The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

In remarks Friday morning before a closed-door meeting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Ghani said he understood President Biden's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan and welcomed the White House's promise to remain engaged with humanitarian assistance and other initiatives. The American Legion is encouraged to see steps moving forward to end America's longest war; aligning with Resolution No. 22: Addressing the "Forever War".

AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORTS WHITE HOUSE DECISION ON AFGHAN VISAS

Last week the American Legion hosted a press conference addressing the urgent evacuation of Afghan interpreters and others who worked with U.S. forces in support of military operations in Afghanistan. The Biden administration is preparing to relocate approximately 18,000 Afghan interpreters, drivers and others who worked with U.S. forces to other countries in an effort to keep them safe while they apply for visas, according to a report by The New York Times. It's a solution to a potential crisis that The American Legion strongly advocated for, as recently as last week. "We made the case; they acted," American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford said. "We applaud the Biden administration for working to provide a safe haven for these Afghan allies who played critical roles in our mission."

The situation is at a critical juncture now with U.S. troops expected to withdraw from Afghanistan before Sept. 11 after 20 years of war. The American Legion, bipartisan members of Congress and military officials are concerned that Afghan allies will be targeted in revenge attacks by the Taliban. On Wednesday, administration officials said the Afghans would be moved out of Afghanistan to undetermined third countries to await the processing of their visa requests to the United States.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations

- 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.
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Military Benefits and Quality of Life

- Availability of Healthcare benefits for residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in proposed language of the FY22NDAA – The American Legions support funding that provides long-term solvency and viability of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (Resolution No. 107, 2016)
- Quality of Life for Service members and their Families – We owe our military men and women a debt of gratitude we can never repay for all that they — and their families — sacrifice to serve our country. Ensure the Coast Guard is paid – The American Legion supports a fully funded United States Coast Guard (Resolution No. 23, 2016)
- Expedited Citizenship through Honorable Military Service – The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge (Resolution No. 15, 2018)

Law and Order & Homeland Security

- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity, promulgate best practices and standards, and protect critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)

STAFF ACTIVITY

Military Benefits and Quality of Life

- The United States Army continues to advance yearly because it has funding and support. This year the budget for 2022 was decided and it is less than what was agreed upon in the previous year. Moving into the next year it is concerning that they budget set will not be enough and will slow the growth of the Army putting them behind. Countries like China and Russia are advancing and to keep up, it is a must to stay on top of our goals by learning modern advancements.

Conventional Armed Forces

- Staff attended the house Armed Service Committee hearing on the $715 billion U.S. defense budget for the fiscal year of 2022. Focused on the reality that warfare around the world is changing, our defense strategy must reflect this. With every war game being conducted by the Pentagon in the last seven years regarding China resulting in the U.S. losing, the committee concluded that President Biden's budget does not keep up to speed with our Chinese adversary.
- All 30 Allied Nations 10 years ago on June 14, met and discussed global security and upholding NATO values. This trend continued with today's hearing to echo security ideals and reaffirm the NATO alliance around the world. The vital role of NATO for security has been constant in a constantly changing world in today's day and age. Concerns raised for the future for a part of NATO are deterring Russian and Chinese aggression. NATO also may be undergoing structural changes in the coming years to reaffirm the alliance.

Foreign Relations

- Staff attended the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing to consider the Kaine-Young bipartisan bill to repeal the 2002 & 1991 Authorized Use of Military Force(AUMF). If passed, the bill will end both AUMFs, reasserting Congress's role in declaring wars. The 1991 AUMF has a better chance of repeal with Saddam Hussein no longer being a threat, but the 2002 one may be more challenging. The repeal of the AUMFs would also recognize the partnership the U.S. has with a sovereign, democratic Iraq. Other critical bills discussed during the meeting were the Renacer Act, which would authorize U.S. forces to act in Nicaragua against the oppressive Ortega regime, and the Combating Global Corruption Act of 2021. Both bills are centered around preventing corruption and preserving human rights across the globe.
- Today's business meeting addressed two bills: the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act and the Israel Relations Normalization Act of 2021. The committee expressed bipartisan support for both bills, with the first being the Uyghur bill. China has committed many atrocities and abuses towards the Uyghur Muslims. Senator Rubio stated this bill "does not need an explanation," The CCP can not keep abusing human rights inside labor camps. The Israel Relations Normalization Act can help transform the Middle East from war-torn to peaceful with the bill focusing on Israel communicating with its allies to promote Arab-Israeli peace with the help of the United States.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

- **June 18, 2021: Airman Accounted For From World War II (Wood, J.)**
- **June 18, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Tidball, D.)**
- **June 18, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Belt, W.)**
- **June 18, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Lee, C.)**
- **June 21, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Sweeney, B.)**
- **June 21, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Derrington, R.)**
- **June 21, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Stott, D.)**
- **June 22, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Hoogacker, P.)**
- **June 22, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Hurlburt, J.)**

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Private Jacob Cruz (MCSN: 516933), United States Marine Corps Reserve, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with a machine gun platoon attached to the First Battalion, Sixth Marines, SECOND Marine Division in combat against enemy Japanese forces on Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands on the night of November 22, 1943.

When his platoon was in desperate need of ammunition during fierce enemy counter attacks, Private Cruz worked tirelessly procuring it from distributing pints in the rear.

PROGRAMS

JUNIOR ROTC AWARDS CEREMONY

JROTC Awards Ceremony at Phoebus High School Army Junior ROTC on June 06, 2021. Thank you to The American Legion for their continued support of JROTC programs and youths nationwide.

ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

- ***US to keep about 650 troops in Afghanistan after withdrawal***

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- ***U.S. to begin evacuating some Afghan nationals as they await visa approval***

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- ***Under Biden, Pakistan and the US face a dilemma about the breadth of their relationship.***

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