

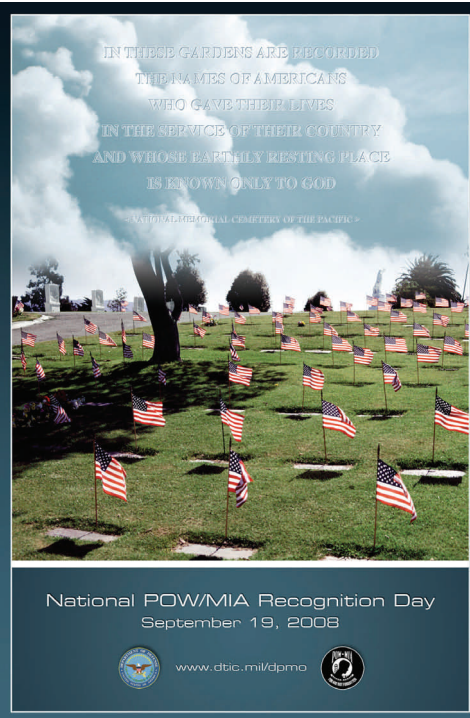


The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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2008 POW/MIA Day poster unveiled

The 2008 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster was unveiled in June at the Southeast Asia annual government briefings, which were held in conjunction with the 39th annual meeting of the National League of Families.

The image on the 2008 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice and whose resting place is “known only to God” as the inscription reads. The inscription comes from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, which contains the graves of hundreds of unknowns. Looking carefully at the graves on the poster, one can also see the inscriptions “U.S. Unknowns.” This year’s poster symbolizes peace and hope, even in the midst of tragedy. More than 50,000 posters have

been shipped to military installations and veterans organizations around the world.

POW/MIA Recognition Day is held annually on the third Friday in September. On September 19, 2008, ceremonies will be held across the country to commemorate the sacrifices of American servicemembers who were held prisoner of war or who went missing in action.

For more information about POW/MIA Recognition Day, visit the Defense POW/Missing Personnel web site at: www.dtic.mil/dpmo. To order this year’s poster, visit the web site, or call 703-699-1131. For all requests, specify your name, number of posters, mailing address and telephone number.

U.S. and Japan locate WWII Japanese burials on Attu

A team of Japanese and U.S. specialists visited Attu Island, Alaska, in May in search of burial locations of Japanese soldiers who are still missing from a 1943 World War II battle there.

This 14-day deployment to the island followed a similar four-day investigation there in July 2007.

When specialists visited Attu in July 2007, they gathered information that led them to this visit’s investigation of specific sites where Japanese MIAs are buried. During this visit, teams located several burial locations and recovered Japanese remains and other war-related artifacts.

The Department of Defense, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Army engineers from Ft. Richardson, Alaska, supported the team of three Japanese and 11 Americans. They departed on a C-130 from Kodiak Island, Alaska, to the U.S. Coast Guard Station on Attu Island. Some engineering equipment was flown on a U.S. Air Force C-17 to Eareckson Air Force Station located on Shemya Island in the Alaskan Aleutians. From there, the Coast Guard flew the equipment on a C-130 to Attu.

Attu Island is under the management and protection of the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which administers the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. At the end of Alaska’s Aleutian island chain, Attu is the westernmost point of land of the United States.



Team members look for Japanese WWII remains on Attu Island. (Photo by U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Brahm)

In June 1942, a unit of the Japanese Army occupied Attu, capturing and imprisoning many of its inhabitants. U.S. forces began action to recapture the small island in May 1943, where fierce hand-to-hand battles led to about 540 American and 2,300 Japanese deaths. It was the site of the only land battle of WWII in North America.

In 1953, 235 sets of Japanese remains were recovered on Attu and reburied at Ft. Richardson, near Anchorage, Alaska. The Japanese later disin-

terred those remains, cremated them as part of a religious ceremony and reburied them at the same location.

U.S. assistance to Japan is part of the cooperation that both countries have in the humanitarian mission of accounting for each nation’s missing servicemembers.

The U.S. and Japanese governments will continue discussing future operations to recover the remains of the Japanese missing on Attu.

DPMO & JPAC testify on the Hill

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, director of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp, commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), testified before Congress' House Armed Service Military Personnel Subcommittee in July, concerning the oversight and status of POW-MIA activities. This was the first such hearing since October 1998.

Congresswoman Susan A. Davis, of California, chaired the subcommittee and expressed its commitment to account for the missing. "The subcommittee remains dedicated to the full accounting of all American POWs and those missing in action. We owe it to their families, but most importantly, we owe it also to the men and women who are currently serving in uniform," Davis said.

During the hearing, Ray and Crisp updated the subcommittee on the accounting community's successes, challenges and future goals.

"While we may be pleased with what we have been able to accomplish, all of us constantly seek ways to improve our work, to locate, identify and return these heroes to their families as quickly as we can," Ray said.

Ray and Crisp also highlighted the importance of cooperation.

"The fullest possible accounting requires teamwork and unity of effort from several inter-linking commands and nations," said Crisp. "It is a continuous process requiring constant analysis, adjustment and improvement."

The subcommittee's ranking member, Congressman John M. McHugh of New York, expressed his appreciation for those involved with the POW/MIA mission.

"I have enormous respect for the mission that you've taken up," he said. "I know all of us here on this subcommittee, the full committee, and indeed the entire House want to be as supportive as we can."

JCSD travels abroad—develops new leads

Teams from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office's Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) recently traveled to Latvia, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Albania and Bulgaria to conduct investigations of Cold War and World War II cases involving unaccounted-for American servicemen.

The teams researched archives, conducted interviews with witnesses and veterans, held meetings with historians and government officials and visited crash sites. These efforts helped clarify information on some U.S. losses, and resulted in new leads on several cases.

JCSD provides analytical capability for the U.S.—Russia Joint Commission on POWs and MIAs, which was formed in 1992 by the presidents of the U.S. and Russia. The commission works throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to account for missing servicemembers from each nation's past conflicts.

VESLETS, BULGARIA—Mr. Stoyan Donchev Vutsov speaks with an interpreter and team members from JCSD about a U.S. aircraft that crashed near his home during World War II. Following the crash, Vutsov stored parts of the wreckage in his barn and sheds. Among the stored parts was a cylinder head (pictured lower left) from one of the engines of a B-17G, which had the identifying serial number inscribed on it. With this information, the JCSD team was able to correlate the incident to a specific WWII loss which will be further investigated. Vutsov agreed to donate the cylinder head to the National Military Museum in Sofia where it will become part of the museum's WWII exhibit later this year. (Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Brent Searing)



BRANDENBURG, GERMANY—left to right: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. and German interpreter Rebecca Heckmann, Brandenburg Interior Ministry official Ralf Neukirchen, and JCSD investigator U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer John Gray, view a map to correlate leads on unaccounted-for Americans missing from World War II. Neukirchen also provided numerous research contacts and recommendations to conduct investigations in Brandenburg and nearby states. Research cooperation between the U.S. and other countries such as Germany results in new leads to help determine the fates of missing servicemembers. (Photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Joe Sanchez)

U.S.-ROK discuss remains recovery

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) in May and met with officials there to discuss remains recovery operations of servicemembers from both nations, missing from the Korean War.

Ray met with the ROK unit responsible for recovering the remains of South Korean soldiers lost during the Korean War. The unit has already recovered thousands of remains, and the unit's commander agreed to allow a U.S. anthropologist to look at the remains to ensure none of them are those of U.S. servicemembers.

Ray also met with members of the Patriots

and Veterans Affairs, an ROK organization similar to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He requested the group's assistance in a public awareness campaign regarding the U.S. search for ROK witnesses and veterans who may have information on U.S. war losses. The group agreed to place an advertisement in their newsletter, which reaches 300,000 ROK veterans, and to also provide information to veterans groups.

Two recovery operations began in South Korea shortly after Ray's visit; one was an underwater recovery operation in Seoul's Han River, and one was in the vicinity of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas.

National Archives and Records Administration

Researchers and analysts from the accounting community frequently use resources from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to gather information on servicemembers still unaccounted-for from past conflicts.

NARA is one of the most accessible archive systems in the world and maintains federal records for public access. It is a national resource with facilities in 17 states, and consists of the National Archives at College Park, Md., 12 Presidential libraries, 22 regional records fa-

cilities located around the country, the Office of the Federal Register, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

Two information papers on POW/MIAs were developed from NARA holdings. The public may order the papers from NARA by calling (866) 272-6272. NARA's web site, www.archives.gov, also contains useful information.

At the National Archives in College Park, Md., U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Donna Crisp (left), commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and Dr. Cynthia Chambers, a Southeast Asia analyst for the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, review a report of a major operation where servicemen went missing during the Vietnam War. Researchers and analysts from the accounting community frequently visit the National Archives to review documents which may contain useful information in helping to determine the fates of missing servicemembers.



Alert to families

The Department of Defense has received reports over the last several weeks of an individual or individuals who have approached MIA families with personal information about their missing loved one.

This person or persons report that they have spoken with several MIAs from both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In one report, while in a family member's home he asked for money.

Based on the reports, it appears that this individual or individuals tell the family members that their loved one is alive in one country or another, and he describes the circumstances under which they met. Some of the information may be credible, but some of it has been confirmed as a fabrication.

The Department of Defense is seeking to verify the nature of this individual or individuals' information to see if there may be new leads that can be further pursued. Family members are urged to report any contact with this person or persons to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office at 703-699-1160, and to be especially wary of individuals who ask for payment.

Vietnam War cases reviewed in D.C.

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) hosted the 37th Annual Southeast Asia Analytical Case Coordination Conference in June in Washington, D.C., to determine future actions to take in the cases of unaccounted-for personnel.

About 20 analysts from DPMO, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory and the Defense Intelligence Agency discussed more than 270 cases pertaining to more than 415 servicemembers who are still

missing from the Vietnam War.

The purpose of holding coordination conferences is for members from the accounting community to review recent actions and recommend possible future steps to account for the missing individuals.

Recommendations are made based on numerous factors including the development of new leads or finding additional evidence.

Coordination conferences are held two times a year, alternat-

ing between Washington, D.C., and JPAC's headquarters on Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii.



Analysts from several accounting organizations discuss cases pertaining to servicemembers still missing from the Vietnam War.

Welcome home



Members of the JPAC Honor Guard prepare to load a transfer case during a Repatriation Ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in July. The ceremony was for U.S. servicemembers lost during the Vietnam War and World War II, recovered in June during JPAC missions in Laos, Papua New Guinea and Germany. (Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris A. Perkins)

Family Update Schedule

The dates and locations for the remaining 2008 family updates and annual briefings are:

Aug. 23—Salt Lake City, Utah

**Oct. 16-18—Korean and Cold War annual
govt. briefing, Washington, D.C.**

Nov. 15—San Diego, Calif.

About The Torch

The Torch is online: www.dtic.mil/dpmo.
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DPMO
Attn: Public Affairs
2900 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-2900
Phone: (703) 699-1420

**Family members seeking more information
may call their Service Casualty Offices:**

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

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

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

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

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



Ambassador Charles Ray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs (second from left), stands with hotel staff members in front of the Hilton South Hill hotel in Tulsa, Okla. Ray presented the hotel manager, Jerry Easley (center), with a plaque as a token of appreciation for the staff's outstanding support during the Tulsa family update held there in May.

Recent Identifications

Since April 2008, the following servicemen have been accounted for:

Korea

Sgt. 1st Class W.T. Akins, USA
 Sgt. 1st Class George W. Koon, USA
 Capt. William K. Mauldin, USAF
 Sgt. Edward J. O'Brien, USA
 Sgt. 1st Class Jack O. Tye, USA
 Sgt. John H. White, USA

Vietnam

Lt. Cmdr. Ralph C. Bisz, USN
 Senior Master Sgt. James K. Caniford, USAF
 Warrant Officer Arthur F. Chaney, USA
 Chief Warrant Officer Bobby L. McKain, USA
 Lt. Col. Howard D. Stephenson, USAF
 Maj. Barclay B. Young, USAF



The family of U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. James Caniford accepts a folded American flag from U.S. Air Force Major Gen. William Chambers at Caniford's funeral in Arlington National Cemetery in May. Caniford, who was missing in action from the Vietnam War, was recently identified. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Marleah Miller)