Weekly Report

National Security Division

Week ending 09 April 2020

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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Report: Pentagon Knew Of Possible Coronavirus Threat For Years

The Pentagon was aware of the likelihood of a pandemic brought on by a novel coronavirus years ago, predicting with startling accuracy shortages of masks, hospital beds and ventilators that could occur in an outbreak, according to a 2017 internal document reported by The Nation.

The 103-page document, which the magazine describes as an update to an earlier Defense Department pandemic influenza response plan, cites a novel respiratory illness as the "most likely and significant threat" in a pandemic situation.

The document also warns that shortages of masks and ventilators would have a "significant impact on the availability of the global workforce."

"The intelligence community and the military were well aware of what could, and unfortunately, did happen" said *Nation* reporter Ken Klippenstein in an interview with NPR's *All Things Considered*.

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Air Force to Make 9th Flight to Deliver Testing Swabs

"AMC routinely responds to emergent airlift requirements and in coordination with our interagency and international partners, AMC has been flying COVID-19 testing swabs from Italy

to Memphis for nationwide distribution," said Lt. Gen. Jon T. Thomas during a telephone press briefing today. "Since March 16, C-17s have delivered three and a half million swabs on seven missions, with the seventh mission arriving last night in Memphis, Tennessee."

"Recently, and with the approval from the secretary of defense, AMC transported 86 Americans back to the United States from Colombia and Panama," Thomas said. "These resubmissions bring the total number of Americans returned by AMC gray-tail organic airlift missions to more than 350 since March 19."

"AMC C-130s flew equipment and personnel to help establish Army field hospitals in New York and Washington state that will provide additional medical capacity in those areas," he said. "We've got air mobility liaison officers that are helping to coordinate those movements, as well as commercial air movements totaling nine missions, transporting 7.8 tons of cargo and hundreds of personnel to those locations."

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Marines Halt Recruits Going To Basic Training At Parris Island, S.C.

The U.S. Marine Corps says it is temporarily suspending the shipment of recruits to its 105-year-old depot at Parris Island, S.C., where all newly enlisted Marines east of the Mississippi River are sent for basic training, after several people at the facility tested positive for novel coronavirus.

"The preservation of our Marines, recruits and their families is the highest priority for Marine Corps Recruiting during this national emergency," reads a tweet from Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger. "With that in mind, we've paused this week's shipping of new recruits to Parris Island and will revise our overall shipping plan to ensure we are able to meet the nation's needs while protecting its next generation of Marines."

The decision to stop sending new recruits comes four days after Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly confirmed that two recruits at the Parris Island installation had tested positive for COVID-19, as did two Marines working in areas apart from the training spaces.

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U.S. Army Delays New Recruits' Basic Training Due To Coronavirus

The U.S. Army will not bring a new class of recruits into basic combat training due to disruptions and safety concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, as an order to delay the process for at least two weeks took effect on Monday.

"The decision to pause the shipment of trainees to BCT for two weeks will allow leaders to focus on setting conditions so movement can be conducted in a safer manner in the future," said Gen. Paul E. Funk II, commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

As it announced the delay of basic training on Monday, the Army stated, "This tactical pause will allow commands to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place and are operating effectively at training installations."

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POW/MIA Update

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

News Releases

April 6, 2020

Marine Accounted For From World War II (Stoddard, D.)

Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Evans, W.)

Staff Activity:

- Monday, staff participated in a weekly conference call with the COVID-19 military support initiative to discuss the impact of the virus on military families.

- On Monday, staff participated in a conference call with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), a DC-based nonpartisan research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy. Discussed was a March 2020 ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC) that its chief prosecutor could open an investigation into allegations of war crimes in Afghanistan including any that may have been committed by Americans. FDD has approached the Legion to explore ways the two organizations can collaborate to push back against the ICC by working with Congress and the Administration. More information on the matter is available
- Tuesday, division staff held a conference call with the National Security Commission Chairman to discuss plans for conducting Commission business during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Staff continued to coordinate the Spirit of Service award winners with the respective military branches of service.
- Staff coordinated the Law Enforcement Office and Firefighter of the Year Award regional and national winners' packages through their respective Departments.
- Wednesday, staff participated in a conference call with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.
- This week the division continued to coordinate a memorandum of understanding the Defense Health Agency's Real Warrior's Campaign that would promote the efforts both organizations to combat the stigmas associated with Post Traumatic Stress.

Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division