The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS

MHS Military Health System
health.mil

CONNECT TO PROTECT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Director Powell recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. With the increased rank comes increased responsibilities. It is with sadness and gladness that she has chosen to transition back into the uniform full-time. Director Powell's last day at The American Legion is 1 OCT.

"I appreciate the countless network opportunities that The Legion has provided during my tenure. I will take advantage of those opportunities by continuing to build trusted relationships as I pivot into a new professional chapter as a military officer entering the Defense Attache System. I wish the organization continued success with the mission of Veterans Strengthening America."

DoD Wants You to 'Connect to Protect' for Suicide Prevention Month

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) continues its observation of Suicide Prevention Month (SPM) throughout September.

Every death by suicide is a tragedy and the DOD will not relent in its year-round effort to prevent suicide across the United States Armed Forces. Suicide prevention is a top priority at DOD. The Department continues to advance prevention efforts, track and evaluate progress, enhance lethal means safety, and promote resilience while working to eliminate stigma.

DOD observes SPM by emphasizing and bringing greater attention to our suicide prevention efforts and connecting our military community to resources. The Secretary of Defense and leaders across the military services are reinforcing the principle that reaching out for help is a sign of strength.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III sat down at the Pentagon today to discuss how the enhanced trilateral security partnership with the two nations and the United Kingdom will move forward.

- Morrison, who met with President Joe Biden yesterday, is in Washington for a meeting of the quad partnership of India, Japan, Australia and the United States.

- The new trilateral relationship "is a testament to the strength, resilience and foresight of our relationship," Austin said at the beginning of his meeting with Morrison. "President Biden has noted that no regional divide separates the interest of our Atlantic and Pacific partners, and AUKUS [Australia, United Kingdom and the United States] is designed to build on our existing alliances."

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Military Benefits & Quality of Life

Living on Base: Pros and Cons

- When your PCS orders come through and you begin the process of house hunting, you may consider living on base. The quality of military housing — as part of the military quality of life — is a key component of military readiness. And military installations try offer accommodations to ensure that families want for nothing. But, living on a military base may not be the right living situation for every military family. Here's a short list of pros and cons to living on a military base for you and your family to consider:

- Quality housing helps the Department of Defense (DoD) retain the best personnel for its all-volunteer military force. The proportion of personnel remaining in service from bases with high-quality housing is about 15 percent higher than for those stationed at places with low-quality housing. Today's servicemembers want to live in a community that offers stability and continuity as a backdrop for deployment, reassignment, and day-to-day life.

- Servicemembers living on or off base in private sector/community housing, or in "military privatized housing," are entitled to a basic allowance for housing (BAH). BAH provides military families accurate and equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets. BAH is a critical ingredient that provides the income stream to support initial and long-term financial viability and security.

- When you move to your new military installation, you'll have a tight-knit military community ready to welcome you and your family with open arms. You may not have as much privacy as you wish, with your spouse's CO and company members living next door or right around the corner. However, you'll have spouses nearby who are ready to help you get settled into your new environment.

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Military Benefits & Quality of Life.....

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

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion urges Congress and the Department of Defense to support and fund quality of life features including, but not limited to, the following: military pay comparability for the Armed Forces and regular increases in the Basic Allowances for Housing (BAH); renovation and construction of military quarters and increased funding for child day care centers and pay raises must be competitive with the private sector; adequate medical, mental, and dental health services; morale, welfare, and recreational facilities; non-privatized exchanges and commissary facilities, and the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) and its functions should be retained and not relegated to the military services; preserving an attractive retirement system for the active and reserve components; oppose any changes to the military retirement system, whether prospective or retroactive, that would violate contracts made with military retirees and that would undermine morale and readiness; requiring the Services perform mandatory physical examinations, without waivers, for all separating and retiring service members within 90 days of separation from service; full funding concurrent receipt of military retirement pay, and VA disability compensation as well as Special Compensation pays for disabled military retirees; that the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset be eliminated; TRICARE for Life and the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy program for Medicare-eligible military retirees, their dependents and military survivors, should be adequately funded; regular cost-of-living adjustments to military retirement and increased death gratuity payments; combat zone tax exclusions for service in South Korea; that Congress extend and improve additional quality of life benefits, allowances and privileges to the National Guard and Reserves involved in homeland security and other missions so as to more closely approximate those of the active force; military retirement pay and TRICARE health care for members of the Reserve Components should be authorized before age 60; tax credits to private businesses that pay the difference between military and civilian salaries to mobilized reserve component service members; restore travel exemptions for Reserve and Guard members for expenses associated with attending drills; military health care should also be provided to members of the Reserve Components and their dependents, who become injured while on active duty status regardless of the number of days served on active duty, to the same degree as active duty members under the same circumstances; and whenever a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) is conducted, certain base facilities such as base medical facilities, commissaries, exchanges and other facilities be preserved for use by active duty, reserve forces personnel, military retired veterans and their families.

STAFF ACTIVITY

Conventional Armed Forces

- Staff attended a meeting entitled "Green trade Under the AfCFTA: The Role of AU-EU Partnership" this week. Trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) began earlier this year, with massive potential to boost inclusive economic growth and reduce inequality and poverty in Africa. Indeed, the World Bank predicts that 30 million Africans could be lifted out of extreme poverty, while incomes could rise by $450 billion by 2035. Exports could increase by $560 billion, while wages may increase by 10.3 percent and 9.8 percent for unskilled and skilled workers, respectively. The AfCFTA is not a panacea, though, and new complex challenges (e.g., COVID-19 and climate change) have exposed the vulnerability of social and economic systems across the world, highlighting their interconnectedness and emphasizing the need for collaboration around radical and sustainable solutions.

- Thus, many experts believe that the AfCFTA can be an important tool as Africa looks to navigate these complex challenges. Indeed, in terms of addressing climate change-related challenges, the final negotiations over and implementation of the landmark trade agreement are creating opportunities to install and enforce new climate-friendly policies. For example, the AfCFTA can promote environmentally friendly protocols and e-commerce or advance the development of green value chains for minerals. Moreover, the momentum behind a climate-friendly AfCFTA can further bolster green industrialization and encourage investment in green infrastructure that will integrate climate risks and act as a buffer against current polluting infrastructure.

Speakers

Aloysius Uche Ordu
Director - Africa Growth Initiative Senior Fellow - Global Economy and Development

Fatima Denton
Director - Institute for Natural Resources in Africa at the United Nations University (UNU-INRA)

Olumide Abimbola
Executive Director - Africa Policy Research Institute

Wisdom Akpalu
Professor - Environment and Natural Resource Research Initiative

Angela Lusigi
Resident Representative - United Nations Development Program, Ghana

Ralf Peters
Chief, Trade Information Section - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Foreign Relations

- Our intern William Woods drafted and submitted a letter to the president urging the commander and Chief to utilize Guam as a temporary host/ installation/ asylum for afgahn refugees and waiting Afgan allies who are still in the middle of the vetting process to receive their Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)s and Green cards.

- Mr. Woods also conducted research on the Support for First Responders & Law Enforcement Resolution. Proofread why the resolution was pulled, found preexisting resolutions that resemble this proposed resolution, and concluded the proposed resolution was pulled due to either Error(s) 5: Vague Unidentifiable Goal or 10: Already Constitutional Law. In additional, supplemented pass resolutions: 261, 132, 407, 17, and 37 which all address the newly proposed resolution.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

September 20, 2021:

- Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Mazzulla, A.)
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Terhune, B.)
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Dyer, B.)

September 23, 2021:

- Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Wright, J.)
- Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Fabrize, D.)

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 - 19

Ammo - 7,440

Static Display - 0

Clips - 10

Departments - 5

Posts - 5

Tank-automotive & Armaments Command

ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

In DOD's implementation roadmap, the deputy secretary said DOD will make foundational investments to support sexual assault accountability, prevention programs, healthy command climates and quality victim care.
"To date, sexual harassment and sexual assault have been serious problems in our force with lethal consequences for service members and harmful effects on our combat readiness," Hicks said.

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A video is available now for viewing on the DoD Facebook page.

Click Here To View The video

The Deputy Secretary has developed a tiered implementation roadmap in consultation with the uniformed and civilian leadership of the Department.
The Secretary of Defense approved the roadmap in its entirety and signed the attached memorandum directing Department leaders to move swiftly and deliberately to implement it.

The Secretary's memorandum and implementation roadmap may also be found on the DoD website here:

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