National Security Division Report
Week ending 28 August 2020

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

The National Security Forum

You are cordially invited to join us virtually

Saturday August 29, 2020 from 9 A.M. – 11 A.M. EDT

OPENING REMARKS
National Security Commission Chairman Steven Brennan

MODERATOR
National Security Director Rhonda Powell

Guest speakers from the National Security and Foreign Affairs community will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on National Security and Defense Global Affairs

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: https://legion.zoom.us/j/98470022261

AGENDA

Saturday, August 29, 2020 (All times Eastern Daylight Time)

9:00 a.m. Opening formalities: Rhonda Powell, National Security Division Director. Pledge of Allegiance. Staff video.

9:05 a.m. National Security Division staff intros: Rhonda Powell on the National Security Division; Jeff Steele, with Michael A. Murieen, SMSgt, USAF, on Botswana engagement, and Commander's Foreign Travel; Nick Riffel on Law Officer & Firefighter of the Year Regional Awards.

9:15 a.m. Greetings: The American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford
Opening Remarks: National Security Commission Chairman Steven Brennan

9:30 a.m. Ambassador (Ret.) Robert M. Beecroft, U.S. State Department
- Bio: https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/member/robert-mason-beecroft/

9:50 a.m. Q & A

10:00 a.m. Michael Luttrell, Senior Global Health Systems Development Consultant, Defense Security Cooperation Agency / Defense Institute for Medical Operations.

In conversation with Dorothy Narvaez-Woods, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Moderated by Sean Sorbie, Director of Veterans Outreach, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC).

- Bio: https://www.linkedin.com/in/luttrellmichael/

10:20 a.m. Q & A

10:30 a.m. Dr. Alton Frye, presidential senior fellow emeritus, Council on Foreign Relations

- Bio: https://www.stimson.org/ppl/alton-frye/

10:50 a.m. Q & A

11:00 a.m. Closing Remarks

Two killed by gunfire as Kenosha protests erupt in violence

Two people were killed and another wounded during a third night of protests in the US city of Kenosha in Wisconsin after a police officer shot a Black man in the back seven times, paralyzing him. Gunfire at the demonstration erupted at about 11:45pm on Tuesday (04:45 GMT Wednesday) with at least three people hit, the Kenosha Police Department said.

The third gunshot victim was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, a statement said.

Social media video showed a gun battle among civilians with several people rushing a man with a long gun who apparently had been knocked to the ground. The video shows him firing at the people rushing towards him, one of whom falls to the ground. Several other shots are heard in the background.

Earlier, police had fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters angered by the shooting of Jacob Blake Jr, a 29-year-old Black man, who was struck from behind at point-blank range in a hail of bullets fired on Sunday by police who were following him with guns drawn as he walked away from them to his car and opened a door to the vehicle.

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Shinzo Abe, Japan's Longest-Serving Prime Minister, Resigns Because of Illness

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan said on Friday that he was resigning because of ill health, thrusting his country, during a global pandemic, into a new period of political uncertainty after a record-setting tenure that provided unaccustomed stability at the top.

Mr. Abe, 65, announced his decision to step down just four days after he had set a record for the longest uninterrupted run as Japanese leader — nearly eight years — but before he had achieved some of his most cherished ambitions.

Since taking over at the end of 2012 as the sixth prime minister in five years, he had overseen Japan's recovery from a devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, restored the country to a semblance of economic health, and curried favor with an unpredictable American president, Donald J. Trump.

Yet despite his long hold on power — it was his second stint as prime minister, having held the post from 2006 to 2007 — Mr. Abe fell short of his ultimate goal of revising the pacifist Constitution installed by the United States after World War II. He was also unable to secure the return of contested islands claimed by both Japan and Russia so that the two countries could sign a peace treaty to officially end the war.

Read the rest here.

Iran to allow UN watchdog access to 2 suspected ex-nuclear sites

Iran has agreed to allow inspectors by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog to access two suspected former secret nuclear sites, after a months-long standoff between the two sides.

The agreement reached on Wednesday came during a visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi to Tehran for high-level talks.

"Iran is voluntarily providing the IAEA with access to the two locations specified by the IAEA," Grossi and the head of Iran's nuclear agency, Ali Akbar Salehi, said in a joint statement. "Dates for the IAEA access and the verification activities have been agreed."

In exchange, the agency said it would pursue no further questions regarding this issue.

"Both sides recognize the independence, impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA continue to be essential in the fulfilment of its verification activities," the statement said. The IAEA had for months sought access to the sites in Tehran and Isfahan where Iran is suspected of having stored or used undeclared nuclear material.

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POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released the following announcements. Click on the links to read more:

August 26, 2020: USS West Virginia Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Johnson, C.)
August 26, 2020: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Gilbert, G.)

Legislative Issue Tracker

Below is legislation the National Security Division is tracking in Congress. New bills are highlighted in yellow. Click on the bill numbers to see more information about the bills.

Bill #	Short Title
S. Res. 510/H. Res. 910	A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan
H. RES. 1012	Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
H.R. 3508/ S.1634	South China Sea Sanctions
H.R.367	Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019
S.2297	Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019
H.R. 4710	The bipartisan Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act
H.R. 303	Retired Pay Restoration Act
H.R. 4890	The Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act
H.R. 5151	Honoring the Oath Act
S.2794	Bring Our Heroes Home Act
H.R.6395	FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act
S. 3393	A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
S. 1041	Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019

S. 3732	A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes
S 1218/HR 2249	World War I Valor Medals Review Act
H.R.4807	Cold War Service Medal Act
H.Con,Res 10	Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death.
S. 3258	SHIPS Implementation Act
H.R.3233	National Defense Strategy Implementation Act

Click on the link below to open an Excel spreadsheet to see the full legislative tracker:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KgPaIfx04RA13m20qLDh5br8dyxiupVX5Dc5ByZteRQ/edit?usp=sharing

Staff Activity:

- Staff attended a webinar roundtable with the Military Family Advisory Network. Topics included military facilities, housing, and quality of life for our servicemembers. The discussion not only included active duty, but reserve elements and guard members as well. The meeting revolve around factually based information and what our servicemembers are experiencing in today's military.
- Staff finalized preparations for the National Security Forum noted above.

Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division