



September 29, 2025



**VFW National Commander Makes Her Mark at Influencer Conference:** VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore and Public Affairs and Strategic Outreach Associate Director Brittany Dymond Murray visited the Military Influencer Conference (MIC) in Atlanta, Ga. The four-day annual event brings together leaders, entrepreneurs, content creators, advocates and brands within or supporting the military community. Whitmore was featured in a fireside chat from the MIC Unplugged Creator Stage, addressing attendees in the audience about the VFW and her focus on engaging veterans across generations. She also delivered remarks at a military ball for 250 U.S. Army recruiters from the Atlanta Recruiting Battalion and their guests. [Watch the fireside chat.](#)



**VFW Joins DPAA and Others for Artifacts Handover:** At the invitation of the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, General Luong Cuong, VFW Senior Vice Commander Cory Geisler, Junior Vice Commander Glenn Umberger and Washington Office Director of Operations Brad Hazell joined the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and other supporting nonprofit organizations for a Veterans-to-Veterans Artifact Exchange held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met) in New York City. During the ceremony, the Vietnamese delegation presented DPAA Director Kelly McKeague and Gold Star families with artifacts belonging to U.S. service members listed as either missing or killed in action. [Read about](#) the urgency to recover the remains of those who are still unaccounted for.



**VFW Accredited Representatives Receive Intensive Training:** VFW National Veterans Service staff held their week-long semi-annual Accredited Representative Training Conference in Annapolis, Md., with more than 230 participants — 150 in person and 80 joining virtually worldwide. The program provided 45 hours of instruction for newly accredited representatives and 40 hours of continuing education for experienced professionals. Attendees also gained insights from partner organizations like Humana and from current and former VA employees.



**Legislative Director Shares Priorities with Service Officer Corps:** VFW National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan presented a legislative update at the VFW's service officer training for VA-accredited representatives in Annapolis, Md. In addition to informing new and returning service officers of recent legislative victories and record participation in congressional hearings this year, she also discussed the variety of veteran issues for which the National Legislative Service is advocating, including health care, benefits and military to civilian transition. She highlighted the top [legislative priorities](#) that were recently brought to legislators in Washington, D.C., by the VFW's National Legislative Committee during the VFW Fall Legislative Conference.



**Report on DOD Relocation Program Oversight:** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report that states the Department of Defense lacks key information to properly manage the approximate 300,000 relocations it oversees each year. GAO found gaps in data on contractor capacity, performance, and costs during the Global Household Goods Contract that was terminated in June 2025. The intent of this contract was to improve service members' experiences with military moves and the government's oversight of quality service. The GAO report calls for stronger oversight to safeguard service members and their families. [Read more.](#)



**Pentagon Terminates Advisory Committee on Women in the Services:** The Department of Defense announced that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has terminated the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), which was a panel established in 1951 to advise on recruitment, retention and well-being of women in the armed forces. According to the Pentagon, the decision follows a review of 14 defense advisory groups. DACOWITS has historically been credited with recommendations that shaped policies on body armor, parental leave and child care, with the Department adopting roughly 94% of its proposals. Unlike many other federal advisory committees, DACOWITS lacks a statutory authorization from Congress. Several lawmakers have urged the committee's retention, warning its dissolution could hinder efforts to address barriers facing service women. [Read the announcement.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Capt. Willibald C. Bianchi](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Fatur](#)
- [Korean War Army Sgt. Roger L. R. Duquesne](#)

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