VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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Apr 13 – Apr 19, 2024

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff participated in an Executive roundtable hosted by the Defense Health Agency (DHA.) The discussion updated military and veteran service organizations on the following subjects; all discussion was led by LTG Crosland:
    - Opening remarks, LTG Telita Crosland, Director, Defense Health Agency
    - DHA Stabilization and Modernization Update
    - Update on Assisted Reproductive Services Policy for Severly ill and Injured Active-Duty Service Members
    - Access to care in Japan
    - Roundtable discussion (focused on a multitude of questions presented by the 20+ attendees from MSO and VSO community.
    - This event was instrumental for DHA as they provided unfiltered information and answers to questions ranging from access to healthcare overseas to how DOD and the military services are working to fill manpower requirements across the military's global medical networks; all while the military supports operations, deployments and military hospital/clinic manpower requirements.
- NS Staff met with potential speakers for the upcoming National Convention to be held in New Orleans, LA.
- NS Staff met with Children's hospital (Colorado Springs) staff to discuss access to healthcare for military children.
- NS Director attended a full-day Strategy planning and discussion session with leadership.
- NS Staff began receiving The American Legion Spirit of Service Award packages.

- NS Director met with the Legislative Director from "With Honor" to discuss Asia/Pacific and broader national security matters which both organizations engage in.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Armed Services Committee hearing titled, "*Military Department Personnel Chiefs: Personnel Posture"* which can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing titled, " *The Posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defene Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025"* which can be viewed here.

- NS Staff attended a webinar titled "*Australia Direct Funding to National Security*," hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The discussion focused on China's assertive actions in Antarctica and Australia's commitment of $804 million to strengthen its presence in the region.

- NS Staff continued to make preparations for its support of the Memorial Day observance to be held at Arlington National Cemetery.

- NS Staff continues to plan and coordinate the National Commander's foreign travel to Europe.

- NS Staff completed a review of the bill titled "H.R. 6611: FISA Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2023."

- NS Staff met with SEA Tony Whitehead in the Pentagon to discuss military quality of life and recruiting issues as it relates to the National Guard.

POW/MIA

April 17, 2024

- Airman Accounted for from WWII (McKeeman, K.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 51 service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 6,200; Rifles – 23; Clips – 50; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 6; Departments – 4

The American Legion JROTC/ROTC Program

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

NS Director Update

The National Security Staff recently welcomed National Security Program Coordinator Ms. Courtney Cash and National Security Policy Analyst Katherine Ryan to the team. After two years of work dedicated to improving the division's structure and effectiveness, the NS Staff is divided into policy, program and administrative support sections. Our work this year has focused on military quality of life, the recruiting crisis, border security, and foreign policy related matters. Additionally, the division staff is assigned geographical regions of the world to cover down on foreign policy and we continue to be assigned to the commission and committees to better support our chairmen.

The NS Division's cooperation with the Legislative Division has increased significantly, primarily on issues related to border security and military quality of life. The NS Division's work requires consistent engagement with other divisions located in D.C./Indianapolis and that cooperation has been instrumental to supporting the Comission and Committees. We have also increased our engagement with the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion's national security programs and continue to share best practices and support each other's advocacy efforts.

Staff also supported a border security and quality of life-themed Washington Conference, participated in a Border Security conference in Rosenberg, TX, and Chairman Shuman visited the Border in Arizona alongside two Congressmen. Staff is also supporting a new agenda for the upcoming National Commander's trip to Europe, visiting Spain, France, Belgium and other locations. NS Staff appreciates leadership's support and backing in all the work we do on behalf of our members!