

**The National Commander met with Secretary Janet Napolitano today at 1 pm concerning the Homeland Security report. He has already been on a couple television shows. And the phone calls have started coming to our office from unhappy Legionnaires who think he should have called for her resignation.**

**We will be issuing a news release later today, probably after 5:30 pm, when he has finished his media tour. In the meanwhile, you may need to know the following:**

- 1. The American Legion deals in policies and not personalities.**
- 2. The Secretary offered her sincerest apologies to the National Commander for the offensive language in the report.**
- 3. Secretary Napolitano admitted that the report never should have been printed or released. By her own admission, the derogatory language toward America's veterans was untrue and unwarranted.**
- 4. She reaffirmed her commitment to hiring more veterans within the DHS.**
- 5. She is going to partner with TAL to provide outreach to veterans seeking employment.**
- 6. She has devoted her own personal staff at DHS to work directly with TAL and other VSOs to ensure that the veterans community has a direct, and responsive, line of**

**communication directly into her office, and she also gave the National Commander her direct, personal phone number.**

**7. The National Commander gave her a Blue Star Banner flag which she requested because the DHS currently has more than 80 active duty/guard/reserve employees deployed.**

**In short, the National Commander got everything from the Secretary that was requested, and more, and is persuaded that her apology is absolutely sincere because of the actions she has taken. If the secretary had announced two weeks ago the initiatives that she and our commander agreed upon today, she would have been hailed as a hero. Instead, our national commander should be congratulated for effecting these changes in the attitudes at DHS.**

**A release will follow later today, and be sent to all departments and the media. In the meanwhile please assure any upset Legionnaires that this is a total victory for the Legion and America's veterans.**