



**VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT**

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November 9, 2024 – November 15, 2024

Meetings

- NS Staff participated in a closed-door meeting hosted by the Department of Defense, where it was announced that important information would be released about their ongoing efforts to eliminate suicide in the military community.
- NS Staff participated in an open forum hosted by the RTX Corporation. The forum focused on the defense industry's commitment to meeting the Department of Defense's speed, scale, and agility demands. The discussion emphasized the industry's efforts to adapt to a complex and rapidly evolving global security environment.
- NS Staff met with the Kosovo Delegation to discuss The American Legion's foreign policy objectives.
- NS Staff escorted the National Vice Commander, Vice President of the Eastern Division of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Vice Commander of the Sons of the American Legion to a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Wall Memorial on Veteran's Day.
- NS Staff watched a Stimson Center webinar, "America's Foreign Policy: A Post-Election Analysis," to understand better what to expect under President-Elect Trump's second administration.
- NS Staff attended an event at CSIS titled "Ensuring U.S. Leadership in AI" to further develop the division's technology portfolio.
- NS Staff met with a representative from Politico Pro to discuss potential applications of their platform related to legislation research and databases.
- NS Staff held a conference call with the National Adjutant and Department of France regarding the National Commander's upcoming European trip.
- NS Staff served on the Inaugural Ball Committee, overseeing all event planning aspects.
- NS Staff attended an event hosted by the EU Ambassador and HillVets titled "EU Tribute to the Veterans" to honor veterans' service in the West and the U.S.

Policy

- NS Staff met with Express Scripts, the TRICARE contractor for pharmacy medication delivery, to address issues concerning listing in-network pharmacies and inadequate notification to beneficiaries. A complete current list can be found [here](#).
- NS Staff is collaborating closely with the Defense Health Agency to provide feedback on the launch of DHA.mil, the agency's upcoming flagship website (December 2024.) The site will offer stakeholders timely and relevant information, including updates on current affairs, events, and future developments. The beneficiary hub will direct users to crucial resources such as TRICARE and My Military Health initiatives.
- NS Staff has comprehensively reviewed the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act*. This analysis encompassed a detailed evaluation of the bill's provisions, ensuring alignment with The American Legion's mission and policy priorities. The review assessed the legislative language, identified potential impacts on veterans and their families, and provided recommendations for advocacy efforts.
- NS Staff members participated virtually in the "Veterans Voices" event on Capitol Hill. This significant gathering brought together veterans, policymakers, and advocacy groups to discuss the remarkable accomplishments and the ongoing challenges the veteran community faces. Key discussion topics included mental health support, access to quality healthcare, employment opportunities, and transitioning from Military to civilian life.
- NS Staff conducted a comprehensive analysis of President-Elect Trump's nominations for key positions within the upcoming presidential administration, specifically focusing on their policy positions and professional qualifications on national security. This review included evaluating the nominees' backgrounds, expertise in defense, homeland security, and foreign policy, as well as their potential impact on The American Legion's mission and priorities—the analysis aimed to anticipate policy shifts and identify areas of alignment or concern.
- NS Staff continued drafting the BASE visit report for Shaw Air Force Base.

Programs

- NS staff is prepping documentation to send to the seven branches for the 2024 Spirit of Service Awardees.

The American Legion Military Surplus Equipment

- Items requested: Ammo- 3720; Rifles- 7; Clips- 150
- Requests submitted by: Posts- 3; Departments- 3

POW/MIA

November 13, 2024

- Airman Accounted for from World War II (Calvi, B.)
- Soldier Accounted for from World War II (Swartz, J.)
- Airman Accounted for from World War II (Mourer, R.)

November 8, 2024

- Soldier Accounted for from Korean War (Simmons, W.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated [215](#) service members this year.

Be The One

Today, the Department of Defense released the 2023 Annual Report on Suicide in the Military, underscoring the urgent need to intensify efforts in suicide prevention and postvention. In 2023, suicides among Service members increased compared to 2022, while suicides among military family members decreased from previous years. One loss to suicide is one too many. The report can be read [here](#).

Focus Topic:

Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Amendment for the NDAAFY25

The American Legion, along with allied groups such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Student Veterans of America, and Blue Star Families, sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging that the *Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Amendment* be included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

We need your assistance getting this Amendment passed - please write or call your member of Congress today!

As veterans serving veterans across the country, we know firsthand the moral and national security imperative of keeping our promises to the Afghan nationals who supported the U.S. mission and were admitted to the United States under emergency circumstances.

Email your Congressional representatives using the following language: I urge you to include the Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Amendment in the final National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025. This measure is critical to standardizing additional vetting in the pathway to legal permanent status for eligible Afghans relocated to the United States due to the U.S. military withdrawal. Your support on this matter is greatly appreciated!