



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

Vol. 3, No. 3

Fall 2009

Ambassador Charles Ray departs DPMO for Zimbabwe

Ambassador Charles A. Ray has been appointed by President Obama as the U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe. His appointment was confirmed by the Senate, and he was sworn in at a ceremony at the Department of State on Oct. 20.

In 2006, President Bush appointed Ambassador Ray to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs. During his tenure with the Department of Defense, he set policies and oversight guidance for the department's personnel recovery and personnel accounting missions.

He led the DoD's efforts to open productive dialog with the People's Republic of China, and with the Russian Federation. This led to greater access to key archival records relating to American servicemen held as prisoners of war in several conflicts. His work with India opened areas of that country in the search for remains of airmen lost in the China-Burma-India theater during WWII. He was instrumental in maintaining top-level access to officials in the governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia where he was U.S. ambassador 2002-2005.

One of the key policies he advanced was to ensure that the



missing from all conflicts – and their families – received consistent support and treatment as the DoD sought to account for MIAs. In speeches before family and veterans groups, he often remarked “When I look out across this audience, I see faces of family members and veterans. I don't see individual conflicts, because all of you -- and your loved ones – made sacrifices which we honor today through our mission. No one conflict is more important than another. If your loved one went to war and did not return, then he's missing. Period.”

Ray expanded the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office's role overseeing the Personnel Recovery mission. He visited many countries to advocate for greater cooperation with the U.S. in developing search and rescue strategies, and executed agreements and memoranda among U.S. government agencies to carry out the national strategy on personnel recovery.

Citing outreach as one of his key responsibilities in leading the POW/MIA mission, during his tenure he opened virtually all of the Family Updates in 24 cities across the country and met with the more than 2,600 family members who attended. He was active in his contact with key family and veterans organizations, and with both internal and external media. An avid on-line author and advocate for transparency in government, Ray set the planning for several projects in motion to allow researchers to enter an online “portal” to gather information on the government's work to account for missing Americans.

Ambassador Charles Ray and Rear Admiral Donna Crisp, JPAC Commander, examine documents in the Archives Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Chinese archivists provide Korean War data to DPMO

Chinese archivists have reported the results of their search for documents on U.S. POWs to DPMO analysts. Their report is in response to two arrangements signed by DPMO and Chinese Ministry of National Defense officials in 2008 calling for Chinese military archivists to search for information on Americans held as POWs before, during, and after the Korean War. For most of that conflict, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) managed the POW camps where Americans were held. DPMO analysts believe that the PLA archives may shed light on the fates of American servicemen who never returned from captivity after the armistice in 1953. DPMO and JPAC analysts are reviewing the report to determine the next steps for additional research if needed. The full report in English is expected to be posted soon on the DPMO web site at www.dtic.mil.

U.S. Navy ship joins MIA search effort off Vietnam Coast

A specialized U.S. Navy ship, the USNS Bruce C. Heezen, began a 15-day search mission in June to gather information about possible aircraft crash sites off the coast of Vietnam.

While joint U.S.-SRV search teams have previously investigated underwater sites off the coast of Vietnam using Vietnamese boats, the June mission was the first time Vietnam has allowed a U.S. Navy ship to do so. "Vietnam's cooperation in allowing the ship to operate in her waters is a big step forward and greatly appreciated by the U.S. government and the families of those Americans still missing," said Lt. Col. Todd Emoto, commander of the JPAC detachment in Hanoi.

Manned by a civilian crew, the ship provides oceanographic capabilities in coastal and deep ocean waters. Hundreds of U.S. aircraft and their crews are still missing in Vietnam's coastal waters; however, JPAC has data to effectively search for only a small percentage of these cases.

The United States and Vietnam have cooperated during POW/MIA accounting missions since the 1980s, with both countries recently recognizing the 20-year anniversary of regularly scheduled joint search operations.

Information gathered during the Heezen's operations is being analyzed at JPAC.



The USNS Heezen operated in Vietnamese territorial waters June 11-25 near Danang on a mission for JPAC and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP).

Russian official praises U.S. POW/MIA accounting effort

During an interview with the Russian magazine *Vlast*, Aleksandr Lavrent'ev, Deputy Chairman of the War Veterans Committee, Commonwealth of Independent States, reflected on U.S. efforts to account for its missing servicemen. The magazine's article appeared earlier this year highlighting the 20th anniversary of the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

"They make their efforts to locate missing servicemen a matter of national significance, with an entire command structure within the U.S. Defense Department in place just for that purpose. They work very proactively within the framework of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs and search for their service members missing from Korea and Vietnam. Indeed, it is no secret that our forces took part in military operations on the side of the Vietnamese and the Koreans. And the Americans go out and meet with our veterans, those who fought during those years, and ask them if perhaps they saw any of their service members. Everything learned is studied in detail. The attitude there to military servicemen is entirely different: they are ready to deploy ... to the far ends of the Earth for the sake of a single soldier"



Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Alexander Mazza, explosive ordnance disposal technician, JPAC, carefully sweeps portions of a recovery area in Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea. The recovery team deployed to South Korea in search of missing service members from the Korean War. (JPAC photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jesse M. Shipp)

Family Update Schedule

The date and location for the last 2009 family update is: **Nov. 21**—Jackson, Miss.

The 2010 family updates and annual government briefing schedule has been set. The dates and locations are:

January 23—Orlando, Fla.

Feb. 20—Los Angeles, Calif.

Feb. 22—Honolulu, Hawaii

March 20—San Antonio, Texas

April 24—Raleigh, N.C.

May 22—Seattle, Wash.

July — Southeast Asia Annual Government Briefing/ National League of Families Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Aug. 26-28—Korea/Cold War annual govt. brief, Washington, D.C.

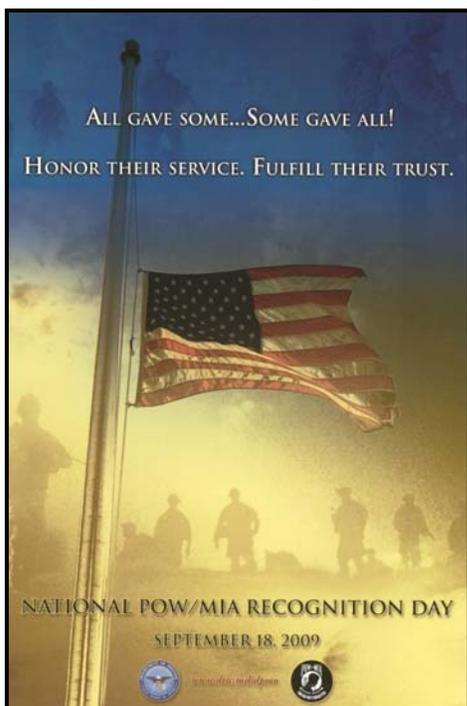
Sept. 25—Syracuse, N.Y.

Oct. 23—Omaha, Neb.

Nov. 20—San Francisco, Calif.

SEA annual government briefings concluded

A key mission of the POW/MIA accounting community is a robust outreach program that includes detailed annual government briefings to the families of the missing. This year's briefings for Vietnam War families were held in Washington, D.C. They included updated information from DPMO, JPAC, AFDIL, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, the DIA and each of the military service casualty offices. The DoD's lead speaker at the opening session was Mr. Pete Verga, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. This year's SEA briefings were held with the 40th annual meeting of the National League of Families. As authorized by Congress, the Department of Defense provided travel to Washington for the attending families. In addition to the DoD briefings, the League invited presenters from the Department of State and from each of the major veterans organizations. The guest speaker at the League's annual dinner and candlelight ceremony was the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Michèle Flournoy, who emphasized the department's commitment to the mission of the fullest possible accounting. Approximately 200 MIA families attended the two-day event.



League Chairmen of the Board, Jo Anne Shirley, and Ambassador Ray unveiled the poster commemorating the 2009 National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Posters were shipped to all military units worldwide, all major veterans organizations and hospitals and all MIA family groups. As a result of an overwhelming demand for the posters, additional copies were printed by DPMO. More than 70,000 have been printed and some copies are still available. To order the poster, call (703) 699-1131, or visit the DPMO web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo to place orders online.



Officials from Vietnam visit DPMO to discuss civil Search and Rescue (SAR). As policy lead for DoD support to civil SAR, DPMO works worldwide on policy efforts to increase interoperability among defense, interagency and international partners.

Recent Identifications

Since March 2009, the following service members have been accounted for:

WWI

Pvt Carl H. Willig, USA
Pvt Thomas D. Costello, USA

Korea (All USA)

Sgt Robert C. Bockey
Pfc Harles Gill
Sfc John H. Holman
Sfc Arthur F. Jewett
Pfc Johnny H. Mayberry
Sgt Lawrence A. Meredith
2LT Edward J. Schwartz
Cpl Roy Stewart
Sgt Charles L. Wilson

WWII

2Lt Frank J. Arhar, USAAF
Sgt Aub L. Atkins, USAAF
2Lt Jack S.M. Arnett, USAAF
2Lt Edward R. French, USAAF
1Lt Alden J. Hershiser, USAAF
TSgt Charles T. Goulding, USAAF
LT Woodie L. McVay, Jr., USNR
ARM1C Arthur C. Miller, USN
2Lt Robert A. Miller, USAAF
SSgt James B. Moore, USAAF
SSgt William K. Musgrave, USAAF
TSgt Lucian I. Oliver, Jr., USAAF
SSgt Leland D. Price, USAAF
F/O William B. Simpson, USAAF
2Lt Robert R. Streckenbach, Jr., USAAF
TSgt Robert J. Stinson, USAAF
SSgt Roy Surabian, USAAF
SSgt Earl E. Yoh, USAAF

Vietnam

A1C John Q. Adam, USAF
SP4 Lawrence L. Aldrich, USA
Lt Col Henry P. Brauner, USAF
Maj Jerry L. Chambers, USAF
Capt Robert J. Edgar, USAFR
Sp5 Donald C. Grella, USA
Lt Col William H. Mason, USAF
Maj Curtis D. Miller, USAF
CW2 Jesse D. Phelps, USAR
Lt Col Russell A. Poor, USAF
SP4 Thomas Rice, USA
CW3 Kenneth L. Stancil, USAR

Did you know...??

When mouth swabs or blood samples are not available, alternative sources of DNA could include eyeglasses, first locks of hair, baseball caps or any item of clothing worn by the missing serviceman or the family member donor.

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
 2600 Defense Pentagon
 Washington, D.C. 20301-2600



Contact Us

Family members seeking more information about their missing loved ones may call their respective Service Casualty Office:

U.S. Air Force: 1-800-531-5501
U.S. Army: 1-800-892-2490
U.S. Marine Corps: 1-800-847-1597
U.S. Navy: 1-800-443-9298
U.S. Dept. of State: 202-647-5470

The Torch newsletter is online: www.dtic.mil/dpmo. To unsubscribe, change your address or sign up to receive the hard copy of this quarterly newsletter, write or call:

DPMO
Attn: Public Affairs
2600 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-2600
Phone: (703) 699-1420



Colonel James Joseph Dunn is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery during a funeral at which full military honors were rendered. Col. Dunn was the senior surviving member of the "Tiger Group" of American POWs, many of whom perished during their captivity between July 1950 and August 1953. (DPMO Photo by Mr. Phil O'Brien)