NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION REPORT

National Security Division Report
Week ending 8 January 2021

A Shattering Blow to America's Troubled Democratic Image

PARIS — The choreography was unusual: President Emmanuel Macron of France, standing before the Stars and Stripes, declaring in English that "We believe in the strength of our democracies. We believe in the strength of American democracy."

The mob in Washington attempting to disrupt the peaceful transition of American power also posed a threat to all democracies.

And so the presidency of Donald Trump draws to a close with a French leader obliged to declare his faith in the resilience of American democracy, a remarkable development. Mr. Macron's wider point was clear enough: The mob of Trump loyalists in Washington attempting to disrupt the peaceful transition of American power also posed a threat to all democracies.

The reputation of the United States may be tarnished, but its identification with the global defense of democracy remains singular. So, when an angry horde, incited by President Trump himself, was seen taking over the Capitol, defiling its sacred chambers with swaggering contempt as lawmakers gathered to certify President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s victory, the fragility of freedom felt palpable in Paris and across the world.

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Resolution No. 40 Law and Order

Blood donation could earn Super Bowl tickets

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:00 pm Guest Posts VAntage Point Contributor

The American Red Cross and NFL are teaming up this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals – especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 – to give blood and to help tackle the national convalescent plasma shortage.

During this critical time, those who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win two tickets to next year's Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles.* In addition, those who come to give Jan. 1-20 will also be automatically entered to win a 65-inch television and a $500 gift card.**

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood today with the American Red Cross by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

"Blood and plasma donors who have recovered from COVID-19 may have the power to help critically ill patients currently battling the virus," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, Red Cross medical director of clinical services. "With hospital distributions for convalescent plasma increasing about 250% since October, these generous donations are vital in helping to save lives throughout the winter – a time that is often challenging to collect enough blood products for those in need."

As COVID-19 cases have risen across the U.S., so has the need for convalescent plasma – leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood product. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may have antibodies that could provide a patient's immune system the boost it needs to beat the virus.

How those recovered from COVID-19 can help

There are two ways COVID-19 survivors can help – through a convalescent plasma donation or by simply giving whole blood. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients. Health emergencies don't pause for holidays, game days or a pandemic – blood is needed every two seconds in the U.S. to help patients battling injury and illness.

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Resolution No_278 Blood Donor Program

Click here for The American Legion Blood Donor Program Brochure

Resolution No. 30 U.S. Blood Bank

POW/MIA Update:

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released the following announcements. Click on the links to read more:

December 22, 2020: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Parker, I.)
December 23, 2020: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Sharp, W.)
December 23, 2020: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Thomas, R.)
January 5, 202: USS West Virginia Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Barnett, W.)

A Vietnamese recovery team searches for a missing U.S. service member in central Vietnam during the 141st Joint Field Activity (JFA) conducted Sep. 25 - Dec. 5, 2020. During the course of the JFA, three Vietnamese recovery teams excavated four sites and an investigation team conducted unilateral advance work on several other losses throughout the country. Although COVID-19 travel restrictions continue throughout the region, Vietnamese and U.S. officials in Vietnam have capitalized on enhanced cooperation to continue the pace and scope of this important humanitarian effort during a global pandemic.

The U.S. and Vietnam have cooperated closely for over three decades to provide the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing from the Vietnam War. Vietnamese cooperation at all levels of the government and an overwhelming support by the people of Vietnam has helped the U.S. account for 728 Americans since 1973. There are 1,245 Americans still missing in Vietnam. https://www.dpaa.mil/

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.