VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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Mar 16 – 22, 2024

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff met with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to discuss disparities in TRICARE within US Territories and overseas healthcare provisions for servicemembers and their families. The Secretary expressed interest in scheduling a follow-up meeting.

- NS Staff completed two bill reviews, "*Recover Pride in Service Act"* and *"Healthcare Equality for Heroes Act,"* which are currently under consideration.

- NS Staff conducted a second meeting with post and department-level leadership to discuss the American Legion's roles and responsibilities towards our military community.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Appropriate Committee Hearing titled "Quality of Life in the Military," which included the five service Senior Enlisted Leaders (SELS) from each branch. A video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing entitled "An Assessment of the Biden Administration's Withdrawal from Afghanistan by America's Generals," which included retired General Mark Milley as a witness. A video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a Senate Armed Service Committee hearing titled "*Update on the state of the Department of Defense acquisition system."* A video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Armed Services Committee hearing titled "*US Military Posture and National Security Challenges in the Greater Middle East and Africa."* Video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS staff virtually attended a House Homeland Security Committee hearing titled "*Examining the Current Status of Iran's Axis of Resistance and the Implications for Homeland Security and US Interests."* Video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS Staff attended a DoD and MSO/VSO round table discussion on the Armed Forces Medical Examiner system.

- NS Staff conducted a Zoom meeting with a representative from the NS Resolution Screening Committee and the Department of Michigan to discuss and amend Resolution 31 on Artificial Intelligence.

- NS Staff is progressing with the assembly of SOP binders in preparation for the onboarding of the Programs Coordinator.

POW/MIA

March 21, 2024
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Poulter, H.)

March 19, 2024
- Airman Accounted for from WWII (Eshelman, P.)

March 18, 2024
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Reeves, N.)
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from WWII (Malek, M.)

March 15, 2024
- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Lilly, R.)
- Airman Accounted for from WWII (Barbour, J.)
- Tanker Accounted for from WWII (Hammond, R.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 38 service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 0; Rifles – 35; Clips – 0; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 5; Departments – 5

The American Legion JROTC/ROTC Program

- Military Excellence – 5
- Scholastic Excellence – 3
- Departments – 3

TIP OF THE WEEK

Disabled veterans with service-connected disabilities are entitled to commissary privileges, which offer substantial savings. On average, patrons can save over 25% on their purchases, with even more significant discounts on fresh meat and chicken. These savings are accessible both in-store and through our online platform, Commissary CC2GO. Please find detailed instructions on obtaining shopping privileges enclosed. Additionally, Veterans Affairs has issued a guide for installation access for medical appointments, which is also applicable for commissary access.

For detailed information, you are invited to visit the following links:

- Commissary Shopping Information
- Extended Eligibility Details

Your support in sharing this information is highly appreciated.