THE NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

WEEKLY REPORT

China's Capabilities Growth Shows Why the U.S. Sees Nation as Pacing Challenges

Army Gen. Mark A. Milley pointed to China's recent test of a hypersonic weapon system as an example of why the U.S. military is concerned about Chinese intentions. The Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman spoke on Bloomberg News' David Rubenstein Show and said DOD officials saw the test as "a very significant event." Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby emphasized that China's development of a wide range of systems and capabilities paired with their aggressive foreign and economic policies are clearly why Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III sees China as America's pacing challenge.

Click here for the full story

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The National Security Division monitors various issues that impact multiple aspects of the portfolio as it applies to the American's Legion's posture on matters of interest. Currently, the following topics are being tracked by staff and Commission / Committee leadership:

- Food Insecurity in the Armed Forces of the United States of America
- Hearings on extremism in America and its potential impact on the military community, including active duty, Guard/Reserve forces, and veterans.
- Immigration, including illegal immigration and its impact on Homeland Security
- Citizenship through military service
- Progress to the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022
- Tricare changes or improvements in access to the military community
- Cyber Security threats and risks
- Military Sexual Trauma and efforts within Department of Defense
- Progress of COVID Vaccine DoD-mandated implementation
- Staff conducted a bill review on S. 2922: Afghanistan War Commission Act of 2021

STAFF ACTIVITY

- As part of a series of Service component updates for each DoD branch, staff attended the monthly Army MSO/VSO meeting. The discussion highlighted factors that plagued the Reserve Component – in particular, the National Guard. Colonel Rebecca Eggers discussed phase two of the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (IPPS-A), deployed to the entire Army National Guard (54) States and Territories. With a commitment to moving the Army to a 21st-century talent management system, which includes modernizing how the Army manages data at the enterprise level.

  Finally, a discussion on Military Sexual Assault in the Army focuses on their SHARPE Fusion Directorate Pilot. The Army will hire a more extensive staff for this program to reduce the time to investigate reported cases. The new hires will comprise of season staff who have experience dealing with sexual assault cases. More to come.

- The staff has contacted the State Department and Homeland Security regarding Afghanistan Refugees housed at U.S. military installations. To date, there have been more than 50,000 Afghans evacuated in 2021, but the numbers listed at all military installations are 46,603.

  1. **Fort McCoy, Wisconsin**
     Currently housing 13,000 Afghan refugees
     Fort McCoy - Afghan Refugees.
  2. **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey**
     Planning on housing up to 13,000 Afghan Refugees
     Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Afghan Refugees
  3. **Fort Bliss, Texas**
     Currently housing just under 10,000 Afghan Refugees
     Fort Bliss - Afghan Refugees .
  4. **Fort Lee, Virginia**
     Planning on housing 3,500 Afghan Refugees
     Fort Lee - Afghan Refugees
  5. **Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico**
     Currently housing 3,900 Afghan Refugees
     Holloman Air Force Base - Afghan Refugees
  6. **Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.**
     Planning on housing 5,000 Afghan Refugees
     Marine Corps Base Quantico - Afghan Refugees
  7. **Fort Pickett, Virginia**
     Currently housing up to 5,000 Afghan Refugees
     Fort Pickett - Afghan Refugees
  8. **Camp Atterbury Indiana**
     Currently housing 6,603 Afghan refugees
     Camp Atterbury - Afghan Refugees

- Staff is currently working on a white paper addressing the issues of food insecurity within the military. An issue that has been plaguing our lower enlisted servicemembers (E-1 thru E-5).

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

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) works with Panama Servicio Nacional Aeronaval (SENAN) Security Force service members to conduct casualty evacuation training in Santiago, Panama, on October 18, 2021. DPAA will be performing recovery operations in Panama for the next 60 days to find missing naval aircrew members lost during a training flight in 1985. The mission of DPAA is to provide the total possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

October 25, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Herynk, R.)

October 27, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Lindsey, H.)

PROGRAMS

- The American Legion has aligned with the U.S Army *TACOM* (Tank - automotive and Armaments Command) Army Donations Program. In doing so were are able to provide our members with ceremonial rifles and static displays to be used in parades, funerals, functions, and decommissioned military equipment displayed at the post.
- In the month of October, the National Security Division supplied...

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