



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office



FACT SHEET

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) is located in Arlington, Va., and was established in 1993, at the direction of the Secretary of Defense. Its mission is to account for the more than 83,000 personnel lost between World War II through more recent conflicts. DPMO also works to limit the loss or capture of Americans who are serving abroad, and to bring home those who are captured or killed while serving our country.

DPMO is comprised of a team of more than 120 civilians and military personnel with expertise in: (1) personnel accounting plans, policy, control and oversight; (2) gathering and analyzing case-related information; and (3) communication to families and the public.

The Director of DPMO is also the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs. In this role the DASD oversees the entire DoD accounting community of more than 600 people dedicated to the mission of finding and bringing home our missing personnel. These experts have experience in foreign government negotiation, formulation of national policy, remains recovery and identification, DNA science, archival research, intelligence analysis and casualty affairs.

A key mission for DPMO is to keep families of the missing apprised of the efforts being made to account for their loved ones. Several times a year, DPMO leads teams of government specialists in meeting with hundreds of family members of missing personnel in Washington, D.C., and major metropolitan areas across the country. These meetings are designed to address the individual needs of the family members while bringing information to their communities. Analysts and recovery specialists also meet one-on-one with family members to discuss the details of their case.

“Keeping the Promise” is DPMO’s motto. It refers to the promise made by the U.S. Government to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country. It requires a worldwide effort to ensure progress toward achieving the fullest possible accounting of our missing service members.