VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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Apr 6 – Apr 12, 2024

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff met with the Media and Communications Division to begin the development of a "veterans role" in support of DOD and National Security tool that will exist on Legion.org.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Armed Services Committee hearing titled "*U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in Europe*," which can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing titled, "*Department of Defense Budget Request for FY25 and the Future Years Defense Program*", which can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing titled, "*The Posture of United States Special Operations Command and Unite States Cyber Command"*, which can be viewed here.

- NS Staff met to discuss the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Treaty (UNCLOS).

- NS Staff participated in a "*Previewing Prime Minister Kishida's Visit to Washington: A Conversation with Two Ambassadors"* webinar hosted by the Center for Strategy and International Studies. The focus of the discussion was the upcoming trilateral meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. of the Philippines and President Biden. The webinar can be viewed here.

- The NS Staff is examining the National Security Supplemental, specifically *S. Amendment 1388 to H.R. 815*, to assess its implications and strategic alignment. This thorough review is crucial for informing future security directives and policies.

- National Security Staff attended a meeting with the Department of Labor to discuss transition assistance programs, the defense industrial base.

- National Security Director briefed incoming American Legion Auxiliary Leadership on current structure, priorities, and staff efforts in support of the Commission.

- National Security Director joined the Legislative Director at a Press Conference hosted by the House Armed Services Committee during which the Quality-of-Life Panel's report was formally released. The report can be viewed here.

- National Security Director attended the monthly Executive Director/Director's meeting.

- National Security Director attended the US Army quarterly VSO/MSO update at the Pentagon. Topics briefed included:

    - Opening Remarks (MG John Rafferty, CPA)
    - Solder for Life Brief (COL Thomas Jarrett, Director, Soldier for Life) (Virtual)
    - Total Army Analysis (TAA) Restructure (COL Peter Patterson, Chief, Plans and Programs Division (TAA) DAMO-FMF, COL Christopher Eastburg, Chief, Personnel Structure and Plans Division, HQDA G-1)
    - Quality of Life (LTG Kevin Vereen, DCS G-9 & SGM Michael Perry, SEA, DCS G-9)
    - ASL Lunch/Discussion (LTG Laura Potter, DAS, LTG Kevin Vereen, DCS G-9)
    - Closing Remarks (Mr. Michael Brady, PDCPA)

POW/MIA

April 11, 2024
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from WWII (Holzhauer, J.)

April 8, 2024
- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Wilder, H.)

April 5, 2024
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from WWII (George, G.)
- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Lopa, A.)

April 4, 2024
- USS West Virginia Sailor Accounted for From World War II (Brown, C.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 50 service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 14,480; Rifles – 18; Clips – 50; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 9; Departments – 5

The American Legion JROTC/ROTC Program Awards issued

- Military Excellence – 3
- Scholastic Excellence – 2
- Departments involved– 2

TIP OF THE WEEK

The DOD ID Card Reference Center provides comprehensive information on various aspects of DOD ID cards, including eligibility criteria, application processes, required documentation, and relevant policies.

There are different types of ID cards tailored to specific groups:

1. **Retirees**: Active-duty service members who retire are entitled to a retiree USID card from their retirement date until the day before their 65th birthday. Post-65, they must decide on Medicare Part B enrollment and then receive an indefinite USID card.

2. **Reserve Retirees**: Those retiring from the reserves with enough service for retired pay and medical benefits at 60 get a Reserve Retired USID card for commissary, exchange, and MWR benefits. At 60, they qualify for a retiree USID card until the day before their 65th birthday, when they must make a Medicare Part B decision. Afterward, they receive an indefinite USID card.

3. **Former Members**: Service members eligible for retired pay and medical benefits at 60 but who leave the service with no military ties can get a former member USID card with commissary, exchange, and MWR benefits. Upon reaching 60, they're eligible for a medical benefit inclusive USID card until the day before their 65th birthday, when a Medicare Part B decision is required. Post-65, they can obtain an indefinite USID card.

4. **100% Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**: Service members rated 100% disabled, unemployable, or permanently disabled by the VA are eligible for a 100% DAV USID card with limited benefits. The VA provides their medical benefits.

5. **Reservists**: Those transitioning from active duty to reserves are eligible for a reserve USID card with commissary, exchange, and MWR benefits until their service obligation ends.

Service members who separate without eligibility for retired pay, benefits, or military affiliation are not entitled to a USID card.