



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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Congress hears testimony on improving accounting efforts

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp, commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), testified before the Military Personnel Subcommittee of the U. S. House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee in April, concerning the oversight and status of POW/MIA activities. The last such hearing was held in July 2008.

In addition to testimony delivered by Ray and Crisp, Chairwoman of the committee Congresswoman Susan A. Davis of California welcomed an eight-member panel of representatives from several family and veterans groups, who testified to the committee about the government's accounting efforts.

"All of the organizations have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the matters of POW/MIA recovery and we are happy they could be here to provide us with their thoughts and ideas on how to improve the process," Davis said.

During the hearing, Ray emphasized the government's com-

mitment to account for the missing from all conflicts.

"When I meet a group of family members – as I do virtually every month – I don't see conflicts. I see Americans who have sacrificed so much for this country, and who are entitled to have that sacrifice honored and respected," he said.

Ray also touched on goals to use advances in technology.

"I believe we need to leverage technology more effectively, to include using information technology to communicate better with our constituents and to gather the information that is essential in resolving cases."

Crisp highlighted JPAC's efforts to recruit more scientists through its newly implemented Forensic Science Academy. "The Forensic Science Academy has

been a win-win enterprise, increasing the knowledge skills and abilities of our JPAC scientific staff while attracting a new generation of PhD candidates from universities throughout the United States," she said.

In closing their responses, Ray and Crisp expressed their hope for increased identifications and recoveries community-wide and positive results linked to increased lab space at JPAC.



Congresswoman Davis (right), opens the hearing on POW/MIA activities as Admiral Crisp (left) and Ambassador Ray prepare to testify on the government's efforts to account for missing Americans. (Photo by Lee Steuer of Davis' office)

Popular radio icon and POW/MIA official retires

Adrian Cronauer, former radio personality well-known as the inspiration for the movie, *Good Morning Vietnam*, retired from DPMO in April.

Cronauer, a former U.S. Air Force broadcaster, co-authored the original story for the movie where he was loosely portrayed by Robin Williams.

Cronauer joined the POW/MIA accounting community in 2001 when President George W. Bush appointed him to work in DPMO as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs. He often served as a spokesperson for the organization, making frequent media appearances and speaking at veterans' events about the POW/MIA issue.

Prior to his appointment in DPMO, Cronauer had a diverse career in advertising, broadcasting, teaching and law.

"Out of all the jobs I've ever had, I can honestly say I've never worked with a more dedicated group," Cronauer said. "They do what they do because they're committed to finding our nation's fallen."



Adrian Cronauer gives a radio interview before a family update in Albuquerque, N.M. Cronauer often spoke to veterans and media about the U.S. government's efforts to find our nation's missing, and to encourage families with missing loved ones to attend informational meetings held across the country.

Russian veterans provide valuable information to the U.S.

The Moscow Office of the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD-M) recently conducted 12 interviews with former Soviet Vietnam War veterans in the Russian cities of Ulyanovsk and Kazan.

While it is too early to assess the value of the information provided from these interviews, they highlight an important relationship between JCSD and the Russian veterans' group, Combat Brotherhood, which was instrumental in contacting these veterans. The relationships with Combat Brotherhood and other Russian veterans' groups are vital in providing intermediary contact between the U.S. and former Soviet veterans who may have information important to resolving cases of missing Americans from previous wars.

The JCSD-M operates out of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and is staffed by two Americans and four Foreign Service Nationals. The Moscow office will travel to seven more Russian cities between now and September to continue this interview program, and to seek answers about the fates of missing Americans.

The U.S. and Moscow JCSD offices provide 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.



Russian Air Force veteran, Maj. (retired) Vladimir Nikolaevich Khusainov (left), shows the JCSD-Moscow office chief, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Larry Beisel, a photo album from his service in North Vietnam.

Teen racer supports POW/MIAs



Above: Ambassador Charles Ray (left) and Jack Kull (right), both from DPMO, talk to teen racer Bryan Green as he sits in his racecar. Right: Bryan stands next to his racecar with its hood prominently displaying the POW/MIA icon.

Thirteen-year-old Bryan Green of Heuvelton, N.Y., showcased two patriotic racecars at Henderson Hall, the Marine Corps base near Washington, D.C., in February. One of the cars displays the POW/MIA icon prominently on its hood.

Green was passing through the area after winning his latest championship at the Florida Nationals. He frequently travels across the nation with his parents, Ron and Marla Green, to compete in various races.

While at Henderson Hall, Green took photos with patrons and explained his mission to honor servicemembers and veterans.

Family update schedule

The remaining dates and locations for the 2009 family updates and annual government briefings are:

- May 30—Richland, Wash.
- June 27—Nashua, N.H.
- July 23-25—Southeast Asia annual govt. brief, Washington, D.C.
- Aug. 29—Minneapolis, Minn.
- Oct. 23-24—Korea/Cold War annual govt. brief, St. Louis, Mo.
- 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.
- 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.

Details for the 2010 Southeast Asia annual govt. briefing are TBD



Air Force Capt. Camille Carson (right), DPMO analyst, meets with family members at the family update in Bethesda, Md., to discuss their missing loved one's case. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matt Chlosta)

Forensic Science Academy program recruits JPAC scientists

Four scientists recently became the first graduating class from a new Forensic Science Academy, an advanced program consisting of five courses taught under the auspices of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory (JPAC-CIL).

This new program was implemented in the fall of 2008 to provide participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to find, recover and identify human remains and material evidence, especially as they relate to Americans missing as a result of past wars and conflicts.

"The program serves as a means for JPAC to recruit and hopefully retain the best and brightest of the 'next generation' of CIL forensic anthropologists right out of college programs," said Academy Director and JPAC anthropologist Dr. Robert Mann. "The Academy provides Fellows (students) with specialized training in our laboratory and field techniques so they know what to expect if they want to work here."



Forensic Science Academy students Carrie Brown (left) and Cate Bird interpret soil with a Munsell color chart, a tool that anthropologists, soil scientists and geologists use to identify soil colors. The information gathered helps anthropologists better understand the site.

Two of the students have been offered positions at JPAC's laboratory with an anticipated start date of this summer.

Participants are eligible if they've earned a B.A. or B.S. degree in physical anthropology, forensic anthropology, bioarchaeology, zooarchaeology or a related field. They must also be enrolled in a relevant M.A./M.S./Ph.D. program at a U.S. university or receive a waiver by the academy director. Students are accepted into the program each fall for approximately four months, receive a one-time stipend to help defray expenses and will receive credit through their university. Participants relocate to Oahu, Hawaii for classroom instruction and then spend five weeks in Vietnam or Laos with a JPAC team assisting in the archaeological excavation of a crash site or burial. This is followed by one week of studying a large known-identity skeletal collection in Thailand.

The Forensic Science Academy is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). For more information about the program, visit JPAC's web site:

www.jpac.pacom.mil/index.php?page=employments_and_assignments&size=100&ind=0

Recent Identifications

Since February 2009, the following servicemembers have been accounted for:

WWII (all USAAF)

Pfc. Antonio Calderon
Staff Sgt. Jimmie Doyle
Cpl. Richard P. Grutza
1st Lt. Charles L. Maggart
2nd Lt. William N. Stocking

Korea (All USA)

Cpl. Samuel C. Harris
Cpl. Robert G. Schoening
Cpl. Lloyd D. Stidham
Pfc. David Woodruff

Vietnam

Maj. Harmon Polster, USAF



A joint U.S.-Republic of Korea team, led by JPAC, excavates a site in South Korea in 2007. Despite the 2005 suspension of accounting operations in North Korea, JPAC teams conduct investigations and excavations in South Korea. Scientists also continue identifying remains that were recovered from North Korean sites before the suspension, as well as remains turned over to the U.S. by North Korea during the 1990s. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Charity Barrett)

DPMO hosts veterans and family groups



ARLINGTON, VA—Representatives from 11 veterans and family organizations met with DPMO staff in March to discuss accounting operations and negotiations. DPMO hosts such meetings bi-annually, the previous one being held in September 2008. During the meeting, DPMO staff provided updates and answered questions.

The veteran and family groups represented at March's meeting included: National League of Families, Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, National Alliance of Families, Korean/Cold War Families of the Missing, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chosin Few, Disabled American Veterans, Rolling Thunder and National Vietnam & Gulf War Veterans Coalition.

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

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DPMO

Attn: Public Affairs

2600 Defense Pentagon

Washington, D.C. 20301-2600

Phone: (703) 699-1420

WWII Navy aviator laid to rest at Arlington



(Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matt Chlosta)

Left: An Army Old Guard escort platoon leads a horse drawn caisson carrying the remains of Navy Pilot Ensign Robert Tills during his funeral on Mar. 23 at Arlington National Cemetery. Right: Tills' photo when he was an aviator before World War II is displayed for family and friends at a reception that followed his funeral. Tills was killed on Dec. 8, 1941, defending his American PB4Y-1 plane stationed in the Philippines against Japanese fighter plane attack during World War II. His remains were identified in 2008.