DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCES, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL FUTURE PICTURES TURNED IN FOR THE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER PICTURING GROUPS OF LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS (2 or more – Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders), FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN BY LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, OUT IN THE OPEN AND INSIDE BUILDINGS. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT GERMAN AND MILITARY POLICIES.
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER…SANTOS ALVARADO

Another month has come and gone. We must remember that Covid-19 is still around. We must remain safe and protect ourselves, practice social distance and wear a mask when and where required. The 2nd wave of this pandemic has already hit some EU countries, if you intend to travel stay safe. The good news is that a Vaccine does exist and should be available by the beginning of 2021.

In Dec we celebrate Christmas, we know that this year we will not be able to spend much time with Family as gathering are limited, let us not forgot those that can’t be home due to mission requirements and those that have no one or nowhere to celebrate it.

I suggest the all Post refrain from having any closed meetings and follow the local laws. Membership has been going strong thanks to all those Members that have renewed, we must reach our 100% goal for 2021. As of 24 Nov 2020, we stand at 75%, some Posts have already reach or exceeded this level. Make sure that you reach out to all your Post Members to renew, instruct your Members on how to renew online. Most of all let us not forget the Buddy Check, remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Pay them a Visit to see how they are doing. Let us not forgot those that cannot be home due to mission requirements and those that have no one or nowhere to celebrate it.

During Veterans day, I had the opportunity to visit a Past Department Commander’s Helmut Isenberg grave buried in Wiesbaden and laid a Wreath and US Flag. I also visit a couple of graves in Walldorf home of Rhein Main Post GR05 and laid a flag on 3 graves home of Rhein Main Post GR05 and laid a flag.
Greetings Comrades,

It is my esteemed honor to announce that revitalization efforts for Eifel Post GR20 are complete, culminating with the first Post meeting in more than a decade and Post officer elections! It has been a challenging road to reach this historic point in the Eifel Post’s history.

First, I want to congratulate Commander Crystal Foster and her team as the Post’s newest and duly elected officers. On November 12th, GR20, after a month’s delay, was finally able to conduct their first (virtual) meeting; VCAL Owens chaired the meeting with Past National Vice Commander Haggan, NECMan Settle, and Department Commander Alvarado overseeing the proceedings of this monumental occasion. Also joining the forum were the Post Executive Committee members from the Margraten Post. The latter will provide peer-to-peer mentorship with their GR20 counterparts to continue carrying out the revitalization program. During this meeting, an initiation ceremony was also conducted for all of GR20’s new members in attendance to welcome them into the American Legion Family properly.

I am very proud to have a role in GR20’s revitalization and am looking forward to watching the Eifel Post grow and flourish, as I know that they can. GR20 is in great hands, and I have complete faith that Commander Foster will have her Post thriving in their community in no time.

Post revitalization this year began back on September 11th, starting with a membership awareness table conducted in the Spangdahlem BX. On that day, recruitment included 23 new members and one membership transfer. While signing up the new members, many filled out a talent and interests questionnaire designed to identify skills and potential officers for the Eifel Post. From this questionnaire, a list of possible new officers. I would like to thank Membership Chairman James Dennis for his assistance with completing the membership applications for the new GR20 members, and Comrade Lil Pfluke (GR20) and Comrade Thomas Nunn (NL01) for their help during the September 11th awareness table.

-Joshua Steinlicht
Members volunteering at the SHAPE Christmas Tree Lot

28 November 2020

Veterans Day 2020 (finding our Post’s Charter members, all are WWI Veterans)
Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and stays safe and well as we continue to live with this Pandemic.

As we start December, I would like to continue to stress a few items:

1. myLegion.org: Most of our active Posts are using this tool effectively. A few Posts need to step up their game and start using this tool to assist them in reaching their 2021 Membership Goal. One Post has not accessed their account since January, three Post have not accessed their accounts since August and two Posts have not accessed their accounts since September or October. I and other Department members are here and willing to assist anyone who needs any help.

2. Consolidated Post Report (CPR): The 2021 Membership year CPR is now available on myLegion.org. Eight Posts have now started their 2021 CPR. Great Job! It has been recommended, and I agree, that you access the CPR as least once a month and enter everything your Post has done for the last month. This ensures that your Post gets credit for your accomplishment and someone does not have to sit down at the end of the year and try and figure out what your Post did all year.

3. Certification of Officers: A couple of our Posts have held elections or have had a change in Post Officers. As a reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant. Immediately after Post elections, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants form must be sent to the Department Adjutant. This is needed so that rosters, in particular my e-mail list, can be updated and new commanders and adjutants can be notified of upcoming events. This form needs to be completed even if there is no change in Officers. As soon as possible after Post elections, the Certification of Post Officials report needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant. This is needed so that I can update the National Officer/Committee data base. It is understood that this form requires some time to gather all the necessary information, but please try to submit it within 30 days of elections.
Post GR07 Sergeant-at-Arms Braun Schneider Completes American Legion Basic Training Course

Post GR07 Remembers Namesake

Post GR07 Remembers Namesake

Leap Sworn In as Newest Post GR07 Member

Post First Vice Commander-elect Matt Vanderboegh, left, and Post Commander-elect Todd Johnson, right, presented Post Sergeant-at-Arms Braun Schneider with a framed American Legion Basic Training Course completion certificate at his “Farewell” on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, at Restaurant “Zum Babbelnit,” in Mainz, Germany. Schneider and his family relocated shortly thereafter to Mandeville, La., where he will remain active in the Legion. (Photo by David Crawford for The American Legion)

Post Memorial Committee Chairman John Pruitt, left, and Post Commander-elect Todd Johnson hosted a remembrance event on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020, in front of the U.S. Army Garrison, Wiesbaden’s “Pitts Hall” at Lucius D. Clay Kaserne, Germany, in honor of the late Captain Riley L. Pitts. Post GR07 is named for Captain Pitts, a U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in action (KIA) during the Vietnam War. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

Lebanon era U.S. Air Force, Gulf War and War on Terrorism era U.S. Army veteran Larry Leap, left, is sworn in as a Legionnaire by Post Commander Todd Johnson on Thanksgiving Day, 2020, in the Mess Hall at Lucius D. Clay Kaserne, Germany. Leap was subsequently elected to the office of Post Historian. (Photo by Elena Samokhval for The American Legion)

INTRODUCING TRAINING TUESDAYS

Beginning in October, American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90-minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants.

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 – 7 p.m. EDT

Presented via Microsoft Teams

CLICK HERE TO JOIN
Buddy Check:
Wellness check-ins with veterans

The American Legion activates national Buddy Checks to save veteran lives amid rising suicide rates, urges Congress to pass bill to help

Posts across the country step up veteran-to-veteran outreach to support those at high risk around Veterans Day

INDIANAPOLIS (October 29, 2020) — As COVID-19 cases rise and the holidays approach, The American Legion is activating its Buddy Check program to save veteran lives through peer support check-in calls. The nation’s largest veterans organization is also urging Congress to pass the Buddy Check Bill which will make wellness checks a national priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs. With military suicides up 20% over this time last year, Legionnaires will make thousands of check-in calls to at-risk veterans across the nation, to offer support and access to health and wellness programs in the week surrounding Veterans Day and into the weeks ahead.

The American Legion warns that veterans can be at particular risk for depression and suicide around the holidays and into the winter months. Many veterans are disproportionately hard-hit by the pandemic due to age, chronic health issues, post-traumatic stress disorder and isolation. The Buddy Check program is designed to give Legionnaires the tools to make contact, engage in conversation, assess risks and direct veterans in need to the appropriate services.

“The American Legion knows from 100 years of experience that it’s veteran-to-veteran contact that can make the difference for someone in a crisis situation,” says James W. “Bill” Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. “So, we’re putting some muscle behind this effort and giving our members the tools they need to reach out to fellow veterans in their hometowns who may be hard hit by the triple whammy of the pandemic, isolation and the holidays.”

The American Legion is also urging Congress to unanimously pass the Buddy Check Bill introduced with bi-partisan support from Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; Doug Jones, D-Ala.; and Maggie Hassan, D-N.H. The legislation will require VA to establish a “Buddy Check Week,” as well as provide educational opportunities, materials and references for veterans to learn how to conduct personal wellness checks. The bill also compels VA to expand resources for the Veterans Crisis Line to handle any potential increased volume during the designated week.

“Veterans are in crisis, and we need Congress’ help to take this program to the next level and stem the tide of suicide among our nation’s veterans,” Oxford said. “We need all hands on deck and all boots on the ground to fight for our nation’s veterans, just like they fought for us.”

The Buddy Check program encourages Legionnaires to make contact, lend a listening ear, and direct their peers to critical services. For Buddy Check information, visit legion.org/buddycheck. For urgent help, contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.

About The American Legion
The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans.

# # #

Media Contact: John Raughter, (317) 630-1350 jraughter@legion.org
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, U.S. Army Europe and U.S. European Command (EUCOM) co-hosted a virtual Veterans Day ceremony at Patch Barracks on Nov. 11. The event, livestreamed on Facebook, allowed military communities around Europe to come together and remember all who have served, while maintaining COVID-19 safety measures.

Guest speaker, Special Operations Command Europe’s Deputy Commander, Col. Marc LaRoche, said the significance of Veterans Day could not be overshadowed by the virus.

“The debt to veterans can never be measured. However, it can be honored,” said LaRoche. “We gather virtually from our computers, laptops and other electronic devices in the safety of our homes – to reflect today how America would not be America without the love of country, willingness to serve, and devotion to duty of its veterans.”

EUCOM’s Vice Director of policies and planning, British Army Brigadier General Matthew Bazeley, also commended the love that Americans have for their men and women in uniform.

“The connection between your population and your military is admirable,” he said. “It is a bond of recognition, of trust and of love. It is the strength your service personnel draw on when they are away from home when in the dark moments that we all have; they can sense that there are brighter and better times ahead.”

Over 3,000 viewers watched as Departmental Vice Commander John Woodhouse and Post GR06 Executive Committeeman Jeremy Wooding laid a wreath on behalf of American Legion Post GR06 and American Legion Riders Chapter 6; additionally, AUSA, VFW 10810, Combat Vets Motorcycle Association and the Stuttgart Clan of Motorcycle Enthusiasts, laid wreaths to commemorate all who have served in America’s armed forces.

Taps rang out across Washington square on Patch Barracks, for all who gave their lives in the line of duty. Legionnaire Ken White served as bugler for the ceremony. While Americans remember the living on Veterans Day, it is Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom (UK) which honors the heroic efforts, achievements and sacrifices that were made in past wars. "For many, sadly, the nature of our business can represent the ultimate sacrifice," Bazeley said. "Many do not get to come home. Many families do not get their loved ones back. That is a tragedy that we must always honor and respect."

John Woodhouse / Commander / American Legion Post 06
American Legion Post GR06 Stuttgart
Donation Drive to Benefit
THE CHAPLAINS CLOSET AT LRMC
December 5&6 10-6pm, Stuttgart PX

NEEDED ITEMS

• Military Duffle bags medium/large
• Black Duffle bags (no logos)
• Unisex sweatshirts or hoodies (all sizes, XL), (Please no logos)
• Unisex sweatpants (all sizes)
• Polyester shorts/briefs (all sizes)
• Lounge wear (all sizes)
• Unisex Run T-shirts / sportswear, (all sizes)
• Unisex comfortable light T-shirts (all sizes)
• Unisex T-Shirts color, (sizes S,M,L), (no logos, no white)
• Crocs, size 9-12 / Sneakers, 9-12
• Boxers / underwear (all sizes, L)
• Body wash / mouthwash
• Me & Women’s Pajamas (small,medium)
• Jackets (lightweight)
• Plug Adapters
• Facemasks, white / tan / black

*High Need Items or Sizes in Yellow
**Please No XXL or Larger Sizes*
Even though it’s not a federal holiday, the birthday of the U.S. National Guard — celebrated on December 13 — is an important event to note. Established in 1636, the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America. Its members serve during times of war and emergency. Take time to honor those who have protected our country for centuries.

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**SGT William D. Nelson Post GR09**

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**GR09 members honor fallen soldiers**

On 15 November, German Volkstraupertag (Memorial Day) four members of the William D. Nelson Post GR09, Neu-Ulm, Germany participated in a wreath laying ceremony together with members of Germany’s Tradition-sverein Ulmer Artilleristen (Traditional Association of Ulm Artillery soldiers) at the Ulm memorial honoring fallen soldiers and persons who have suffered at the hands of oppressors.

Bundeswehr Oberstleutnant (German military Colonel) Lever, guest speaker called attention to and thanked the Legionnaires for their support of this important memorial service.

The Traditional Ulmer Artillery Association was formed in 1909 and GR 09 has participated in this somber affair since 1998. With this comradeship the American Legion also promotes the understanding of the Legion’s principles to our German hosts and as in years past the members of the Vereine expressed their gratitude to GR 09 for their participation. Although the city of Ulm granted permission for the ceremony to take place providing local hygiene restrictions were enforced, participation of GR 09 Legionnaires was kept at a minimum.

L to R: Eddie Irizarry, Chaplain Tom Snook, 1st Vice Morgan Anthony, Post Commander Jerry Aman
Veterans Day 2020

(M) Widow Maria Saulisbury
(M) Widow of Legionnaire Robert Hale
(M) Widow of Legionnaire Johnnie Easterling

2020 Thanksgiving Day dinner distribution

(R) Legionnaire Russel Knickerbocker
(L) Legionnaire Dennis Perry
(R) Legionnaire Frank Riley
New myLegion coming in December

The American Legion / NOV 05, 2020

In mid-December, a new mylegion.org will be released for American Legion members and officers. This release involves change to access and security.

Current administrative officers for myLegion include:
- Post and squadron adjutants
- County commanders
- District commanders

MyLegion users are probably familiar with the current architecture where one online profile exists for access to your personal member information, as well as another one for access to your post membership and electronic roster, and being able to process membership, print lists/labels, etc.

The new myLegion will be driven by one account profile associated with the email address on the administrative officer's personal membership record. Once logged into the new myLegion, administrative officers will see options to update their personal membership record and work with online post membership tools. Those select officers will also be able to grant authority to others that need access to online rosters and reports.

An email address will be required on the administrative officer's membership record to access the new myLegion, and all existing accounts will need to be registered. The registration process will send a one-time password (OTP) code to your email address. The OTP code will be required to complete the registration process.

To make sure the most up-to-date email address is on file for your personal membership record, visit mylegion.org and choose “Members Click Here.” You can also call American Legion customer service at (833) 253-9995 to update your information, or email us at mylegion@legion.org.

For more details about the new myLegion site, visit legion.org/training and click on the “Training Tuesdays” tab. Once on the Training Tuesdays page you will see “myLegion 2021” with video presentation/Q&A below. Watch the video session that provides instruction to post adjutants on how to set up log-in credentials and display a preview of the new officer’s dashboard and membership tools.

Please continue to visit legion.org/training as more training videos will be uploaded for the new myLegion.

Joseph Schram
Department Historian, Americanism Chairperson, Oratorical Director & Boys State Director

Narrative History and Yearbook Contests Update

- The 2019–2020 National History Book Contest has been postponed until the Spring 2021 NEC Meeting
- Posts will still be using the 2019 Officer’s Guide (hard copy or online copy) criteria for the 2019–2020 timeframe.
- The new deadline for National History Book Certification Forms will be April 2, 2021.
Department of France's Americanism Committee Virtual Meeting

Whose invited from the Post:
Americanism Chairs
Oratorical Directors
Boys State & Girls State Coordinators
JROTC Liaisons
Scouting Liaisons
Commanders & Adjutants

Sunday, 10 January, 19:00

POC is Joseph Schram: joseph.schram@gmail.com
**Girl Scout Gold Award**

Girl Scout Gold “Scout of the Year” Award

The deadline for nominations to Department is **10 Jun 2021**

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) of from the Dept Adjutant

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**Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year**

Civil Air Patrol “Cadet of the Year” Award

The deadline for nominations to Department is **10 Mar 2021**

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) of from the Dept Adjutant

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**Oratorical Contest**

Date: **Saturday, 06 March 2021**

Venue: Die Flying Dragon Bar, In DeFr Thrift 5-7, Morfelden-Walldorf 64546

Contestants must arrive NLT 12:00

Contest begins at 13:00

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**Eagle Scout of the Year**

The deadline for nominations to Department is **10 March 2021**

Nomination forms can be obtained from:
www.legion.org/scholarships/eaglescout
Square Knot
AWARD

This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.

The award includes a gold and purple square knot, which may be worn on the Scout uniform. A certificate and congratulatory letter from the national commander of The American Legion are also included as recognition for the award.
10 ESSENTIALS your Council provides to Your Unit.

Just as Scouting teaches the “10 Essentials that a Scout needs to take on a camping trip, here-are “10 essentials” the Transatlantic Council provides to you unit. You support of the Friends of Scouting Campaign helps to make these possible

1. Well Maintained Camping Facilities
2. Fun & Exciting Summer Camp Programs
3. Organized Council-Wide Activities
4. Youth & Leader Recruitment Campaigns
5. Wide-Ranging Adult Leader Training
6. Full & Intensive Insurance Policies
7. Fully Functional Scout Service Center
8. Comprehensive Volunteer Background Checks
9. A Dedicated Professional & Support Staff
10. Unit & Council-Wide Support & Communications

What is TAC Scouting?
- 5000+ youth developing their leadership and character
- 2000+ adults influencing youth of great promise
- 200+ units in 50 countries
- Arrow of Light, Eagle Scout, Summit Award recognitions
- Day Camps, Summer Camps, Merit Badge Weekends, Camporees
- Community Service Projects

How to make a Friends of Scouting gift? https://tac-bsa.org/Donate
A Brief History of The American Legion

REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!

Davidg1959@i-online.de
Hello All Department of France Legion Riders,

Again, I am mentioning that a new Department SOP was drafted and approved at the last DEC. I hope that everyone has had the chance to read it. If not, please send me an e-mail, lpreston1057@gmail.com and I will gladly send a copy to you for your review. A copy has been sent to the Post Adjutants of Posts that have Legion Riders Chapters or are wanting to start one.

The new SOP is keeping the Department in compliance with the new resolution, number 19, that has been passed by the NEC October 14-15, 2020. Here is the link to the resolution so that everyone can read it:

https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/ALR_Resolution_19_2020.pdf. Please take a close look and read it two or three times. Please pay close attention to page 4 were it states:

“Resolved that The American Legion National Headquarters and the respective Departments shall maintain general oversite of the American Legion Riders program in regards to proper use of the emblems of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, and The American Legion Legacy Run, and compliance with the American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws”.

The Department has gone in the direction to convert the American Legion Riders to a Department run program which is well within their right to do. They then have the ability to maintain the required oversite of The American Legion Riders Program, Department of France. I will be posting excerpts of the SOP in my newsletter articles that I feel are important for you to know immediately.

The first in this direction is:

“Chapters created prior to the approval of this SOP by the DEC must acknowledge their compliance with this SOP and adopt chapter SOPs that adhere to the template disseminated from the Department ALR within 180 days in order to receive their charter”.

This SOP was adopted at the DEC on 24 October 2020 and the 180 days will expire on 23 March 2021. That being said, I want to thank John Woodhouse for sending me a template that he worked on for the Chapter SOP. If you would like a copy of this SOP (you actually need it) please go to my drop box and download a copy.

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4aob9y4f7w25iazzwmmac/-My-Paper-doc.paper?dl=0&rlkey=sd1pdgsfom4vnkxscgu93aa4t

This is a link to Resolution 19 and a copy of the Chapter ALR SOP Template.

I want to thank John Woodhouse for providing the Chapter ALR SOP Template. He has done a great job on it! Thanks, John, for your hard work on the Template.

Once you have completed the SOP for your Chapter; be sure that your Post PEC has accepted and adopted it for your Chapter with Post Commander and Adjutant signature as well as Chapter Director and Adjutant should you have one and send a copy to me at the e-mail address located in the first paragraph or in my signature block below. You are also required to send me the Name, contact information, Legion Membership Number, and copy of Motorcycle or Trike registration.

Thank you all for your understanding and doing the things necessary to come in compliance with the Department ALR SOP.

Lee Preston
Papa Smurf
Department Director/Committee Chairperson
lpreston1057@gmail.com
Executive Committee

Commander Joe D. Brown
vcalbrown50@gmail.com
Adjutant James Dennis
detachmentdennis@gmail.com
NEC Maxwell Rice
colwickboy@yahoo.com
Alternate NEC James Dennis
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johnportale@arcor.de
Historian Stephan Somers
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Judge Advocate James Dennis
detachmentdennis@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms David Craig
dcdavid16@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!
Third SAL DEC…06 March 2021 hosted by Squadron GR05
SAL Convention…05 June 2021 hosted by GR79

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) is an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as “The Forty & Eight”.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include among others, programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Membership is by invitation, and open only to honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

GRANDE MID WINTER PROMENADE! / Saturday, 19 December 2020???

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCES, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL FUTURE PICTURES TURNED IN FOR THE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER PICTURING GROUPS OF LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS (2 or more – Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders), FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN BY LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, OUT IN THE OPEN AND INSIDE BUILDINGS. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT GERMAN AND MILITARY POLICIES.