



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

Mario Marquez, Director

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Jun 26 – 30, 2023

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Director attended the Department of California convention where he briefed the Commission and Staff's work on a broad range of topics and programs including legislative priorities and the new quality of life "BASE" program.
- NS Director attended a meeting hosted by Executive Director James Baca and attended by Dr. Regan Stiegmann, an Air Force medical practitioner and industry expert on [total health concepts](#) that are being piloted in the Air Force as best practices intended to reduce obesity and health problems in the active-duty force (and veterans). Her work is important because the American Legion (NS and Americanism Divisions/commissions) have been asked by DoD, the Defense Health agency, and the President's Council on Youth, Sports, Fitness and Nutrition to assist with promotion/advocacy aimed at improving the health of America's youth.
- NS Director and Staff attended an event in the Legion's DC office hosted by Ms. Ann Mills Griffith and the [National League of Military Families](#). The organization specializes in advocacy on behalf of our missing Vietnam war veterans. The League maintained an office for approximately two decades (in Washington D.C.) and expressed their gratitude for the Legion's work and advocacy on behalf of all POW/MIA families.
- NS Staff met with officials from the [Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office](#) in the United States to discuss planning for Taiwan's Veterans Affairs Council attendance and address at National Convention.
- NS Staff remains in contact with The American Legion Spirit of Service Award winners and their respective commands for coordinating logistical information for their travel to the 2023 National Convention.
- NS Staff attended the [Youth Fitness Program](#) Partner meeting in Maryland, hosted by the [President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition](#). The purpose of the event was to discuss ideas for revitalizing Youth Fitness Programs across the nation. With American youth being at all-time low health and fitness levels, health care costs continue to increase and eligibility for military service has decreased in today's military-age youth population.
- NS Staff completed two bill reviews on the following legislation: S. 1978: *Military Tenant Advocacy Improvement Act*, and S. 1980: *Military Housing Wait Times Accountability Act*.

- NS Staff provided a quote to Congressional Staffers on a bill that would recognize women veterans who served on cultural support or engagement teams for their efforts and sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan during operations performed by special operations and convention forces.
- NS Staff prepared an after-action report on the National Commander's European travel.
- The NS Staff participated in the Modern Day Marine 2023 event where the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Berger, discussed "The State of the Marine Corps" with a focus on Force Design 2030.
- NS Staff attended a webinar titled "*Building U.S. Space Force Counterspace Capabilities: An Imperative for America's Defense*." Hosted by the Mitchell Institute. It focused on adversary weapons fielded by China, which are now capable of disrupting and degrading U.S. space systems and designed for an uncontested operating environment. The video can be viewed [here](#).
- NS Staff attended an MSO/VSO quarterly meeting hosted by the Department of Defense. The discussion focused on the DoD Board of Correction of Military Records for each of the military branches and how VSOs can pass guidance to veterans with regards to pursuing any correction of military records. NS Staff will receive more information once DoD provides the meeting content.
- NS Staff attended a webinar titled "*Accelerating 5th-Generation Airpower*." Hosted by the Mitchell Institute and facilitated by Lt. General Joseph Guastella, former U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for operations. It focused on restoring capability and capacity to the Air Force's fighter force, now the smallest in its history. The video can be viewed [here](#).

POW/MIA

June 27, 2023

Pilot Accounted for from World War II (Schmidt, P.)
 Soldier Accounted for from World War II (Thomas, G.)

June 26, 2023

Soldier Accounted for from World War II (Brooks, J.C.)

June 23, 2023

Airman Accounted for from Vietnam War (Hall, F.)
 Pilot Accounted for from Vietnam War (De Soto, E.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 74 service members this year.

PROGRAMS (The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment)

- Processed request: Ammo –2,480; Rifle – 0; Clips – 0; Static Display – 0
- Participants: Post – 1; Departments – 1

Tip of the Week

Happy 247th Independence Day!

