VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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June 3 – June 7, 2024

Meeting

- NS Staff attended a virtual hearing titled "*U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in North and South America*." Hosted by the House Armed Service Committee. The hearing focused on the Department of Defense (DoD) activities in the Western Hemisphere and continued challenges to national security.

- NS Staff attended a virtual event hosted by the American Enterprise Institute on Securing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Deployment. Panelists at the event discussed the importance of AI for national security and ensuring that AI developments are protected from malicious actors.

- NS Staff heard from experts at the Atlantic Council about potential security risks to the international technology supply chain. The discussion focused on the National Defense Industrial Strategy and how we are working with our allies to ensure that military procurement and technological supply chains are resilient in the face of enemy aggression.

- NS Staff participated in a talk by the Brookings Institute on Taiwan and the political climate with the People's Republic of China.

- NS Staff spoke with a representative from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency about the unveiling of the 2024 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster, which is scheduled for June 20th, 2024.

Policy

- NS Staff reviewed a Letter of Support co-signing the Richard Star Act. The letter emphasizes the importance of granting Combat Service-Related disabled servicemembers who were medically retired the ability to receive both retired pay and disability pay.

- NS Staff reviewed its Access Granted booklet to facilitate relevant updates and to provide additional tools for Legionnaires to access military installations.

- NS Staff provided subject matter expertise on a proposed resolution designed to restore respect for the military and Veterans.

- NS Staff participated in D-Day observances in Normandy, France. While there, the National Commander and NS staff visited Ste. Mere-Eglise and La Fiere Bridge. They also laid a wreath at the Airborne Monument.

- NS Staff met with the Legislative Division to discuss text changes made by the Senate Commerce Committee to a bill—a rare occurrence. The American Legion did not support the previous version of the bill, which highlights the American Legion's significant impact and influence.

PROGRAMS/AWARDS

- NS Staff communicated with the Department Adjutant of Georgia regarding their submissions for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year awards.

- NS Staff continued coordinating with all seven service branches to finalize The American Legion Spirit of Service Award winners.

- NS Staff engaged with the Joint Munitions Command Ceremonial Veteran Ammunition Program to discuss their participation in the National Convention.

Be The One (BTO)

- NS Staff has developed a comprehensive one-page report detailing the statistics of suicides within the military for the period between 2021 and 2023.

POW/MIA

DPAA has identified/repatriated 78 service members this year.

June 6, 2024
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Hosfelt, H.)

June 4, 2024
- Airman Accounted for from WWII (Cox, O.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Hudson, M.)

June 3, 2024
- Airman Accounted for from WWII (Powers, C.)
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from WWII (Herbert, G.)
- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Trujillo, M.)

The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment

- Processed request: Ammo – 6200; Rifles – 39; Clips – 25; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 8; Departments – 5

TIP OF THE WEEK

On Tuesday, June 4th, President Joe Biden announced an executive order, which can be read here, allowing the Administration to temporarily close ports of entry at the United States' southern border. This move would allow the President to deny entrance to migrants and halt asylum applications when daily crossings exceed 2,500. There would be some exceptions allowed to cross, including disregarding unaccompanied minors, trafficking victims, or people experiencing medical emergencies. When arrivals at the border stay below 1,500 for a prolonged period, the President can reopen ports of entry. The figures for closure and reopening will be based on averages over a week.