

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**

**NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

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**April 10 – 14, 2023**

**STAFF ACTIVITY**

* NS Director attended a “Former Army Officer of Legislative Affairs” event with Legislative Division staff.
* NS Director met with Mr. Rob Wilkins, Former member of the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition to discuss how the American Legion can advocate for improvements in DoD’s fitness, health and wellness programs.
* NS Staff completed a bill review on legislation introduced in the House entitled “*BAH Restoration Act*” that would require BAH to cover 100% of housing costs, up from 95% where it currently stands. The American Legion supports this act citing our Resolution No. 85 “*Support for Military Quality of Life Standards.”*
* NS Staff worked with Legion media on a story involving POW/MIA outreach and the various ways in which Legionnaires can assist with the mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to bring home our reaming 81,000+ servicemembers.
* NS Director met with Department of Colorado as a follow-up to a briefing held earlier this year. The discussion involved details about the NS portfolio and how Legionnaires can share the Division and Commission’s work with other members.
* NS Staff attended a webinar hosted by the Quincy Institute titled, “*Bucking the Buck: U.S. Financial Sanctions and the International Backlash against the Dollar.”* Video of the event can be viewed [here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWfT6X7bxuQ&t=3s)
* NS Staff attended a webinar hosted by the Atlantic Council titled, “*A conversation with Prime Minister of Poland Mateusz Morawiecki.”* More information and video of the event can be viewed [here.](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/a-conversation-with-prime-minister-of-poland-mateusz-morawiecki/)
* NS Staff attended a virtual meeting with the Hudson Institute titled, “*Assessing the US Military’s Force Structure.”* Video of the meeting can be viewed [here.](https://www.hudson.org/events/assessing-us-militarys-force-structure)
* NS Director is finalizing the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the quality of Life (QOL) program which will be shared with each of the military service branches to set conditions for the QOL program visits.
* NS Staff completed a draft trifold brochure for the B.A.S.E. Program and is awaiting edits and final product design from the media division prior to final approval.
* NS Staff continues planning and coordinating with The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion for the upcoming National Commander’s trip to Europe.
* NS Staff contacted planners at NATO HQ and SHAPE HQ in Brussels to finalize logistics and schedule details for the upcoming visit to Europe.
* NS Staff assisted with the Department of New York to acquire a static display.

**POW/MIA**

**April 7, 2023**

Airman Accounted for from Vietnam War (Hall, F.)

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

**April 6, 2023**

USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for from World War II (Callahan, A.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 51 servicemembers this year.

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

* Processed request: Ammo – 11,160; Rifle – 45; Clips – 50; Static Display – 1
* Participants: Post – 12; Department – 10

**ROTC/JROTC Awards**

Department of Ohio

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

Department of Tennessee

* Scholastic Excellence Award – 2
* Military Excellence Award – 2

**National Security Newsletter Sign Up**

NS Division recommends the following newsletter as a good source for the information on defense, national security, and foreign policy matters. Click on this [**link**](https://www.politico.com/newsletters/national-security-daily)and fill out the 3 fields at the top of the page to sign up.

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

ROTC Awards:

* The American Legion National Security Division does not normally fund or provide awards until Departments have exhausted funding for the purchase of JROTC/ROTC Awards. Departments that do not have a program should contact the National Security Division for information about the program.
* Requests for awards from High schools or Universities may be made through local Legion posts. If no local post exists, information may be obtained from the National Security Division.

l. American Legion Awards.

These awards are provided annually to outstanding Cadets at each institution for general military excellence and scholastic excellence.

(1) The award consists of:

(a) Silver medal pendant with ribbon bar and ROTC crest or scholastic scroll for junior class winners enrolled in MS-III.

(b) Gold medal pendant with ribbon bar and ROTC crest or scholastic scroll for senior class winners enrolled in MS-IV. A miniature reproduction of the official ROTC crest is attached to the ribbon bar of awards for general military excellence. A miniature scholastic scroll is attached to the ribbon bar of awards for scholastic excellence.

**(2) Criteria:** A Cadet may receive an award for general military excellence and an award for scholastic excellence for the same school year or for more than one year.

(a) General Military Excellence Award. The Cadet must be in the top 25 percent of the class in academic and ROTC subjects and must have demonstrated outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.

(b) Scholastic Excellence Award. The Cadet must be in the top 10 percent of the class in academic subjects, top 25 percent of the class in ROTC classes, and demonstrated qualities of leadership. The Cadet must actively participate in related student activities, such as student organizations, community activities, and sports.

**(3) Selection:** The PMS or head of the institution (or both) will make selections.

**(4) Source:** Requests for awards may be made in writing through local posts of the American Legion. If no local post is available, or if the local post does not have an active ROTC Awards program, information may be requested in writing from: The American Legion, National Security Division, 1608 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. Written request should include: Name of the college or university, address, city, state, zip code, point of contact’s name, phone number, email address, unit name, name of Cadet(s), and type of award (general military excellence/scholastic excellence).

**(5) Presentation:** The PMS will make arrangements for an American Legion representative to present the awards at a suitable military ceremony. If representative is unavailable, the PMS may present award.

JROTC

12–15. American Legion Awards

**A. General:** These awards are given annually to outstanding Cadets at each school for general military and scholastic excellence. Not more than one student at a school may be nominated per year for these awards. During the junior year, a Cadet in a class HS JROTC unit will receive the bronze medal; a Cadet at class MI JROTC unit will receive the silver medal. A miniature reproduction of the official JROTC crest is attached to the medal awarded for scholastic excellence. Recipients of either award will also receive a ribbon bar to which the crest or scroll is attached.

**B. Criteria:** A Cadet may receive an award for general military excellence and an award for scholastic excellence for the same school year or for more than one year.

(1) General Military Excellence Award. The Cadet must:

(a) Be in the top 25% of his/ her class in JROTC and non-JROTC subjects.

(b) Have demonstrated outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.

(2) Scholastic Excellence Award. The Cadet must:

(a) Be in the top 10% of his/her class in non-JROTC subjects.

(b) Be in the top 25% of his/her class in JROTC.

(c) Have demonstrated qualities of leadership.

(d) Have actively participated in related student activities such as student organizations, constructive activities, or sports.

**C. Selection:** The DAI/SAI or head of the school or both will make selection.

**D. Source:** Requests for awards may be made to the local posts of the American Legion. If no local post exists, information may be obtained from the National Security Division, The American Legion, K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006 (www.legion.org).

**E. Presentation:** Arrangements will be made by the DAI/SAI for an American Legion representative to present the awards at an appropriate military ceremony.

**F. Reporting:** Send a follow-on report to the National Security/Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, that includes:

(1) Name of recipient and type of award.

(2) American Legion post number and date award was presented.

(3) Name and title of American Legion representative presenting the award.