VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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Jan 12 – Jan 19, 2024

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff began drafting a concept for a one-stop military recruiting crisis tool kit that will exist on the American Legion website. The recruiting tool kit will serve as a one-stop shop for members to learn the most up to date information on how the military services are attacking the problem. It will also provide members with tips and best practices to assist our active-duty recruiters in their mission while mainly focusing on the demonstrating the value that service to our nation brings; things that veterans know more than anyone else. Amid the worst recruiting crisis since the adoption of the All-Volunteer Force, we intend to provide the best and most up-to-date-information we are getting from the military but also thoughts from the civilian and veteran communities.

- NS Staff worked with TACOM to review post's Conditional Deed of Gift (CDG). A CDG is a prerequisite for all posts to participate in the TACOM program. Once signed, posts are allowed to request, receive, and possess TACOM ceremonial rifles, static displays, and ammunition.

- NS Staff attended the MSO VSO virtual meeting update provided by the United States Army. Topics discussed included: a, update on Army Recruiting, National Guard Bureau overview and initiatives and update by the Office of Legislative Liaison and Office of Special Trial Counsel.

- NS Staff spoke with a representative of the "Black Deported Veterans of America," focusing on advocating for the Department of Defense to enhance its efforts in educating non-citizen servicemembers about obtaining citizenship through military service. The conversation highlighted the need for systemic changes to support those who have served the nation but face challenges in gaining citizenship.

- NS Staff is finalizing plans for a wreath laying ceremony that will take place the week of Washington Conference. This annual event is attended by a small group of invited Legionnaires at Arlington National Cemetery. The wreath laying is done in honor of General Lewis Hershey, an American Legion member, first ANAVICUS President, and the second Director of the Selective Service System. As director he had an immeasurable impact on the veteran community and the American people more broadly. As the longest serving director of the Selective Service System, he played a role in WWII, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He held the position of Director until February 1970.

- NS Staff actively continues the planning process for the annual Washington Conference. This ongoing effort focuses on detailing and organizing various aspects of the conference.

- NS Staff finalized the After-Action Report detailing the National Commander's recent travel to the Pacific. This document is essential for reviewing the outcomes and insights gained from the trip, ensuring we pass on lessons learned or best practices for future travel.

- NS Staff continues planning for the Annual ANAVICUS Breakfast, focusing on finalizing arrangements and details.

- National Staff contributed to a National Commander's message involving ongoing issues with the budget that is critical to DoD, the Department of Veterans Affairs and our foreign affairs. This issue remains a top priority for the NS Commission as it has direct implications on national security.

- National Security director spoke at a military-officer focused leadership seminar at Marine Corps base Quantico where he also spoke about The American Legion's work/ advocacy on behalf of DoD and military families.

- NS Staff met with the office of the Senior Enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, SgtMaj Troy Black, to discuss the recruiting crisis and military quality of life engagement.

- NS Staff met with the office of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz to discuss Marine Corps specific matters.

- NS Staff spoke with the Senior NS Advisor to Rep Don Bacon, Chairman of the military quality of life panel to discuss an upcoming speaking engagement.

POW/MIA

Jan 18, 2024

- Tanker Accounted for from WWII (Cloud, L.)
- Sailor Accounted for from USS California (Hillman, M.)

Jan 17, 2024

Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Barrow, R.)

Jan. 16, 2024

- Pilot Accounted for from WWII (Willhite, T.)
- Airman Accounted for from WWII (March, H.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 5 service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 4,960; Rifles – 11; Clips – 0; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 4; Departments – 4

TIP OF THE WEEK

The VA will host G.I. Jobs Virtual Job Fair

When: Thursday Jan, 25,2024, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

Where: This event is online

This is an opportunity to talk with dozens of recruiters from companies of all sizes. These recruiters know the value of hiring veterans and military spouses and are looking to grow their ranks. Please pass on to all Legionnaires!