



THE TORCH

Illuminating government personnel accounting efforts



DEFENSE POW / MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE

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HISTORIC POW/MIA TALKS HELD IN BANGKOK

The four nations involved in accounting for Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War held a historic meeting in Bangkok in October.

Hosted by Jerry D. Jennings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, the senior-level talks were held for the U.S., Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam to exchange ideas, experiences and techniques that have been productive in accounting for missing Americans and to agree on a common vision for work in this area.

The meeting represented the first time that all four nations have joined together in such talks since the end of the war in 1975. The U.S. works with each of the countries individually as specialists investigate MIA cases

and excavate loss sites in an effort to recover and identify the remains of missing Americans.

Since 1973, the U.S. has accounted for more than 700 Americans from the Vietnam War. More than 1,800 are still unaccounted for. More than 88,000 Americans are still missing from all conflicts.

Mr. Jennings emphasized to the delegations of the other nations that the U.S. will continue its bilateral relationships in this work and expressed his appreciation, on behalf of American families, for their cooperation in the past. Each year, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam host more than 700 American specialists who review archives or conduct investigations and recovery operations.

At the conclusion of the two-day session, the delegates agreed that such talks were a useful forum for improving joint cooperation on this important humanitarian mission. This forum will be known as the Annual POW/MIA Consultations. An essential part of this consultation will be a joint effort to oversee regional accounting activities. The delegates agreed to hold such consultations annually and to rotate the venues.

The delegates emphasized that sharing POW/MIA-related information among the four nations would be useful as they seek to investigate cases through archival research and cross-border interviews and that the exchange of information should be continued.?

JPAC Activated

The long awaited merger of Joint Task Force – Full Accounting and the Army's Central Identification Laboratory occurred on October 1, with the formation of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Commanded by Brig. Gen. (P) W. Montague Winfield, JPAC is located at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

More than 425 military and civilian personnel are part of the new organization that is charged with supporting the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts. JPAC personnel, along with other U.S. and foreign specialists, investigate leads of those last known alive and search for, recover and identify remains of Americans unaccounted-for from World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.

JPAC maintains six investigation teams, each comprised of four to nine people, each with specialized skills. These teams investigate case leads to identify potential recovery sites. There

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**PUBLISHED BY:**

Hon. Jerry D. Jennings
Deputy Assistant Secretary
of Defense for POW/MIA
Personnel Affairs

Dr. Kaye Whitley
Senior Director,
Communications

Maj. Joe Tenney
Director, Communications
Strategy and Editor

CONTRIBUTORS:

Ms. Carol Brown
Analyst, RA Directorate

Mr. Ken Terry
Navy Casualty Office

Ms. Debra MacDonald
Chief, FOIA Section

Mr. Larry Greer
Director, Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Michael Lunini
Analyst, JCSD

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Grisdale
Analyst, RA Directorate

A Message from the Honorable Jerry D. Jennings

It has been a busy summer and fall for the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office and the other U.S. government agencies seeking to account for Americans lost throughout the world. Following successful summer meetings with families of unaccounted-for Americans from the Vietnam War, the Korean War and the Cold War, we attended several of the national veterans' conventions to update them on recent activities and initiatives.

During a September trip to Moscow, I met with members of the Russian side of the joint commission, once again pressing for the declassification of Vietnam War-era documents and for additional help in locating and interviewing retired soldiers who served in Southeast Asia. I am encouraged by their work in declassifying Korean War materials, and I urged them to extend their efforts to find more data.

A major accomplishment in the last few months was the October 1 merger of the Army's Central Identification Laboratory and the Joint Task Force – Full Accounting into one organization under the U.S. Pacific Command. The new Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), under the leadership of Brig. Gen. (P) W. Montague Winfield, has a worldwide mission to investigate leads of those last known alive and to recover and identify American war dead.

We recently completed the first annual POW/MIA consultations in Bangkok with senior-level delegations representing the U.S., Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. In addition to our work with each country individually, this forum will provide us the opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and techniques that have been productive in accounting for missing Americans and to agree on a common vision for work in this area. In Mid-November we concluded successful negotiations with North Korea that will put our teams into that country for joint remains recoveries. This will be the ninth consecutive year that we have conducted such operations in North Korea.

As 2003 draws to a close, on behalf of all of us at DPMO, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for the holidays and the new year.

(Continued from page 1)

JPAC Activated

are 18 recovery teams, with 10 to 14 people in each. Besides a team leader, each also has a forensic anthropologist, a linguist, a medic, a life support technician, a forensic photographer, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, several mortuary affairs specialists and a sergeant who acts as the team's foreman. These teams usually conduct field operations for 35 to 45 days per mission. Their work on site is normally augmented by the local population hired to assist in the recovery work.

More than 30 anthropologists and four forensic odontologists (dentists), all with advanced degrees and specialized experience, staff the laboratory section in JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory. The anthropologists have dual roles depending on whether they are deployed in the field or working at the laboratory in Hawaii. When not deployed, the

anthropologists are responsible for the skeletal analysis of human remains and analysis of material evidence such as military uniforms, personal effects and identification tags. When deployed with the search and recovery teams in the field, the anthropologists are responsible for all aspects of the archaeological excavation of a site. JPAC has the largest staff of forensic anthropologists in the world, and several hold the highest board certification in forensic anthropology.

Before joining JPAC, Winfield served as the assistant division commander (Support), 25th Infantry Division (Light) in Hawaii. He also served as the deputy commanding general for Multi-National Division (North) in Bosnia-Herzegovina for *Stabilization Force 11* during his last assignment. ?

JCSD Analyst Goes the Extra Mile in Ukraine

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Presidents of the United States and Russia established the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs. The commission serves as a forum through which both nations seek to determine the fates of their missing servicemen. DPMO provides analytical, investigative and administrative support to the commission through the Joint Commission Support Directorate.

Today JCSD analysts continue to search the former Soviet Union (FSU) to learn what secrets may still be locked away. They work with government officials, research archival holdings, and most importantly, they talk with citizens of the FSU who may have witnessed incidents involving unaccounted-for Americans.

Master Sgt. Michael Lunini of JCSD's Korean War Working Group has spearheaded one such ongoing effort. He has spent more than seven months during the past two years traveling around Ukraine in search of veterans from the Korean War. He has visited dozens of cities, town, villages and farming communities in the course of his work. When asked his impressions about working in the FSU, Lunini says that he is always amazed at how warmly he is welcomed everywhere he goes.

Lunini paints the example, "Imagine living in Kansas and some Russian guy knocks on your door and says 'I want to talk with you about missing Russian soldiers.' Can I come in?"

Finding veterans in the FSU is challenging. Two years ago, Lunini first traveled to Ukraine with fewer than a dozen leads. Thanks to his determination, JCSD has now conducted more than 200 interviews and has hundreds of additional leads on Korean and Vietnam War veterans.

Lunini spoke with officials in the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense

and was able to garner support for JCSD to work with the country's military pension departments. Pension records, however, are only effective in finding commissioned officers who receive a military pension. As in any military, the majority of those who served were enlisted. By Ukrainian estimates, between 12,000-13,000 Ukrainians served in China or Korea between 1950 and 1953.

In May 2002, Lunini turned to the Committee of Veterans of Ukraine to ask for assistance in locating enlisted servicemen from the Korean and Vietnam wars. General Ivan Gerasimov, Commander of the Veterans of Ukraine, was so impressed with our POW/MIA accounting efforts that he assigned an assistant, Naval Captain First Rank Ivan Savin, to work with Sergeant Lunini. Since that time, they have worked closely together in identifying and interviewing veterans in Ukraine. They have traveled

by train, plane, and automobile, trudged through knee-deep snowdrifts and driven across freshly plowed cornfields. Thanks to their work, five American families have received information concerning their missing loved ones.

This August, Sergeant Lunini returned to Ukraine once again. This time he took a more sophisticated approach to locating veterans from the Korean War. In less than a month's time, he successfully negotiated with a national television company and several nationally distributed newspapers to run advertisements asking veterans to come forward with information. The program continues and is being supported by the Ukrainian Veterans' Committee, which collects the veterans' responses. "Time is working against us," says Lunini. "The veterans are aging, and in a few short years those who may still have information will not be with us." ?



Master Sgt. Michael Lunini (l) interviews former Soviet Korean War veteran in his Donetsk, Ukraine home, February 2003. (DPMO Photo/Sgt. 1st Class Gary Grisdale)

Crew of World War II U.S. Navy Aircraft Found, Identified

The remains of seven American servicemen missing in action from World War II have been found in Russia, identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. A group burial of the remains took place at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, Nov. 20.

The seven Navy aircrew members are identified as Lt. Walter S. Whitman Jr. of Philadelphia, Pa.; Lt. j.g. John W. Hanlon Jr. of Worcester, Mass.; Petty Officer 2nd Class Clarence C. Fridley of Manhattan, Mont.; Petty Officer 2nd Class Donald G. Lewallen of Omaha, Neb.; Petty Officer 2nd Class Jack J. Parlier of Decatur, Ill.; Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel L. Crown Jr. of Columbus, Ohio and Petty Officer 3rd Class James S. Palko of Superior, Wis.

On March 25, 1944, Whitman and his crew took off in their PV-1 Ventura bomber from their base on Attu Island, Alaska, headed for enemy targets in the Kurile Islands of Japan. The aircraft was part of a five-plane flight that encountered heavy weather throughout the entire mission. About six hours into the mission, the base at Attu notified Whitman by radio of his bearing. There was no further contact with the crew. When Whitman's aircraft failed to return, an over water search was initiated by surface ships and aircraft in an area extending 200 miles from Attu, but no wreckage was found.

In January 2000, DPMO staff from the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAAs in Moscow received a report from a Russian citizen who had discovered wreckage in 1962 of a U.S. aircraft on the Kamchatka Peninsula on the east coast of Russia. Later that year, specialists from the Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI), along with members of the commission, found the wreckage and some human remains.

The following year, the team returned to excavate the crash site. They recovered additional remains, artifacts and aircrrew-related items that correlate to the names on the manifest of the PV-1.

Between 2001-2003, CILHI scientists employed a wide range of forensic identification techniques, including that of mitochondrial DNA, to confirm the identity of crewmembers.

More than 78,000 servicemen are missing in action from World War II. ?



First excavated in 2001, skeletal remains of a WWII PV-1 crew were recovered, identified and on Nov. 20, buried as a group at Arlington National Cemetery. (DPMO File Photo/Peggy Marish-Boos)

Vietnam Case Categories

Investigative leads developed both in the field and by U.S. analysts drive accounting efforts on Vietnam War losses. Analysts constantly review all the available information in an effort to ensure they uncover the most viable leads in each case. Based upon the results of investigative actions, analysts put the cases in one of three categories. Here are the categories and the definition of each:

Further Pursuit - The case requires additional work to account for the individual, and analysts have identified the next steps that need to be taken. These steps may include, but are not limited to, excavations, interview of witnesses both in Southeast Asia and in the U.S., archival research, or identification efforts by JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory.

Deferred - The case requires additional work to account for the individual, but all viable and case-specific leads are exhausted. Analysts defer pursuit until further leads are developed through general collection efforts, unilaterally provided data or other means.

No Further Pursuit - Nothing more can be done to recover this individual. Analysts agree that no reasonable efforts by either the Indochinese or U.S. investigators will lead to an accounting because the individual perished under circumstances that make remains unrecoverable, or because the grave site has been lost or destroyed. Although active work on the case ceases, should relevant information become available, it is pursued regardless of the category.

Obtaining a Copy of Your Missing Relative's File...

...Via Your Service Casualty Office

We continue to learn of family members who were unaware that they can obtain a copy of the U.S. government's files on their missing loved one, *without filing a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)*. The procedure is simple: just request a copy through your service casualty office (see pages 6 and 7). The primary next of kin (PNOK) as well as other members of the immediate family are eligible to receive copies of the file.

Upon receipt of the request the casualty office will obtain copies of the files held by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) – often referred to as the intelligence file because they include reporting, if any, from the Central Intelligence Agency or the National Security Agency. Family members can also request copies of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command holdings. The family member's casualty office will compile all of the materials and send them to the requestor. Only information on intelligence sources and methods is removed from the documents.

PNOKs who wish to review their file with a government representative at DPMO in Arlington, Virginia, should request an appointment through their service casualty office, in writing, at least 30 working days prior to the date desired. We highly recommend families obtain a copy of their loved one's file prior to attending a file review.



The 2004 Government Meetings for the Korean War and Cold War Families will be held on April 30th and May 1st at the Hilton in Tysons Corner
7920 Jones Branch Drive McLean, Virginia 22102

...Via the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration

Approximately one million pages of POW/MIA-related documents, many of them once classified, are now available through the Library of Congress. The Vietnam-era records are accessible to the public and contain many of the individual case files. To view the index of records, visit the Library of Congress Web site at: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/powquery.html>

The National Archives and Records Administration holds thousands of pages of text primarily pertaining to the Korean and Cold Wars. NARA also has pages of Russian text covering all wars. The public may order information from NARA using the toll free number: (866) 272-6272. Other useful information is on the NARA Web site at: <http://www.archives.gov>

...Via the Freedom of Information Act

Members of the public and families who want information that is not case specific and is not in the Library of Congress or NARA, may wish to file a FOIA request. FOIA requests should be submitted to:

**The Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155**

Your requests should be as specific as possible. If you know them, include the dates, titles, authors and addresses for documents and letters you are seeking. ?

Mark Your Calendar!

DECEMBER:

7th—Japanese Bombed Pearl Harbor (1941)

9th—Operation Restore Hope Began (1992, Somalia)

16th—Operation Desert Fox Began (1998, Iraq)

19th—Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

20th—Operation Just Cause Began (1989, Panama); Operation Joint Guard Began (1996, Bosnia-Herzegovina); Operation Desert Fox Ended (1998, Iraq)

25th—Christmas

26th—Kwanzaa Begins

31st—New Year's Eve

JANUARY:

19th—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observed

20th—Battle of Khe Sanh Began

24th—Family Update, Nashville, Tenn.

27th—Vietnam Cease-fire (1973)



31st—Operation Just Cause Ended (Panama, 1990)

FEBRUARY:

5th—Battle of Hill 440 Began, 1951

12th—Operation Homecoming began (1973)

19th—Marines land on Iwo Jima, 1945

21st—Family Update, Los Angeles



24th—Family Update, Honolulu

MARCH:

3rd—"Star Spangled Banner" Made U.S. National Anthem, 1931

20th—Family Update, Milwaukee, Wis.



Joint Recoveries Continue in North Korea

In spite of the complex international relationship between the U.S. and the government of North Korea, we remain focused on the mission to account for Americans lost there some 50 years ago. On October 28, remains believed to be those of eight American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War were repatriated to U.S. control in ceremonies at Yokota Air Base Japan.

Following July negotiations led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry D. Jennings, where the terms of the work were agreed upon, the remains were recovered by two teams of U.S. specialists working in North Korea between August 23 and October 28. A joint forensic review confirmed these remains are likely to be those of American servicemen.

A joint team operating near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea recovered seven sets of remains believed to be

those of U.S. Army soldiers from the 7th Infantry Division who fought against Chinese forces in November-December 1950. Approximately 1,000 Americans were lost in battles of the Chosin campaign.

A second team working in Unsan County, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, recovered one soldier's remains. This area was the site of battles between communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

The 28-person U.S. contingent was composed primarily of specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

Since 1996, 27 individual joint operations have been conducted in North Korea, during which 186 sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers have been recovered. ?



Vietnamese Minister of National Defense Senior Lt. Gen. Pham Van Tra, (r, standing) and his delegation visit DPMO for a meeting on American POW/MIA. In attendance were Mrs. Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director for the National League of Families; Mr. John Brieden, national commander, American Legion; Mr. James R. Mueller, junior vice commander-in-chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Mr. Jim Doran, national service director, American Veterans. (DPMO Photo/Larry Greer)

HOW TO REACH US...

USAF Missing Persons Branch
HQ AFPC/DPWCM
550 C Street West, Suite 15
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/powmia/>
(800) 531-5501

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
ATTN: AHRC-PER
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0482
<http://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/powmia.htm>
(800) 892-2490

Headquarters US Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)
Personal and Family Readiness Division
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103
(800) 847-1597

The Navy Casualty Office, an Advocate for POW/MIA Families

Our nation is unique in that our government continues to fulfill its promise to members of the armed forces and their families: to bring service members home alive whenever humanly possible, and if not possible, to return a service member's remains to his or her family so they can receive a proper burial with full military honors.

The Navy casualty office, like its counterparts from the Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force, is the vital link between the families and the government agencies responsible for "keeping the promise."

The Navy casualty office is organized to respond to two principal areas of responsibility: Day-to-day casualty issues and POW/MIA accounting. Responsibility for day-to-day issues rests with its casualty section. It handles all issues related to recently ill, injured or deceased sailors or their dependents. The section also handles mass casualty situations such as the *USS Cole* incident.

The POW/MIA section has responsibility for those issues relating to the search for unaccounted-for Navy personnel dating back to World War II. The section is also responsible for cases of Navy personnel who become captured or missing as a result of *Operations Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*. The POW/MIA section is comprised of professionals, both uniformed and civilian, who help POW/MIA families understand the intricacies of the government's work to bring their loved ones home. They are the primary liaison between families and the many government agencies involved in the accounting effort. They are a family's eyes, ears and advocates, in keeping abreast of the ongoing efforts related to their loved one's case.

Updated information is presented to family members via written correspondence and

during government-sponsored meetings, such as family updates and annual government briefings. Once remains are identified, members of the POW/MIA section, along with the Navy mortuary office, visit the primary next of kin to explain the identification information and to assist the family with burial arrangements.

Currently, the section monitors hundreds of cases involving Navy personnel. These cases represent servicemen still unaccounted-for from World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.

The dedicated members of the Navy casualty office work tirelessly so sailors and their families receive the support they deserve. They draw tremendous satisfaction each time a sailor is returned home, knowing another promise has been kept. ?



Mr. John McConnaha of Navy casualty office reviews a report with a family member. (DPMO Photo/Maj. Joe Tenney)

Department of the Navy
Navy Personnel Command
POW/MIA Section (PERS-P62P)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210
[\(http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/POW-MIA/62P.htm\)](http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/POW-MIA/62P.htm)
(800) 443-9298

Department of State
Office of American Citizens Services
and Crisis Management
CA/OCS/ACS/EAP
2201 C Street, Northwest, Room 4811
Washington, DC 20520-4818
(202) 647-6769

Defense Prisoner of War/
Missing Personnel Office
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400
[\(www.dtic.mil/dpmo\)](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400



View our Web site at:

www.dtic.mil/dpmo

2003 National POW/MIA Recognition Day—September 19

Although Hurricane Isabel forced a cancellation of this year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day event at the Pentagon, several observances did take place around the country.

Among them, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, the Hon. Jerry D. Jennings rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

In St Louis, Fire Chief Sherman George and other dignitaries lit a torch from the American Legion eternal flame at Memorial Plaza, and drove the torch to O'Fallon, Mo., where Maj. Paul Renaud and others led a ceremony to light an eternal flame at the Veterans Memorial there.



National POW/MIA Recognition Day came to a close with the ringing of the NYSE bell by Hon. Jerry D. Jennings, Sept. 19. Air Force casualty officers, a family member of an MIA and NYSE representatives flank him. (NYSE Photo)

In Lansing, Mich., a ceremony was held at the Capitol Rotunda to honor the state's 365 missing servicemen from the Korean War, 57 missing from the Vietnam War and four missing from the Cold War.

In Columbus, Ohio, 500 people witnessed a 21-gun salute in honor of the missing. In Miami, former prisoners of World War II, Korea and Vietnam spoke to a gathering of veterans and their families. In Seattle, bracelets inscribed with the names of POW/MIAs were presented to the POW/MIAs Living Memorial at Washington Memorial Park Cemetery.

