VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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Apr 20 – Apr 26, 2024

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff convened the National Security Resolution Screening Committee, which consisted of six members, to recommend which resolutions should advance to the National Security Commission for the upcoming National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting.

- NS Staff organized a meeting for the National Security Commission, at which the commission voted on which resolution to forward to the National Executive Committee for consideration at the upcoming NEC meeting. Twenty-five members attended the Commission.

- NS Staff facilitated a meeting with chaplains from the Bishop of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy. The main topic of discussion was whether the Army's Chief of Chaplains had exceeded their authority by assuring chaplains that their age waiver would entitle them to retirement or prorated retirement benefits. This issue affected approximately 31 chaplains.

- NS Staff completed an American Legion white paper on *"Border Security and Immigration Policy,"* including discussions and benefits charts. The paper also focuses on actions the National Security Commission and Division already took.

- NS Staff spoke with the Director of Government Affairs, Community Health, & Advocacy from Colorado Children's Hospital to further discuss the Defense Health Agency's (DHA) changes to the TRICARE reimbursement system, specifically the shift to an outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) for children's hospitals. They raised concerns about how this new policy could potentially jeopardize the health of military children, reduce the quality of life for military families, and impact mission readiness.

- NS Staff created a *"Base Access"* fact sheet centered around a memorandum that underscores the critical role Veteran Service Organizations/Military Service Organizations (VSOs/MSOs) play in supporting service members.

- The NS Director visited the Texas/Mexico border at Eagle Pass alongside the National Commander to speak with locals and gain firsthand insight into the issues at the border.

- NS Staff continues to plan and coordinate the National Commander's foreign travel to Europe.

POW/MIA

April 22, 2024

- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From WWII (Gusie, W.)
- Pilot Accounted for from WWII (McLauchlen, J.)

April 18, 2024

- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Williams, L.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Schafer, H.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Jerele, H.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 56 service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 0; Rifles – 34; Clips – 0; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 9; Departments – 9

The American Legion JROTC/ROTC Program

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

TIP OF THE WEEK

Following the recent release of the Military Quality of Life Panel Report, The Servicemembers Quality of Life Improvement Act (H.R. 8070) will serve as the base text for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The full text of the bill can be viewed here.

Among the improvements include:

- Servicemember Compensation
- Support for Military Spouses
- Access to Childcare
- Servicemember Housing
- Access to Healthcare

One pagers on each topic listed above provided by the House Armed Services Committee can also be found here.