



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

JUN 23 2010

POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH
AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Policy on Information Access, Transparency, and Sharing in Support of
Personnel Accounting and Personnel Recovery

Recovering missing persons in current conflicts and accounting for those still missing from past wars both depend upon our ability to share information across agency boundaries. The FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains several provisions that underscore the need to manage information in a collaborative and transparent manner. This policy memo affirms the critical role of information sharing in complying with the FY2010 NDAA and articulates the way ahead for the POW/MIA accounting and personnel recovery community.

Specifically, four elements of the FY2010 NDAA highlight the need for this policy. First, it directs the Secretary of Defense to implement a comprehensive, coordinated, integrated, and fully resourced program to account for persons missing from past conflicts. Second, the formal inclusion of WWII as a proactive mission area has significantly expanded the number of cases requiring action. Third, the requirement to establish a personnel file for individuals missing from past conflicts means the information collected by separate agencies must be accessible to all. Fourth, the statutory requirement to be capable of 200 identifications per year by 2015 demands process improvements in order to increase efficiency and achieve this new goal.

Given the distances separating the accounting community agencies, better information sharing is critical to our future success. The agencies responsible for the POW/MIA accounting mission, as defined by the FY2010 NDAA, include the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, the casualty and mortuary affairs offices, and other DoD elements designated by the Secretary of Defense. In addition, this policy applies to the personnel recovery agencies including the Joint Staff, combatant commands, services, and the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency.



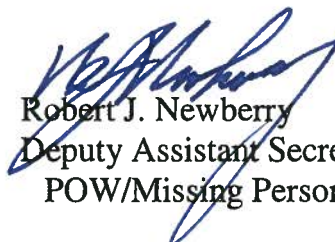
Accordingly, individual organizations of the POW/MIA accounting and personnel recovery community will ensure that analysts, historians, investigators, excavation teams, recovery forces, scientists, planners, staff officers, and decision makers across the community have access to information in a fully transparent and collaborative environment. DPMO will develop a case management system to provide an information sharing platform for cases spanning the mission continuum from personnel recovery in ongoing conflicts to historical accounting. In order for this system to succeed, all organizations in the POW/MIA accounting and personnel recovery community will establish a program to scan and digitize existing information on missing persons that is currently available only in hard copy. These files will be uploaded to digital files accessible to all members of the accounting community. Resource shortfalls should be coordinated with DPMO to ensure OSD-level advocacy for valid funding requirements.

This policy memo is not limited to the mandated creation of personnel files for missing personnel but also is intended to foster open exchanges between individual researchers and analysts through formal venues such as case coordination meetings. DPMO will closely coordinate with the community to monitor the efficacy of information management procedures and systems in order to effect continuous process improvement.

As required by law, these information sharing systems will incorporate appropriate security requirements to protect classified and personal information. These systems will also include appropriate precautions so material cannot be altered or changed other than by the originator or with the originator's permission.

Better information management procedures will improve case management efficiency and increase effectiveness throughout the POW/MIA accounting and personnel recovery community. We will work together to create a culture of accessibility, transparency, and sharing of information.

This policy memo has been fully coordinated with the Joint Staff, services, and principal OSD staff offices. DPMO will coordinate with the Department's Director of Administration and Management to incorporate this policy into the next revision of the applicable DoD Directives. We will address implementation of this policy via separate correspondence to the POW/MIA accounting and personnel recovery community.


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POW/Missing Personnel Affairs