

National Security Division

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April 6th - April 17th

Top Highlights:

- **Iran Conflict:** Operation Epic Fury continues its 7th week of operations. The Strait of Hormuz remains closed as U.S. forces impose a blockade of vessels entering and leaving Iranian ports in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to choke Iran's maritime trade revenue and increase economic pressure. On April 7th, the U.S. and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire, which halts military strikes on Iran for a two-week period ending on April 22nd. Over the past weekend, negotiations between U.S. and Iranian officials in Islamabad, Pakistan, failed to achieve an agreement. Vice President Vance attributed the breakdown in negotiations over Iran's insistence to continue its nuclear program.
- **DHS Funding:** DHS remains unfunded, stemming from DHS's annual budget failing to pass in mid-February.
- **BASE Visit to Naval Station Great Lakes:** Completed a successful BASE visit to Naval Station Great Lakes on 4/14. Staff toured the base and discussed quality of life issues with the base Commander and the Senior Enlisted.

Operational Updates:

- Hosted a virtual meeting with Lt. Col. Jones, 502 CEG Deputy Commander at JBASA, discussing Fort Sam Houston-specific Quality of Life funding priorities and Military Construction (MILCON) projects.
- Staff attended Phillip Morris International's Technovation conference. The one-day event brings together experts, policymakers, scientists, media, and business leaders across the Americas to explore how innovation, science, and regulation can accelerate progress toward a smoke-free future. Staff attended to see if there was anything that could help veterans or service members.
- Staff attended a National Security Institute (NSI) Event on Artificial Intelligence and completed an event summary.
- Completed Europe fact sheets and binders for the National Commander's Europe Trip.
- Staff attended the House Appropriations Committee Hearing for the FY27 Army budget.

Progress Report:

- Pending confirmation for next BASE Visit to an installation in the National Capital Region. Requests were submitted to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Belvoir, Joint Base Andrews, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Fort Meade, and Marine Corps Base Quantico.
- Conducting analysis of the FY2027 President's Budget Request, identifying programs that align with The American Legion's Quality of Life and Lethality Legislative Priorities and Resolutions, and identifying changes, reductions, and investments to programs within the State Department, DoW, and DHS.
- Planning for the National Commander's Europe trip
- Conducting interviews for summer internships
- Continued working on Addressing Sexual Misconduct Within the Military Resolution Proposal (Intern Capstone)
- Weekly Indo-Pacific SITREP.

- Continuing work on the overseas hazardous waste research project fact sheet. (Intern Capstone)