VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff attended an "*Aerospace Nation*" webinar hosted by the Mitchel Institute with Lt Gen James Dawkins, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, and Maj Gen Michael Lutton, Commander, Twentieth Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command. The discussion focused on the importance of the Air Force's nuclear enterprise to the nation's security. How the global nuclear landscape has changed, and how the Air Force is progressing in recapitalizing its nuclear forces.

- NS Staff facilitated a meeting with the Commission's National Commander's Representative, Gary Walker, and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, Liz Hartman, to discuss ways the American Legion can help address the problem of US ambassador vacancies in key countries. An issue that experts warn is detrimental to Washington's bilateral relationships and the efficacy of US foreign policy.

- NS Staff participated in the Interagency Veterans Advisory Council quarterly meeting. The keynote speaker was Julie Chavez Rodriquez, Senior Advisor and Assistant to The President and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs reiterated the importance of unity of effort across the Government as it relates to "*Wellness in the Armed Forces.*"

- NS Staff attended a Webinar titled "*A Global Outlook*" hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) featuring Former Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. The focus of the conversation was Dr. Esper's latest book—A Sacred Oath: Memoirs of a Secretary of Defense During Extraordinary Times—as well as the current situations in Ukraine and China and the state of the US defense industrial base.

- NS Staff joined Legislative Division staff in an AUMF coalition meeting with the House and Senate offices, leading the effort to repeal the 2002 Iraq War Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) in the 118th Congress. Legislative strategy and coordination of action were discussed.

- NS Staff attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia as the conflict enters its twelfth month. Testifying before the committee was Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, US Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Erin McKee, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Celeste Wallander. During the hearing, senators urged the senior Biden administration officials to do a better job explaining to the American people its plan for military success in Ukraine to maintain public support for continued foreign aid to the besieged country. Chairman Menendez's (D-N.J.) opening remarks are here, and Ranking Member Risch's (R-ID) opening statement is here. The video of the hearing is here.

POW/MIA

DPAA has identified/repatriated 15 servicemembers so far this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

Processed request: Ammo – 5,120; Rifle – 25: Clips – 30: Static Display – 3
Participants: Post – 7; Department – 6

TIP OF THE WEEK

The military recruiting effort needs veterans' voices for future success. Here's how you can help.
The American Legion is an organization of veterans who fought for freedom, which we are dedicated to keeping and preserving. As veterans, we realize the importance of the Military in protecting our nation, its values, and vital interests. Because the ability of the Military to defend the country depends directly on a sizable force of top-notch volunteers, current recruitment and retention challenges are an issue much in the news and on the minds of this nation's leaders. Legionnaires can play an essential role in inspiring today's youth to join the current serving ranks and build on the proud legacy of those who have already stood their watch. How can you help? Share your story – in whichever branch you served – with the youth in your community. Encourage them to be part of something greater than themselves, to protect and defend the freedoms and values upon which we built our great nation.

Here are several resources that can assist you in your efforts:

- Long, slow decline of the US military's all-volunteer force puts America in danger, Column by former Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.
- It's time for conversations about the value of military service, Column by Gen. David H. Berger, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.
- Today's Military is a website produced by the US Department of Defense as a resource for young adults, parents, and educators curious about military service.