VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

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September 16 – 20, 2024

Meetings

- NS Staff met with the Niskanen Center to discuss a revised immigration reform resolution and to get their input on the current draft.

- NS Staff met with Repatriate Our Veterans to discuss a revised resolution against the deportation of non-citizen veterans and get their input on the current draft.

- NS Staff attended a webinar titled "The Future of Cooperation Development in a World of Disruptions," hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS.) The discussion focused on the geostrategic benefits of development aid.

- NS Staff attended the Institute of World Politics event, "Africa's Central Role in the Chinese Communist Party's Global Ambitions," as part of ongoing research on the significance of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

- NS Staff attended a "Ukraine Update: Back from the Field" webinar hosted by Spirit of America. The discussion focused on the importance of U.S. support nearly two years into the war and shared insights gathered from everyday Ukrainians. View the Webinar here.

- NS Staff attended a virtual hearing on "Terrorism and Homeland Security Consequences of Illegal Immigration, " hosted by the House Committee on Homeland Security. The hearing focused on enhancing expertise in immigration matters.

- NS Staff attended a virtual seminar titled *"America's Warfighting Navy with Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Franchetti,"* hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) to stay current on the United States naval capabilities.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Armed Services Committee Hearing titled, *"The Findings and Recommendations of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy."* Video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS Staff virtually attended a House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing entitled, *"Israel and the Middle East at a Crossroads: How Tehran's Terror Campaign Threatens U.S. and Allies."* Video of the hearing can be viewed here.

- NS Staff attended POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony hosted by the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon.

- NS Staff virtually attended a meeting with other VSOs to talk about the logistics of the Veterans Day ceremony.

- NS Staff met with the Executive Director to conduct the reconciliation and preparation of the 2024-2025 annual budget.

- NS Staff and the Executive Director met with Legionnaires to discuss the potential of creating a resolution centered on the only submariner to have ever received the Medal of Honor

Policy

- NS Staff continued refining its resolutions on immigration policy and border security. This effort aims to ensure the resolutions are comprehensive and aligned with The American Legion's priorities.

- NS Staff continued researching the Department of Defense's recruiting crisis, examining the underlying causes and potential solutions. This effort aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced in military recruitment.

- NS Staff is continuing to prepare resolutions, including developing fact sheets, for the upcoming National Executive Committee meeting.

- NS Staff is preparing a letter in advance of the FY25 NDAA Conference, outlining key items that The American Legion recommends for inclusion in the final bill. This effort ensures that the organization's priorities are clearly communicated to lawmakers during the conference.

- NS Staff is collaborating with the media division to draft a message from the National Commander addressing concerns about the potential negative impact of a Continuing Resolution (CR) on military readiness, overall quality of life, and border security.

Programs

- NS Staff is preparing the necessary documents and coordinating logistics for the Division's upcoming BASE Program visits to South Carolina and Texas. These preparations aim to ensure the success of both events.

The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment

- Items requested: Ammo – 11160; Rifles – 26; Clips – 0; SD – 1
- Requests submitted by: Posts – 10 Departments – 7

POW/MIA

Reminder: Today, September 20th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), partnered with the American Battle Monuments Commission, will host a rosette Ceremony to honor more than 950 veterans commemorated at the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Ceremony of the Pacific, also known as the "Punchbowl." You can tune in live at: www.dpaa.mil/Livestreams

Sept. 17, 2024

- Soldier Accounted

Sept. 18, 2024

- Soldier

DPAA has identified/repatriated 145 service members this year. *

Be The One (BTO)

SPRIRC stands for **Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee**. This committee is typically tasked with evaluating and providing recommendations to improve suicide prevention and response efforts within the military or other organizations.

In support of the SPRIRC's work, the Department of Defense (DoD) is taking action across five lines of effort (LOEs): fostering a supportive environment for Service members, improving mental health care delivery, addressing stigma and other barriers to care, revising existing suicide prevention training, and promoting a culture of safety regarding lethal means. Read Here

Focus Topic:

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity has become a vital issue for national security. Understanding these changes is crucial as threats continue to evolve in the cyber domain. Of all the nations in the world, the U.S. is the most targeted for cyber-attacks. It is estimated that 46% of all global cyber-attacks are directed at the United States.

Key Aspects of Cybersecurity in National Security**:**

1. Threat Detection and Prevention
2. Protection of Critical Infrastructure
3. Military Cyber Operations
4. Collaboration with the Private Sector
5. Policy and Legislation
6. Education and Workforce Development

Critical infrastructure facilities have increasingly become more reliant on digital technologies. A successful cyber-attack could have significant adverse outcomes. Therefore, the military collaborates with private sector entities to enhance security measures.

The military is also investing resources into a robust cyber defense because they, too, have become more reliant on digital technology, making them more vulnerable to cyber threats. They are investing in additional abilities to defend against attacks of this nature. There are also ongoing training programs to equip servicemembers with the skills to defend against cyber-attacks.

Legionnaires can take some steps to promote robust cybersecurity. Such as:

1. Education and Awareness Campaigns
2. Advocacy for Cybersecurity Policies
3. Encouraging Cybersecurity Education
4. Promote Secure Communication Platforms

In summary, cybersecurity is a critical component of national security that warrants attention from American Legionnaires. By understanding cyber threats, Legionnaires can contribute to safeguarding service members and national interests. Staying proactive in this evolving landscape is essential for a secure future.