Weekly Report

National Security Division

Week ending 6 Sept 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**

Click here to read more.

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**

Click here to read more.

National Intelligence Strategy excerpt (pg7):

The seven mission objectives broadly describe the activities and outcomes necessary for the IC to deliver timely, insightful, objective, and relevant intelligence and support to its customers. Mission objectives address a broad range of regional and functional topics facing the IC and their prioritization is communicated to the IC through the first three mission objectives addressed through foundational missions of the IC which transcend individual threats, topics, or geographic regions.

1 Strategic Intelligence: addresses issues of enduring national security interest.
2 Anticipatory Intelligence: addresses new and emerging trends, changing conditions, and underappreciated developments.
3 Current Operations Intelligence: supports planned and ongoing operations

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4 Cyber Threat Intelligence: addresses state and non-state actors engaged in malicious cyber activities.
5 Counterterrorism: addresses state and non-state actors engaged in terrorism and related activities.
6 Counterproliferation: addresses state and non-state actors engaged in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
7 Counterintelligence and Security: addresses threats from foreign intelligence entities and insiders.

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SPACECOM: Newest combatant command signed into existence
(National Security Strategy: Preserve peace through strength)

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper signed into creation U.S. Space Command, the 11th war-fighting command for the Defense Department.

SPACECOM's mission falls into four broad categories:

- To deter potential adversaries in space.
- To defend American assets in orbit.
- To deliver war-fighting capabilities (such as GPS) to other combatant commands.
- To develop joint war fighters to be able to operate in the space domain

The budget for SPACECOM in fiscal 2020 was $83.8 million, of which $75.6 million was shifted from previous organizations

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Pacific Air Forces commander stresses a more dispersed, expeditionary-style fleet

(National Defense Strategy; Lethality. Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal force)

Pacific Air Forces is moving to distribute its fleet more broadly across the theater to both enhance flexibility and reduce vulnerability as a target, the PACAF commander said Tuesday. "I do believe if we ever went to conflict, we would be at risk for sitting static in certain locations," Gen. Charles Q. Brown said during a media roundtable at PACAF headquarters. "We have to be able to disperse. We can't all be sitting on big bases and being big targets," he said. "The ability to move around — and have the flexibility to pick up and move fairly quickly — I think is important." A more dispersed, expeditionary-style fleet also heightens deterrence, Brown added.

We don't want to go to war, but I want to make it so that I decrease the level of confidence of those that might want to contest us," he said, adding that PACAF can elevate that deterrence by operating from a multitude of locations. "I can move quickly," he said. "I can do it light and lean so I can put capability anywhere in the region."

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper emphasized the importance of the region last week when he described it as “our priority theater.” Esper said the U.S. military needed greater presence in “key locations” in the Pacific, which means “looking at how we expand our basing locations, investing more time and resources into certain regions we haven’t been to in the past.” Esper did not elaborate on where those locations might be.

Last month, Brown and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein visited Australia, the Philippines and Vietnam, which cooperate with the U.S. military in widely varying degrees. Under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, facilities are being built on five Philippine military bases for visiting U.S. troops. The U.S. will also stockpile equipment and supplies at those sites. Brown said the Pentagon is considering expanding beyond the five locations. “There is discussion about trying to do maybe more sites,” he said. “I think it’s important that we actually make sure we get the initial sites right.”

On Aug. 22, the U.S. State Department issued a statement criticizing China’s “interference with Vietnam’s longstanding oil and gas activities” in the South China Sea. No one is talking about expanding a U.S. military presence into Vietnam, two nations that were locked in a bitter war just 50 years ago. But the relationship between the former enemies is warming, Brown said. “It’s rife with opportunity,” he said. “We kind of see things the same way in the region.”

Click to read more here.

Department Of Defense: Small Steps Save Lives When Person Is at Risk of Suicide

I’m Good. But are you ready to listen? - YouTube

In September, the Defense Department is kicking off Suicide Prevention Month with a reminder: Small steps save lives.

Dr. Karen Orvis, director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, said taking simple safety measures and precautions can prevent someone who's distraught or depressed from taking his or her own life.

Speaking at the 2019 Suicide Prevention Conference sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and DOD, Orvis said the message for the military and veteran community is, "Be there and step up. We can all do meaningful, yet small, steps to help prevent suicide."

Orvis said knowing some key facts about suicide can help family, friends and colleagues form a suicide prevention strategy:

- *Most military and veteran suicide deaths involve a firearm.*
- *Most nonfatal suicide attempts involve medication.*
- *Suicide can be impulsive, occurring less than 10 minutes from the time someone thinks about it to the time he or she acts on it.*

Orvis said DOD and the VA are strongly committed to preventing suicides throughout the year, but they can't do it alone. She said everyone in the community has a role to play in suicide prevention. Remember:

- *Even something as small as offering a shoulder to cry on can be meaningful.*
- *Putting time and distance between the individual and the lethal means can avert a tragedy.*

Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to **838255** today

Follow link to search for local resources: https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/local-resources

Click to read more.

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 6 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
September 4, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Angle, D.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Judd, V.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Styslinger, R.)
September 3, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Wilson, G.)
August 29, 2019
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Bainbridge, J.)
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Trick, J.)
USS Nelson Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Jordan, S.)

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.

- This week National Security Division Staff continue to collect lessons learned from National Convention and adjust to more relevantly support a strong National Defense, in a position of relevance and currency

Freddy Gessner, Acting Director
National Security Division