

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA**

**NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

Mario Marquez, Director

MMarquez@legion.org

**April 24 – 28, 2023**

**STAFF ACTIVITY**

* NS Director finalized a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the quality-of-Life program for review by Legion leadership.
* NS Staff is monitoring the situation in Sudan in light of last weekend's [evacuation of US embassy personnel](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/04/sudan-evacuation-us-citizens-abroad-noncombatant-evacuation-operation/673843/) in that country by US Special Operations Forces. More than 16,000 US citizens are reported to be in Sudan, and the US has begun [facilitating the departure](https://www.politico.com/news/2023/04/24/us-facilitating-land-evacuation-of-private-citizens-in-sudan-00093527) of those who want to leave, according to White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.
* NS Staff attended and supported Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Elizabeth Hartman's monthly meeting. The topics covered were the Sudan Embassy evacuation, NATO expansion, the Saudi Arabia-Iran dialogue brokered by China, and the risk of the US dollar's role as the world's reserve currency. Draft resolutions on Joint Force Modernization and China were reviewed and discussed.
* NS Staff supported Chairman Grenier’s Aerospace Committee to discuss relevant aerospace news and ideas for resolutions.
* NS Staff met with Senator Warren's staff to discuss the FY20 NDAA bill text that stipulates the formation of a complaint database for military family housing and its implementation status.
* NS Staff continues to work with each branch of service to receive status updates ahead of the upcoming deadline submission for The American Legion Spirit of Service Award.
* NS Staff virtually attended a Brookings event titled "*How Health Security Strengthens National Security.*" Discussing the responsibility of the US Congress in matters of a recently released Senate report found that medical drug shortages increased by nearly 30 percent from 2021 to 2022. One prevailing cause for this issue is that 80 to 90 percent of critical medical supplies are manufactured overseas—particularly in China. The panelists (former US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and Hudson Media Fellow Jeremy Hunt) discussed how this vulnerability affects national security. Watch the video [here.](https://www.hudson.org/events/how-health-security-strengthens-national-security)
* NS Staff attended an AUMF repeal coalition meeting to discuss repealing the 2002 AUMF efforts.
* NS Staff attended a meeting with Senator Tim Kaine's staff to discuss repealing the 2002 AUMF.
* NS Staff attended a meeting Representative Chip Roy's staff to discuss the repeal of the 2002 AUMF.
* NS Staff virtually attended a Brookings event titled "*Afghanistan's twin human rights and humanitarian crises.*" Since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, 40 million Afghans have dealt with a repressive regime and unprecedented economic hardship. The country's two concurrent crises have upended Afghan citizens' everyday lives: a human rights crisis as a result of the Taliban's restrictions on women's ability to work and its ban on girls' education beyond elementary school, and a dire humanitarian crisis. Both issues have left two-thirds of the country in need of humanitarian assistance and an estimated 6 million people "knocking on famine's door." More information and video are [here.](https://www.brookings.edu/events/afghanistans-twin-human-rights-and-humanitarian-crises/?utm_campaign=Events%3A%20Foreign%20Policy&utm_medium=email&utm_content=255578303&utm_source=hs_email)
* NS Staff attended a House Armed Services Committee hearing titled: "*US Military Posture And National Security Challenges In Europe.*" The committee received testimony from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs and the Commander of US European Command. The written testimony is [here](https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=115786), and the video is [here](https://armedservices.house.gov/hearings/full-committee-hearing-us-military-posture-and-national-security-challenges-europe).
* NS Staff attended and facilitated the National Security Resolution Screening Committee meeting to discuss and recommend disposition of four resolutions submitted by various Department Executive Committees to the National Security Commission.
* As the only VSO to attend, 20 members of the DC Staff attended the Canadian Embassy’s "A Salute to Veterans" event. The event was attended by Defense Attaches from across the international community and served as an opportunity to promote our involvement with ANAVICUS, while building new relationships with defense teams from several countries.
* NS Staff is finalizing preparation for the upcoming Spring National Executive Committee meeting.
* NS Staff worked with the Media and Communications Division finalized the quality-of-life program trifold pamphlet.
* NS Staff reviewed all documentation for The American Legion National and Regional Fire Fighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards winners.
* NS Staff is finalizing logistics for the Commander's visit to NATO HQ and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in preparation for the Commander's trip to Europe.

**POW/MIA**

**April 27, 2023**

Airman Accounted for from World War II (Kolb, R.)

**April 26, 2023**

[Medal of Honor Soldier Accounted for from Korea (Story, L.)](https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-korean-war-luther-story-medal-of-honor/)

DPAA has identified/repatriated 55 servicemembers this year.

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

* Processed request: Ammo – 7,440; Rifle – 5; Clips – 10; Static Display – 0
* Participants: Post – 4; Department – 4

**ROTC/JROTC Awards**

**Department of Texas**

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

**Department of Pennsylvania**

* Scholastic Excellence Award – 4
* Military Excellence Award – 2

**Department of California**

* Scholastic Excellence Award – 1
* Military Excellence Award – 2

**Department of Oklahoma**

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

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

**Join our advocacy efforts in Congress.**

As the nation's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion exerts significant influence on Capitol Hill. That is why it is so critical that our membership is strong in numbers and active in advocacy efforts on a variety of matters.

Regardless of whether you live in Washington, D.C, Washington County in Illinois, or Walla Walla in Washington State, your participation matters. And it's easy to make your voice heard, too. Join our grassroots advocacy via [The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center](https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home). It offers information to stay informed on the issues and tools to communicate online with lawmakers and the media about [our legislative priorities](https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference/legislativepriorities).