VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

Mario Marquez, Director
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Mar 4 – 8, 2024

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff began drafting the Advanced NEC Report in preparation for Spring NEC Meetings.
- NS Staff conducted a veteran to veteran(Ukrainian combat veterans) engagement at the Embassy of Ukraine.
- NS Staff completed the MCAS Yuma Quality of Life report and is awaiting final formatting, print and production.
- NS Staff began finalizing standard operating procedure (SOP) binders for realignment of the national security programs into one staff position.
- NS Staff compiled a list of NDAA "asks" to be retained in the final legislation as applicable to TAL resolutions.
- NS Staff virtually attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing entitled, "Yemen and Red Sea Security Issues." Video of the hearing can be viewed here.
- NS Staff virtually attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing entitled, "Tehran's Shadow Army: Addressing Iran's Proxy Network in the Middle East." Video of the hearing can be viewed here.
- NS Staff attended a meeting between the Executive Director and the Honorable Mr. Rob Wilkins, former member of the President's Council on Youth, Sports, Fitness and Nutrition.
- NS Director conducted interviews for two National Security Analyst and Program coordinator positions.
- NS Staff met with Internal Affairs Division to discuss military quality of life and Operation Comfort Warrior related matters.

- NS Director attended a Border Security Conference hosted by the Warrior Defense Project and the Department of Texas' Post 271 in Rosenberg, Texas at the Rosenberg Civic Center, March 2, 2024. The conference focused on policy and legal aspects of border security and presentations were made by the following speakers;

  - Dr. Jeffrey F. Addicott
    Director, Warrior Defense Project
    Professor of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law

    Human Trafficking

    Ms. Kerri Taylor
    Executive Director, Unbound now

    Border Crisis Update

    Honorable Ted Cruz (R-TX)

    National Security Panel

    Mr. James Conway
    Former FBI Special Agent; U.S. Diplomat
    Global Counterterrorism & Risk Mitigation Consultant

    Mr. Arturo A. Fontez
    Fontez International Solutions

    Sheriff Roy Boyd
    Goliad County, TX

    Securing the Texas Border

    Mr. Mayes Middleton
    Texas State Senator (R)
    11th District

    Border Security Policy Engagement Update

    Mr. Mario A. Marquez
    Director, National Security Division

POW/MIA

Mar. 6, 2024

- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from WWII (Overley, L.)

Feb. 28, 2024

- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Strickland, C.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated **24** service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 0; Rifles – 0; Clips – 0; Static Displays – 0
- Participants: Posts – 0; Departments – 0

The American Legion JROTC/ROTC Program

- Military Excellence – 0
- Scholastic Excellence – 0
- Departments – 0

TIP OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday, March 13, 2024, National Commander Daniel Seehafer is scheduled to testify before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs at 10:00am. NS Staff is not testifying but will directly support the week's activities. A live stream of the testimony can be viewed HERE.