



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION'S WEEKLY REPORT

Mario Marquez, Director

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

Oct 16 – 20, 2023

STAFF ACTIVITY

- NS Staff attended the Fall NEC Meeting in Indianapolis.
- NS Staff began airing advertisements for the upcoming MCAS Yuma BASE Program Visit on the installation and in the local area.
- NS Staff briefed National Commander Seehafer for an update on the BASE Program, research on the recruiting crisis, and a primer on China/Taiwan-US relations.
- NS met with three members of the National Guard Counterdrug Program. This program, which belongs to the National Guard Counterdrug Advisory Council, is a lesser-known organization that partners with local, state, and federal law enforcement nationwide.
- NS Staff prepared a bill review of the *Keep Our Border Agents Paid Act*, which would ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and contractors are paid in the case of a government shutdown.
- NS Staff worked with the Legislative Division to prepare a letter to HASC and SASC detailing the Legion's thoughts on various aspects of the NDAA conference.
- NS Staff continues detailed preparation for the National Commander's trip to the Pacific and coordinates with various Legion Departments, United States Forces Korea, United Nations Command, and Indo-Pacific Command.
- NS Staff is finalizing logistics preparation for the upcoming BASE Program visit to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, AZ.
- NS Staff virtually met with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, The Honorable Ashish S. Vazirani, for a roundtable discussion with the MSO/VSO community. The topics discussed were childcare, healthcare, and new policies for veterans separated under DADT. The Under Secretary also thanked The American Legion for their testimony before the US Senate from this week.

- NS Staff was provided [Part 2](#) of Alan Dowd’s Foreign Relations Committee Presentation of the case for U.S. engagement in the world. Part 1 can be read [here](#).
- On Thursday evening, President Biden gave an address from the Oval Office which can be viewed [here](#). During that address, the President detailed an aid package to fund America’s national security interests that includes \$14 billion in aid to Israel, \$60 billion in aid to Ukraine, humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, as well as funds for the southern border and Taiwan.

## **POW/MIA**

### **Oct. 16, 2023**

- Soldier Accounted for from WWII (Gerdes, W.)

DPAA has identified/repatriated **126** service members this year.

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

- Processed request: Ammo – 4960; Rifle – 14; Clips – 100; Static Display – 0
- Participants: Post – 6; Departments – 6

## **TIP OF THE WEEK**

On Thursday, Oct. 26, 1-2 p.m. ET, DHA will host a webinar to help beneficiaries better understand TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select ahead of Open Season.

### **Webinar details:**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, Oct. 26, 1-2 p.m. ET

**Title:** “Choosing Between TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select”

**Presenter:** Zelly Zim, Program Analyst, TRICARE Health Plan Division, Policy and Programs Section, Defense Health Agency

### **Topics covered:**

- Overview of TRICARE Open Season
- What changes beneficiaries can (and can’t) make during open season?
- Comparing TRICARE health plan options
- Things to consider when making plan choices.
- TRICARE health plan out-of-pocket costs and enrollment
- Beneficiary questions answered by TRICARE health plan experts.

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7433683100934806358>

For more information, visit [“Choosing Between TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select.”](#)