VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

Mario Marquez, Director
MMarquez@legion.org

October 24-28, 2022

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Director attended an initial meeting with Blue Star Family outreach and program managers. The discussion centered around military quality of life issues, and Blue Star-produced surveys which can help inform quality of life research and installation visit preparation.

- NS staff attended a virtual quarterly update hosted by Express Script; a TRICARE-contracted, prescription medicine home delivery company. The meeting focused on various issues that may result from TRICARE's retail pharmacy network cuts.

- NS staff is inquiring with the U.S. Army to determine if the Department of Defense (DoD) will move forward with directing the Military Postal Service Agency to cancel access to overseas mailboxes for non-uniformed civilians. If the service is cancelled, military retirees and some government employees who reside overseas may be affected.

- NS staff hosted a meeting with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to discuss current matters involving Military treatment facility staffing levels and changes impacting access to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network that take effect on October 24, 2022. Four percent of the TRICARE- eligible population will be impacted when up to 15,000 pharmacy locations depart the nation-wide network.

- NS staff hosted the National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Committee Chairmen in the Washington D.C. office for a full range of briefs including staff, programs, legislative, and various other NS issues.

- Over the past few weeks, The White House and Department of Defense released the critically overdue National Security Strategy and 2022 National Defense Strategy policy documents that NS staff is reviewing. Both documents are critical to informing the American Legion's National Security posture and Legionnaires are encouraged to review them in detail.

- For those Legionnaires who would like to sign up for the daily (weekdays only) e-mail version of the Department of Defense's ***Early Bird Brief Newsletter,*** please register at the following link: *Defense News Early Bird Sign Up*

POW/MIA

October 20, 2022

- Soldier accounted for from Korean War (Malcolm, H.)
- Soldier accounted for from Vietnam War (Finger, S.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated ***165*** servicemembers so far this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 4,960; Rifle – 38; Clips – 0; Static Display – 2
- Participants: Post – 9; Department – 7

Tip of the Week

With the recent changes in TRICARE's retail pharmacy network, here are five reasons to switch to the ***Tricare Pharmacy Home Delivery***: Stress-free Ordering, Copayment savings, security and reliability, 24/7 pharmacist support, and managing your prescription from your phone.