The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This week, Director Powell hosted a farewell ceremony for The Washington Center Interns. The American Legion provided a variety of in-person opportunities for the interns to explore foundations of the American government, meet government officials, as well as, meet foreign dignitaries while advocating for service members, veterans, and their families.

KAINE & YOUNG APPLAUD COMMITTEE PASSAGE OF THEIR BILL TO REPEAL 1991 & 2002 AUMFS

U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Todd Young (R-IN), members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), applauded committee passage of their bipartisan legislation to repeal the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMF) against Iraq. The legislation will formally end the authorizations for the Gulf and Iraq wars, reasserting Congress' vital role in not only declaring wars but in ending them. The repeal of these authorizations will also recognize the strong partnership that the United States now has with a sovereign, democratic Iraq and reflect the end of the U.S. combat mission there. In June, the House voted to repeal the 1991 and 2002 AUMFs.

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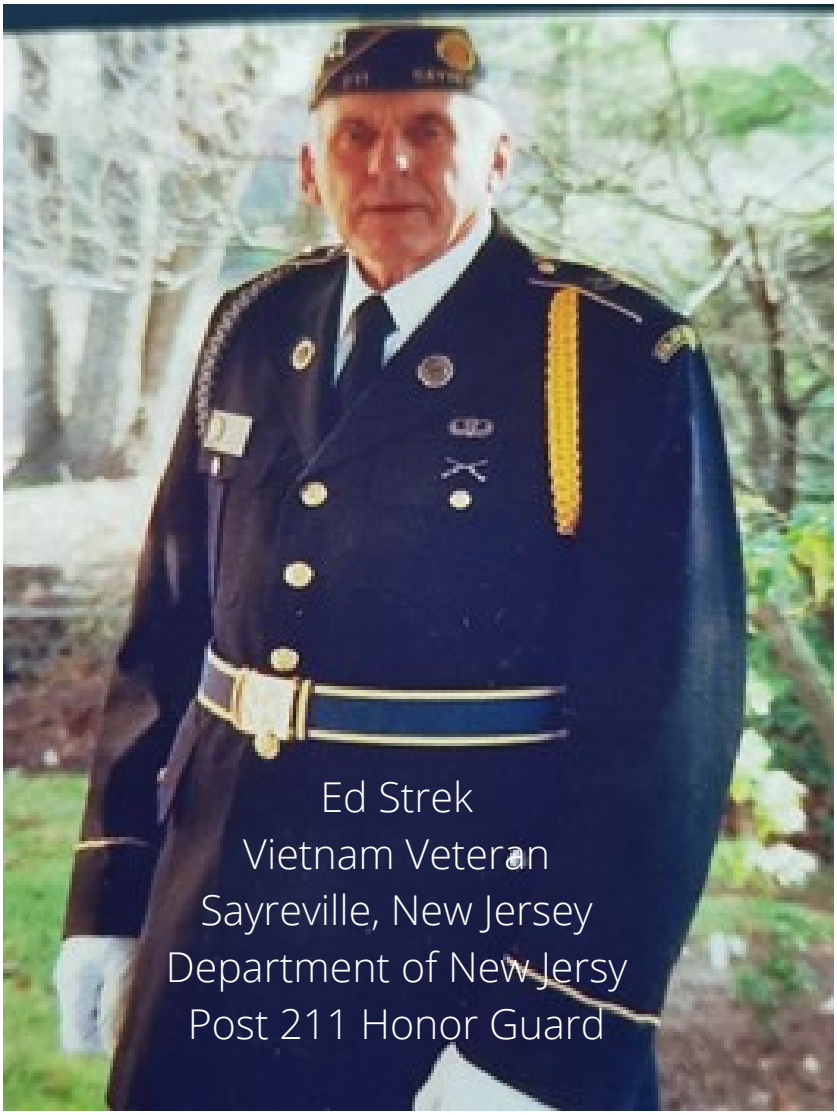
Going Above & Beyond



Ed Strek is currently the Captain of the Sayreville Lenape Post 211 Honor Guard. He is also a Vietnam Veteran of the Army 82nd Airborne Division and a 36-year member of Post 211.

Post, 211 in Sayreville, NJ was highlighted recently for the ceremonial Ammo/Rifle Honor Guard detail demonstrated at the funeral for Anthony J. Brodnika. The attendee was pleased to see the honor guard and rifle team performed very well. The attendees were also adamant about acknowledging a local member of post 211 named Ed Strek. They spoke very highly of the member stating that he went above and beyond the detailed duties during the ceremony and he stayed and talked with the family afterward.

The American Legion would like to thank Mr. Strek for his service and steadfast devotion to our service members, and their family members. He is greatly appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations Committee

- 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.

Resolution No. 42: Foreign Policy Objectives
That The American Legion believes that the following objectives should be incorporated into U.S. foreign policy in order to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy:

- 1. Recognition that the U.S. has great and multiple responsibilities as a leader of the Free World
- 2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture
- 3. Support for a global fight on multiple fronts to end the scourge of terrorism
- 4. Support for democracy and human rights in other countries when such is consistent with U.S. national interests and national power
- 5. Participation in essential collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share
- 6. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements, which improve U.S. national security
- 7. Opposition to the spread of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or long- range ballistic missiles which may be used by terrorists, terrorist organizations, communists or aggressor nations
- 8. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking
- 9. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests
- 10. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices
- 11. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while Congress performs important functions of advice, oversight and funding
- 12. Support for the appropriate resources to promote and protect U.S. vital national interests world-wide.

Click here for the Resolution.

First Afghan allies who aided American troops arrive at Fort Lee in Virginia

Foreign Relations Committee Cont.

National Security Powers Act of 2021:
To provide for clarification and limitations with respect to the exercise of national security powers, and for other purposes.

This draft bill would enact fundamental reforms of the War Powers Resolution of 1973 (WPR), the National Emergencies Act of 1976 (NEA), and the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (AECA)

The National Security Powers Act of 2021 (NSPA) presents an opportunity for Congress to enact the most important recalibration of the balance of power between the president and Congress in decades. The system of checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution is broken. We have found ourselves in an era of government in which the executive can sell weapons indiscriminately, make war unilaterally, and declare emergencies in perpetuity.
Structural reforms are needed to restore the balance of national security powers between the president and Congress. The principles reflected in the NSPA are:

1. Military interventions, emergency declarations, and arms sales are areas where the President may act only with authorization or approval from Congress.
2. In genuine emergencies where Congress has no time to act, the President may proceed without congressional approval—but only for a limited period of time.
3. These national security powers must be used for clearly defined purposes, subject to regular review by Congress, and only as a last resort.

The reforms outlined in the NSPA are critical to preventing future abuses of power that could threaten peace and prosperity and be disastrous for our democracy.

Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee

The Military Hunger Prevention Act (H.R. 2339 & S. 1488):
Bipartisan legislation that financially supports low-income active servicemembers and their families, to give basic needs allowance from the DoD that gives them the proper support to pay for necessities food and toiletries. This bill displays a sustained effort to break down barriers low-income military families face, such as being denied benefits that have hindered their ability to put food on the table. A basic needs allowance will be paid to active duty service members

- Resolution No. 85: Support for Military Quality of Life Standards

House Draft Bill "Repatriate Our Patriots Act":
Would make it illegal, with few exceptions, to deport a noncitizen veteran. It would also expedite the return and naturalization of any veteran, who was not convicted of a serious crime, back to the U.S.

While members of the military are eligible for expedited naturalization, many members either do not know how to go about this process or believe that they became citizens when they took their oath of service. The staff is still reviewing the bill language.

Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee

H.R. 2326 - Veterans' Cyber Risk Awareness Act:
This bill requires the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a communications and outreach campaign to educate veterans about cyber risks. These risks can include disinformation, identity theft, scams, and fraud spread via the internet or social media.

STAFF ACTIVITY

Foreign Relations Committee

- Staff participated in a call where the chairman of the foreign relations Menendez celebrated the committee approval repealing 1991, 2002 authorization for use of military force (AUMF). The bipartisan legislation seeks to formally end the authorizations for the Gulf and Iraq wars – 30 and 19 years, respectively, after these AUMFs were first passed, reasserting Congress' vital role in not only declaring wars but in ending them. The Joint Resolution moves next to the Floor for consideration by the full Senate.
  - "Today, we take a critical step to repeal two authorizations for use of military force that was for another time and place, against a country with a leader that no longer exists, and for which there is no authority to deal with any present challenges, and which actually serve as fuel to militias to say we are an occupying power. This was nothing short of a historic vote to rebalance the way the executive branch can justify large-scale uses of military force without any congressional involvement."

- Staff hosted a War Powers Reform webinar for members of the National Security Commission. Guest speaker, William Ruger vice president for research and policy at the Charles Koch Institute, and the vice president for foreign policy at Stand Together.

STAFF ACTIVITY

Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee

- Staff attended a webinar hosted by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman (CIS Ombudsman). Stakeholders participated in a webinar geared specifically towards Veteran Service Organizations for information sharing and gathering, and to learn more about services available for noncitizen Veterans.

  During this engagement, CIS Ombudsman Phyllis Coven was joined by representatives from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide a general overview of services that each agency provides to Veterans of the U.S. Uniformed Services, in the U.S. and abroad.

Military Benefits and Quality of Life Committee

Staff is closely monitoring this situation where the Army's nearly $10 billion barracks overhaul initiative is still on track, the service says, despite fears early on that funding would be lost due to cuts in the Biden administration's initial budget proposal.

Lawmakers previously expressed concern during a June budget hearing that the Army wouldn't be able to execute its ambitious $9.6 billion plan to overhaul and replace substandard barracks by 2030. Since then, both the House and Senate have taken steps to increase the housing-related funding available for the service in fiscal 2022, though the changes aren't law yet.

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

July 30, 2021:

- Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Cavender, W.)
- Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Andrews, C.)
- Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Helms, G.)
- Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Schwartz, E.)
- Marine Accounted For From World War II (White, G.)
- Airman Accounted For From World War II (Norris, F.)

August 2, 2021:

- Airman Accounted For From World War II (Cavalieri, N.)

- **August 3, 2021:**
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Casola, B.)

PFC J.L. HANCOCK REINTERMENT, AUGUST 4, 2021

In November 1943, Hancock was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Hancock died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. He was reported to have been buried in Row D of the East Division Cemetery, later renamed Cemetery 33.

In 1946, the 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company centralized all of the American remains found on Tarawa at Lone Palm Cemetery for later repatriation. However, almost half of the known casualties were never found. No recovered remains could be associated with Hancock, and, in October 1949, a Board of Review declared him "non-recoverable."

PROGRAMS

Military Surplus Equipment

- The American Legion has aligned with the U.S Army *TACOM* (Tank - automotive and Armaments Command) Army Donations Program. In doing so were are able to provide our members with ceremonial rifles and static displays to be used in parades, funerals, functions, and decommissioned military equipment displayed at the post.
- In the month of July, the National Security Division supplied...

Rifle - 10

Ammo - 3,720

Static Display - 1

Clips - 25

Departments - 3

Posts - 3

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Tank-automotive & Armaments Command

ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman Publishes Annual Report to Congress

"I applaud the Administration's commitment to identifying barriers that impede access to immigration services and benefits," said Phyllis A. Coven, CIS Ombudsman. "The recent executive orders issued by President Biden allow for enhanced collaboration with USCIS and new opportunities to maximize our office's contributions to create a more responsive and transparent immigration system, reinforcing a focus closely aligned with the CIS Ombudsman's statutory mission."

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Aerospace startup gets $60M from the US Air Force to build a hypersonic passenger plane

The U.S. Air Force and several venture capital firms are making a $60 million investment in Hermeus Corporation, a Georgia-based startup that wants to develop the world's first reusable hypersonic aircraft.
The end goal: a passenger aircraft that can fly in excess of five times the speed of sound, capable of traveling from New York to Paris in 90 minutes instead of the seven hours it takes most commercial airliners today.

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FY 2022 Defense Budget

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