

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**

**NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

Mario Marquez, Director

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**April 3 – 7, 2023**

**STAFF ACTIVITY**

* NS Director and Executive Director met with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON Honea, to discuss the military quality of life program, recruiting / retention, and other ways in which the American Legion and US. Navy may be able to work together to strengthen our military and naval force.
* NS Director and staff met with Director Montreuil and the CEO of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft to discuss efforts in which the Quincy Institute and The American Legion can collaborate on mutual topics of interest to include the repeal of the AUMFs, Military Quality of Life, and China-Taiwan policy.
* NS Staff met with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) for its quarterly Family/VSO call that included updated information on DPAA’s operations in S. Korea and Vietnam as well as their efforts to engage with the Chinese government to resume operations. Operations in China ceased after COVID and efforts have stalled due to the Chinese government’s lack of interest in discussing the matter.
* NS Staff met to discuss the role of American Legion volunteer-side participants during installation visits as part of the QOL Program. Additionally, a description on volunteer roles was drafted to be added into the QOL Program Guidebook. The next step is to update Commission leadership with details and receive guidance and adjustments as necessary.
* NS Staff joined Legislative Division Staff in a meeting with Senator Warren’s office to discuss proposed updates to the (military/privatize housing-related) Tenant Bill of Rights, which was previously passed under the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act.
* NS Staff met with all pertinent staff / volunteer leadership to finalize logistics and complete the approved schedule for the upcoming National Commander’s visit to Europe.
* NS Staff liaised with appointed members to confirm administrative details for the April NS Resolution Screening Committee meeting in preparation for the Spring NEC.
* NS Staff continues to receive detailed feedback from the National Commander on his visits to military installations as he conducts American Legion Department visits.
* NS Director joined the Legislative Director at a luncheon with MS. Katherine Ebright from the Brennan Center for Justice to discuss AUMF-related policy matters.
* NS Staff submitted initial drafts for all military QOL related research papers to the Director for editing / guidance and adjustments.
* NS Staff assisted with a draft Commander’s message involving vacant ambassador positions to be released sometime next week.
* NS Staff attended a virtual meeting with Center for a New American Security (CNAS) titled, “*Peninsula Plus: Enhancing U.S.-South Korea Cooperation on China, Multilateralism, and Military* *and Security Technologies.*” Video of the meeting can be viewed [here.](https://www.cnas.org/events/virtual-event-peninsula-plus-enhancing-u-s-south-korea-cooperation-on-china-multilateralism-and-military-and-security-technologies)

**POW/MIA**

April 6, 2023

USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Barncord, C.)

April 5, 2023

Airman Accounted for from World War II (Timpo, P.)

Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Coon, E.)

April 4, 2023

USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from World War II (Allen, S.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 48 servicemembers this year.

**PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)**

* Processed request: Ammo – 8,600; Rifle – 17; Clips – 20; Static Display – 0
* Participants: Post – 6; Department – 4

**ROTC/JROTC Awards**

Department of Florida

* Scholastic Excellence Award – 1
* Military Excellence Award – 1

Department of Texas

* Scholastic Excellence Award – 1
* Military Excellence Award – 1

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

As shown above, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency works hard to identify and bring home the remaining 81,000+ servicemembers who are still missing. If you would like an opportunity to tour DPAA facilities in Hawaii or Omaha, Nebraska, please visit DPAA.mil.

**How can you assist DPAA?**

* Veterans and their families play a critical role in assisting with DPAA’s mission in across the globe. If you believe you can provide any relevant information, witness statements, pictures, or other useful tips, DPAA encourages you to contact them at: [DPAA Contact Us (crmforce.mil)](https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaContactUsNav).
* Using the same “Contact Us” link above, you may also contact DPAA if you are interested in hosting a DPAA guest speaker at your events.
* Additionally, DPAA hosts servicemember and family outreach tours around the country with an upcoming event on April 22nd in Chicago. If your department would like to provide a donation in the form of refreshments or snacks at their events, please follow this link: [Donate to the Mission (dpaa.mil)](https://www.dpaa.mil/Contact/Donate-to-the-Mission/).
* DPAA conducts updates for families of servicemembers who are missing in action. For a full list of upcoming family meetings, please visit this link: [DPAA Family Events Page (crmforce.mil)](https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/Families/FamilyEvents)
* Lastly, many volunteer and internship positions are available at DPAA which can be viewed [here.](https://www.dpaa.mil/Volunteer/)