The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Last week, Ariel, the Senior Policy Advisor of the National Security Division, and interns were invited to Afghan Embassy to meet with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. President Ghani invited American veterans, their families, and Gold Star families to personally share his gratitude and appreciation for their sacrifice during the War on Terror in Afghanistan. Pictured below is Ariel and the interns with Her Excellency, Roya Rahmani, the Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States.

This past Wednesday, the National Security Division Team bid intern Logan Ragsdale good luck and farewell. He leaves the Division for permanent employment at a local consulting firm. Logan recently graduated from Vassar College in New York with a Bachelor of Arts in Classics and History. Congratulations and good luck!

From Director Rhonda Powell, Senior Policy Advisor Ariel De Jesus, and the rest of the National Security team, Happy Independence Day!

HOUSE VOTES TO REPEAL 1991, 1957 WAR AUTHORIZATIONS

On the heels after the House voted to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF), the House also voted to repeal the 1991 and 1957 AUMF and Resolution. These AUMFs are considered outdated and if left in the books could undermine Congress' authority to approve military action. Likewise, the repeal of these three AUMFs is a sign to rein the President's power that allows him to unilaterally authorize military action abroad, like President Biden's order to attack military targets in Syria and Iraq recently. Despite this repeal, it was argued by President Biden that he had the legal authority to attack said targets by powers vested to him in Article II.

The repeal of the 1957, 1991, and 2002 AUMFs have generally been a bipartisan effort. While the House heavily debated the repeal of the 2002 AUMF, the argument to repeal the 1957 and 1991 came much easier. Many cited that President Eisenhower's 1957 AUMF meant to deter the Soviet Union and the spread of communism is no longer relevant, simply for the fact that the Soviet Union no longer exists. Likewise, many argued the 1991 AUMF authorizing US forces to engage Iraq over its occupation of Kuwait, met its goal and no longer relevant.

The American Legion supports the repeal of the 1957, 1991, and 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

Click here to read more.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations

- Support for Afghan Interpreters through the Special Immigrant Visa Program – The American Legion advocate for Afghan Interpreters who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. Forces and Diplomats contributing to saving countless American lives. The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Afghan SIV recipients. (Resolution No. 16, 2018) Recognition for Afghan and Iraq Combat Translators.
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Military Benefits and Quality of Life

- 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. 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)

Law and Order & Homeland Security

- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity, promulgate best practices and standards, and protect critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)

STAFF ACTIVITY

Unconventional Forces & Intelligence

- Staff attended House Armed Services Subcommittee hearing on Cyber, Innovative Technologies and Information Systems Hearing: "Department of Defense Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Information Assure for Fiscal Year 2022." The hearing highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the Department of Defense and military services relating to information technology, cybersecurity, and information assurance reform and modernization in alignment with the National Defense Strategy. Through many Defense Authorization Acts, Congress has greatly improved funding for a more efficient cybersecurity task force within the DOD. I.T. serves a greater purpose than many would think and undergirds almost every facet of the Department, including managing weapon systems, keeping communication networks for our troops safe, and keeping DOD networks secure. Our defense networks can not afford to slow down and must keep a strategic vision in a world where cyber warfare is constantly changing, and U.S. adversaries adapting with it.

Law and Order & Homeland Security

- Staff attended Senate Appropriations hearing to review the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Request for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This hearing discussed the Fiscal Year 2022 funding request for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and some of the threats and challenges that we face as a nation. Some of the concurring issues the nation faces are, homegrown violent extremist, cyber-attacks, sexual exploitation of children, gangs, corruption, and fraud. Criminals, terrorist, and extremist are quickly advancing in modern day technology. The challenges that the nation face are complex, and the FBI must stay on top of these issues by continuing to evolve technologically.

Conventional Armed Forces

- Staff attended a Senate Armed Services committee reviewing the Department of the Navy FY 2022 budget request. The hearing discussed and questioned the witnesses on multiple issues and challenges that face the navy and Marine Corps. Likewise, the witnesses shared their decision-making process on what was cut from the budget to maximize readiness and efficiency for operations. Acting Secretary Hawker shared that funding was to cut to certain programs to fund more relevant projects. Importantly, the hearing discusses multiple problems in the current budget request that may stymie naval and Marine Corps readiness. The witnesses shared their solutions to address said issues within the parameters of the current request budget, while also sharing their concerns on certain issues that they feel may hinder Naval and Marine Corps operations.
- Staff attended a Senate Armed Services committee reviewing the Department of the Air Force FY 2022 budget request. The hearing discussed and questioned the witnesses on multiple issues that addressed and provided updates on projects and programs within the Department of the Air Force and the FY 2022 budget request. The main points of questioning were the Air Force's planned retirements of assets, mainly aircraft. Additionally, planned procurements of new assets like 5th generation weapons and fighters to address the near peer adversaries, like China and Russia. Other questions included the significant decrease in flying hours and the integration in cyber security. The witnesses provided relevant justifications and rational in their decision-making for their requests while adhering to the boundaries of its budget.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

- July 1, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Gooch, G.)
- June 30, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Paradis, G.)
- June 30, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Owsley, A.)
- June 30, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Smead, W.)
- June 30, 2021: Marine Accounted For From World War II (Stoddard, D.)
- June 30, 2021: Marine Accounted For From World War II (Hancock, J.L.)

Honorable Carry from Laos

DPAA members conducted an Honorable Carry ceremony on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, June 23, for possible remains recently recovered during a mission to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The remains were recently repatriated to the U.S. during a ceremony in Vientiane, Laos, and will be examined by forensic anthropologist and odontologists at DPAA's skeletal laboratory where the process of identification will begin. As always, DPAA is grateful to the Laotian government for their sustained cooperation and partnership in this mission, and looks forward to continuing partnership in the future.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford

PROGRAMS

JUNIOR ROTC AWARDS CEREMONY

JROTC Awards Ceremony at Lenape High School Army Junior ROTC School year 2021. Thank you to The American Legion for their continued support of JROTC programs and youths nationwide.

Top 25 percent in Academic Subject and JROTC

Top 10 percent in Academic, 25 percent in JROTC

ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

US House votes to ease entry process for Afghan interpreters

"The U.S. House of Representatives easily passed legislation Tuesday that would make it easier for Afghans who worked for the American military or NATO to relocate to the U.S. Under the bill, former interpreters, drivers and others who supported the war effort would no longer be required to get a medical examination in Afghanistan as part of the application process for the special immigrant visa. They would instead have to get one within 30 days of their arrival in the United States."
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31 rescued, including 14 children, in massive human trafficking operation in Kansas City, Independence, Wichita

"U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said a recent operation in Wichita, Independence, and Kansas City, Missouri, resulted in the rescue of 31 victims of human trafficking — including 14 missing children — for sexual exploitation. ICE said the youngest child was 4 years old and 17 were adults."
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China expert John Culver on Beijing's military prowess - "Intelligence Matters"

"In this episode of "Intelligence Matters," host Michael Morell speaks with John Culver, a career CIA analyst, former National Intelligence officer for East Asia, and leading expert on the Chinese military. Culver and Morell discuss the decades-long modernization of the People's Liberation Army and the prowess China has attained across multiple war-fighting arenas. Culver offers insights into Xi Jinping's rise to and continued hold on power and describes the many challenges of engaging Beijing in a multi-polar, interconnected global system."
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U.S. Questioned Whether Afghan Government Could Survive Taliban Onslaught

"The Biden administration is mapping out a strategy for Afghanistan after the U.S. military completes its withdrawal that is centered around the boosting of economic support for the government, even as many Afghans are “increasingly skeptical” of the government’s competence, according to an internal State Department document submitted to Congress and newly obtained by Foreign Policy."
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