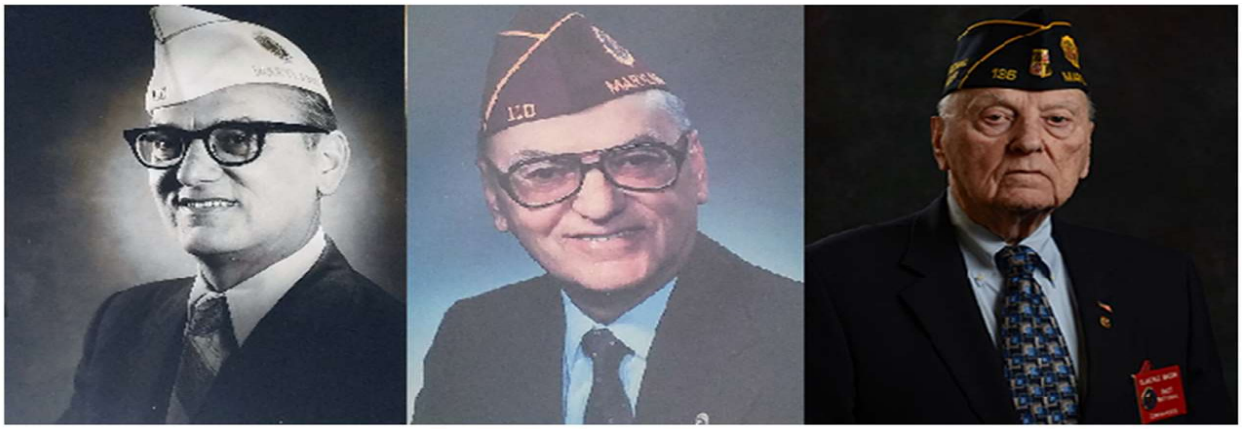
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION REPORT

National Security Division Report

Week ending 13 November 2020



All,
It is our solemn duty to announce the transfer to Post Everlasting of Past National Commander Clarence M. Bacon on the evening of November 10, 2020.

PNC Bacon served in roles within The American Legion from Post, County, District, Department, served as Department Commander in1974-1975, and served as National Commander in 1984-1985. Clarence served as a leader, mentor, and friend to so many Legionnaires in his over sixty years of leadership in the Department and National organizations. He was a central force for the improvement of our organization and our missions and was a guiding light for countless members and leaders.

Clarence was far more than a leader and was a dear friend to many of us! His support and friendship could always be counted on, and his dedication to being a good man was a character trait that personified Commander Bacon.

We could recount Clarence's many accomplishments and service, but I found it comforting this morning to listen to the calm soothing tones of Clarence recounting that service. Many times I can remember calling to hear that voice in challenging times, and in times to share a laugh. A consummate professional and dear friend to The American Legion has transferred to Post Everlasting. Please listen again to the video links provided and for those that knew Clarence reminisce on times of fellowship from the Past, and for those that never had the opportunity to meet the man, enjoy getting to know Clarence.

As more information is received, we will of course pass it along. Please keep the family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. We will also provide information on memorial contributions and an address for mailing condolences in the near future, once received from the family.

~National Adjutant – Mr. Dan Wheeler

https://www.legion.org/legiontv/PLCBDBA12207563F8C/WJ2eonYfhyQ (PNC Perspectives)

https://youtu.be/M_jqO4SGZOY (8 minute speech from PG County TV)

Khalifa Bin Salman al-Khalifa, Leader of Bahrain’s Government, Dies at 84

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Prince Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa, who ran Bahrain’s government as prime minister for nearly five decades while defending the ruling dynasty and quashing opposition, died on Wednesday. He was 84.

He was known by friends and foes alike as a traditionalist who had run the day-to-day affairs of Bahrain’s government since the country gained independence from Britain in 1971.

During those years Bahrain experienced steady economic development and forged a close alliance with the United States. The U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet is based in Bahrain, an island nation of 1.5 million people in the Persian Gulf between Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

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Biden's Worldview Calls For U.S. To Be Center Stage In Global Affairs

President Trump distilled his foreign policy into the phrase "America First." In practice, the result has often been friction with allies, withdrawal from international agreements and the scaling back of the leading international role the U.S. has played for generations.

President-elect Joe Biden wants to restore a more traditional U.S. posture: warmer relations with longstanding partners, a recommitment to organizations such as NATO, and a U.S. that's once again front and center on the global stage.

"The world does not organize itself," Biden wrote in a lengthy article in *Foreign Affairs* in March. "For 70 years, the United States, under Democratic and Republican presidents, played a leading role in writing the rules, forging the agreements, and animating the institutions that guide relations among nations and advance collective security and prosperity — until Trump."

Trump has refused to accept the election results. But Biden's election victory has been well-received around the globe, from supportive tweets by many foreign leaders to street celebrations. Still, turning his worldview into reality faces a host of challenges.

Some U.S. partners no longer see Washington as dependable. China is challenging the U.S. leadership role in Asia. The U.S. military is still bogged down in Middle East conflicts that Biden supported as a senator when they began nearly two decades ago.

The president-elect has his critics. Robert Gates, who was defense secretary when Biden was vice president, wrote in his memoir that Biden is a "man of integrity." But he went on to say, "I think he's been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."

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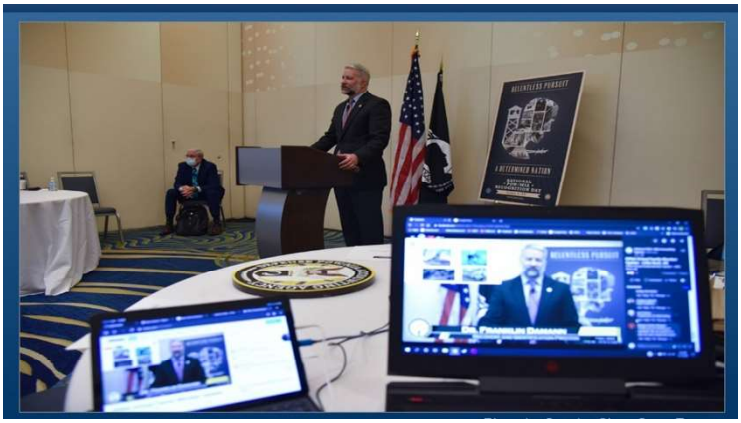
POW/MIA Update



This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released the following announcements.

Dr. Franklin Damann, DPAA's Deputy Laboratory Director, gave a presentation on DPAA's scientific capabilities during the virtual Little Rock, Arkansas, Family Member Update (FMU) Nov. 7.

https://www.dpaa.mil/Livestreams/

This map shows, at present, more than 81,900 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,900 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

Retrieved from: https://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Past-Conflicts/

Legislative Issue Tracker

Below is legislation the National Security Division is tracking in Congress. New bills are highlighted in yellow. Click on the bill numbers to see more information about the bills.

Bill #	Short Title
H.R.8494	To reaffirm the critical role of congressional consultation and to require appropriate deliberation to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of Israel
S. Res. 510/H. Res. 910	A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan
H. RES. 1012	Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
H.R. 3508/ S.1634	South China Sea Sanctions
H.R.367	Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019
S.2297	Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019
H.R. 4710	The bipartisan Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act
H.R. 303	Retired Pay Restoration Act
H.R. 4890	The Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act
H.R. 5151	Honoring the Oath Act

S.2794	Bring Our Heroes Home Act
H.R.6395	FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act
S. 3393	A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
S. 1041	Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019
S. 3732	A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes
S 1218/HR 2249	World War I Valor Medals Review Act
H.R.4807	Cold War Service Medal Act
H.Con,Res 10	Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death.
S. 3258	SHIPS Implementation Act
H.R.3233	National Defense Strategy Implementation Act

Click on the link below to open an Excel spreadsheet to see the full legislative tracker:https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KgPaIfx04RA13m20qLDh5br8dyxiupVX5Dc5ByZteRQ/edit?usp=sharing

Staff Activity:

- November 9, 2020 staff attended the MSO/VSO virtual roundtable hosted by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Mr. Jordan Gillis, as he asked for another opportunity to update service organizations on the status of the Military Privatized Housing Initiative (MPHI) and the MPHI Tenant Bill of Rights. There are some outstanding key protections for military families occupying privatized housing that have yet to be implemented. 14 of the 18 tenant provisions have been implemented, yet two of the remaining four were identified as being near completion. Senators Mark Warner, Tim Kaine and Diane Feinstein have placed a demand on the Secretary of Defense regarding the following four provisions:
    - A process for dispute resolution
    - A mechanism for withholding the Basic Allowance for Housing payments when disputes arise
    - A system to provide tenants with a housing unit's maintenance history
    - And a standard lease agreement across the privatized housing projects

- November 10, 2020 staff participated in the time-honored traditions of the United States Marine Corps birthday cake cutting ceremony. Staff celebrated 245 years since the birth of the Marine Corps. INDY headquarters staff live-streamed the event to various locations throughout the United states.

- November 11, 2020 Veteran's Day, staff accompanied the National Vice Commander Francis MacDonald, Jr., and National Security Commission Chairman Steven Brennan with attendance of the Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony at the Korean War

Veterans Memorial to conduct a wreath presentation. The host of the ceremony was General (Ret) John Tilelli, Jr. - Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation with notable presenter Mr. Kelly McKeague-Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and Mrs. Yumi Hogan-First Lady of Maryland.

- November 12, 2020 Staff attended a Virtual Veterans Day Tribute "We Stood Together, We Stand Together" hosted by H. E. Stavros Lambrinidis, Ambassador of the European Union and moderated by Major General (Ret) Jeffrey Phillips, Executive Director, Reserve Organization of America. A panel of European Union Delegates to the United States along with distinguished Armed Forces officials from both the United States and European countries discussed past, present and future transatlantic military relations within the context of success, challenges and developing threats. Per the panel regarding success, it continues to be accomplished in the form of integrated international training exercises and international military education exchange programs. Regarding challenges, noted were knowledge gaps among under-informed service members on transatlantic policies collectively across all Armed Forces. Regarding developing threats, the panel characterized the North Atlantic Treaty Organization key capabilities as constant assessments on developing threats, crisis management and cooperative security while characterizing key capabilities of the European Union as strengthening defense and security cooperation while responding to external conflicts, building partnerships and protecting citizens.

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Week ending 11/13/2020