NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION REPORT

National Security Division Report
Week ending 6 November 2020

Esper urged to stay put as Pentagon Chief as election drags on

Defense Secretary Mark Esper is expected to resign in the coming days, but an increasing number of defense establishment figures are asking him to stick around to ensure a peaceful transition should Joe Biden win the presidency.

Since Esper's relationship with President Donald Trump soured this summer over his public opposition to using active-duty troops to quash civil unrest, the Defense secretary had been widely expected to depart shortly after Election Day no matter who won the presidency. The issue was revived on Thursday when NBC, citing defense officials, said Esper has prepared his letter of resignation.

"This is a matter of national security," said Arnold Punaro, former staff director for the Senate Armed Services Committee and a retired Marine Corps major general. "During the next 76 days, our allies and adversaries should understand that President Trump retains full powers as commander in chief and the chain of command is intact from him to Secretary Esper to the warfighting commanders."

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TRICARE:
Most working-age retirees must start paying Tricare Select fees, or will be kicked out of coverage

Hundreds of thousands of military retirees will be required to pay an enrollment fee for Tricare Select starting Jan. 1, and if they don't set up their payment by then, they'll be disenrolled from the health care coverage, according to Defense Health Agency officials.

These fees affect retirees and their family members in the so-called Group A — the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment was before Jan. 1, 2018. The retirees in Group A are generally working-age retirees under age 65. Currently they don't pay enrollment fees, but under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, Congress required defense officials to start charging these working-age retirees enrollment fees. It also applies to Tricare Overseas Program Select Group A retirees.

There were 407,431 military retirees and 764,936 retiree family members in Tricare Select at the end of 2019, according to a DoD report.

The law delayed the start of these fees until Jan. 1, 2021. Also starting in 2021, the catastrophic cap for how much these retirees pay out of pocket for Tricare-covered services increases from $3,000 to $3,500.

It doesn't affect retirees in the Tricare for Life program, nor does it affect Chapter 61 retirees (receiving disability retirement) and their family members, and survivors of deceased active duty service members.

Click Here To Read More

TRICARE Webinar: Thursday, Nov. 19, 1-2 p.m. | TRICARE Open Season is Here-What to Do?

Description: Don't miss your chance to make changes to your health, dental, or vision coverage for next year. Open season for TRICARE beneficiaries runs from Nov. 9 to Dec. 14. This webinar will discuss TRICARE Open Season and Federal Benefits Open Season to help you navigate your 2021 health, dental, and vision plan choices. Join by registering below for a presentation and Q&A session.

Registration Link:
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7613761091806221581

**The webinar is completely virtual and will include a Q&A following the presentation. You must be registered and in the webinar platform to submit a question electronically. If you call in by phone, you'll only be able to listen to the webinar. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released the following announcements:

The "FamWeb" is an online space for sharing general information with families of missing personnel, such as case synopses and battlefield summaries. As always, family members of missing personnel should stay in touch with their designated casualty officer to get specific details on their missing loved ones and the government's efforts to account for them. If you do not know your casualty office, the following link provides a list of each one:

http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information.

Some of the highlights of the new content and features on FamWeb are:

- FamWeb links information from the Service Member Profiles Project with the relevant operations and battle narratives to provide more context and history for each loss incident. We strive to publish new loss profile narratives every day, so through these updates the history behind brave Americans who dutifully served and sacrificed for this great nation is better available.
- Enhanced statistics and reporting tools are explained in more detail to help generate on-demand lists of individuals from your home state who are still missing or were recently accounted-for.

~Retrieved November 6, 2020 from https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaFamWeb

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
H.R.8494	To reaffirm the critical role of congressional consultation and to require appropriate deliberation to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of Israel
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:

- November 4, 2020 Staff attended the Army Partner Call hosted by Brigadier General Amy Hannah to provide updates from the Army Community Relations and Outreach Division. Of note, provided was a look inside Project Convergence that revealed how the U.S. Army is preparing for war in the next decade. It is a new campaign of learning designed to aggressively advance and integrate the Army's contribution to the Joint Force. Project Convergence is the centerpiece of the transformational change the Army is undertaking to stay ahead of emerging challenges to our national security. ..\ProjectConvergence20 Overview_OCPA-4NOV2020_Final.pdf
- Highlighted was the November 11th opening of The National Museum of the United States Army. The museum provides the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions through the eyes of the American Soldier. By preserving, interpreting, and

exhibiting invaluable artifacts, the National Army Museum creates learning opportunities for all visitors and bonds the American people to their oldest military service. We are America's Army Museum. As a place to both commemorate and educate, the Museum will provide a welcoming home for Veterans and offer visitors of all ages the opportunity to better understand the role that American Soldiers play in shaping the history of this nation and the world.

National Museum of the United States Army
Opening November 11, 2020

- Join the National Army Museum live stream opening ceremony for November 11 at 1 p.m. EST: **https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/25129**
- National Army Museum YouTube video: **https://youtu.be/3MLNA_bf2EE**

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- November 4, 2020 Staff attended The Center for Women Veterans Partner Call with guest speaker Ms. Pamela J. Powers, Acting Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide several benefit and program updates pertaining women veterans. The following Quality of Life opportunities and resources were presented:

- 2 million Women Veterans
- Spotlighting many faces
- I Am Not Invisible (IANI) aims to increase awareness and dialogue about women Veterans

Contact The Center for Women Veterans

Women Veteran Outreach – Calling All Women Who Served. November is National Veterans and Military Families Month which we know is near and dear to each of us. Every year the President signs a Proclamation declaring this as the significant month to honor the women and men who honorably served and serve our country. The Center for Women Veterans is planning a very special surprise for November and to support it we invite you to send photographs of yourself and other women Veterans to the link below. We want to see women of every era, every rank and every branch. Dig out your photos of yourself, your grandmothers, your mothers, your sisters, your aunts and your daughters. We will unveil this surprise on Veterans Day! **Submit Your Photos Here**

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- November 7, 2020 Join Staff in attending the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency upcoming VIRTUAL Family Event with family members of the missing to provide information about DoD's program to account for personnel from past conflicts.

ATTEND DPAA'S UPCOMING VIRTUAL FAMILY EVENT

Little Rock, AR (VIRTUAL EVENT) Nov. 7

***Important NOTE: The Family Updates are specifically tailored to meet the individual needs of attendees representing losses from all conflicts.** CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Please contact your Service Casualty Officer if you have additional questions.

U.S. Air Force: 1-800-531-5501
U.S. Army: 1-800-892-2490
U.S. Marine Corps: 1-800-847-1597
U.S. Navy: 1-800-443-9298
State Department: 1-202-485-6106

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***Upcoming Event:* Due to COVID-19, this will be a wreath presentation event only**

- November 11, 2020 Veteran's Day, National Vice Commander Francis MacDonald, Jr. will attend the Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and conduct a wreath presentation. National Security Chairman Steven Brennan and Staff will be in attendance along with Ambassador Lee Soo-hyuck-Embassy of the Republic Of Korea (TBD), Kelly McKeague-Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Mrs. Yumi Hogan-First Lady of Maryland, and General (Ret) John Tilelli, Jr.-Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation as host.

Korean War Veterans attending:

1. Charles Garrod
2. Jack Keep
3. Al Ullman
4. David Clark
5. Lewis Ewing
6. Steve Culbert
7. Donald Everhart
8. Bill Scott
9. John Edwards
10. Tim Whitmore
11. Ed Brooks
12. Sam Fielder

13. Paul Cunningham
14. James Carter

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