

Dear Commission Members,

Bcc: National Security Commission Members
National Security Committees
National Security Liaison Members
National Security Council Members
National Security Department
Chairpersons

I hope you had a great weekend! Below you will find a message from our new Commission Chairman Mr. Matthew Shuman.

“Fellow Legionnaires,

It’s my sincere desire this e-mail message finds you well and prospering. With Fall Meetings and the NEC just having met a few weeks ago, it is my deep and humbling honor to be serving as the new Chairman for this most vital commission.

I begin by thanking my predecessor, Steve Brennan, for his work, sacrifice, dedication and service to this commission, organization and to our nation. Steve served our Legion with distinction, and did exactly what the military teaches us all, which is to leave things better than we found them. I also thank all of you for continuing to serve your nation, and for serving on this commission in particular. The National Security Commission, and through it our seven subcommittees, has a unique focus that no other commission in our Legion has, which is the care and protection of those currently physically serving in uniform. As a Pillar commission of The American Legion, our work is vital, but even more so as we all work towards raising the awareness and impact of National Security.

Like our National Commander, I have lofty goals for our commission; and I’m looking forward to working with you to accomplish them. I am also thankful for our national staff and for the hard work they’ve dedicated thus far. That said, we have an immense amount of work ahead of us if we want to elevate The Legion’s National Security standing within the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill. The simple reality is that we can only increase our presence and impact, and I know with our National Security Director, Mario, our subcommittee chairpersons, and with you, our dedicated Legionnaires, we will achieve the goals set before us all.

For those that do not yet know [me](#), I am a proud Army Veteran, former Military Police (31B), used to work on Capitol Hill, served as the National Legislative Director for The American Legion, and now manage congressional affairs for Philips Healthcare in support of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense. I like to think of myself as an “out-of-the-box thinker”, someone who understands that in order for our organization to be here another 100 years, we must modernize and embrace the future.

As we begin to move forward, it’s evermore crucial that we understand and are aware of the tools, resources and skillsets in our arsenal. We are also aiming to update our roster of Legion subject matter experts—thus we need your help.

I ask each member of the