Weekly Report

National Security Division
Week ending December 07, 2018

The American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad begins Indo-Pacific Tour

The National Commander departs for a tour of the Far East for the purpose of informing troops and commanders of the many programs and support the American Legion provides to our servicemembers. Additional, the National Commander uses these visits to gain a better understanding of the geopolitical and strategic challenges our country faces in the Indo-Pacific theater. The American Legion is committed to achieving a full accounting of all U.S. POW/MIAs from all conflicts. Our membership supports the mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. This year the trip began with a visit to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Headquarters (DPAA). At present, more than 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the 82,000 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

National Commander Reistad also began the trip with briefing from Pacific Command Headquarters. The American Legion is mindful of the Pentagon's new National Defense Strategy, which lays out a world where great-power competition, rather than counterterrorism, will drive the department's decision-making and force structure. One of the main focuses during the travel is to gain a better understanding of regional security issues in the Indo-Pacific region and meet with senior Department of Defense officials in order to better inform the views of The American Legion. The information the National Commander receives assists the American Legion in articulating our legislative goals to Congress and the Administration for national security, servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

To commemorate the 77th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad will be in Honolulu this week for ceremonies honoring those killed in the attack that brought the United States into World War II.

Reistad attended a Young Marines ceremony on Dec. 6 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl. And on Dec. 7, Reistad will attend World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument for the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration.

Click here to watch a live stream of the ceremony beginning at 7:50 a.m. Hawaii Time (12:50 p.m. ET) on Friday.

Meanwhile, across the country, American Legion posts are doing what they can to honor those lost at Pearl Harbor. In Massachusetts, Westfield American Legion Post 454 Commander Robert J. Ragone, the head of the city's Veterans Council, is working with others to remind those in the community about the sacrifices made 77 years ago. An event is planned for Dec. 7 at Kane & Wojtkiewicz Park, which is named in part for Navy Chief Machinist's Mate Frank P. Wojtkiewicz, a Westfield native who was killed on the USS Arizona.

"I think it's critical we have observances like Pearl Harbor Day because most of our children today are so young, and I'm not sure (the history of World War II) is being taught as history in our schools," Ragone told the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. "We are losing our World War II veterans at astronomical rates. Soon, we won't have anyone left. It's imperative to be getting the word out to remind people of what the Greatest Generation did for us and to stir the pot to ensure it continues."

Upcoming

Over the weekend the party will travel to South Korea where they will have agenda packed with events throughout military installations to include Osan AB and Camp Humphreys that will include meeting with installation leadership as well as interviews with deployed troops. The visit will culminate with events held in the Capital, Seoul.

Wednesday, the party will depart South Korea for Okinawa where they will spend the remainder of the week meeting with leadership at military installations from all branches of services. Japan hosted the largest number of U.S. military personnel at approximately 50,000 along with approximately 40,000 dependents and another 5,500 U.S. civilians employed there by the Department of Defense.

Follow updates from the National Commander's trip at: https://www.legion.org/

Items of Interest

The New Old Threat of Chinese Industrial Cyber Espionage

U.S. President Donald Trump, Trump's national security advisor John Bolton, and Chinese President Xi Jinping attend a working dinner after the Group of Twenty leaders summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 1, 2018.

(Courtesy of the Council on Foreign Relations)

China is once again conducting cyber-enabled theft of U.S. intellectual property to advance its technological capabilities. A new Council on Foreign Relations brief provides recommendations to combat this new old threat.

The Digital and Cyberspace Policy Program has launched a new Cyber Brief. This one provides recommendations to the U.S. government to counter the resumption of China's cyber-enabled commercial espionage. It was written by Lorand Laskai, research associate for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, and yours truly.

After a three-year hiatus, the cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property by Chinese hackers is once again a point of contention in the U.S.-China relationship. Cybersecurity firms have reported new attacks on U.S. companies, and Donald J. Trump administration officials have claimed that China is ignoring a 2015 agreement in which both countries pledged not to conduct hacking to benefit commercial entities.

While the Trump administration is mounting a broad campaign to pressure Beijing into ending the theft of intellectual property (IP) and trade secrets from U.S. companies, more can be done to fight cyber-enabled industrial espionage. With the return of Chinese hacking, the United States should develop an international attribution-and-sanction regime; sanction the companies that benefit from cyber espionage; and strengthen counterintelligence outreach to startups and small companies in artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, semiconductor, telecommunications, and other sectors central to Chinese technology strategies.

Read the full brief here.

Dunford Discusses Near-Peer Competition, Keeping U.S. Military Edge

(Courtesy of Defense.gov)

WASHINGTON -- Near-peer competition and the United States retaining its military competitive edge were among the issues the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff discussed today in an interview with Washington Post associate editor David Ignatius.

Army Sgt. Samuel Benton observes and mentors soldiers during the Bull Run V training exercise with Battle Group Poland in Olecko, Poland, May 22, 2018. In a Dec. 6, 2018, interview as part of the Washington Post's "Transformers" series, Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discussed the need for the United States to retain its military advantage amid near-peer competition from Russia and China. Army photo by Spc. Hubert D. Delany III

The interview – broadcast as part of the Post's "Transformers" series – looked at the ways warfare and security are changing.

Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford addressed the challenges coming from Russia and China first off, using the Russian seizure of Ukrainian boats off Crimea as an example. "What took place in the Sea of Azov is consistent with a pattern of behavior that really goes back to Georgia, then Crimea and then Donbass in Ukraine," he said.

Russia is stopping short of open conflict, the general said. Instead, he explained, Russian leaders push right to the edge. "What the Russians are really doing is testing the international community's resolve in enforcing the rules that exist," Dunford said.
In this case, he said, clear violations of sovereignty and signed agreements have taken place. The international community "has got to respond diplomatically, economically or in the security space," he added, or Russia "will continue what it's been doing."

No Discussion of Military Response
The chairman stressed there has been no discussion about a military response to the Sea of Azov incident. The United States has assisted Ukraine in defending its sovereignty, he said, and will continue to do so.

Russia is in material breach of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed in 1987, and the United States will withdraw from the treaty if Russia does not get into compliance with it, Dunford said, noting that the arms-control treaties negotiated starting in the 1980s have provided strategic stability.

"In a perfect world," he said, "what I would say would be best is if Russia would comply with the INF, it would set the conditions for broader conversations about other arms-control agreements, to include the extension of [the Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty].

Ignatius asked Dunford about China, and more specifically, how China is challenging U.S. military dominance. America's greatest military advantages are its network of allies and the ability to project military power worldwide, the chairman said. Both China and Russia understand that, he added, and Russia is seeking to undermine NATO while China is seeking to undermine America's network of allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

On the military side, China is working on capabilities that would stop American power projection capabilities in the Pacific in all domains: sea, land, air, space and cyberspace. "China has developed capabilities in all those domains to challenge us," Dunford said. "The outcome of challenging us in those domains is challenging our ability to project power in support of our interests and alliances in the region."
China's Clear Aspirations

Reading China is tough, he acknowledged. The nation has been "opaque" with what it spends on defense, the chairman said, but Chinese leaders have not been opaque with their aspirations. "[Chinese] President Xi [Jinping] was very clear last year … where he wants China to be a global power with global power-projection capability," Dunford said. "Among the capabilities they are developing is aircraft carriers, which would certainly indicate a desire to project power beyond their territorial waters."

China's technological advances concern U.S. officials. China has sunk enormous sums into artificial intelligence research, and Dunford said the nation that has an advantage in AI will have an overall competitive advantage. Speed of decision is key in today's warfare, he said, and a usable man-machine interface would give the country that perfects it an advantage.

The U.S. competitive advantage has reduced over the past decade, the chairman said. "I am confident in saying we can defend the homeland and our way of life, we can meet our alliance commitments today, and we have an aggregate competitive advantage over any potential adversary," he said. "I am equally confident in saying that if we don't change the trajectory we are on, … whoever is sitting in my seat five or seven years from now will not be as confident as I am." The U.S. military depends of private firms to provide the military advantage. Today, that means getting the best in the world to get behind artificial intelligence research. Yet, employees at Google – arguably the best in the world – protested and backed away from engaging with the Defense Department. Ignatius asked Dunford what he would say to those employees.

"If they were all sitting her right now, I would say, 'Hey, we're the good guys,'" he said. "It is inexplicable to me that we would make compromises to make advances in China where we know that freedom is restrained, where we know China will take intellectual property from companies and strip it away."

The United States has led the free world since the end of World War II, and even with some failings, the values of the United States infuse the free and open world order today, the general said, and if the United States were to withdraw, someone would fill that gap. "I am not sure that the people at Google would enjoy a world order that is informed by the norms and standards of Russia or China," he said.

<u>US Military Plane Flies Over Ukraine in Warning to Russia</u>

A U.S. Air Force OC-135 observation plane, which was specifically designed for so-called Open Skies missions like the one carried out over Ukraine on Thursday.
(Courtesy of Wall Street Journal)

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon said Thursday that it carried out a rare flight over Ukraine under the international Open Skies Treaty to “reaffirm U.S. commitment to Ukraine" amid heightened Russia-Ukraine tensions.

It was the second such U.S. military gesture in two days after Russia last month shot at and seized three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crew members off Crimea. The U.S. Navy on Wednesday sent a warship through the Sea of Japan in a rare challenge to Russia’s maritime claims in international waters.

“Russia’s unprovoked attack on Ukrainian naval vessels in the Black Sea near the Kerch Strait is a dangerous escalation in a pattern of increasingly provocative and threatening activity,” the Pentagon said in a statement. “The United States seeks a better relationship with Russia, but this cannot happen while its unlawful and destabilizing actions continue in Ukraine and elsewhere.” Russia has claimed the ships trespassed into Russian territorial waters.

The Open Skies Treaty gives 34 signatory states the right to gather information about the military forces and activities of one another. Pentagon considered Thursday’s flight “extraordinary” because it was carried out bilaterally—rather than through treaty negotiations—at the request of the arms control directorate of the General Staff of Ukraine’s armed forces.
U.S. officials wouldn’t specify the Thursday plane’s flight path but said it was near Crimea, the Ukrainian region seized by Russia in a 2014 invasion. They used a U.S. Air Force OC-135 observation plane, which was specifically designed for such missions, with U.S., Canadian, German, French, UK, Romanian and Ukrainian observers aboard, the Pentagon said.
Read more here.

The Quad and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific

Admiral Phil Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Abe's office in Tokyo, Japan.

(Courtesy of the Council on Foreign Relations)

Over the weekend the Halifax International Security Forum convened its tenth iteration, one that observed the hundredth anniversary of the 1918 armistice ending World War I, and took the occasion of the forum's own anniversary to reflect on the deliberations of the past decade. One of the distinguishing features of the Halifax forum lies in its selection of participating countries: only democracies are invited. An all-democracy forum on security raises the visibility of values issues—in the forum's own words, "a security conference of democratic states that seeks to strengthen democracy."

This year's plenary deliberations included more attention to Asia and the Indo-Pacific region than in the past—and surfaced concerns about China, trade, the Belt and Road Initiative, technology, and surveillance. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command commander, Admiral Phil Davidson, provided a keynote that reinforced the speech Vice President Mike Pence had delivered away in Port Moresby just hours earlier at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit. Davidson, given his specific focus on Indo-Pacific security, offered more expansive detail about what the administration means when it refers to a "free and open" region:

- "free from coercion by other nations" as well as free "in terms of values and belief systems"
- "individual rights and liberties" including religious freedom and good governance
- "the shared values of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"
- "all nations should enjoy unfettered access to the seas and airways upon which our nations and economies depend"
- "open investment environments, transparent agreements between nations, protection of intellectual property rights, fair and reciprocal trade"

Davidson took care to echo Vice President Pence's invitation to China to participate in a free and open Indo-Pacific, as long as Beijing "chooses to respect its neighbors' sovereignty, embrace free, fair, and reciprocal trade, and uphold human rights and freedom."

The session titled "Asia Values: A Free and Open Indo-Pacific" featured speakers from all four of the "Quad" countries: Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. One panelist noted the divergent geographic definitions of the Indo-Pacific: a common map for India, Japan, and Australia—one that ends on the east coast of Africa—but a U.S. view that ends with India's west coast, leaving out the huge expanse of the Indian Ocean.

Any number of other countries could have been represented, but by framing the discussion through the prism of the Quad, the session got to topics such as the Quad's own evolution of purpose. What began as a humanitarian coordination effort among the four countries with the December 26, 2004 tsunami had a brief life as a "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue" meeting in 2007. But Australia later removed itself from that framework, and the four did not meet again until 2017.

Read more here: https://www.cfr.org/blog/quad-and-free-and-open-indo-pacific

Quality of Life

TRICARE Update

This week the Defense Health Agency (DHA) hosted a MSO/VSO Roundtable to discuss an array of topics that included Healthcare management reform, FEDVIP open season updates, TRICARE open season updates, TRICARE Select Copay Analyses, FY18 Defense Health Reprogramming, and TRICARE mental health care.

The Defense Health Agency's healthcare management reform initiative seeks to outline specific options for the Military Health System to more effectively develop and maintain a ready medical force and medically ready force, while maintaining patient experience, quality of, and access to care that is consistent with national standards and Identifying near-term and long-term efficiencies that can generate savings.

The approach to reform is divided into three broad areas:

- Efficiencies—minimize duplication and variation through enterprise-wide management
- Infrastructure—orient system towards primary readiness focus
- Manpower—assure force mix and size supports mission requirements

The targeted savings is $2.5 billion by FY 2023.

TRICARE Open Season

- Annual Open Season: 12 November–10 December, 2018
- 2018 has a grace period—through 31 December, 2018
- Beneficiaries of TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select will have an effective date of January 1, 2019.
- Former AD members receive TRICARE termination notices at end of active duty period
- New retirees receive a mailed letter if they or a family member have not yet enrolled in TRICARE retiree coverage
- Newly eligible ADFMs are automatically enrolled

DHA provided an analysis of TRICARE copays. They are continuing to explore avenues to address beneficiary out of pocket concerns for specialty care. DHA is in the process of collecting baseline utilization and cost data to validate changes in utilization and costs since January 1, 2018 compared to 2017. As information is collected, DHA will review potential next steps on ways to address issues identified in data and through input from stakeholders.

Link to open enrollment for TRICARE Open Season for enrollment in TRICARE Prime or Select: www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason

Link to Federal Benefits Open Season for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP): tricare.benefeds.com

Staff Activities

- Monday, staff participated in a roundtable discussion with senior defense department officials to include the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Patrick Shanahan.
- Tuesday, staff participated in a monthly partners call with the Army's Chief of Public Affairs, discuss current Army topics and address issues impacting or have the potential to impact our Soldiers, Family Members and Veterans.

- Wednesday, staff attended the annual USGLC Tribute Dinner honoring Ambassador Mark Green, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- This week staff traveled with the National Commander on the first week of the Far East Tour. The party visited the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Pacific Command Headquarters, and participated in Pearl Harbor remembrance events.

POW/MIA Update

Personnel Recovered

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

12/03/18: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Geller, L.)
12/03/18: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Taylor, J.)
12/03/18: Pilot Accounted For From World War II (Cornwell, O.)
12/03/18: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Mason, C.)
11/30/18: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Goldwater, J.)
11/30/18: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Donald, J.)

Joe Sharpe, Acting Director, National Security Division
Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division