From: Raughter, John B.
To: Raughter, John B.
Subject: American Legion Calls for Peace in Ukraine, Issues Stance on Strategy
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:43:39 AM
Attachments: UkraineResolution.pdf

Bcc: All Legion Leadership

American Legion Leaders,
Below is the latest American Legion statement on Ukraine. Also attached is Resolution 1, passed by your National Executive Committee.
V/R,
John Raughter

American Legion Calls for Peace in Ukraine,
Issues Stance on Strategy

INDIANAPOLIS (Feb. 28, 2022) – With two votes still waiting to be cast, a unanimous National Executive Committee of the nation's largest veterans organization passed a formal statement today calling for "a peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine," and opposing combat operations for U.S. troops unless certain conditions are fulfilled.

"The American Legion was founded after World War I ravaged Europe," American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard said. "We are extremely concerned about the horrific consequences that occur during war. There is absolutely no justification for Russia's aggression. Our resolution calls for peace in Ukraine and, in conjunction with NATO and the Russian federation, supports a European security architecture which considers the national security interests of all parties."

According to Resolution 1: Statement on Ukraine, The American Legion will not support related U.S. combat operations unless the president clearly explains why such operations are in "our vital national interests" and mission guidelines are established to include a clear exit strategy. The resolution also states that the organization's support for such a mission be contingent on congressional authorization for the use of military force and that American forces be commanded only by U.S. officers.

The resolution also makes clear that the organization would not support combat deployments of U.S. troops "in defense of non-NATO member countries," because of Russia's actions.

"We agree with the White House's decision to not send troops to Ukraine, as we continue to support a strong national defense and a strategy of vigilance," Dillard added. "This resolution once again reaffirms our unwavering support for our men and women in uniform and our efforts to ensure their well-being. The American Legion is always here to assist veterans in crisis."

The American Legion is dedicated to the motto of "Veterans Strengthening America." 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. Nearly 1.8 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation and regions

overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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***Media contacts**: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, 317-630-1350, Dave Lapan, dlapan@legion.org, (703) 403-3835. Feel free to reach out for a copy of Resolution 1, which can also be found on www.legion.org/resolutions.*

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
2022

Resolution No. 1: Statement on Ukraine
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2816 (NC) Department Executive Committee
Submitted By: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes in a rules-based international order where the territorial boundaries of any sovereign nation should not be changed by force; and

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an essential element of U.S. national security in an increasingly multi-polar world where rising powers have become increasingly adversarial and have committed to work together to revise the rules-based international order; and

WHEREAS, After the end of the Cold War, the United States and NATO created a European security architecture that gave no role to Russia; and

WHEREAS, Article 5 is an essential element of the NATO alliance and should be upheld, but this mutual defense clause does not extend to non-member states; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. should thoroughly exhaust all diplomatic and economic tools at its disposal before utilizing military force; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the sole power to declare war; and

WHEREAS, The National Security Commission met on February 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and this resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by a vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That The American Legion support a peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Russian Federation; and supports a European security architecture that takes into account the national security interests of all parties; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion does not support the deployment of troops for combat operations in defense of non-NATO member countries in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict but urges the administration to continue the supply of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukrainian forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the administration and U.S. Congress maintain a strong stance and resist any agreement that could undermine the strategic rationale for the normalization of agreements between NATO, Russia, and Ukraine; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That U.S. servicemembers should not be deployed in support of combat operations in any theater unless four conditions have been fulfilled:

1. **That there will be a clear statement by the president of why it is in our vital national interests to be engaged in a particular operation**
2. **Guidelines will be established for the mission, including a clear exit strategy**
3. **That Congress is consulted and authorizes the use of military force**
4. **That it be made clear U.S. forces will be commanded only by U.S. officers; and, be it finally**

RESOLVED, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering admiration of, and support for, our American men and women serving in uniform throughout the world, and we reaffirm our efforts to provide sufficient national assets to ensure their well-being.