

National Security Division Report

Week ending 20 November 2020



Trump Administration Wants All U.S. Troops Out Of Iraq And Afghanistan By Spring

The White House announced Tuesday that it will pull thousands of troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan by Jan. 15. A force of 2,500 service members will remain in both countries, but the Trump administration aims to have all remaining troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan by Spring 2021.

"By May, it is President Trump's hope that they will all come home safely — and in their entirety," national security adviser Robert O'Brien said. "I want to reiterate that this policy is not new. This has been the president's policy since he took office."

Nearly 3,000 lives were lost in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and an additional 7,000 American service members have been killed in the nearly 20 years of armed conflict since. Trump had promised during his 2016 campaign that he would end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But, the drawdown worries some military leaders. Peace talks with the Taliban appear to be stalled and attacks are on the rise in Afghanistan. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is also concerned about reducing the number of boots on the ground in such a tumultuous time.

"I think it is extremely important here in the next couple of months not to have any earthshaking changes with regard to defense and foreign policy," McConnell said. "I think a precipitous drawdown in either Afghanistan or Iraq would be a mistake."

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U.S. successfully conducts SM-3 Block IIA Intercept Test against an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Target



The U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA), and U.S. Navy sailors aboard the USS John Finn (DDG-113), an Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System-equipped destroyer, intercepted and destroyed a threat-representative Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) target with a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missile during a flight test demonstration in the broad ocean area northeast of Hawaii, Nov. 16.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time, (12:50 a.m., Nov. 17, Eastern Standard Time), the ICBM-representative target was launched from the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, located on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, toward the broad ocean area northeast of Hawaii. In this developmental test, the destroyer used engage-on-remote capabilities through the Command and Control Battle Management Communications (C2BMC) network as part of a defense of Hawaii scenario. After receiving tracking data from the C2BMC system, the destroyer launched a SM-3 Block IIA guided missile which destroyed the target.

"This was an incredible accomplishment and critical milestone for the Aegis BMD SM-3 Block IIA program," said MDA Director, Vice Admiral Jon Hill. "The Department is investigating the possibility of augmenting the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system by fielding additional sensors and weapon systems to hedge against unexpected developments in the missile threat. We have demonstrated that an Aegis BMD-equipped vessel equipped with the SM-3 Block IIA missile can defeat an ICBM-class target, which is a step in the process of determining its feasibility as part of an architecture for layered defense of the homeland. My congratulations to the entire test team, including our military and industry partners, who helped us to achieve this milestone."

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Deported U.S. Veterans Feel Abandoned By The Country They Defended

Miguel Pérez Jr. locked himself in a hotel room for an entire weekend in one of the most dangerous cities along the border between the United States and Mexico.



A Mexican native, Pérez, 41, grew up in Chicago. He enlisted in the military and served two tours in Afghanistan. When he returned home, he struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD.

Those struggles led to a drug-related conviction that landed him in state prison for seven years. While there, he received treatment for his condition, both therapy and medication. But that conviction also triggered deportation proceedings. After a year in an immigrant detention center, Pérez was deported to Matamoros, Mexico.

While veterans with service-related injuries have access to medical care, since his deportation Pérez has struggled to find mental health professionals and medication.

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Q & A: Expedited Citizenship for Honorable Service

Immigrants to the United States often join the U.S. Armed Forces as a route to citizenship. Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while in service. The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge.

[Res No.15 Expedited Citizenship through Military Service](#)

[Res No.10 Expedited Citizenship Applications for Deported Veterans](#)

- **What is the history behind allowing non-citizens the opportunity to join the military and receive citizenship?**

Since the Revolutionary War, non-citizens have been serving in America's armed forces. Roughly 760,000 non-citizens have gained U.S. citizenship through military service in the past century.ⁱ

Each year roughly 24,000 non-citizens actively serve in the military and 5,000 join.ⁱⁱ In 2018, the Philippines and Mexico were the two largest countries of origin for non-citizen U.S. personnel. Other nations include Jamaica, Korea, and the Dominican Republic.

- **How does the current expedited citizenship for service members system work?**

Provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) facilitate expedited naturalization for non-citizen members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and recently discharged non-citizen U.S. Veterans.

Non-citizens currently serving in the military can expedite the process of naturalization under Section 328 & 329 of the Immigrant Requirements and Nationality Act (INA). If serving actively after one year of peacetime (328) the service member may initiate the process. If the service member is serving actively during war time (329) the process may be initiated immediately.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) processes naturalization applications.

While federal law requires U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent residency (who continuously resided in the U.S. for five years) for enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces, it allows individuals who do not meet those requirements to enlist if the appropriate Service Secretary “determines that such enlistment is vital to the national interest” (10 U.S.C. 504(b)(2)). This is the statutory basis for the MAVNI program authorized by DoD in 2008. As implemented by DoD, the MAVNI program allowed the military services to recruit certain legally present non-citizens whose skills were deemed vital to the national interest. Those skills included medical specialties and expertise in certain languages.

- **How many service members have been impacted or deported?**

A U.S. Government Accountability Office (GOA) report revealed that an estimated 92 veterans were deported from 2013 to 2018.ⁱⁱⁱ But the numbers are far higher, according to groups of deported veterans. In 2018 data shows that 4,135 service members were naturalized that year.

- **Why are service members failing to obtain citizenship prior to discharge?**

Non-compliance. The service member is responsible for applying for expedited citizenship and producing their DD214 to specify their discharge date, character of service, and type of separation.

Other reasons include a lack of knowledge of the process, lack of motivation to work the process, multiple deployments and character of service.

- **What is our proposed solution?**

Service members may inquire through their chain of command information on the appropriate office to engage for assistance with preparing the naturalization packet. Most military installations have a designated office that serves as a point-of-contact to assist service members with their naturalization application packets.

The American Legion can conduct a grassroots campaign by educating and informing the garrison command and the service member of their points of contact at their duty station; feature

the process from start to finish (Section 328 & 329 of the Immigrant Requirements and Nationality Act), and follow-up periodically to ensure the effectiveness of the process.

- **What are the counter-arguments which may be used to refuse expedited citizenship?**

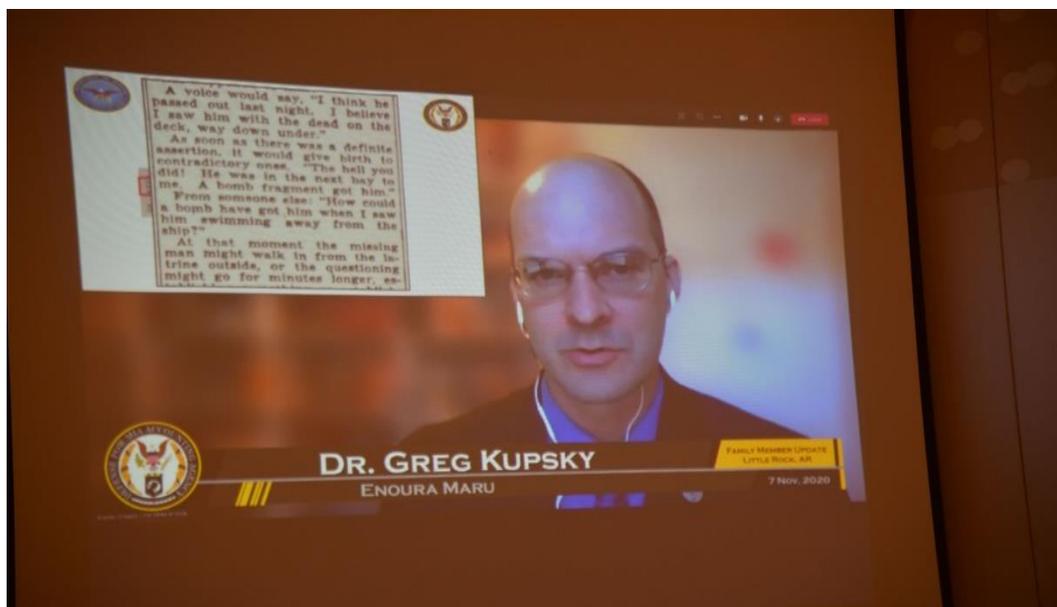
With the goal of protecting U.S. National Security, DoD will not subscribe to utilizing expedited citizenship as a primary means of meeting the end strength objectives, nor to address recruitment shortfalls.

DoD does not take a specific stance on any particular case and refers to Section 328 & 329 of the Immigrant Requirements and Nationality Act.

POW/MIA Update

Dr. Gregory Kuspky, a historian with DPAA's Indo-Pacific Directorate, gives a livestreamed briefing on the Enoura Maru and other Hellships from World War II during the DPAA virtual Little Rock, Arkansas, Family Member Update Nov. 7. This was DPAA's first-ever virtual FMU, held so they could continue to connect with and inform families about what is being done to locate our missing from past conflicts despite COVID-19. Families seeking more information on the Enoura Maru should contact their respective Service Casualty Office at the numbers below.

U.S. Army: 1-800-892-2490 **U.S. Navy:** 1-800-443-9298 **U.S. Marine Corps:** 1-800-847-1597



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This map shows, at present, more than 81,900 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,900 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

Retrieved from: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Past-Conflicts/>

Legislative Issue Tracker

Below is legislation the National Security Division is tracking in Congress. New bills are highlighted in yellow. Click on the bill numbers to see more information about the bills.

Bill #	Short Title
H.R.8494	To reaffirm the critical role of congressional consultation and to require appropriate deliberation to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of Israel
S. Res. 510/H. Res. 910	A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan
H. RES. 1012	Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
H.R. 3508/ S.1634	South China Sea Sanctions
H.R.367	Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019
S.2297	Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019
H.R. 4710	The bipartisan Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform Act
H.R. 303	Retired Pay Restoration Act
H.R. 4890	The Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act
H.R. 5151	Honoring the Oath Act
S.2794	Bring Our Heroes Home Act
H.R.6395	FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act

S. 3393	A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
S. 1041	Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2019
S. 3732	A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes
S. 1218/HR 2249	World War I Valor Medals Review Act
H.R.4807	Cold War Service Medal Act
H.Con,Res 10	Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death.
S. 3258	SHIPS Implementation Act
H.R.3233	National Defense Strategy Implementation Act

Staff Activity:

- Staff processed through the Military Loan Equipment Program - 51 ceremonial rifles, 10 clips, 1 display tank, and 21,080 rounds of blank ammunition this week.
- Staff heard testimony of the Armed Services Full Committee Hearing: The U.S. Military Mission in Afghanistan, U.S. policy and military strategy and the implications of the peace process on Afghanistan and the U.S. involvement there. Witnesses included The Honorable Ryan Crocker, Career Ambassador, Retired, US Foreign Service Nonresident Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Dr. Stephen Biddle, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; and Dr. Seth G. Jones, Harold Brown Chair; Director, Transnational Threats Project and Senior Adviser for the International Security Program Center for Strategic & International Studies

[Click Here To Watch The Hearing](#)

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ⁱ Chishti, M. et al. "Noncitizens in the U.S. Military." *Navigating National Security Concerns and Recruitment Needs*. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/MPI-Noncitizens-Military-Final.pdf>. Accessed 16 November 2020.

ⁱⁱ Solo, Whitney. "Naturalization for Non-citizens in the Military Service." *Executive Summary*. <https://www.americanactionforum.org/insight/naturalizations-for-non-citizens-in-military-service/#:~:text=Non%2Dcitizens%20have%20served%20in,non%2Dcitizen%20U.S.%20military%20personnel>. Accessed 16 November 2020.

ⁱⁱⁱ GAO. "Immigration Enforcement." *Actions needed to better handle, identify, and track cases involving Veterans*. June 2019. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/699549.pdf>. Accessed 16 November 2020.