National Security Division Report
Week ending 11 December 2020

Operation Warp Speed Leaders Say 20 Million COVID-19 Vaccines May Be Available This Month

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II said that key officials with Operation Warp Speed report that 20 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine could be distributed this month. Azar was joined for a media briefing by Army Gen. Gustave F. Perna, chief operating officer of OWS, and Dr. Moncef Slaoui, chief advisor to OWS, "We are planning to be ready when an emergency-use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration is approved; and when the EUA decision comes [through], distribution to the American people becomes immediate within 24 hours. That's our goal. That's what we're striving for," Perna said. According to published reports, the drug maker Moderna announced encouraging results from a study of its COVID-19 vaccine on Nov. 30, noting that complete data from the large-scale study showed its COVID-19 vaccine to be 94.1% effective. The drug manufacturer said it has applied to the FDA to authorize the vaccine for emergency use, while two other companies also have filed emergency-use authorization applications with the FDA. "On top of that, more OWS-supported candidates are well on their way in that final phase of clinical trials," Azar said. "The FDA has scheduled a meeting of its vaccine advisory committee to review the Moderna vaccine on December 17 following their meeting on the Pfizer vaccine on December 10. We also learned this morning that the United Kingdom has granted authorization to the Pfizer vaccine," he added.

Click Here To Read More Resolution No. 85 Support For Military Quality of Life Standards

He Designed A Smartwatch App To Help Stop His Dad's Nightmares

Tyler Skluzacek remembers his dad as a fun, outgoing man before he left to serve in Iraq. When Patrick Skluzacek came home in 2007, says his son, he had changed.

Patrick was being consumed by nightmares. At night his dreams took him back to Fallujah, where he had served in the U.S. Army as a convoy commander. He sweated profusely and thrashed around in his sleep, sometimes violently.

The nightmares were so vivid and so terrible that he feared closing his eyes. The only way he could get to sleep was with vodka and pills, he says.

Patrick's life began to unwind. His marriage fell apart. "[I] pretty much lost everything," he says, fighting back tears. "My house, everything, my job, everything went."

It's not an unfamiliar story for those who have served in war zones. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 52% of combat soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder have nightmares fairly often, compared to 3% of the general public. They take a toll — not just on soldiers, but on their families.

Patrick's son, however, would give the story a different ending.

A hackathon to help those with PTSD

Tyler was a senior at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minn., in 2015 when he heard about a computer hackathon being held in Washington, D.C. Developers come together over an intense few days to build prototypes to tackle a specific problem. This particular hackathon focused on developing mobile applications to help people with PTSD.

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Resolution No. 30: Standardize Care for Recovering Warriors

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Trump Administration Provides U.S. Military Veterans and Gold Star Families with Free Access to National Parks

To commemorate Veterans Day and honor those who have served in the military, all National Park Service entrance fees will be waived for everyone on November 11. In addition, beginning on Veterans Day, the Trump Administration will provide free entrance to national parks for Gold Star Families and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

“The Trump Administration is committed to honoring American patriots – the men and women who have served in our armed forces,” said Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt. “With the utmost respect and gratitude, we are granting veterans and Gold Star Families free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect starting this Veteran’s Day and every single day thereafter.”

"We are grateful to President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt for their commitment to military families and the creation of this opportunity to recognize those who have served in the military and sacrificed so much for our country,” said Margaret Everson, Counselor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the National Park Service Director. “On Veterans Day, particularly as the daughter of a veteran, I am proud to pause to honor all of our military veterans and reflect on their accomplishments. We encourage these brave men and women and their families to visit their national parks to enjoy the beauty, history, and recreational opportunities of these magnificent lands they protected through their service.”

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

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Resolution No. 14: Establish Gold Star Families Program

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POW/MIA Update:

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

December 8, 2020: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Connolly, J.)
December 10, 2020: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Saylor, P.)

Pearl Harbor Day and the USS Oklahoma Project

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 2020 — Dec. 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and a time when the U.S. remembers and honors the 2,403 citizens who were killed in the attack.

For the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the focus of Pearl Harbor Day is on the service members who are still unaccounted for from the attack. Over the past five years, the biggest effort to account for those service members has been the USS *Oklahoma* Project.

Legislative Issue Tracker

Below is legislation the National Security Division is tracking in Congress. New bills are highlighted in yellow. Click on the bill numbers to see more information about the bills.

Bill #	Short Title
H.R.8494	To reaffirm the critical role of congressional consultation and to require appropriate deliberation to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of Israel
S. Res. 510/H. Res. 910	A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan
H. RES. 1012	Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
H.R. 3508/ S.1634	South China Sea Sanctions
H.R.367	Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019
S.2297	Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019
H.R. 4710	The bipartisan Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act
H.R. 303	Retired Pay Restoration Act
H.R. 4890	The Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act
H.R. 5151	Honoring the Oath Act
S.2794	Bring Our Heroes Home Act
H.R.6395	FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act
S. 3393	A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
S. 1041	Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019
S. 3732	A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes

S 1218/HR 2249	World War I Valor Medals Review Act
H.R.4807	Cold War Service Medal Act
H.Con,Res 10	Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death.
S. 3258	SHIPS Implementation Act
H.R.3233	National Defense Strategy Implementation Act

Click on the link below to open an Excel spreadsheet to see the full legislative tracker:https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KgPaIfx04RA13m20qLDh5br8dyxiupVX5Dc5ByZteRQ/edit?usp=sharing

Staff Activity:

- Staff attended a webinar with the Cato Institute to discuss *Space Force: Ahead of Its Time or Dreadfully Premature?* Featuring Robert Farley, Senior Lecturer, University of Kentucky; Kaitlyn Johnson, Deputy Director and Fellow, Aerospace Security Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Brian Weeden, Director of Program Planning, Secure World Foundation; moderated by Eric Gomez, Director of Defense Policy Studies, Cato Institute. Space has long been militarized through space exploration to include communications, reconnaissance, connectivity, and counter-space. Effectively, the entirety of modern American military operations require command of, or at least unfettered access to, space. Space increasingly provides the backbone of the civilian economy, offering connectivity that enables instant communications and supply chain diversification. What came before the Space Force included Space Command, Space Command again, Air Force Space Command, US Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and Naval Network Warfare Command. Some of the pros to Space Force as well as space in general include unify acquisition, enable development of professional pathways, and other priority services. Some of the cons include space being a domain, other countries are engaged in space, and the immense time that will be spent on this program.
- On December 9, 2020 Staff virtually attended DoD's on-the-record Press briefing hosted by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Jonathan Hoffman; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Thomas McCaffery; and Director of the Defense Health Agency LTG Ronald Place to discuss the Department's phased, standardized, and coordinated strategy for distributing and administering COVID-19 vaccines. DOD plans to administer its initial allocation of 43,875 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to CONUS and OCONUS populations of DoD uniformed service members, both active and Selected Reserve components, including members of the National Guard; dependents; retirees; civilian employees; and select DoD contract personnel as authorized in accordance with DoD regulation. Noted were the Department's ongoing effort to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

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