VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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December 5 – 9, 2022

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Director is in Okinawa, Japan, preparing for the National Commander's visit.

- NS Staff participated in a webinar titled "*Precision and Posture: Investing in Strategic Readiness*" hosted by the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Readiness Kimberly Jackson, and Lockheed Martin Vice President for Global Program Support, the Honorable Katie Wheelbarger. The discussion focused on critical munitions stockpiles and posture for deterrence in the Pacific, two crucial areas to the future warfighter and repeatedly underinvested in by the Department of Defense, and the broader implications for strategic readiness and the health of the defense industrial base.

- NS Staff participated in a Fireside chat titled "*Warfighters in Action: Colonel Ernesto M. DiVittorio, Wing Commander*" hosted by the Mitchell Institute and the Air Force Association. Colonel Ernesto emphasized the shift from a reactive force optimized for counterinsurgency operations over the last 20 years in permissive environments to wings ready to deploy as a high – performing, tasked organized combat teams with our coalition partners around the globe to effectively operate in contested environments.

- NS Staff participated in a webinar titled "*National Household Survey 2022*" hosted by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.) The discussion focused on progress in personal disaster preparedness, areas requiring improvement on a national level, and other Protective Action Research conducted over the years by FEMA.

- NS Staff participated in a webinar titled "*Safe@Home, a Conversation on Countering Domestic Violent Extremism*" hosted by the Center for a New American Security and Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Homeland Security Advisor on the National Security Council Joshua Geltzer. The discussion focused on the administration's domestic terrorism strategy & implementation and on the recently released CNAS report Protecting the Protectors: Preventing and Mitigating Domestic Violent Extremism in the Military, Veteran, and Law Enforcement Communities.

- NS Staff is preparing for The American Legion's 64th Annual Washington Conference.

- For Legionnaires who would like to sign up for the daily (weekdays only) e-mail version of the Department of Defense's ***Early Bird Brief Newsletter,*** please register at the following link: *Defense News Early Bird Sign Up*

POW/MIA

December 5, 2022

- Soldier accounted for from World War II (Pierce, A.)

December 7, 2022

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Scarborough, T.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 172 servicemembers so far this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo – 11,400; Rifle – 7; Clips – 10
- Participants: Post – 6; Department – 5

Tip of the Week

Your DEERS record has your TRICARE coverage eligibility, contact information, and other important information critical to access the system. Here's why you need to update your information regularly:

1. Update DEERS so you can use TRICARE.

2. Errors in the database mean a delay in benefits.
   - Accurate DEERS information prevents disruption with authorization letters for referrals and TRICARE delivery of prescription drugs.

3. Incorrect DEERs information will cause missed enrollment deadlines.
   - Ensure you don't miss enrollment deadlines after a Qualifying Life Event (QLE), such as moving, childbirth, or retirement.

Ensure you safeguard your healthcare security and your family's well-being by updating your DEERs information, and always show up as TRICARE eligible in DEERS.