The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This week, Director Powell welcomed 4 carefully selected Washington Center Interns to accomplish detailed, challenging opportunities in both National Security and Foreign Relations sectors.

- Christopher Alora – University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Joe Maiorano – Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
- Logan Ragsdale – Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Autumn Thompson – Stockton University, Galloway, NJ

US SENATORS TOOK A MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN. TO BEIJING, THAT IS A MAJOR PROVOCATION

Taiwan is finally getting much-needed help from the United States to fight its spiraling coronavirus outbreak. But to Beijing, the offer is a major provocation that risks escalating both cross-strait and US-China relations.

A delegation of US senators visited Taiwan on Sunday morning local time to announce the donation of 750,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen called the vaccines "timely rain" for the island, which has only vaccinated 3% of its population and on Saturday recorded its highest daily Covid death toll of 37 fatalities.

"It was critical to the United States that Taiwan be included in the first group to receive vaccines because we recognize your urgent need and we value this partnership," Sen. Tammy Duckworth said during the three-hour visit.

The donation is likely to draw the ire of Beijing, which has bridled at Taipei's apparent refusal to accept its offer of Chinese-made coronavirus vaccines. Taipei, on the other hand, has accused Beijing of blocking its efforts to purchase vaccines internationally, rather than trying to help.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations

- Support for Afghan Interpreters through the Special Immigrant Visa Program – The American Legion advocate for Afghan Interpreters who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. Forces and Diplomats contributing to saving countless American lives. The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Afghan SIV recipients. (Resolution No. 16, 2018) Recognition for Afghan and Iraq Combat Translators.
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Military Benefits and Quality of Life

- Availability of Healthcare benefits for residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in proposed language of the FY22NDAA – The American Legions support funding that provides long-term solvency and viability of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (Resolution No. 107, 2016)
- Quality of Life for Service members and their Families – We owe our military men and women a debt of gratitude we can never repay for all that they — and their families — sacrifice to serve our country. Ensure the Coast Guard is paid – The American Legion supports a fully funded United States Coast Guard (Resolution No. 23, 2016)
- Expedited Citizenship through Honorable Military Service – The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge (Resolution No. 15, 2018)

Law and Order & Homeland Security

- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity, promulgate best practices and standards, and protect critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)

STAFF ACTIVITY

Areospace

- Staff participated in included Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces Hearing: “Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities related to the 2022 President’s Budget Request” 6/8/2021. Several Air Force programs are either delayed by manufacturer issues or external factors. The witnesses acknowledge China and other near-peer adversaries as a constant threat, but the B-1 bomber program cannot sustain a multi-theater operation with the retirement of 17 aircraft. Although the B-21 program is on schedule, it will not be in service in time upon the latter's retirement. New technologies are being used to design and procure new B-52 engines. Lastly, the total Air Force is reviewed when seeking funding. No units are to be dismantled. They are looking to find a wing to assume the cyber warfare assets.

Conventional Armed Forces

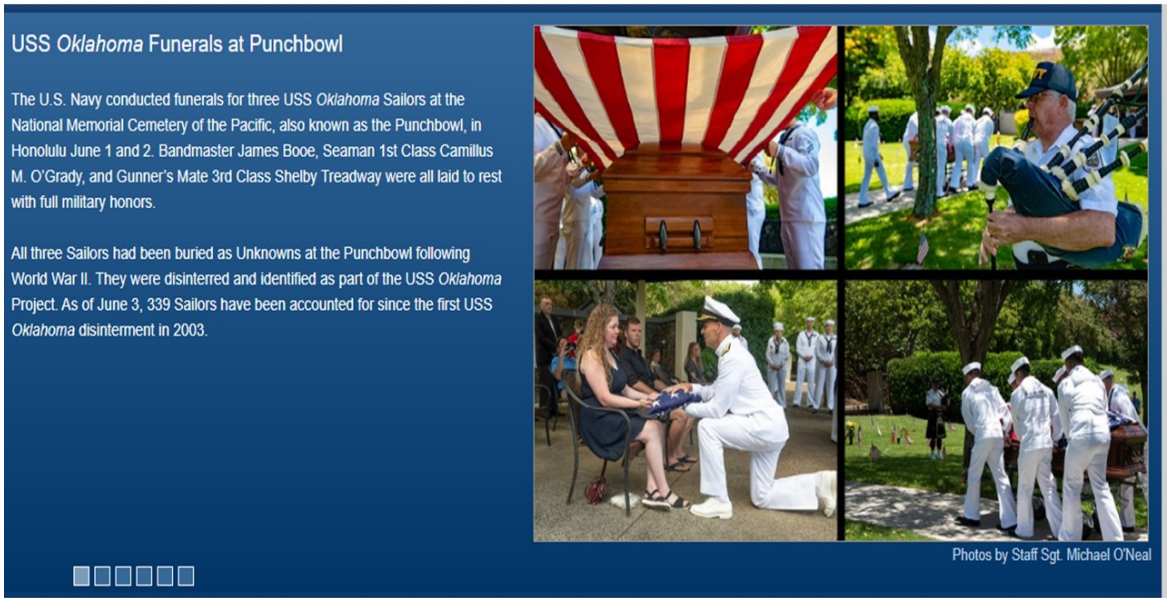
- Staff attended the Subcommittee on Readiness Hearing: “The fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for Military Readiness” 6/9/2021. The subcommittee and witnesses address the important and urging concerns of overall US military readiness to combat future threats, including near-peer threats and climate change. Additionally, the subcommittee shared their concerns in Naval shortcomings in their various programs, the Air Force’s strategy in pilot retention, and upholding the Strategic Deterrence through the recapitalization of the Minuteman III ICBMs.

Foreign Relations

- Staff attended United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Full Committee Hearing: U.S. Policy on Belarus. This hearing is essential to the United States foreign policy in Belarus. The hearing shows that steps are being made to promote accountability for those who violate human rights and oppress the Belarusian people. It also shows that U.S. policy in Belarus coincides with U.S. concerns about Russia, with Putin growing his influence in Belarus. The State Department is taking the proper steps to restore democracy inside the Republic of Belarus.
- The National Security Division staff, along with the Veterans Employment & Education staff, visited the U.S. Embassy of Afghanistan to meet with the Defense Attache Col Abdul Hadi Barakzai and the visiting Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Bashir Ahmed Tahyanj and the General Director of National Skills Development Program. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss continued U.S. diplomatic, military, economic and political support in light of the U.S. Forces drawdown and complete withdrawal from Afghanistan.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

- **June 4, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Pentico, W.)**
- **June 7, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Alumbaugh, L.)**
- **June 7, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Sitarz, J.)**
- **June 9, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Blanton, R.)**
- **June 9, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Foreman, K.)**



PROGRAMS

JUNIOR ROTC RETIRES THE FIRST FLAG OF 2021 IN HOPKINS COUNTY

Members of Hopkins County Central Air Force JROTC performed the ceremony at the American Legion post in Madisonville. Officials say anytime a flag has been flown for a longer time and starts fading, the cadets step in to honor and properly retire it.

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ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

Austin, Milley defend weapons cuts in Biden's defense budget
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Kamala Harris tells Guatemala migrants: 'Do not come to US'
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What to Watch for at the Biden-Putin Summit
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