

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**

**NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

Mario Marquez, Director

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**February 13 – 17, 2023**

**STAFF ACTIVITY**

* NS Director assisted with National Commander’s message on Ukraine which can be read [here.](https://www.legion.org/commander/258152/ukraine-fights)
* NS Staff is finalizing logistical preparation for the wreath-laying at General Lewis B. Hershey immediately after the ANAVICUS breakfast during the 63rd Annual Washington Conference.
* NS Staff is finalizing preparations for the upcoming 63rd Annual Washington Conference. More information about the conference, including the schedule of events, is available [here](https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference).
* NS Staff coordinated with the Department of Washington to secure a rifle team for the military honors burial of a local post member.
* NS Staff reviewed a [RAND Report](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1230-1.html) entitled "Food insecurity Among Members of the Armed Forces and Their Dependents" to research food insecurity in the military.
* NS Staff attended and supported Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Liz Hartman's monthly committee meeting. The focus was on due outs from last month's meeting and new committee business including reviewing resolutions for consideration at the upcoming National Security Commission meeting during the 63rd Annual Washington Conference and the Spring National Executive Committee meeting.
* NS Staff attended a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on US Global Security Challenges and Strategy. Written testimony and video are [here.](https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/to-receive-testimony-on-global-security-challenges-and-strategy)
* NS Staff attended a webinar hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) titled: *One Year Later: Assessing Russia's War In Ukraine.* The discussion focused on questions like: Where is the war headed? What are the prospects for a political settlement? What are the major military lessons of the war? What are China and other countries in the Indo-Pacific learning from the war? And what are the policy implications for the United States and its Western allies? More information and video are [here](https://www.csis.org/events/one-year-later-assessing-russias-war-ukraine).
* NS Staff followed up with each service branch on their progress regarding nominations for The American Legion Spirit of Service Award.
* NS Staff participated in a DOD debrief with the MSO/VSO community regarding the recent release of DOD [Policies to Ensure Access to Non-Covered Reproductive Healthcare](https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3301006/dod-releases-policies-to-ensure-access-to-non-covered-reproductive-health-care/).
* NS Staff began research on the usage of illegal fentanyl among servicemembers so that we can make informed recommendations on how to combat the issue.
* NS Staff is finalizing preparation of the National Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards for review and voting by the assigned Committee.

**POW/MIA**

**February 16, 2023**

* USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from World War II (Barncord, C.)

**February 13, 2023**

* Soldier Accounted for from World War II (Slenker, L.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 23 servicemembers this year.

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

* Processed request: Ammo – 2,480; Rifle – 35; Clips – 25; Static Display – 0
* Participants: Post – 5; Department – 5

**ROTC/JROTC Awards**

Department of Pennsylvania

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

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

**TRICARE For Life**

In the US or US Territories, you can schedule an appointment with any TRICARE-authorized provider, but finding a Medicare-participating provider is your best option. You will need your Medicare card and uniformed services ID card when you go to your appointment.

After your appointment:

· Your provider files the claim with Medicare.

· Medicare pays the provider and sends the remaining amount electronically to TRICARE.

· TRICARE pays the remaining amount to the provider; you pay nothing out-of-pocket.

· You receive an explanation of benefits from Medicare and TRICARE.