The National Security Division

WEEKLY REPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This week, the National Security Division reviewed several bills that will ultimately strengthen our Armed Forces' Readiness.

Additionally, the National Security Commission has selected and finalized the American Legion Spirit of Service Award and Law Enforcement Officer & Firefighter of the Year winners.

From Director Rhonda Powell, Senior Policy Advisor Ariel De Jesus, National Security Policy Advisory Nick Riffel, Administrative Assistant Andre Brown, and the rest of the National Security intern team, Have a safe weekend!

THE PRESIDENT SAYS MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN WILL CONCLUDE AUGUST 31ST

President Joe Biden stated remarks on the continued drawdown of the US military forces in Afghanistan on Thursday, July 8th. He provided an update and status of current withdrawal operations. He states, "Our military mission on Afghanistan will conclude on Aug. 31. The drawdown is proceeding in a secure and orderly way, prioritizing the safety of our troops as the depart," He further went on justifying why the US withdrawal." As I said in April, the United States did what we went to do in Afghanistan -- to get the terrorists who attacked us on 9/11 and deliver justice to Osama bin Laden, and to degrade the terrorist threat to keep Afghanistan from becoming a base from which attacks could be continued against the United States. We achieved those objectives. That's why we want." Additionally, the President provided additional details regarding the special immigrants visas for Afghan interpreters and translators that helped American and NATO forces during the duration of the war.

Click her to read more

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Foreign Relations

- Support for Afghan Interpreters through the Special Immigrant Visa Program – The American Legion advocate for Afghan Interpreters who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. Forces and Diplomats contributing to saving countless American lives. The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Afghan SIV recipients. (Resolution No. 16, 2018) Recognition for Afghan and Iraq Combat Translators.
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Law and Order & Homeland Security

- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity, promulgate best practices and standards, and protect critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)

- Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act - Non-citizen immigrants in the United States with legal status living in the United States are eligible for military recruitment if they meet the necessary qualifications. The American Legion supports legislation that ensures those who have earned through honorable service and are not convicted of a felony be permitted to complete the process towards citizenship. (Resolution No. 19. 2021

STAFF ACTIVITY

Aerospace

- Staff attended House Armed Services Subcommittee hearing on Tactical Air and Land Forces Hearing: "Fiscal Year 2022 Rotary Wing Aviation Budget Request" The hearing discussed and questioned the witnesses on the readiness, sustainment, management, and future of rotary aviation in all the military branches. Each witness, representing their respective service, shared a testimony that highlighted their current project, status, and future of rotary aviation. Representatives of the subcommittee questioned relevant concerns and updates on the current sustainment and future of the rotary wing force. Specific issued discussed were the price of the CH-53K King Stallion for the US Marine Corps and the future of unmanned rotary wing. Furthermore, the increased investment in future rotary programs whether manned, like the Army's Future Vertical lift Program and the unmanned systems pioneered by the Navy, will significantly change the landscape of future combat engagement and the force. Likewise, key investments in current legacy systems like the Blackhawk and Apache programs are paramount in meeting the total readiness of the force.

Law and Order & Homeland Security

- Staff attended Senate Appropriations hearing to review the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Request for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This hearing discussed the Fiscal Year 2022 funding request for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and some of the threats and challenges that we face as a nation. Some of the nation's concurring issues are homegrown violent extremists, cyber-attacks, sexual exploitation of children, gangs, corruption, and fraud. Criminals, terrorists, and extremists are quickly advancing in modern-day technology. The nation's challenges are complex, and the FBI must stay on top of these issues by evolving technologically.

Conventional Armed Forces

- Staff spoke with Brenda Farrell, from the Government Accountability Office concerning a recent report released (GAO-21-338) on Military Training, Per House Report 115-676, accompanying a bill for the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, included a provision that GAO reviews the legal training commanders receive. This GAO report examines, among other things, the extent to which the services: (1) provide legal training to commanders and account for the training received; and (2) assess legal training provided to commanders to determine whether it meets commanders' needs. GAO analyzed training and personnel documents and data from the services, interviewed agency officials, and conducted discussion groups and interviews with commanders and legal support staff from each service.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

- July 8, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korea War (Crosby, L)
- July 8, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Battles, R.)
- July 7, 2021: Solider Accounted For From Korea War (Conley, P.)
- July 7, 2021: Marine Accounted For From World War II (White, G.)
- July 7, 2021: Marine Accounted For From Korean War (Ellis, H.)
- July 6, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Swackhammer, m.)
- July 6, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Walker, H.)
- July 6, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Thinnes, A.)
- July 1, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Harr, R.)
- July 1, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Skaggs, E.)
- July 1, 2021: Solider Accounted For From Korean War (Henderson, R.)
- July 1, 2021: Airman Accounted For From World War II (Shay, A.)

Vietnam Recovery Mission

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Luigi Lawrence, a DPAA recovery team member, swings a pick axe to loosen dirt during a recovery mission in Quang Binh province, Vietnam, July 3, 2021. During the recovery mission, which was part of the 143rd Joint Field Activity, DPAA personnel, augmentees and local nationals spent their days digging and screening in hopes of finding a missing U.S. service member lost during the Vietnam War. There are more than 1,500 Americans who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, and the U.S. continues its decades-long partnership with the Vietnamese government to find and bring missing military members home.

PROGRAMS

JUNIOR ROTC AWARDS CEREMONY

JROTC Awards Ceremony at The Fredericktown JROTC Program year 2020-2021. Thank you to The American Legion for their continued support of JROTC programs and youths nationwide.

ANNEX

MORE STORIES!

Biden administration seeks reversal for deported veterans.

"The Biden administration seeks plans to track down veterans who have been deported as part of an effort to provide a pathway to citizenship along with access to Veterans Affairs benefits."

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Rashida Tlaib calls to defund immigration agencies amid border crisis.

"Rep. Rashida Tlaib, an original member of the progressive "Squad," is calling for defunding immigration agencies like Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and even the Department of Homeland Security, because they "terrorize" migrant communities."

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What We Know About The Assassination Of Haiti's President

"Why did heavily armed men gun down the president of Haiti? Police say they killed four suspects in a tense hostage situation and arrested two others, but who the suspects are and their motives remain a mystery."

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North Korea Needs the Bomb to Protect Itself From America

"North Korea "continues to enhance its ballistic missile capability and possesses the technical capacity to present a real danger to the U.S. homeland as well as our allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific," Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently told Congress. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made a similar point: "We also face challenges from North Korea, a country with the ambition to be capable of striking the U.S homeland."

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