WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2021

The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

We would like to welcome Mario Marquez as the new director of the National Security Division.

In addition, we would like to welcome Joseph Glazier, the new chairman of Foreign Relations.

On behalf of the National Security Commission, we would also like to wish James LaCoursiere a farewell and success as the new Chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

DOD Announces Strategy to Tackle Climate Crisis

On Oct. 7, 2021, the White House released Climate Adaptation Plans from each agency, as required by Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis At Home and Abroad." The Department of Defense Climate Adaptation Plan, released with these plans, articulates a bold vision for climate adaptation and aligns adaptation and resilience efforts with the department's warfighting mission.

The DOD CAP is the culmination of more than 10 years of effort within the department to ensure that the military forces of the United States retain operational advantage under all conditions. DOD's Climate Adaptation Plan was approved by the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Management and Budget in June and signed by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on September 1, 2021. The DOD CAP lays out how operations, planning activities, business processes, and resource allocation decisions will include climate change considerations. No entity has the luxury of "opting out" of the effects of climate change, so no activity can "opt out" of the requirement to adapt to a changing climate.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Conventional Armed Forces Committee

Resolution No : 4
Title: Support Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and The Hatch Act of 1939
Origin: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, One of the purposes of The American Legion, congressionally chartered on September 16, 1919, was "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America," and that has not changed 102 years later; and

WHEREAS, One of the valued principles in The American Legion's mission statement is "American Values and Patriotism" meaning "The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution..."; and

WHEREAS, American Legion members, having served in America's armed forces, took an oath "...to defend the Constitution of the United States of America, against all enemies, foreign and domestic...;" an oath that has been taken since 1775 with some revision; and

WHEREAS, Certain documents such as Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1344.10 and the Hatch Act of 1939 (revised in 1993) direct the military to maintain a nonpartisan position regarding politics; and

WHEREAS, Over the last decade with the increased polarization of the political climate in our nation, the instances of violations of the Hatch Act and DoD Directive 1344.10 have become more prolific; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 6-7, 2021, That as the largest veteran service organization, The American Legion reinforce the Hatch Act and Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which serve a vital purpose to ensure military forces remain nonpartisan, including military leaders at all levels of the armed forces

Foreign Relations

Resolution No. 118:
Title : Sustaining United States Commitments In The Indo-Pacific

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28, 29, 30, 2018, That The American Legion support legislative or executive efforts to create a renewed long-term policy framework that demonstrates U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region and the rules-based international order.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2021

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations...

US-China Challenge: Easing Tensions Despite Differences

In a relationship as fraught as America's and China's, just an agreement that talks were productive was a sign of progress. Nine months into Joe Biden's presidency, the two sides finally appear to be trying to ease tensions that date from the Trump administration — though U.S. complaints about Chinese policies on trade, Taiwan and other issues are little diminished.

A closed-door meeting in Zurich on Wednesday between senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan was not accompanied by the public acrimony on display at earlier meetings. After the six-hour talks, the U.S. disclosed an agreement in principle for a virtual summit between Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping by the end of the year. The two have talked by phone twice since Biden became president in January but not held a formal meeting.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Law and Order & Homeland Security

Resolution No: 3
Title: Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2805 (IA) Department Executive Committee

WHEREAS, The United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the inalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is, in essence, a form of modern-day slavery, especially in regard to the sex trade, and involuntary servitude is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Even though awareness of these crimes is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to the isolating nature of these crimes, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and

WHEREAS, This horrific crime claims nearly 40 million victims worldwide, and it disproportionately affects women and girls, as well as other vulnerable populations, including but not limited to the economically disadvantaged, persons with disabilities, runaway youth, youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender which denies human dignity and freedom, and fuels organized crime, which exists in our nation, our state, and our communities; and

WHEREAS, Increased community education and overall training is necessary to identify victims of human trafficking to create awareness of prevention programs addressing human trafficking and re-trafficking for those in the school system, health-care industry, and other community venues required to educate the general public; and

WHEREAS, Relationally focused, trauma-sensitive, and culturally attuned approaches delivered within a social-ecological framework to treat the complex psychological consequences of human trafficking are needed; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, we have a limited understanding of the multiple factors related to human trafficking, and there exists an urgent need to collect data on human trafficking to determine an accurate estimate of victims around the globe and explore its causes and psychological consequences caused by these horrid conditions; and

WHEREAS, Every business, community organization, faithful congregation, family unit, and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working on strategies to protect our youth from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking; by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions by creating community outreach and education initiatives, legislative advocacy, training, promoting services to survivors of human trafficking, and collaborating with law enforcement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 6-7, 2021, That The American Legion support the slavery and human trafficking prevention and awareness programs and laws in our nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Legionnaires are encouraged to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to create solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our communities, and report anything suspicious to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH); that employees of the NHTH are trained to listen to survivors of all forms of human trafficking, provide immediate safety planning for people in crisis, give tips on suspected trafficking, and most importantly aid survivors in understanding their options for support; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion strongly endorses the development and implementation of processes that prevent and expose the horrific conditions of human trafficking; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages government funding of research & development that would address gaps in knowledge.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2021

STAFF ACTIVITY

Foreign Relations

Staff held a virtual meeting with the China desk at the State Department to discuss current U.S., China, and Taiwan relations. Such topics included the recent 150 Chinese warplane flight into Taiwan airspace between Friday and Monday. There is no coincidence that this past week in China was National Day of the People's Republic of China (PRC) or Golden Week which is a seven-day holiday running from October 1st to October 7th. This weeklong holiday dates close to Double Ten Day, October 10th, celebrated in Taiwan as a national holiday and not in China. Double Ten Day takes place on the Chinese Nationalist Party's birthday but does not celebrate for that reason; instead celebrates the start of the Wuchang uprising; an event that began on October 10, 1911 and contributed to the eventual downfall of the China's last imperial dynasty. This is worth mentioning because it provides context and reasoning of why China is flexing its military might over Taiwan as a form of intimidation tactic.

Additionally, National Security Director Marquez and Senior National Security Policy Advisor Dejesus attended the Fall National Executive Committee meetings in direct support of National Security Commission Chairman Brennan.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

October 4, 2021:

- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Hiskett, D.)

October 5, 2021:

- Airman Accounted For From World War II (Wood, J.)
- Pilot Accounted For From World War II (Eggud, G.)
- Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Actkinson, M.)
- USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Robertson, J.)
- Airman Accounted For From World War II (Wiemerslage, F.)

PROGRAMS

Military Surplus Equipment

- The American Legion has aligned with the U.S Army *TACOM* (Tank - automotive and Armaments Command) Army Donations Program. In doing so were are able to provide our members with ceremonial rifles and static displays to be used in parades, funerals, functions, and decommissioned military equipment displayed at the post.
- In the month of July, the National Security Division supplied...

Rifle - 20

Ammo - 9,920

Static Display - 2

Clips - 25

Departments - 0

Posts - 0

Tank-automotive & Armaments Command

ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

Injury prevention directly supports mission readiness. When service members are injured in the workplace, training, recreating or other circumstances, it impacts their ability to complete their mission. In October, the MHS is featuring three facets of injury prevention: occupational injuries, training and recreational injuries, and injury recovery.

Service members work in a variety of very challenging conditions with many potential injury risks. Wearing proper protective equipment, like helmets, ear covers, and safety glasses is key to preventing workplace injuries. Repetitive stress and hand injuries are also common and can be mitigated through working with installation occupational health experts to improve process and work environment using proper ergonomic principles.

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