



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

Winter 2007

In this edition:

New leadership: Introducing the new DASD, and Chairman of the United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs.	2
Donating your DNA: The importance of DNA in the identification process.	2
Spotlight on Personnel Recovery: The other end of the accounting mission.	3
Recent identifications: Since September 2006.	3
Schedule of events: Family Updates and Government Briefings.	4

The Torch is reborn with new image

The Torch publication has been off the shelves for a while, but now it's back with a new image and focus.

While the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office will publish and distribute it quarterly, the focus is broadened to include all organizations which contribute to the recovery and accounting mission, not just DPMO.

The Torch's goal is to inform readers about what the accounting and personnel recovery communities are doing to account for service members missing from past wars, and how we prepare today's service members to avoid and survive captivity. It will show how various DoD and interagency organizations work together to accomplish both missions while protecting our most treasured resource...our people.

In these newsletters, you will see information from a variety of organizations, including:

- Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL)
- Combatant Commands

- Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)
- DoD and Interagency Personnel Recovery Offices
- Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA)
- Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)
- Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL)
- Service Casualty Offices (SCOs) and Mortuary Offices

We hope you enjoy this new edition of *The Torch*. To continue receiving this quarterly publication, write to:

Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
Attn: Public Affairs
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-2400
Or call (703) 699-1420

The Torch is also posted online at:
www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

Contact us:

For more information regarding a missing loved one, call your respective Service Casualty Office:

U.S. Air Force
1-800-531-5501

U.S. Army
1-800-892-2490

U.S. Marine Corps
1-800-847-1597

U.S. Navy
1-800-443-9298

U.S. Department of State
202-647-5470

MIA family members visit White House

Family members of missing in action servicemen from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War were invited to breakfast at the White House on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2006.

The guests, who were recognized by their Service Casualty Offices, also had their pictures taken with President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura.

After breakfast, the families were escorted to Arlington National Cemetery where President Bush spoke at a ceremony recognizing the nation's veterans, past and present.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (center) talks with Charleye Dyer, whose father is missing in action from WWII, as Marine Maj. Brent Searing, DPMO Casualty Liaison Officer, looks on.

Introducing new leadership

Ambassador Charles A. Ray was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs in September 2006.

Ambassador Ray is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for policy, control and oversight of all matters pertaining to missing personnel, and for establishing uniform policies and procedures leading the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing in action from all conflicts.

Ambassador Ray brings to DPMO a variety of experience based on his previous assignments as the Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, various positions in the Department of State, a 20-year career in the Army, and more recently, the diplomat in residence at the University of Houston.



General Robert “Doc” Foglesong (USAF, Ret.) was appointed Chairman of the United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs in April 2006.

The commission works with Russian officials and citizens to seek information that may help to account for missing Americans. It also serves as a forum through which the Russians seek to determine the fates of their missing.

General Foglesong served 34 years in the Air Force as an aviator and more recently, he was the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He currently serves as the President of Mississippi State University.



For full biographies, visit:

www.dtic.mil/dpmo [click on *Biographies link*]

DNA samples needed

How families can help in IDs

Approximately 80 percent of the identifications made today use special DNA comparisons.

This special DNA is called Mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA, and it's found only in the maternal bloodline. This means that each person's mother, as well as brothers, sisters, sister's children and many other relatives share the same mtDNA.

This type of DNA aids in the identification because it's long-lasting, abundant and doesn't change much from generation to generation. DNA testing alone doesn't identify an individual like a fingerprint, but it does help determine if an individual is related to surviving relatives, and it's a powerful tool for JPAC scientists as they establish the identification.

How you can help

Although not every family member's mtDNA is necessary in the identification process, all family members are encouraged to call their Service Casualty Offices to see if they're eligible to donate, or if they know someone who is. Even distant relatives have helped identify unknown remains through DNA donations.

The donating process is easy, non-invasive and can be accomplished from home. If you are eligible, a kit will be mailed to you and the directions will instruct you to swab the inside of your cheek. You will receive a postage-paid envelope to mail your sample to AFDIL where it will be kept on file. Your sample may only be used for the purposes of assisting remains identification—it will not be released to any other organizations or government agencies.

For more information about your eligibility to donate or about the DNA identification process, call your Service Casualty Office. The contact information is shown in the box on page one.

Climbing high

HOUAPHAN PROVINCE, LAOS— A JPAC team excavates a crash site in 2003 on one of its more difficult terrains, Pha Thi Mountain, in search of missing Americans from the Vietnam War. A typical JPAC excavation team has 10-14 members, including a team sergeant, linguist, medic, life support technician, forensic photographer, explosive ordnance disposal technician, and if needed, additional experts such as mountaineering specialists. Country locals may also travel with the team to help locate a site. There are 18 JPAC teams that perform these missions, each one lasting from 30-65 days, depending on the nature of the recovery. This year, 21 missions are scheduled for all over the world including Vietnam, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, South Korea, Palau, China and Europe. For more information about JPAC, visit www.jpac.pacom.mil.



Spotlight on personnel recovery: Bring them *All* home

“That others may live.” “You are not forgotten.” “Keeping the promise.” “Until they are home.” “I will never leave a fallen comrade.”

These mottoes are familiar to the men and women in combat today as well as to the families of those missing from earlier conflicts. They are all reminders of the commitment made by this nation to its military and civilian personnel alike. This commitment was echoed by senior military and civilian leaders who participated in the DoD’s Personnel Recovery Conference in January. They stressed the importance of building personnel recovery relationships throughout the U.S. government and among coalition partners to keep the promise to the people we put into harm’s way.

Most readers are familiar with the work done by DoD agencies to recover and identify the remains



of those who are unaccounted-for. Equally important is the personnel recovery mission.

In 1996, Congress passed the Missing Service Persons Act which directed that DPMO provide policy oversight in this critically important mission of recovering captured, missing, or isolated men and women in harm’s way. These actions include political, military and civil acts needed to gain their release or rescue.

Through its partners in this oversight role, DPMO works with the U.S. Joint Forces Command, the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, the Joint Staff, Combatant Commanders, the military services and other government agencies to coordinate personnel recovery policy. Recent efforts have led to better trained personnel capable of surviving an isolating event, as well as sufficient funding for advanced personnel recovery technologies to aid in recoveries.

Recent identifications—families key in last step to closure

Accounting for a missing service member isn’t complete when a crash site has been located and excavated, when remains have been found or even when the DNA test supports a positive identification.

The process is only complete when the next-of-kin family member is notified and accepts the identification.

The Service Casualty Office contacts the primary next-of-kin of a formerly unaccounted-for service member when an identification has been made. The family member is briefed on the government’s evidence that might include DNA results, dental comparisons, identification tags, combat equipment, or eyewitness reports and interviews. No identification is made without an exhaustive and lengthy process that involves analyzing decades of information. The results are compiled carefully to ensure the identification is complete and accurate.

The last and most important step is to ensure the families accept the identification and that all their questions are answered. With the family member’s consent, the identification is then released to the public. This announcement is usually sent to veterans and family groups, and local and national media outlets.

Since September 2006, the DoD has publicly released the following MIA identifications:

WWII:

Sgt. Joseph A. Berube, USAAF
Staff. Sgt. Glendon E. Harris, USAAF

Korean War:

Master Sgt. Alfred H. Alonzo, Sr., USA
Cpl. Pastor Balanon, Jr., USA
Pfc. Francis Crater, Jr., USA
Cpl. Jimmie L. Dorser, USA
Master Sgt. Robert V. Layton, USA
Sgt. Francis E. Lindsay, USA
Pfc. Charles H. Long, USA
Cpl. William E. Wood, USA

Vietnam War:

Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, USA
Lt. Col. Paul E. Getchell, USAF
Sgt. 1st Class Francis G. Graziosi, USA
1st Lt. James L. Hull, USAF
James B. McGovern, Jr., CIA
Cmdr. Peter Mongilardi, USN
Master Sgt. Norman Payne, USA
Maj. Frederick J. Ransbottom, USA
Col. Charles J. Scharf, USAF
Staff Sgt. William E. Skivington, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Lewis C. Walton, USA
Pfc. James Widener, USMC



The identification of Col. Charles Scharf, an Air Force Vietnam War pilot, was released in October 2006. Colonel Scharf was identified using DNA samples from the gummed adhesive on envelopes containing love letters that he sent his wife during the war. More than 850 MIAs who served in Vietnam have been accounted for.

Read this publication on the web:
<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo>

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-2400



2007 Family Update/Government Briefing schedules

Family members of missing-in-action service personnel are invited to attend informational meetings held nearly every month in major metropolitan areas across the country. These sessions provide specific information to family members about their loved one's cases. The dates and locations for this year's family updates are:

Jan. 20—Fort Worth, Texas	May 19—Cheyenne, Wyo.
Feb. 24—Tampa, Fla.	July 21—Cincinnati, Ohio
March 24—Sacramento, Calif.	Aug. 18—Kansas City, Mo.
Apr. 21—Boston, Mass.	Nov. 17—Phoenix, Ariz.

In addition to family updates, annual government briefings are held in the Washington D.C. area for Vietnam War, and Korean and Cold War family members.

The dates for this year's annual government briefings are:

June 21-23—Vietnam War	Oct. 18-20—Korean and Cold War
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------

For more information on the family updates and government briefings, call your respective Service Casualty Office. The contact information is shown in the box on page one.



Army Sgt. 1st Class Andy Wahoviak, DPMO North-east Asia Analyst, discusses a specific case with family members of a missing serviceman. Sergeant Wahoviak is one of about 30 government specialists who travels across the country to brief family members on the government's efforts to account for the missing. Since 1995, more than 13,000 family members have been reached through this program and the annual government briefings.