National Security Division Report
Week ending 12 February 2021

DOD's CHINA TASK FROCE - 15-member panel seeks to examine all the department's policies regarding China

DOD's China Task Force will examine all the DOD activities relating to what Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III calls America's "pacing challenge" to ensure they are synchronized, prioritized, and coordinated to the greatest extent possible, the leader of the review told Pentagon reporters today.

China is a rising power and is challenging the United States and its allies in many parts of the world. From the Horn of Africa to South America to throughout the Indo-Pacific, China is asserting its growing influence in ways that often undermine the established international order that has maintained peace since the end of World War II.

The task force will identify the most important challenges and opportunities for the secretary, Ratner said. The team will also rank and organize priorities and examine whether there are enough resources or attention devoted to them. The team has four months to deliver its findings.

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Resolution No. 90 South China Sea Island Building

Blood donations remain vital for Service Member care

The Armed Services Blood Program is the military's only blood donor program for service members, their families, retirees, veterans, and local communities worldwide, helping those in critical need. Both whole blood and COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma from those who have recovered from COVID-19 remain in high demand. All 21 donor centers adhere to CDC guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

When it comes to the need for donated blood, soldiers on the battlefield understand. For Marines witnessing a member of their unit in danger of losing life or limb, it locks in quickly. They instinctively begin lining up to give because they see the human face behind the small needle sting and the hanging bag of blood.

Blood donation “is definitely one of those things that when you’re actually needing it, it’s front-of-mind,” Hallett said from his home in Windsor, Colorado. “To get people motivated who do not see a right-away need for it, it’s just a matter of getting into a right mindset.”

Air Force Lt. Col. Valerie Sams, trauma medical director at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio in Texas agrees.

“For military members, it’s really easy downrange to see it, but it’s kind of ‘out of sight, out of mind’ sometimes,” Sams said. “I think people don’t realize operations are still ongoing, even today. And we have brothers and sisters out there in harm’s way that are getting injured. So, when you’re back home in your local military treatment facility, it probably doesn’t reach that level of criticality, but downrange, it does.”

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Resolution No. 42: Support For Armed Forces Blood Donor Program and Blood Drives

Trying to Bring Home Soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Division

By Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 2021 - The 92nd Infantry Division, “Buffalo Soldiers,” began to deploy to Italy in July 1944. They had spent more than a year training together at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and were deemed ready to enter World War II. What made them unique was that they were only African American infantry unit operating in Europe at that time.

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

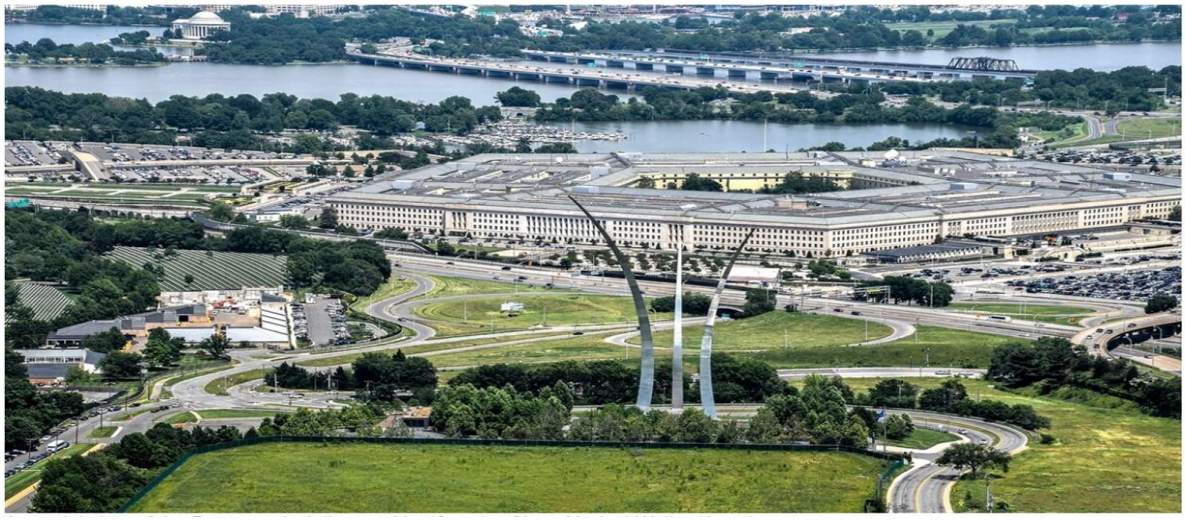
February 5, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Mitchell, W.)
February 9, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Blanchard, W.)
February 10, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Clark, D.)
February 10, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Goodwin, R.)
February 10, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Davenport, J.)
February 11, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Wilkins, P.)

Legislative Issues

- 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. The American Legion supports a fully funded quality of life (Resolution No. 85, 2016)

- 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 prior to discharge (Resolution No. 15, 2018)
- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity…and promulgation of best practices and standards, and to ensure the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attack. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Staff Activity:



- Staff assisted USMC SgtMaj John J. Miller, Combat Instructor Battalion, TSB in Quantico, VA with guidance on how to have a flag flown over the Air Force Memorial for a Vietnam War Airman who had recently passed. This act of good will was a gesture to the family as a symbol of remembrance.
- Please find the links below to the Air Force Memorial Flyover Program and the application request.

Air Force Memorial Flyover Program **Air Force Memorial Flag Flying Request**

To expedite the process, the application request and the flag to be flown can be dropped off at the Air Force Memorial and can be picked up at a later date with the certificate. The point of contact is ~

TARA M. HICKMAN, DAF, Events and Outreach Program Coordinator

Air Force Memorial, 1 Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA 22204

- Staff completed its 'DRAFT' letter to the President of the United States this week to initiate the Citizenship for Honorable Service Campaign:

The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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(202) 861-2700 ★

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of our nearly two million members, The American Legion respectfully requests that you issue an executive order authorizing the reinstitution of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that were curtailed during the previous administration regarding deportation of veterans and their military family members. We believe it would be a proper representation of our nation's gratitude for the thousands of non-citizens of the Armed Forces honorably serving and safeguarding this great nation.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 15, Expedited Citizenship through Military Service, passed in 2018, we support implementing measures to ensure the process of naturalization through honorable military service is completed prior to discharge. Additionally, Resolution No. 10, *Expedited Citizenship Applications for Deported Veterans,* passed in 2018, calls on us to petition the President of the United States to grant citizenship to deported veterans who were honorably discharged and have no felony convictions. It is imperative that we strengthen military naturalization programs, prevent veteran deportation and repatriate deported veterans. We ask that you remove barriers to Veteran Affairs benefits and care. These policies would protect our military families permanently with recognition for their honorable service to the United States. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership and support of our servicemembers and their families.

Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division, rpowell@legion.org, 202-861-2700
Week ending 02/12/2021