



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Personnel Accounting Cooperation with Japan

As of June 4, 2012

Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) 2012 Goals

- Exchange information and maintain dialogue with the Embassy of Japan and Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) officials regarding U.S. and Japanese World War II personnel accounting efforts.
- Engage Japanese MHLW officials about selected U.S. World War II MIA cases as required.
- As required, request permission to investigate, locate, and recover remains of missing American servicemen that are located in Japan or on Japanese territory. Continue to assist Japan in its WW II remains recovery efforts on Iwo Jima and Attu Island, Alaska.

Background

- Following the end of WW II, the U.S. Army Graves Registrations Service conducted an extensive search for nearly 54,000 personnel missing in the Pacific and the Chinese-Burma-India Theaters of Operation. As required, the USPACOM Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) searches for and recovers WWII losses on Japanese territory.
- The Government of Japan (GOJ), through the MHLW, conducts search and recovery operations throughout the Asia Pacific region. The MHLW coordinates all remains recovery activities on Iwo Jima with Japan's Ministry of Defense.
- DPMO and JPAC have hosted several official Japanese delegation visits to the U.S., and JPAC has trained Ministry of Defense and police personnel in JPAC methodology.

Activities

- **2010:** In 2010, DPMO and JPAC historians met Japanese officials and researchers on several occasions to facilitate their research on Japanese losses on Iwo Jima and the Philippines. In December the MHLW reported it had recently discovered 51 Japanese remains on Iwo Jima and thanked U.S. counterparts for past assistance on providing information that led to that recovery effort.
- **2011:** DPMO chaired the Attu Interagency Working Group which provided oversight and assisted the Embassy of Japan in planning the recovery of the remains of WW II Japanese soldiers from Attu. The Embassy of Japan informed DPMO that the MHLW had no money budgeted for work on Attu in 2011. The MHLW is considering placing money in the budget for work on Attu in 2012.
- **2012:** In April, DPMO staff facilitated a visit to Washington by the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Hiranao Honda, his executive assistant, and three MHLW staff members. The Japanese delegation provided an update of MHLW efforts to locate and recover remains of Japanese soldiers killed during the Battle of Iwo Jima. While in Washington they searched U.S. archival records for information regarding the location of Japanese soldiers missing on Iwo Jima. In addition to visiting DPMO, Mr. Honda visited the National Archives in College Park and Arlington National Cemetery.