NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION REPORT

National Security Division Report
Week ending March 26, 2021

National Medal of Honor Day 2021

National Medal of Honor Day is observed every year on March 25 and is dedicated to Medal of Honor Recipients. Each branch of the U.S. military awards the Medal of Honor to those who have distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" above and beyond the call of duty, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs official site.

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The Medal of Honor is awarded only to military members; it is awarded by Congress and is also known as the Congressional Medal of Honor. National Medal of Honor Day is a time to remember the sacrifices of men and women in uniform who have earned this highest of military honors.

The original MoH criteria includes the following as presented on the Medal Of Honor Society official site. The medal may be awarded for meritorious actions above and beyond the call of duty:

•While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States

•While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

•While serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party

National Medal of Honor Day is not a federal holiday; banks do not close, U.S. Post Office facilities remain open, and there are no school closings. Many of the ceremonies and other forms of observance take place on military bases, national cemeteries, and in local communities. It is not uncommon for the President of the United States to visit or gather MoH recipients to pay respects to their sacrifices. Visits to Arlington National Cemetery or similar facilities are also traditional ways of paying respects on March 25th.

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DHS Makes $20 Million in Funding Available for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grants

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is making $20 million available through the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant Program to help communities across our country develop innovative capabilities to combat terrorism and targeted violence.

“Domestic violent extremism and targeted violence are two of the gravest threats facing our homeland today,” said Secretary Mayorkas. “Over the past few years, the United States has experienced an increasing number of targeted attacks by disaffected individuals motivated by a combination of extremist ideologies and personal grievances. This investment in local communities will help our partners develop sustainable capabilities to address an evolving threat environment, including by preventing attacks and online radicalization.”

Secretary Mayorkas established the following four priorities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 TVTP Grant Program: (1) preventing domestic violent extremism; (2) enhancing local threat assessment and management capabilities; (3) implementing innovative solutions for preventing targeted violence and terrorism; and (4) challenging online violence mobilization narratives for the first time through this program**.**

To read the complete story: click Here

DHS weighing major changes to fight domestic violent extremism

Biden officials say DHS wants more ability to track information about domestic extremists, like the social media posts that pushed violence before the Capitol riot. The Department of Homeland Security, which was created after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, to protect the country from international terrorism, is moving toward a sweeping set of policy changes to detect and stop what intelligence officials say is now a top threat: domestic violent extremism.

Two senior Biden administration officials said DHS, whose intelligence division did not publish a warning of potential violence before the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, is seeking to improve its ability to collect and analyze data about domestic terrorism — including the sorts of public social media posts that threatened an attack on the U.S. Capitol but were not deemed "actionable" by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. To read the complete story: Click HERE

Special Operations Forces in the Pacific will confront Chinese information campaigns

U.S. Special Operations Command created a task force in the Pacific region to work with allies to thwart China's information operations; the commander told lawmakers Thursday.

The Joint Task Force Indo-Pacific team will be focused on information and influence operations in the Pacific theater, a part of the world receiving much of the military's attention because of China's growing capabilities.

The team is poised to work with like-minded partners in the region, Gen. Richard Clarke, commander of Special Operations Command, said before the Armed Services Committee. "We actually are able to tamp down some of the disinformation that they [China] continuously sow," he said of the task force's efforts.

The task force is an example of the fresh ideas the military is seeking to stifle damaging adversary influence and information operations. Officials are growing more concerned about these operations that sow chaos, doubt, and confusion.

The American Legion always has and will continue to advocate for a robust and unconventional force; therefore, these Special Forces Commands must continue to be adequately staffed, trained, and provided with state-of-the-art equipment.

To read the full article, click Here

>>> For the first time in many years the Army is recruiting civilians to join the U.S. Special Forces. This means that you can enlist on a Special Forces contract, which puts you in the pipeline for the required Special Forces training program.

https://www.military.com/special-operations/joining-the-army-special-forces.html

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

The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Memorial, located in the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California was designated as a national memorial by the U.S. Congress in September 2005. The bronze statue, sculpted by Vietnam Veteran Lewis Lee Millett, Jr., is the image of an American serviceman on his knees and bound by his captors. The statue is surrounded by black marble pillars, representing imprisonment. The memorial honors the over 607, 000 U.S. prisoners of war and 170,000 servicemen and women listed as missing in action since the Revolutionary War.

March 24 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Skaggs, E.)

March 24 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Lawrence, E.)

March 24 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Bates, H.)

March 24 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Ballance, W.)

March 22 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Paradis, G.)

March 22 2021: USS Oklahoma Marine Accounted For From World War II (Middleswart, J.)

March 22 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Rehab, L.)

Legislative Issues

- 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. The American Legion supports a fully funded quality of life (Resolution No. 85, 2016)
- 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)
- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity and promulgate best practices and standards and ensure the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Staff Activity: **Resolutions & Reports**
https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/resolutionbooklet_2017.pdf

- ✓ Updates to oppose deportation to non-citizen immigrant veterans
- ✓ New resolution to opposed deportation of non-citizen immigrant veteran family members
- ✓ New resolution to support legislation for naturalization fees waived for family members of purple heart recipients
- ✓ Updates to support for our first responders and law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Updates to our Spirit of Service Award to add Space Force
- ✓ Review the Taiwan Straits Dialogue

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