VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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January 30 – February 3, 2023

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff continues intensive preparations for the upcoming Washington Conference.
- NS Director met with NS Staff to discuss individual research plans for assigned topics that will be a part of the Military Quality of Life Program the NS Division is building.
- NS Staff met with Legislative Division Staff to discuss a new House Armed Services Committee task force that will focus on military quality of life issues. It will be led by Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb, a former Air Force officer. You can read more about the task force here.
- NS Staff attended an event at the Institute of World Politics titled *Lessons from the Russo-Ukraine War and its U.S.-China Application* presented by graduate student Robert Roseberry. The presentation showed how Russia and Ukraine compete by using social media and propaganda to shape the narrative of the war to benefit their respective side. Because both sides of the Russo-Ukraine war have seen success through propaganda, the use of social media to change the narrative is something the speaker believes China could successfully use during an invasion of Taiwan.
- NS Staff participated in a National Security Powers Act steering committee meeting to discuss the reintroduction of the legislation in the new Congress, legislative strategy and coordination of effort.
- NS staff met to discuss, in-depth, food insecurity issues and our plans to research the topic and how best to approach the topic to find potential solutions. In addition, this research will be included in the framework of the Military Quality of Life Program.
- NS Staff met with a military spouse who leads an organization that advocates for military families suffering from food insecurity, in our efforts to research and conduct data collection.
- NS Staff met with Blue Star Families to discuss the military's Basic Needs Allowance as it relates to food insecurity and discuss opportunities to collaborate on research efforts.
- NS Staff read a March 2020 Government Accountability Officer report on Military Housing, in our efforts to research and conduct data collection related to military housing issues.
- NS Staff met to discuss how the NS Division can assist in the Legion's suicide prevention effort: the Be The One campaign.

- NS Staff made final edits to a proposed Commander's Message or possible Information paper on vacant ambassador posts.
- NS Staff attended a web event hosted by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft titled: *Blinken's Trip to Beijing: U.S.–China Relations at a Crossroads.* The panelists discussed Secretary of State Antony Blinken's upcoming official visit to Beijing on February 5–6. More information and video of the event is here.
- NS Director completed a trip to the Department of Colorado where he briefed National Security issues and related efforts involving the NS Commission and Committees.
- NS Director attended a Washington Conference Sync/coordination meeting with Indianapolis and Washington D.C. staff.

POW/MIA

February 2, 2023

- Pilot accounted for from World War II (Winger, G.)
- Soldier accounted for from Korea (Dupont, D.)

January 30, 2023

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Pile, P.)
- USS Oklahoma Sailor account for from World War II (Goggin, D.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 19 servicemember so far this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 4,960; Rifle – 30; Clips – 25; Static Display – 0
- Participants: Post – 5; Departments – 4

Tip of the Week

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts. Currently, more than 81,500 Americans remain missing. In 1998, Congress officially designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Resolution No. 288 adopted at the 67th American Legion National convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States. If you would like more information about DPAA's mission or would like to volunteer, visit their website here.

Legionnaires are encouraged to view and share the following official DPAA video located here.