



THE TORCH

Illuminating government personnel accounting efforts



DEFENSE POW/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE

Fall 2004

Inside

Message From Mr. Jennings 2

Discussions on Recovery Ops in South Korea 3

Consultations in Cambodia 4

"A World Away" Recovery Ops in Former USSR 5

Accounting Conference in Hawaii 6

WWII Database Development 6

Vietnam War Family Gather in 7

NY Mets Honor POW/MIAs 8

Pentagon Commemorates National POW/MIA Recognition Day

"When one of our own is killed in action, taken prisoner or becomes missing, we lose a member of our military family," Air Force General Richard B. Meyers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told attendees during the Pentagon's National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony on September 14.

Myers called the event's keynote speaker, World War II Medal of Honor recipient Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, "a true American hero." Inouye fought with the all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. With the motto "Go for Broke," the 442nd had more than 18,000 awards bestowed upon it, including 9,500 Purple Hearts, 32 Distinguished Service Crosses, Seven Distinguished Unit Citations, and 20 Medals of Honor.

Calling the 80-year-old senator a friend of the military, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said no one understands better what the men and women of the armed forces want for the country and what they are prepared to give.

Senator Inouye said today's military members stand for the same principles as the POWs and MIAs before them. "American POWs and MIAs have honored their nation through their service and their sacrifice, much like



World War II Medal of Honor recipient Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii troops the line with Colonel Charles Taylor, regimental commander of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Division (Old Guard) to begin the Pentagon's National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies on September 14.

the magnificent young men and women standing so proudly on the parade field today," he said. "Those who wear the uniform today and those who went before them know, better than most, why bringing home our missing Americans is a sacred commitment. That mission rests squarely on the shoulders of those of us to whom you have entrusted some measure of leadership. Your support and encouragement will continue to hold us accountable." He told the military members in the audience it's important for them to know the nation will not abandon them.

"Though this effort is engrained in the hearts and minds of Americans, it's you who ensure this mission continues," he said. "You're aware of the monumental effort to account for the missing from all wars, but the commitment goes much further than that."

"While we seek to bring home the warriors of the past, we must also ensure that you warriors of the present – should you go into harm's way – know your nation will bring you home. Whatever it takes!" To the families of the missing, Inouye said, "Your government will not rest until they all come home."

(Continued on page 3)



A Message from the Honorable Jerry D. Jennings

It has been another busy summer and fall for the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office and the other U.S. Government agencies seeking to account for Americans still unaccounted-for throughout the world. Following successful summer meetings with families of servicemen missing from the Korean and Vietnam Wars, I accepted invitations to address the national conventions of the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Chosin Few, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. The combined membership of these organizations totals more than 12,000,000 veterans. The American Legion event alone had more than 7,000 members in the audience. I am always inspired by the strong and continuing support by the veterans' community for the personnel accounting mission.

The summer was also a busy time for our operations worldwide, from North Korea to Southeast Asia to Europe. During a July trip to Vietnam, I pressed for and received access for our investigators to renew operations in the Western Highland region where they had been denied access for nearly three years due to local unrest. My delegation then moved on to Cambodia for four-nation consultations with Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

On the home front, on September 14, at the Pentagon and worldwide, we honored our former POWs and those who are still missing from our nation's conflicts during National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and General Richard B. Meyers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hosted the Pentagon ceremony where Senator Daniel Inouye delivered the keynote address. His remarks were a moving tribute to those who suffered as POWs and to those who not only made the supreme sacrifice for our country, but still await return to their loved ones.

Later in September, in my new capacity as the U.S. Chairman of the U.S. – Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, I traveled to Russia where I emphasized our desire to see greater progress. I pressed the Russians to restore elements of their side of the Commission, which recently had been eliminated in a reorganization of the Russian Government. I asked for an early decision on authorizing a Russian delegation to attend the 19th Plenum, which I will host in Washington from November 9-10. In meetings with senior leaders of two large Russian veterans organizations, I requested help in our effort to interview former Soviet veterans, and we tried to facilitate increased cooperation between Russian and American veterans groups.

As we move into the winter months, much is on the horizon, and I look forward to continuing progress on our mission. My mind will also be on our military and civilian personnel serving in harm's way around the world. Please keep them in your prayers.

(Continued from page 1)

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

"When one of our own becomes a POW or is missing, their immediate family, and the larger military family, endure the tragic pain of not knowing where they are or if they will ever return," General Myers said.

"The recovery and return of our missing Americans can mean years of painstaking effort," noted Secretary Wolfowitz. "And some 600 men and women, both military and civilians, around the world take part in everything from diplomatic negotiations and field operations to forensic analysis. They are tireless and dedicated. And through their latest efforts, the remains of fallen Americans have just been recovered in North Korea and are now headed home."

Secretary Wolfowitz said the sacrifices made by POWs and those missing in action have been great. "We're here to remember and honor the courage of America's POWs and missing countrymen who risked everything, facing the worst of war to preserve the best of America," Wolfowitz told the large gathering on the Pentagon's River Parade Field.

Troops from each military service paraded in honor of America's POWs and missing service members. An all-service color guard posted the colors, and music was provided by "The President's Own" the U.S. Marine Corps Band.

Wolfowitz assured American troops fighting terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the globe that they can be fully confident that if they're captured, become missing, or fall in battle, this nation will spare no effort to bring them home.

"That," the deputy secretary said, "is our solemn pledge. However long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost."

The character of the nation is reflected in the character of those who serve, Myers further said. "And those we remember today," he added, "reflect the very best of our nation."



Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz shakes hands with WWII Medal of Honor recipient Senator Daniel Inouye who was the guest speaker at the Pentagon's National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony.

DPMO Discusses Recovery Operations with South Korea

On September 8, representatives from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and the Joint Personnel Accounting Command met with Republic of Korea (ROK) Army personnel to discuss how to support both nations' personnel accounting missions. The meeting was chaired by Major General Yoon Il Young, the ROK Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

General Yoon explained that the ROK Army intends to develop a capability to address remains recovery issues and improve its capability to recover the remains of Koreans killed in the Korean War. He offered to assist U.S. accounting efforts by searching for witnesses in areas where U.S. information indicated American soldiers might be buried.

General Yoon's staff proposed the U.S. send detailed requirements for Americans still missing in South Korea, focused on specific locations, and they will search for witnesses who can provide information on burial sites. DPMO and JPAC welcome the opportunity to provide the requirements.

Approximately 1,400 American servicemen were reported lost in South Korea. More than 400 were repatriated and interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

DPMO Hosts Consultations in Cambodia

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) hosted the second annual POW/MIA Consultations in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Prime Minister Hun Sen, a long-time supporter of U.S. accounting operations in that nation, opened the conference. Citing what he termed, “for the sake of humanity,” the leader of the Kingdom of Cambodia challenged conference participants to find new ways to work together on the POW/MIA issue. He added that it was important to enhance cooperation and integration of efforts between the U.S., Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia as so many of the missing were lost in border areas. He also praised Vietnamese officials for their recent agreement to assist the United States by providing better access to archives, and to the Lao for acceptance of an archival research initiative.



DASD Jennings introduces Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (far right) at the start of the second annual POW/MIA Consultations in Cambodia. Seated next to the Prime Minister are (from left to right): Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Southam Sakonhnhom, Vietnam Ambassador Hung Nguyen Duc, and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Charles Ray.

In addition to the U.S. delegation headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Jerry D. Jennings, senior representatives from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia participated in two days of meetings to forge a common vision, share experiences, and set a course for the future. Last year’s gathering in Bangkok was the first time the four nations had held such a meeting to help solve questions on Americans missing from a war that ended nearly three decades earlier. The United States also works with each of the countries individually to investigate losses and excavate sites in an effort to recover, identify and return to the families the remains of Americans killed in the Vietnam War.

At the conclusion of the meetings, the delegates agreed to re-activate senior level trilateral discussions



DASD Jennings addresses foreign officials during the second annual POW/MIA Consultations in Cambodia.

on cases in the border areas. In these instances, the United States will join either Vietnam and Laos, or Vietnam and Cambodia to mount a three-nation, or trilateral, effort for case resolution.

The delegates also established new mechanisms at the expert level to coordinate efforts on these cases. They will place special emphasis on the highest priority cases, those involving American servicemen last known to be alive (LKA) at the time of their incident of loss.

Resolving the LKA cases and improving trilateral investigations in the border areas are two tasks President Bush has identified as key to success in accounting for missing Americans in Southeast Asia.

Expressing gratitude for the assistance the United States has received from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, Jennings said, “Without your cooperation, this mission could not continue. We know that and the families and veterans know that.”



DASD Jennings and senior officials from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia gather during the 2nd Annual POW/MIA Consultations in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

A World Away: Accounting for Americans Lost in the Former Soviet Union

Seventeen time zones separate Washington D.C., from Kamchatka, a peninsula the size of Japan, and buffeted by the Pacific Ocean as well as the Bering and Okhotsk Seas. Over this remote desolate place some World War II U.S. and Soviet aviators lost their aircraft, and ultimately their lives.

In August 2000, a joint U.S.-Russia team traveled to Kamchatka and positively identified PV-1 Ventura wreckage. The positive identification led to the 2002 crash site excavation by investigators from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Research on the current list of crash sites began nearly a year ago, following a previously successful Far East trip. Though the researchers lacked physical evidence or photos of various aircraft, credible Russian sources provided specific information to aid in the search.

In August 2004, a team of Defense POW/Missing Personnel (DPMO) researchers and analysts launched a Russian Far East trip to examine five World War II crash sites, interview witnesses, and collect information, all of which might help determine the fates of missing allied servicemen. Attempting to locate each crash site required patience and excellent observation skills from each team member. Additionally, the helicopter pilots braved hazardous flying conditions to accomplish the mission. The locations, scattered throughout the peninsula, include Avachinskiy and Mutnovskiy Volcanoes, Mikizha River, Malki Springs, Vestnik Bay, and Cape Lopatka. From the regional center of Petropavlosk-Kamchatskiy, the

team traveled hundreds of miles aboard a Russian Ka-27 helicopter piloted by members of the Russian Pacific Fleet.

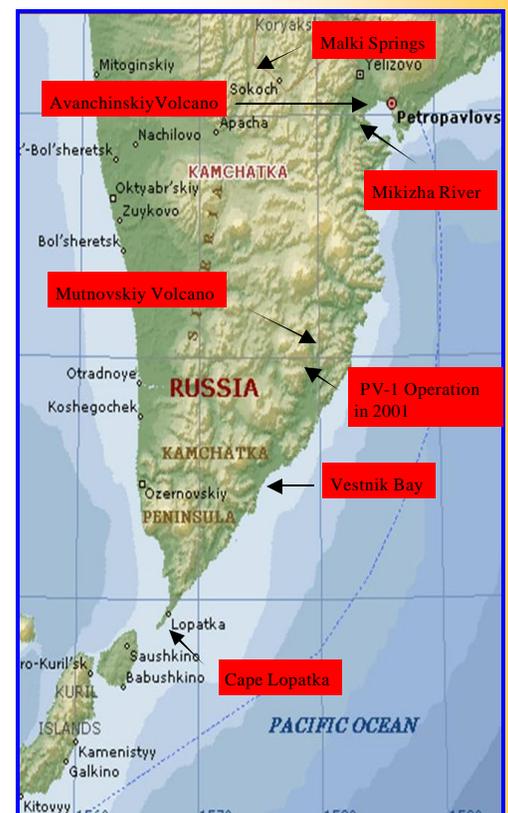
Unfortunately, fog, high winds, and rain delayed initial search operations, that commenced only after weather forecasts predicting clear skies proved accurate.

Over the next few days, the team resolved questions surrounding the aircraft at Malki Springs and Vestnik Bay. At Malki Springs, the team determined the aircraft was a single-engine German AR 196 reconnaissance aircraft used during World War II, not a twin-engine aircraft, as the team had earlier believed. Russian aircraft restorers' previous examination of the recovered wings and one float of the aircraft, along with a dive team's earlier search operation finding only the AR 196, further reinforced the team's final determination.

At Vestnik Bay, possible answers to questions surrounding the discovered aircraft proved initially elusive. Team members found and photographed aircraft wreckage in a field of debris that stretched for over three hundred meters. Researchers sent copies of the images back to D.C.-based analysts to assist in determining the aircraft type. They then determined the precise geographical coordinates for the wreckage to assist in future excursions to the region. National Air & Space Museum Archives Division Technical Information Specialists analyzed the pictures and confirmed the aircraft as a consolidated B-24 / PB4Y-1; the latter frame was used by the U.S. Navy, while the former frame flew for the U.S. Army Air Corps. The airframe, probably built in a

Consolidated factory either in San Diego, CA, or Ft. Worth, TX, was used in approximately 6,000 of the more than 18,000 B-24s built during the war. Additionally, 977 B-24 Liberators were given to the U.S. Navy and redesignated as PB4Y-1 (Liberators). U.S. Army Air Forces had one unit, the 28th Bombardment Group, operating B-24s against Japanese positions in the Kurile Islands from bases in Alaska and the Aleutians.

DPMO analysts and researchers continue to uncover facts from the more than 60 year-old conflict that engulfed millions of lives and untold amounts of resources and materiel. Research continues in domestic and foreign archives, through internet and library holdings, at European crash sites, and at those sites found a world away.



DPMO Hosts Accounting Conference in Hawaii

Delegates from Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Russia and Vietnam participated in a Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)-led conference in August on U.S. worldwide POW/MIA accounting efforts. The Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii, co-hosted the four-day gathering.

Focusing on the accounting process and operations, the delegates participated in briefings and discussions, most designed to enhance their understanding of the American people's commitment to accounting for our missing from previous wars. Through this open exchange, the foreign representatives became better acquainted with the moral, historical, cultural, and political reasons for our nation's dedication to the accounting effort. The history of the issue; death, dying, and grieving in American culture; as well as the roles of U.S. institutions, communities, and constituencies were among the topics the group discussed.

In addition to DPMO and Asia Pacific Center representatives, other U.S. participants included the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, DIA's Stony Beach team, the U.S. Pacific Command, The American Legion, as well as the sister of a serviceman missing from the

Vietnam War. Presentations addressed the science of recovery and identification and plans and goals for future accounting missions. Additional briefings focused on the families of the missing, veterans, the media, Congress and the diplomatic community.

Foreign delegates made presentations of their own, taking advantage of the opportunity to speak candidly about their nation's experiences in supporting the U.S. accounting mission.



DASD Jennings (far left) listens as former U.S. Ambassador to Laos Charles B. Salmon (far right) addresses participants of the world-wide POW/MIA Conference in Hawaii.

DPMO Develops WWII Database

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) is developing a database for Personnel Missing from World War II (PM WWII). The database will enable the office to provide basic information about World War II missing personnel and prisoners of war.

Preparing the PM WWII database entails researching, analyzing, and transferring written data into electronic format from several archival collections focusing on World War II losses and missing American servicemen. The database

will be created in three stages over the course of two years. DPMO completed the first stage of the project this summer. It provides estimates of the numbers of servicemen missing or unidentified from World War II, the general geographic area of the individual serviceman's loss, and his branch and arm of service. This initial phase is generated by automating American Graves Registration Service documents, "Rosters of Military Personnel Whose Remains were Not Recovered 1951-54." In the two

subsequent stages of database development, analysts will cross-reference the initial database with approximately 30 additional document collections to ensure the accuracy of the final results.

The database will help DPMO answer requests for information regarding World War II missing personnel and prisoners of war. The May 29, 2004, dedication of the World War II Memorial has sparked renewed interest in that war and an upsurge in requests for information on the missing.

HOW TO REACH US.....

USAF Missing Persons Branch

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/](http://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/powmia/cmaocpowmia.htm)

[powmia/cmaocpowmia.htm](http://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/powmia/cmaocpowmia.htm)

(800) 892-2490

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps

Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)

3280 Russell Road

Quantico, VA 22134-5103

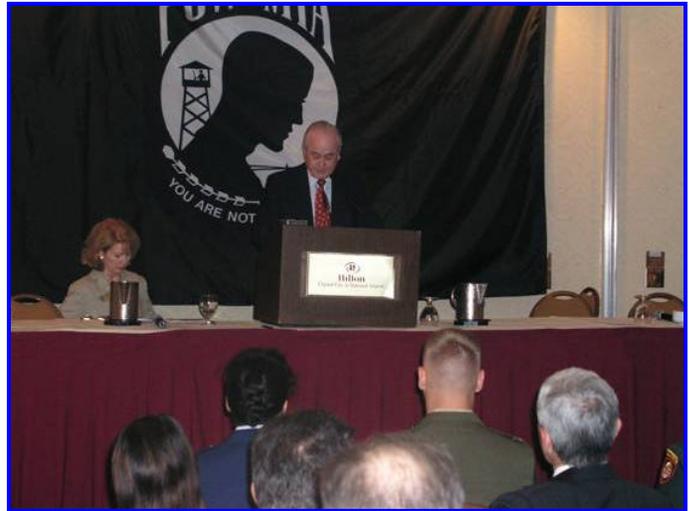
(800) 847-1597

Vietnam MIA Families Gather in Washington, DC

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) hosted a meeting with more than 200 family members of Vietnam War missing on June 24-25 in Arlington, Virginia.

Jerry D. Jennings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, hosted the annual government briefings, and opened the two-day event by highlighting recent breakthroughs on the POW/MIA issue with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In his opening remarks, he also reaffirmed the government's commitment to this issue and stated, "I am mindful that I stand today before families whose sacrifices cannot be measured. You have given so much to this nation, and we can never repay you for what you have done."

Representatives from the Department of Defense and the Department of State discussed policy issues and fielded questions from family members. U.S. Government specialists presented information on myriad topics including: the challenges in recovery and



DASD Jennings addresses family members of the servicemen missing from the Vietnam War.

identification of Vietnam War missing, archival research efforts, analysis, research in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the use of DNA in the identification process. Brigadier General Montague Winfield, Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, provided the families his perspective of the fullest possible accounting effort.

Throughout the two-day event families had the opportunity to sit down and discuss their loved ones' cases with some of the more than 100 government experts assembled for the meeting.

In addition to DoD hosting the family members for a complimentary Service Casualty Luncheon, DPMO provided the families a visit to key Washington DC monuments to include the Vietnam War Wall Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the recently dedicated World War II Memorial.



More than 200 family members of servicemen missing from the Vietnam War attended the DPMO-hosted two day annual meeting in June.

Navy Personnel Command
Casualty Assistance Division
POW/MIA Section (PERS 62P)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210

<http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/POW-MIA/62P.htm>

(800) 443-9298

Overseas Citizens Services
U.S. Department of State
SA-29, 4th Floor
2201 C Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20520
(202) 647-5470

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing
Personnel Office
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400
www.dtic.mil/dpmo



View our Web site at:
www.dtic.mil/dpmo



DASD Jennings and three service casualty representatives throw out the first pitch at the Mets-Braves game on September 15.



DASD Jennings presents a POW/MIA plaque to the Mets General Manager Jim Duquette (center) and the Assistant General Manager Gary LaRocque prior to throwing out the first pitch.

NY Mets Invite DoD to Honor POW/MIAs

On September 15, the New York Mets honored National POW/MIA Recognition Day at their Wednesday night game against the Atlanta Braves. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry D. Jennings and four service casualty representatives were invited to throw out the first pitch. Air Force Master Sergeant Cheryl A. Wells, Navy Petty Officer Second Class Jovan A. Pledgerjackson, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Brian W. Dixon, and Army Sergeant First Class Timothy A. Collins (not pictured) work on a daily basis with the families of our missing.