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**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**

**NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

Mario Marquez, Director

[MMarquez@legion.org](mailto:MMarquez@legion.org)

**January 9-13, 2023**

**STAFF ACTIVITY**

* NS Director completed all staff evaluations for 2022 and issued the Division staff strategy for the coming year. Parts of the strategy include the Division’s education campaign for members of the Commission/Council and committees, our media engagement plan where we hope to publish a series of stories and articles throughout the year, as well as increased research writing to facilitate our work with HASC and SASC during 2023. Furthermore, with the addition of two new staff members, Director Marquez reorganized the Division and assigned portfolios and programs accordingly.
* NS Chairman Shuman visited to meet new staff members and discuss a variety of issues involving the upcoming NS Commission meeting to be held during Washington Conference.
* NS Staff participated in a meeting hosted by the Evacuate Our Allies Coalition. The discussion focused on the legislative strategy for the Afghan Adjustment Act in the 118th Congress as it pertains to national security.
* NS staff met with representatives from the Military Officers Association of America to discuss military quality of life-related matters involving financial and food insecurity.
* NS staff participated in a webinar titled "Aerospace Nation" hosted by the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies. Guest speaker Gen. Tod D. Wolters, USAF (Ret.), the former Commander, U.S. European Command and NATO's former Allied Commander Europe. The discussion focused on events that transpired during the opening phase of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. [Aerospace Nation: Combatant Commander’s Perspective - Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies (mitchellaerospacepower.org)](https://mitchellaerospacepower.org/event/aerospace-nation-combatant-commanders-perspective/)
* NS Staff met with officials from the Taiwanese Embassy to discuss recent developments in the Indo-Pacific theater relevant to National Security.
* NS Staff continued detailed preparation for the upcoming National Security Commission meeting to be held during the 63rd Annual Washington Conference.
* NS Staff is working on logistics preparation in support of ANAVICUS during the 63rd Annual Washington Conference.
* NS Director submitted the Division draft of the upcoming 2023 Legislative priorities, some of which may feed into part of the National Commander’s testimony to a joint session of HVAC/SVAC during Washington Conference week.
* NS Staff met with the Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee. The discussion focused on reintroducing the repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) relevant to the 2002 Iraq War in the 118th Congress.
* NS Director participated in an interview titled “***The Federal Drive with Tom Temin”***hosted by the Federal News Network. Discussion topic was initially focused on the NDAA but eventually shifted to Veterans affairs-related matters. Instructions for locating the show are listed below. The interview played live in the Washington D.C. area this a.m. but will be posted per the information below after 1 p.m. East Coast time (January 13, 2023).

***The Federal Drive with Tom Temin***can be heard:

* On WFED 1500 AM, a 50,000-watt Class A radio station based in our nation’s capital.
  + On **FederalNewsNetwork.com**.
  + By asking any smart speaker, like Amazon’s Alexa, Google’s Assistant or Apple’s Siri, to: “**Play Federal News Network**.”
  + And by downloading and utilizing *the free* ***Federal News Network*** app.
  + The show airs on weekdays between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. And, if it is not preempted by sports, between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/category/tom-temin-federal-drive/>

**POW/MIA**

DPAA has identified/repatriated 5 servicemembers so far this year.

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

* Processed request: Ammo- 16,120; Rifle – 56; Clips – 25; Static Display - 0
* Participants: Posts – 11; Department – 8

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

 Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer and Fire Fighter of the Year Award to an exemplary law enforcement officer and firefighter.

The American Legion Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Award submission deadlines are approaching fast. The submission dates are December 1st, 2022, thru February 1st, 2023. All nominations must go through the Department leadership and up to our office.