



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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WWI Marine, soldier finally return home



Marines from Marine Barracks Washington render a salute during the Arlington Cemetery funeral for 1st Sgt. George Humphrey, a Marine who fought and died in World War I.

The remains of a Marine killed in action during World War I, were buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., recently after missing for more than 90 years.

Army casualty, mortuary office moves

The Army's office which works with families of past conflicts is moving to Ft. Knox, Ky., as part of base realignments that consolidated the Army's Human Resources Command from three locations: Alexandria, Va., St. Louis and Indianapolis.

The Past Conflicts and Repatriations Branch of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center identifies primary next-of-kin, collects family reference DNA samples, briefs identifications and remains recoveries to next-of-kin.

Additionally, it keeps concerned citizens and other government agencies informed on matters relating to unaccounted-for soldiers from World War II, the Cold War, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

According to Greg Gardner,

Past Conflict Repatriations Branch chief, families should notice no change in casualty or mortuary services during the move. Contact numbers and e-mail addresses remain—only the physical address will change.

Three current staff members will move from Virginia to Kentucky. To fill vacancies at Ft. Knox, "Army Casualty has hired a team of six new personnel with a total of over 70 years of experience in casualty and mortuary affairs operations," Gardner said. "Individuals who have on-going cases and contacts will be introduced to our new folks through either phone or letter before we transition the case to a new person."

For information on the office contact 1-800-892-2490.

"It goes to show our country has not forgotten those who were lost overseas," said Navy Capt. Guy Lee, the regional chaplain for Naval District Washington.

The remains of 1st Sgt. George Humphrey, a native of Ithaca, N.Y., were found in a wooded area in northeastern France in September, said Gunnery Sgt. William Dixon, funeral director at Marine Barracks Washington.

Humphrey, who was with 6th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Brigade, attached to U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Division, was killed Sept. 15, 1918, during the battle of Saint-Mihiel, the first major American-led offensive of the war. His Marines hastily buried him the next day.

A year later, one of the Marines sent a letter to Humphrey's brother with details of where the first sergeant was buried, but attempts to recover the body were unsuccessful. The family said they still kept thinking of him.

"My mother used to point at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and say 'That could be George,'" said Edith Scott, whose mother was Humphrey's cousin. Humphrey was born

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Photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison, U.S. Air Force

Gates discusses future Vietnam operations

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates (right) and Navy Adm. Robert Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, met recently with Vietnamese Minister of Defense Gen. Phung Quang Thanh (foreground) in Singapore. The secretary thanked Thanh for Vietnam's proposals to accelerate the pace of work to recover U.S. service members still missing there and the decision to open previously restricted areas to U.S. investigators. Thahn also invited Gates to attend an Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers meeting in Hanoi in October.

Recent identifications

The following service members have been accounted for since May 2010:

WWII

Sgt. John P. Bonnassiolle, USAAF
 Tech. Sgt. Robert L. Christopherson, USAAF
 Staff Sgt. Leonard A. Gionet, USAAF
 2nd Lt. Donald W. Hess, USAAF
 2nd Lt. Charles E. Trimmingham, USAAF

Korea

Pfc. Harry J. Reeve, USA
 Sgt. Charles P. Whittler, USA

Vietnam

Lt. Col. William L. Kieffer, Jr., USAF
 A1C Thomas E. Knebel, USAF
 Capt. William T. McPhail, USAF
 Capt. Thomas B. Mitchell, USAF
 Sgt. Gary Pate, USAF
 CW2 Donald L. Wann, USA

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 posters**
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 (703) 699-1131
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www.dtic.mil/dpmo
 to order.



Photo by Cmdr. Renee Richardson

Retired Bulgarian Col. Stainmir Stanev (left), team translator, discusses a potential crash site with Chris McDermott, JPAC team leader and Independent Corpsman Chief Cavallo. The trek into the Bulgarian mountains was made in the back of this 1960 Soviet-era truck.

JPAC, DPMO investigate WWII cases

A Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command World War II investigation team recently traveled to five countries in Europe to investigate nine WWII cases and one World War I case.

The trip, led by JPAC's Chris McDermott, had a combined team of seven JPAC and DPMO personnel researching sites in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Austria, Germany and France. The cases included several P-47 crashes, a P-51 from the 325th Fighter Group, a B-24 from the 485th Bombardment Group, as well as an anonymous tip that storage tunnels in a French vineyard potentially contained the remains of a WWI service member.

Despite the obstacles of six to 10-hour drives between locations, stormy weather, limited lodging in remote areas, and challenging terrain, the team successfully surveyed seven of the WWII sites and visited the WWI location.

In Ukraine, where amenities were two hours away, the team was hosted in the homes of the village doctor and village director. A DPMO analyst joined the group to assist in translating. Villagers there also provided a tractor and trailer to transport them to a P-51 crash site when torrential rains had washed out access roads.

In Bulgaria, the team traveled to a B-24 crash site in the back of a 1960 Soviet-era truck that crawled up muddy lumber roads to the mountain-side location.

The work was productive and the surveyed sites yielded data to support excavation consideration. The WWI case will require further research to correlate the location to a specific loss.

"This is the first time JPAC and DPMO have collaborated on WWII case investigations," said team member Cmdr. Renee Richardson, WWII research analyst from DPMO. "Our mission was enhanced by the teamwork and common goal of bringing home our missing servicemen."

Family Updates

The remaining dates and locations for 2010 family updates and annual government briefings are:

- Aug. 26-28** — Korea/Cold War government briefing, Washington, D.C.
- Sep. 25** — Syracuse, N.Y.
- Oct. 23** — Omaha, Neb.
- Nov. 20** — San Francisco, Calif.

(See www.dtic.mil/dpmo for more information and registration information.)



Retired Gen.-Maj. Aleksandr Kirilin (left), acting Russian chairman of the U.S. Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, talks with archivist Tim Nenninger (right) during a tour of the National Archives. The general was hosted by retired Air Force Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong (not pictured), the U.S. chairman. DPMO arranged the visit to encourage Russian officials to appoint a full slate of Russian commissioners. Air Force Master Sgt. Trent Zuetlau was the translator for the visit. The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs was established in 1992 by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Boris Yeltsin so the two countries could collaborate on resolving MIA cases.

Newberry sees survival training

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Bob Newberry recently returned from a first-hand look at survival training for military personnel who go in harm's way.

While visiting the Air Force's Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape School at Fairchild AFB, Wash., he witnessed some of the training that prepares service members should they fall behind enemy lines. He also visited the Personnel Recovery Academy at Spokane in his oversight role for the Department of Defense on all matters related to personnel recovery.

Larger lab aids K208 analysis

Until recently, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory (JPAC CIL) was limited to about 4,000 sq. ft. of floor space, making it almost impossible to adequately review the 208 boxes of Korean War remains, commonly known as the K208 remains, received between 1992 and 1995.

The floor space tripled, however, when additional square footage was added in April 2009.

Floor space is crucial because it allows remains and material evidence to be further analyzed simultaneously. In the past, anthropologists had only 22 tables to review case material; since the expansion, they

have more than 55 tables. JPAC's forensic anthropologists apply the latest DNA technologies to aid in the identification of the K208. In addition to using mitochondrial DNA, some of these remains may yield a nuclear DNA sample since they were moderately well-preserved in the North Korean soil.

"Currently 73 percent of the families representing the more than 8,000 missing service members from the Korean War now have a sample on file at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory," said Jim Canik, deputy director of the lab.

(Story by Liz Feeney, JPAC Public Affairs)

DPMO, USCENTCOM discuss PR policy

In June, Director of Strategy, Plans and Initiatives, Jim Caswell, and Army Maj. Christopher Johnson, DPMO personnel recovery policy advisor, participated in U.S. Central Command Personnel Recovery Council in Bahrain.

DPMO briefed DoD personnel recovery policy developments and led a working group focusing on the implementation of national personnel recovery policy within the combatant command.

USCENTCOM discussed efforts and recommended initiatives to senior leaders that will better safeguard personnel at risk of becoming a hostage, or otherwise isolated.

JPra welcomes new commander

Air Force Col. Lee J. Pera recently relieved Air Force Col. Steven C. Shepard as Joint Personnel Recovery Agency commander at the agency's headquarters at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

JPra shapes planning, preparation and execution of personnel recovery for DoD. The organization enables commanders, individuals, recovery forces and supporting organizations to execute personnel recovery responsibilities across the spectrum of conflict.

Pera, a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours in various helicopters, comes to JPra from U.S. Special Operations Command headquarters at MacDill AFB, Fla., where he oversaw the Operations Planning Division.

PR aids USNORTHCOM mission

DPMO Personnel Recovery Policy personnel recently participated in the U.S. Northern Command Personnel Recovery Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo. The annual conference reviewed command personnel recovery planning, preparation, and execution efforts.

DPMO provided personnel recovery policy insights to address USNORTHCOM's complex personnel recovery problem sets and assisted with planning for the 2010 hurricane season.



DASD visits South Korea

Bob Newberry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, and Korean officials pay their respects to service members killed in action during the Korean War at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul. Newberry met with Republic of Korea and U.S. leaders to discuss future operations to recover remains of Americans lost during the Korean War.

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Feb. 15, 1889, to Welsh immigrants and joined the Marine Corps in Ithaca, Sept. 13, 1917.

Scott said a year later, he was leading Marines in the Great War. "You're always going to be

Pvt. Thomas Costello, WWI soldier of New York, N.Y., was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., July 12.

Costello was assigned to the 60th Infantry Regiment when he was killed in combat near Jaulny, France on Sept. 16, 1918.

Five WWI service members have been accounted for since 2006.

proud of your family," she said. "But to hear about the impact he had impressed us even more."

French citizens were searching for war relics near the town of Rembercourt-sur-Mad when they found remains they believed be-

longed to a World War I American service member.

They notified the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, said Dixon. The JPAC team used a variety of forensic identification tools, including dental comparisons and circumstantial evidence to identify the remains.

"I just hope families of people who are missing in action see this and realize that there is still hope that their loved ones will be found," Scott said.

(Story/photo by Lance Cpl. Benjamin Harris, Headquarters Marine Corps)



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



For your information

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

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

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The black POW/MIA flag was conceived by members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Congress directed it be flown every year over post offices, national cemeteries, veterans' memorials, the White House and other federal facilities on six holidays or observances.