security Division staff accompanied Washington DC Executive Director, The National Commander, and two previous National Commanders to visit the Pentagon and U.S. Senate. During the Office Call with designated Senior Official Performing Duties of the Under Secretary of the Army McPherson. The National Commander spoke of the signing of the LEGION Act. The Executive Director provided our sympathy for the loss of two Solders in combat. The American Legion then visited with Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema to thank the Senator for sponsoring the LEGION Act. All look forward to continued advocacy for Veterans, Service Members and families.
- Thursday, Staff met with U.S. Global Leadership Coalition; continuing relationships and offer support of The American Legion to advocate in Veteran roundtable discussion.

Rhonda Powell, Director
National Security Division