

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

A Report: Dept. of War’s Arsenal of Freedom Tour continues at Space X with Hegseth speech; Strengthening industrial base

By C. Todd Lopez
Dept. of War

JANUARY 16, 2026 - Defense contractors in Texas this week got a visit from Secretary of War Pete Hegseth as part of his ongoing Arsenal of Freedom tour, which started earlier this month as a way to grow and strengthen America's defense industrial base.

"While at SpaceX, Secretary Hegseth delivered a speech on dominance and urged the Department of War and our defense industrial base to harness the power of AI," Pentagon Press Secretary Kingsley Wilson said today during the department's Weekly Sitrep video. "The AI race is one we can't lose, and it is one that we will win. It is crucial that we integrate this technology to continue to supply our American military with the best and most lethal equipment."

Hegseth made several announcements during the tour this week, including that Undersecretary of War for Research and Engineering Emil Michael will serve as the department's chief technology officer and that Cameron Stanley will serve as the Pentagon's chief digital and artificial intelligence officer.

At SpaceX, the secretary announced that Grok, an AI assistant designed by the company



xAI, will be the next addition to the GenAI.mil capability, which was made available last month. "We will have the world's leading AI models on every unclassified and classified network throughout our department — long overdue," Hegseth said.

Part of the secretary's pledge to advance AI in the department involved eliminating barriers to technological progress. "We will take a wartime approach to people and policies that block this progress," Hegseth

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Wilson said. "We have cut the red tape, removed the bureaucracy and simplified the process, so that our top innovators can deliver the best technology to our warfighters, fast."

In Minnesota, the department is working with law enforcement and Justice Department partners by assigning military judge advocates to assist the U.S. attorney's office with its mission there.

"As special assistant United States attorneys in Minneapolis, department JAGs will provide crucial legal support in Minnesota, and help our interagency partners as they deliver justice, restore order and protect the American people," Wilson said,

adding that a new task force to counter the nefarious action of drug cartels will be a part of defending the homeland and protecting the American people.

"The Department of War, in coordination with the Homeland Security Council, unveiled the Joint Interagency Task Force Counter Cartel," she said. "This task force's mission is to coordinate all U.S. government resources deployed to or supporting the efforts in the area of responsibility to identify, disrupt and dismantle cartel operations along the U.S.-Mexico border."

On January 14, Air Force Brig. Gen. Maurizio Calabrese was appointed as the task force director. The JIATF-CC is expected to work with the Homeland Security Task Force National Coordination Center to ensure the sharing of intelligence among the War Department, law enforcement and intelligence community partners. This will guarantee operations across the whole-of-government are synchronized and coordinated to have the greatest effect possible on eliminating narco-terrorism networks.

Yesterday morning, in predawn action, Marines and sailors with Joint Task Force Southern Spear apprehended the oil tanker Ve-

Please see sports-Military 3

SAF files response in brief in Texas NFA lawsuit

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Jan. 19, 2025 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and its partners have filed a response brief to voice their opposition to the Government's motion for summary judgment in Jensen v. ATF.

The case, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, challenges the constitutionality of the National Firearms Act registration scheme. Since 1934, the NFA required anyone who wished to purchase a silencer, short-barreled firearm or "Any Other Weapon" (AOW) to pay a \$200 tax and register the firearm with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Through the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill last year, however, the tax on these arms was eliminated effective Jan. 1, but the registration requirement was left in place. The lawsuit seeks to completely remove the affected arms from the NFA, eliminating the remaining registration requirements.

"The government has done their best to concoct novel justifications for their tax law that now is without a tax," said SAF Director of Legal Operations Bill Sack. "Of course, none of them are persuasive. Neither the government's attempt to borrow taxation authority from other taxes levied on other people for other purposes, nor their newly trotted-out commerce clause argument can save the doomed elements of NFA. Today's brief explains in great detail precisely why."

Plaintiffs in the SAF-supported case are the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, FPC Action Foundation, Texas Rifle Association, Hot Shots Custom and three individuals.

"This is the second case SAF has filed challenging this unconstitutional registration scheme because we fully believe this is the best opportunity in a generation to eliminate major portions of the NFA since its inception," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "With the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill, the government doesn't have a leg to stand on since this law can't be a tax without a tax. We look forward to continuing to fight this unconstitutional law in court and are optimistic we can fully restore the Second Amendment rights of citizens across the country."

For more information visit SAF.org.

A Memphis Safe Task Force Report

The Memphis Safe Task Force makes 39 criminal arrests and four illegal firearms seized on Jan. 15

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Members of the Memphis Safe Task Force Jan. 15 executed 39 criminal arrests and seized four illicit firearms and recovered four missing children.

Of note:

Kevon Wilson, 21, was arrested on warrants for attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault, assault, aggravated robbery and employment of a firearm with intent to commit a felony stemming from a shooting incident Jan. 5. Memphis police responding to a shooting in the 3400 block of Point Pleasant Avenue encountered a juvenile victim with a gunshot wound to his left forearm. The juvenile told investigators he had declined to give suspects money when they tried to rob him and one male suspect then fired approximately four to five shots at him from a

black handgun as he and his girlfriend ran away. He said he looked behind him and saw Wilson shoot twice with a rifle he was holding.

Kobe Hill, 18, was arrested on warrants for attempted second-degree murder, reckless endangerment and theft of property stemming from an incident June 17, 2025, in which Raines Station officers responded to a reported shooting at a house in the 4900 block of Shayne Lane. A woman told investigators she and her daughter were inside the residence when they heard approximately 10 gunshots. On July 17, 2025, officers recovered a Glock 20 Gen. 4 semi-auto 10 mm pistol and three cell phones after four males fled from a stolen 2016 Nissan Maxima. Ballistics confirmed the pistol matched the 10 mm casings recovered from the June 17 shooting. One recovered iPhone belonged to Hill. A search warrant on the phone revealed a video showing Hill in the backseat of a vehicle and another suspect in the front passenger seat holding firearms minutes before the shooting at the Shayne Lane house.

Jesse Johnson, 26, was arrested at approximately 2 p.m. in the 3200 block of Broad Avenue on a warrant issued Jan. 14 out of Nevada County, Arkansas, for 60 counts of distributing, possessing, or viewing of matter depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child. He is being held in the Shelby County Jail pending extradition back to Arkansas to face the charges against him.

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Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 5,283 arrests and seized 853 illegal firearms, as well as substantial quantities of narcotics, and related contraband. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment

to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods.

Launched in September 2025, the Memphis Safe Task Force is a multi-agency initiative to combat violent crime in Memphis. Composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as the Tennessee National Guard, the task force is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. Since the operation began, the MSTF has located 148 missing children. This operation reflects the Memphis Safe Task Force's commitment to coordinated enforcement efforts and its mission to identify, apprehend, and hold accountable those who pose a threat to public safety.

Anyone with information about wanted fugitives is encouraged to submit it via the USMS Tips app.

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The 'E' in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.

-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition 250 in Celebration of America's Freedom.

Coming in February 2026.

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