



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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GLOBAL SECURITY
AFFAIRS

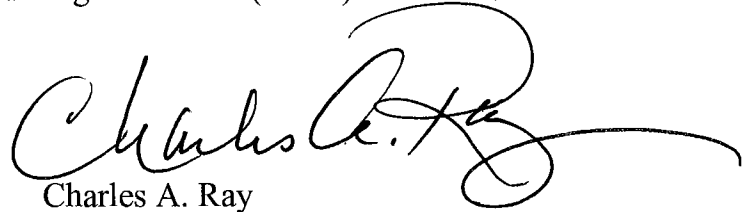
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD) POLICY:
NON-GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
INVOLVED IN SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION, EQUIPMENT, OR
REMAINS OF MISSING PERSONNEL FROM PAST CONFLICTS**

This policy addresses how the Department may interact with non-Federal entities and private citizens involved in searching for information, equipment, or remains related to missing personnel from past conflicts. The Department is responsible for locating, recovering, identifying, and returning military, DoD civilian, and DoD contractor personnel who remain missing from America's past conflicts, and our goal is to maximize accounting for these personnel. While, the Department is interested in the efforts non-Federal entities and private citizens may offer to its mission, it must ensure their activities, while largely well intentioned, do not adversely impact U.S. Government (USG) efforts to recover and identify the remains of missing personnel.

To ensure family members of our missing are informed truthfully and thoughtfully, trained and experienced DoD professionals employ meticulous procedures to ensure compliance with scientific protocols for identifying remains and documenting evidence acquired from loss sites. With strict adherence to these processes and with a strong tie to the family members, the Department achieves the most effective and valid results while being sensitive to the needs of the family members. The Department also executes this humanitarian mission using a government-to-government approach that emphasizes respect for the sovereignty and local laws of the foreign nations involved and preserving USG access to those nations. For all of these reasons, the Department strongly prefers that remains recoveries be reserved for USG personnel.

However, consistent with these principles and in compliance with Government ethics principles, the Department will seek to establish and maintain an open dialogue with non-Federal entities and private citizens and offer advice detailing how they can responsibly assist official efforts to return missing personnel and bring closure to their families, without giving preferential treatment to any entity or individual. Although the Department encourages open communication, the Department does not endorse or fund investigative or recovery operations by non-Federal entities. Similarly, the Department neither endorses nor sponsors individuals or groups, nor intervenes diplomatically with foreign countries on their behalf, to include approving or seeking approval for entry into a foreign country or access to a particular loss site.

The Department encourages non-Federal entities and private citizens that may possess information regarding personnel lost in past conflicts or their loss sites to forward that information to Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) via the JPAC website: <http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Ray", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles A. Ray
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs