THE NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

WEEKLY REPORT

NATO Ministers Bolster Alliance Deterrence, Defense

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The alliance ministers — including Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III — addressed NATO's deterrence and defense posture during the first day of the Defense Ministerial. "Today, ministers endorsed a new overarching plan to defend our alliance in crisis and conflict to make sure that we continue to have the right forces at the right place, at the right time to protect our one billion people from any threat," Stoltenberg said during a news conference.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The National Security Division monitors a variety of issues that impact various aspects of the portfolio as it applies to the American's Legion's posture on issues of interest. Currently, the following topics are being tracked by staff and Commission / Committee leadership:

- Food Insecurity in the Armed Forces of the United States of America
- Hearings on extremism in America and its potential impact on the military community including active duty, Guard/Reserve forces and veterans.
- Immigration, including illegal immigration and its impact on Homeland Security
- Citizenship through military service
- Progress to passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022
- Tricare changes or improvements in access to the military community
- Cyber Security threats and risks
- Military Sexual Trauma and efforts within Department of Defense
- Progress of COVID Vaccine DoD-mandated implementation

STAFF ACTIVITY

- As part of a series of Service component updates for each of the DoD branches, Director Marquez attended a Marine Corps Association (MCA) hosted brief on "Force Design 2030," during which Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Eric Smith addressed MCA members, members of the Defense Industry, and active-duty personnel regarding progress of the Corps' efforts in building the Corps of the future.

  The discussion highlighted factors which the Corps must consider as it continues to adapt to a changing environment that is focused on China as the pacing threat. Marines must be able to self-deploy, gain access, and survive enemy aggression through Distributed Maritime Operations or other tactics, then pass on the "fight" to the Joint force, reconstitute and move to the next objective. While the Marine Corps continues to develop technologies such as the Naval Strike Missile, the primary focus will be people. Access to America's best talent through recruiting, and continuing to modernize how it educates, trains and equips its force to operate efficiently in all domains from Space down to subsurface environments. General Smith highlighted the fact that the Corps must remain aware of competing requirements throughout DoD, in all branches of service, in order for the Corps to remain relevant and successful in the Joint Force.

- Staff participated in Chairman Brennan's back brief to the National Security Vice Chairman and Chairmen of the seven subcommittees regarding the Fall NEC meetings and his commission update. During the brief, the Chairman summarized events of the Fall meetings, welcomed the Staff Director, and thanked the Chairmen and staff for their hard work in reducing 138 national security-related resolutions in the past year. Additionally, Chairman Brennan and Director Marquez discussed the agenda and planning efforts for the upcoming National Security Conference which will be attended by the Commission and Committee Chairmen and Staff during November in Washington D.C.

- Staff cooperated with American Legion media and the National Commander's office to provide information and State Department resources for how Legionnaires can support Afghanistan Allies.

- National Security Staff along with Auxiliary Washington D.C. Representative observed a "Childcare Congressional Panel" that focused on the high costs and issues involving childcare and its availability to military families. Panelists included Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA), Charles Williams – Rear Admiral (retired), and William French, Vice Admiral (retired.)

- Staff participated the irreverent warriors hike through Washington D.C. The MISSION of Irreverent Warriors is "to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide." Organizations such as irreverent warriors can connect The American Legion to our post 9/11 community of veterans and this event is one of many held by organizations that support post 9/11 veterans.

- Staff participated in a hearing that took in the perspectives of Attorney General Garland and his previous testimony before the House Judiciary Committee. With a focus on domestic terrorism, and the January 6, 2021, insurrection.

- Staff is participating in joint-planning with VA&R Division for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Week and Veteran's Day events support, going November 9-11, 2021.

TRICARE Open Season Webinar

Title: Making the Most of the TRICARE Open Season

Date: Nov. 4, 2021

Time: 1 to 2 p.m. ET

Description: Open season for TRICARE beneficiaries starts Nov. 8 and ends Dec. 13. Now is the time to review your and your family member's current health plans, consider your needs for 2022, and learn about your coverage choices. Join us as TRICARE experts review your health care coverage options for the upcoming plan year.

TRICARE Article: https://newsroom.tricare.mil/Articles/Article/2817662/register-to-join-nov-4-webinar-on-tricare-open-season

Webinar Registration Link: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8215914139783093775

Related Links:

TRICARE Open Season: www.tricare.mil/openseason

Federal Benefits Open Season: www.benefeds.com

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

VIETNAM TURNOVER CEREMONY

On Oct 16, 2021, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Detachment Two (DPAA, Det2) and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) held a turnover ceremony. Four sets of remains and material evidence will be returned to the DPAA Laboratory in Hawaii for further analysis. It is our sincere hope that the return of these remains will result in positive identifications and closure for the families that have waited for so long. DPAA is grateful to the government of Vietnam for their partnership in our humanitarian mission. This joint cooperation has led to the location and identification of 729 personnel missing in action in that nation and we remain committed to the fullest possible accounting for the 1,244 Americans still unaccounted for.

October 18, 2021:
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Linder, W.)
October 91, 2021:
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Agard, R.)
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Schwartz, E.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Casinger, E.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Allison, H.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Butts, R.)
October 20, 2021:
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Mabine, O.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (McDonald, J.)
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Stein, W.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Belden, H.)

PROGRAMS

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

Rifle - 10

Ammo - 7,440

Static Display - 0

Clips - 25

Departments - 0

Posts - 0