



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Korean War Personnel Accounting History

June 14, 2012

Chronological History

- **1951-1955:** American graves registration teams searched South Korean battlefields for the remains of U.S. personnel lost during the war. North Korea returned several thousand remains in Operation GLORY in 1954. A total of 867 remains were declared unknown. Of these:
 - 867 were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch Bowl).
 - One was later transferred to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **1990:** North Korea unilaterally recovered and repatriated five remains through the United Nations Command (UNC).
- **1991:** North Korea unilaterally recovered and repatriated 11 remains through the UNC.
- **1992:** North Korea unilaterally recovered and repatriated 30 remains through the UNC.
- **1993-1994:** Following the signing of a UNC/Korea Peoples Army remains repatriation agreement, North Korea returned 162 remains; 148 in 1993, and 14 in 1994.
- **1994:** Kim IL Sung accepted former President Carter's proposal to conduct JFAs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to search for U.S. remains. Political differences postponed immediate implementation.
- **1996:**
 - The U.S. and DPRK met in New York City to discuss conducting JFAs in North Korea.
 - The two sides agreed to schedule two JFAs. One JFA was completed in July, which resulted in recovering one set of remains. A second JFA was cancelled due to tensions generated by a North Korean submarine infiltration of South Korean waters.
- **1997:**
 - May: Talks in New York focused on restarting joint remains recovery operations, initiating archival reviews, and establishing contact with American defectors in North Korea.
 - Three JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of six remains.
 - December: During meetings in New York both sides agreed to conduct five JFAs and one joint archival review during 1998.
- **1998:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 22 remains.
 - December: Both sides agreed in New York to increase the number of JFAs to six in 1999, and the number of archival reviews to two.
- **1999:**
 - Six JFAs were scheduled. Three JFAs were completed, resulting in the recovery of 13 remains.

- June: North Korea refused to repatriate four remains recovered during the second JFA through Panmunjom, the accepted procedure at that time. As a result of this action, DPMO canceled the next three JFAs.
- October: The U.S. and DPRK met in New York to discuss new repatriation procedures. As a result, on October 25 the DASD for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs led a delegation to Pyongyang to oversee the repatriation from Pyongyang directly to Japan of the four remains from the second JFA of 1999 and observe the start of the final JFA of the year.
- December: During meetings in Berlin, the DPRK explicitly linked future JFAs in North Korea to the U.S. Government's willingness to provide a large-scale assistance package. The U.S. rejected such linkage, and the talks ended without agreement.
- **2000:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 65 remains.
 - June: North Korea participated in negotiations in Malaysia without preconditions.
 - Secretary of State Albright met with DPRK Vice Minister, Marshal Jo Myong Nok when he visited the U.S. She also met DPRK Chairman Kim Jong Il on her visit to Pyongyang later in October. During both meetings Secretary Albright emphasized the importance of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all missing American servicemen from the Korean War. She pointed out that our cooperation was a bright spot in U.S. – DPRK bilateral relations.
 - December: Both sides met again in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to discuss operations in 2001, and agreed to conduct five JFAs at two separate locations in North Korea.
- **2001:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 44 remains.
 - May – August: One U.S. team operated in the Kujang area. A second team operated in the Kae'chon City area, known as "The Gauntlet" during the Korean War.
 - September – November: The second team moved to the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir.
- **2002:**
 - Three JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 26 remains.
 - January 23 - 26: The U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss operations for 2002. The talks stalled over compensation issues.
 - June: Talks resumed in Bangkok. The DPRK agreed to allow:
 - Three JFAs with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
 - A U.S. team to survey sites on the western shore of the Chosin Reservoir during the final JFA in preparation for future joint operations.
 - September: DPMO sponsored a visit to North Korea by representatives of U.S. veterans and family groups to show them the extent of recovery operations and demonstrate to the North Koreans the importance of the JFAs to the U.S. Government and the American public.
 - October 6: The DASD for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs met with his North Korean counterpart, Representative of the Korean People's Army Liaison Mission to Panmunjom, in

Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss operational issues for future JFA talks. The meeting resulted in an agreement-in-principle to continue dialogue on remains recovery issues.

- **2003:**

- Two JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of eight remains.
- January – June: The DPRK did not respond to DPMO's proposal for 2003 JFA talks.
- July: U.S. – DPRK talks resumed in Bangkok. Both sides agreed to conduct JFAs in North Korea from August through October.
 - The DPRK agreed to two JFAs in 2003 with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
 - The U.S. and DPRK agreed to enhance safety measures during 2003 operations and meet again in Bangkok in November.
- November: The U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss JFAs for 2004, agreeing to:
 - Two periods of investigative and joint advance work to prepare for JFAs, and
 - Five JFAs in two locations: Unsan County and Changjin County (Chosin-east side).

- **2004:**

- Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 39 remains.
- February: U.S. and DPRK officials met in Bangkok to discuss two unresolved issues from the November 2003 talks: establishing a DPRK point of contact to help resolve credible live sighting reports; and overland logistics resupply and repatriation options. Both sides agreed:
 - To transport all supplies and equipment over-ground to support 2004 JFAs;
 - To transport all JFA teams, equipment, and remains recovered during each JFA across the DMZ at the end of each operation; and
 - That the DPRK delegation would present to their senior leaders a proposal to establish a single point of contact to resolve reports of Americans living in North Korea.
- April: Teams deployed to construct base camps at Unsan and Chosin Reservoir sites.
- November: U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss 2005 JFAs, agreeing to the following:
 - One period of joint advance work in April to prepare for JFAs;
 - Five JFAs to take place at Unsan County and Changjin County, the operation in Changjin County to include operations on both the east side and west side of the Chosin Reservoir.
 - A period of joint investigative work to be conducted during JFA 39 (third JFA of 2005).

- **2005:**

- April – May: JPAC completed the first of five scheduled JFAs in the DPRK, resulting in the recovery of five possible U.S. remains.
- May 25: The U. S. announced a temporary suspension of JFAs in North Korea. The second through fourth JFAs scheduled for 2005 were not conducted.

- September: JPAC deployed a 10-person team to the Republic of Korea (ROK) to investigate and excavate possible burial sites of American servicemen.
 - The team excavated four sites where American service members were purportedly buried during the war. Three sites yielded possible human remains: Kyonggi Province within eyesight of the Demilitarized Zone; Hill 209, and the Inchon area. The last site requires further excavation during the next operation in South Korea.
 - Another team followed up leads relating to at least 24 cases throughout the ROK.
 - JPAC met with ROK officials in December to discuss 2006 operations in South Korea.
- **2006:**
 - No JFAs were scheduled in North Korea during 2006 because JFAs were temporarily suspended by the USG in May 2005 and the suspension remains in effect.
 - May 13 - June 11: JPAC deployed a team to South Korea to research cases related to 44 unaccounted-for service members from the Korean War. The team investigated 15 cases relating to nine ground and six aircraft losses in the hopes of pinpointing sites for future recovery missions. One case may involve more than one individual. Seven of these cases involved battles that occurred near the Naktong River, which formed part of the boundary known as the Pusan perimeter. The team also searched for three burial site locations based on information provided by U.S. veterans of the war. Team members visited area villages and interviewed 80 potential witnesses.
 - August 1- September 15: JPAC deployed one investigative team and one recovery team to South Korea to conduct a joint field activity searching for Americans missing from the Korean War. Unfortunately, the team did not recover any probable U.S. remains.
- **2007:**
 - No JFAs took place in North Korea during 2007.
 - On April 11, the DPRK returned six caskets (believed to be six remains) to the United Nations Command Korea during the bipartisan U.S. delegation visit of Governor Bill Richardson and Former Secretary Anthony Principi to North Korea. On April 12, Repatriation Ceremonies were conducted at Yongsan Garrison, Seoul and subsequently at Hickam AFB, Hawaii to honor the returned remains. The remains are now located at JPAC's CIL undergoing the identification process. One set of remains has been identified.
 - The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted four JFAs in South Korea in 2007.
 - The first JFA took place from March 15 to April 16. Nine JPAC personnel organized into two investigative teams investigated multiple sites to find evidence that could assist in the future recovery of missing Americans. No remains were recovered as a result of this JFA.
 - The teams investigated 23 aircraft losses and one ground loss.
 - One team investigated 13 sites in the northern part of South Korea and Seoul, while the other team investigated 11 sites in the southern part of the country.
 - The second JFA took place from April 20 to May 20. JPAC deployed a recovery team of 11 personnel to conduct the second JFA in South Korea. The team investigated two ground loss

locations in South Korea and conducted a recovery operation. No remains were recovered as a result of this JFA.

- The third JFA took place from June 1 to June 30. JPAC deployed a team of 7 personnel to South Korea. The team searched for information relating to missing Americans held as POWs in villages and towns from Hwach'on to Kimwha. In the spring of 1951, communist forces marched over 3,800 captives through the area. More than 200 of those American captives remain unaccounted-for. Two sets of remains were recovered as a result of this operation and are currently located at JPAC's CIL undergoing the identification process.
- The fourth JFA took place from September 5 to September 21. JPAC deployed an investigative team of seven personnel on September 5 to South Korea to follow up on leads and search for the remains of missing American Servicemen near the DMZ. The team conducted investigations in the north central region of South Korea focusing on both ground and air losses. The JFA concluded on September 21, 2007. No remains were recovered as a result of this JFA.

- **2008:**

- The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted five JFAs in South Korea in 2008. The last one was conducted in October 2008, which is in fiscal year 2009.
- The first JFA began on March 10 and ended on April 15. Seven JPAC personnel organized into one investigative team. In addition, four Korean War veterans traveled to the ROK to assist the JPAC investigative team. The team investigated 21 ground loss cases of missing Korean War U.S. servicemen in South Korea. The team recovered possible human remains, possible material evidence, and possible personal effects from one location.
- The second JFA began on May 1 and ended on June 15. The investigative team worked in the northern part of South Korea in Kwangwon Province (north central portion of the ROK) investigating ground losses from the Korean War. One set of probable set of U.S remains was recovered.
- The third JFA also began on May 1 and ended on June 15. This JFA consists of an underwater investigative/recovery team. It is working on an air loss in the Pyongtaek City area. A second recovery team worked on three ground losses in the Kwangwon Province (North central part of ROK) and North Kyongsang province (Eastern side of the ROK). No remains were recovered as a result of this operation.
- The fourth JFA began on September 6 and ended on September 26, 2008. This JFA included one investigative team working in Kangwon Province searching for ground losses. MAKRI showed the JPAC team the location of a possible F-80 crash site in Gyeonggi Province and has provided contact information on several ROK witnesses. No remains were recovered as a result of this operation.
- A fifth JFA began on October 15 and ended on November 24, 2008. The operation consisted of one investigative team working in Kangwon Province while an underwater phase two testing team worked in the Port of Pyongtaek (aircraft crash site), South Korea. No remains were recovered as a result of this operation.

- **2009:**

- The first JPAC field activity of calendar year 2009 (09-2KS) began on January 10 and ended on February 10, 2009. During this operation, a JPAC team investigated cases of unaccounted-for American servicemen who were lost on the ground in the Pusan Perimeter area during the war. DPMO is awaiting additional details from JPAC on the results of the operation. No remains were recovered from the ROK during this JFA.
- The second scheduled JPAC field activity of 2009 (09-3KS) in the ROK took place from March 18 to April 18, 2009. One investigative team of eight JPAC personnel worked 10 cases involving 12 missing Servicemen from the Korean War in Kangwon province and the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. They investigated ground losses from the Korean War and followed up on leads developed during past operations. No remains were recovered from the ROK during this JFA.
- The third scheduled JPAC field activity of 2009 (09-4KS) in the ROK took place from May 10 to June 18, 2009. One recovery team of 12 JPAC personnel excavated five cases involving two air losses and three ground losses from the Korean War. Four of the cases are located in the northern part of the ROK. One case is located in the vicinity of the former Pusan Perimeter in the east central part of the ROK. As a result of this field activity, the JPAC team recovered possible human remains at two of the excavation sites. The recovered remains will be transported to the JPAC-CIL in Hawaii and undergo the identification process.
- The fourth scheduled JPAC field activity of 2009 (10-1KS) took place in the ROK from October 14 to November 13, 2009. During this field activity, JPAC conducted an investigative mission employing one investigative team of eight personnel in the Punchbowl area of Kangwon Province in order to investigate seven field search cases (ground losses) involving 26 servicemen. As a result of this investigative operation, the JPAC team interviewed more than 3,500 Korean citizens and had 20 positive leads. The team recommended five sites for MAKRI recovery and four sites for JPAC recovery.

- **2010:**

- The first scheduled JPAC field activity of calendar year 2010 (10-2KS) took place in the ROK from January 9 to February 15. During this operation, an eight – person JPAC team investigated 15 field search cases (ground losses) in North Kyongsang Province in the ROK. They interviewed 2851 ROK citizens. A Joint Forensic Review concluded on January 29. As a result, one site was recommended for MAKRI (South Korean) recovery and two sites were recommended for JPAC recovery.
- The second JPAC field activity in calendar year 2010 (10-3KS) took place from March 23 to May 7. This JPAC field activity included two recovery teams and one investigative team. The team conducted activities near the DMZ in north central North Korea during this operation. Results were as follows: seven field search cases were investigated, 4265 individuals were interviewed, four sites were recommended for MAKRI recovery, and two sites were recommended for JPAC recovery.
- The third JPAC field activity in calendar year 2010 (10-4KS) took place from May 5 to June 30. This JPAC field activity included two recovery teams and one investigative team. The team conducted activities in three different provinces during this operation. Results of this field activity are as follows: 11 leads were investigated, 2947 individuals were canvassed, eight sites were recommended for MAKRI recovery, and three sites were recommended for JPAC recovery.

- The fourth JPAC field activity in calendar year 2010 (10-5KS) took place from September 1 to September 20. This JPAC field activity included one investigative team that focused operations in the Chorwon area Northeast of Seoul. The detailed results of this field activity are not available yet from JPAC.
- The fifth scheduled JPAC field activity in calendar year 2010 (11-1KS) took place in the ROK from October 16 to November 16, 2010. During this field activity, JPAC conducted an investigative mission employing one investigative team of eight personnel. The recovery team focused their effort on burial sites that may possibly hold U.S. Korean War remains in the northern part of South Korea (Jeongok, Yeoncheon, Dongducheon, Changpyung, & the DMZ-Buffer Zone). They investigated 10 field search cases for 20 days, contacted 9,039 South Koreans, found four MAKRI leads and three JPAC leads. As a result of the effort, four sites were recommended for MAKRI recovery and three sites were recommended for JPAC recovery. In addition, JPAC received two leads from MAKRI.
- **2011:** JPAC conducted four joint field activities in the ROK in FY2011. JPAC's operation plan is based on the USG fiscal year which runs from October 1 to the following September 30 each year.
 - The first scheduled JPAC field activity in the ROK in calendar year 2011 (11-2KS) began on January 6 and concluded on January 30, 2011. One investigative team and one recovery team were deployed in South Korea (Masan, Jindong, Chinju, & Uiryeong) for this operation. Their effort for this operation was focused in the Pusan area. During this operation, the team investigated 11 field search cases, contacted and interviewed 7,067 Korean citizens, found five JPAC leads and two MAKRI (South Korean JPAC like organization), recommended two sites for MAKRI recovery and two sites for JPAC recovery, no remains were recovered during this operation.
 - The second scheduled JPAC field activity in South Korea in calendar year 2011 (11-3KS) began on March 21 and concluded on May 8, 2011. Two recovery teams in South Korea. Recovery Team One operated in the Kangwon area (northern part of the ROK), and the second team is operating in the Kyongsang area (central area of South Korea). An investigative team scheduled to participate in the operation was cancelled. The field activity has been completed. Reports indicate no possible human remains were recovered during this operation.
 - The third scheduled JPAC field activity in South Korea in calendar year 2011 (11-4KS) began on May 6 and concluded on June 19, 2011. Two recovery teams operated in South Korea during this period. Recovery Teams One and Two operated in the Kangwon area (northern part of the ROK). The teams completed excavation of two sites. At one recovery site, reports indicate possible human remains were recovered along with personal effects and life support equipment. At the other site, only some life support equipment was recovered.
 - The fourth scheduled JPAC field activity in the ROK in calendar year 2011 (12-1KS) began on October 16 and concluded on November 16, 2011. One investigative team and one underwater investigative team conducted survey operations at three field search case locations on the Han River near Seoul. No human remains were recovered during this operation.
- **2012:** In October 2011, the U.S. and North Korea signed an arrangement for resuming Korean War remains recovery operations in 2012. After the talks, U.S side began preparations for resuming the operations. At the end of 2011, a significant event occurred when North Korean's leader, Kim Jong Il died and power was assumed by his youngest son, Kim Jong Un. Preparations continued despite the change in leadership; we delivered our first scheduled sea shipment of

supplies on February 24, 2012 and staged the U.S advance team in Beijing awaiting North Korean issuance of visas. Unfortunately, the North Koreans failed to take actions called for in the arrangement, and linked the humanitarian remains recovery operations to regularly scheduled, defensive exercises between the U.S. and South Korea, and announced that they planned to launch a ballistic missile in April, and did so on April 13. On March 21st, as a result of these North Korean actions, the U.S. suspended the arrangement for resuming 2012 remains recovery operations in North Korea. Because JPAC planned to concentrate the main effort on Korean War personnel accounting in North Korea during 2012, JPAC did not plan to conduct any joint field activities in South Korea. Since the planned operations in North Korea are suspended, JPAC is currently revising its operation plan for fiscal year 2012.

- **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in South Korea (ROK)** JPAC is currently revising its operation plan for FY2012. JPAC's operation plan is based on the USG fiscal year which runs from October 1 to the following September 30 each year. Other than the JFA investigation conducted on the Han River in October-November 2011 and the Korea Forward Element initiative (read below), JPAC does not have any other scheduled JFAs in 2012 at the moment. However, it is possible that JPAC will conduct JFAs in South Korea later in the year.
- **JPAC's Korea Forward Element (KFE):** JPAC is planning to establish a full time forward element presence in South Korea this year. Currently, JPAC has an advance team forward deployed to South Korea making plans and coordinating for the standup of the KFE later this year. The KFE will provide a year round JPAC presence in South Korea. It is expected to result in a stronger operational relationship with MAKRI (The ROK organization similar to JPAC with the mission of accounting for South Korean losses during the Korean War). Also, the KFE concept is designed to develop a better relationship with the Korean populace and increase JPAC's chances for better success during JFAs in South Korea.

Associated Developments with China:

- May – June 2004: JPAC excavated a Korean War F-86 crash site in Dandong, China along the Yalu River, recovering aircraft wreckage and remains. JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory later identified the remains of U.S. Air Force Captain Troy Cope, shot down during aerial combat over MiG alley on September 16, 1952. The family buried Captain Cope in Texas with full military honors on May 31, 2005.
- September 2006: A joint DPMO/JPAC team met with Chinese MND, PLA, and MFA officials to discuss efforts to access to China's military archives. The MND proposed working with our archivists to develop a program that will result in locating materials related to unaccounted-for Americans. The team also surveyed a promising site of a Korean War loss along the Chinese border.
- January 2007: DPMO and JPAC met with Chinese MND and MFA officials in Beijing to discuss personnel accounting initiatives for 2007. The MND reiterated its commitment to assist the U.S. in the accounting mission and reported it is searching for, locating, and organizing POW/MIA related information in its archives. JPAC presented 15 cases to the Chinese for recovery, investigation, and research.
- March 2007: China's MFA initially approved one case for an investigation and recovery operation from August through September 2007, but later withdrew the approval. This case

lost during the Korean War. The MFA stated the other cases presented in January 2007 remain under consideration.

- May 2007: The MND sent a delegation of archivists to Washington, DC and Hawaii from May 9-15, 2007 and met with DPMO and JPAC personnel.
- July 2007: China’s MFA informed the Department that they are unable to sponsor JPAC operations during 2007 due to other commitments and delegations from the U.S. The cases presented in January 2007 remain under consideration for operations in 2008.
- November 5 – 6, 2007: U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates held talks with the Chinese Defense Minister. The Defense Minister pledged “closer cooperation on military archives to resolve the fate of U.S. troops missing from the 1950-53 Korean War.”
- November 15, 2007: China’s MFA again approved the Korean War case involving three aircrew members for an investigation and recovery operation in 2008. The MFA also requested additional information on the other Korean War cases submitted by JPAC, and provide feedback on the preliminary research the Chinese conducted on a number of the other cases.
- January 30, 2008: JPAC discussed with China’s MFA logistical requirements for the approved recovery operation and potential investigations during summer 2008, requested additional information on several cases, and presented cases for potential operations in 2009. China’s MFA authorized JPAC to conduct operations at two of the requested sites.
- February 29, 2008: DASD (POW/MPA) Ray and Major General Qian of China’s Ministry of National Defense signed an arrangement to formalize archival cooperation between the Department of Defense and the PLA. According to the arrangement, Chinese archivists will review military holdings for information related to American missing before, during, and after the Korean War, and provide relevant information to DPMO. The Chinese also will seek out and interview surviving Korea War veterans who may have knowledge about missing American servicemen.
- April 24, 2008: DPMO and the PLA Archives Department signed a technical arrangement that details the processes and procedures for implementing the archival cooperation arrangement signed in February 2008.
- May 21, 2008: JPAC postponed the remains recovery operation in Dandong because an arrangement could not be successfully negotiated with the Chinese government in time to conduct the operation in June 2008. JPAC is working with DPMO and USDAO Beijing to reschedule talks with Chinese MFA officials in an effort to complete the arrangement and reschedule the JPAC operation in 2009 or 2010.
- August 19, 2008: DoD (DPMO) approved the PLA Archives Department proposed budget for initiating the archival arrangement.
- September 2008: DPMO released an initial program “start up” payment to the US Embassy Beijing. The embassy then transferred the money to the Foreign Affairs Office of China’s Ministry of National Defense.
- January 14-16, 2009: a JPAC working-level meeting took place with Dandong, Liaoning Province officials to discuss the arrangements for support of a remains recovery operation in Dandong scheduled for May 9 through June 29, 2009. No arrangement was signed at this meeting and the scheduled operation will likely be postponed to a future date.

- April 5-11, 2009: DASD (POW/MPA) Charles Ray accompanied by JPAC Commander, RADM Donna Crisp and staff travelled to China for personnel accounting talks with Chinese government officials and U.S. Embassy officials. In Beijing, they discussed ongoing progress on the archival arrangement with Ministry of National Defense officials and received a tour of the PLA archives. Also, they discussed six cases of missing Americans from past wars that the U.S. side proposed for investigation and/or recovery and a case raised by Chinese officials. During the visit, the delegation traveled to Liaoning province to discuss cases of Americans missing from the Korean War in that region of China.
- September 1-3, 2009: DPMO hosted meetings with Chinese PLA archivists to review progress made during the first year of U.S.-China archival cooperation and assess current procedures. Archivists visited the Gray Research Center at Marine Corps Base Quantico and the National Archives and Records Administration to see U.S. archival techniques and procedures first hand. The Chinese shared a 15-page report summarizing their efforts to date, and reported the screening of approximately 200,000 pages of documents representing about 10 percent of available material. The PLA archivists anticipate an increase in available material from the expansion of research to provincial and other non-PLA organizational archives as they continue work in the central military archives where they believe most of the Chinese information on Korean War missing servicemen is stored.
- October 27, 2009: General Xu Caihou, Vice Chairman Central Military Committee, presented documents from the PLA Archives and an artifact from a potential U.S. aircraft crash site in Guangdong Province to Secretary of Defense Gates.
- November 6, 2009: DPMO and JPAC have requested permission from the Chinese to investigate the potential U.S. crash site mentioned above in January 2010. PLA archivists discovered this crash site from archival records and reported it to DPMO officials in September at the PLA Archives-DPMO meeting.
- April 24-28, 2010: A JPAC-DPMO team investigated the Guangdong Province crash site and interviewed a dozen witnesses, but was unable to pinpoint the crash site. JPAC plans to return and conduct another investigation from July 31-August 15, 2010.
- July 31-August 15, 2010: A JPAC team re-investigated the Guangdong Province crash site of a probable U.S. Navy patrol aircraft with a crew of 12 lost during the Korean War. The team interviewed witnesses and cleared areas along a debris path to determine the impact point. JPAC plans to excavate the site at the first opportunity in coordination with the Chinese government.
- September 13-15, 2010: a joint DPMO/JPAC team met with PLA counterparts in Beijing. The PLA provided a written report of the results of its research and field investigation since September 2009. The report contains new information on five Korean War air losses that crashed in China and one in North Korea, in two cases identifying the location of potential gravesites. The report contained no copies of any original documents, but it did quote from wartime reports.
- November 20-23, 2010: Major General Stephan Tom and JPAC staff held operational talks with Chinese MFA officials to discuss dates for conducting a follow up recovery operation of a U.S. Navy PBM-5 aircraft and crew missing since November 1950 in Guangdong Province. The dates for conducting an archeological excavation and scientific survey with a recovery team were set for February 15 to March 24, 2011.

- February 2011: JPAC received permission from Chinese MFA officials to begin the recovery mission of the U.S. Navy PBM-5 aircraft and crew in Guangdong Province starting February 15, through April 24 2011. JPAC has begun recovery operations in Guangdong Province.
- March 2011: DPMO and JPAC Command visit to China to meet with JPAC recovery team members on site in Guangdong and travel to Shenyang to negotiate with local and regional leaders on the Dandong gravesite excavation.
- March 2011: JPAC completed recovery operation in Guangdong on 31 March 2011 and recovered no human remains but did recover extensive life-support equipment and on board related systems. JPAC recover team will return in October 2011 to resume operations. Negotiations with local and regional officials in Dandong failed to reach an agreement over land compensation, but both sides remain optimistic for follow on discussions.
- October 14 – December 11, 2011: JPAC completed a second recovery operation in Guangdong Province at the November 1950 crash site of a Navy PBM-5 aircraft. Unfortunately, no human remains were recovered during this operation, but a relatively small amount of aircraft debris was recovered during the operation.
- March 2012: JPAC conducted technical talks with the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The JPAC Commander lead a small JPAC delegation for discussions with the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs the meeting addressed proposed operations for FY2012 and FY 2013. The MFA approved an investigative mission on two WW II related aircraft crash sites in Shanxi province. Also, JPAC presented a request to send a recovery team to excavate a RB-29 crash site in Dandong if the land compensation issue can be resolved.
- May 2012: DPMO, JPAC, and U.S Embassy, Beijing, staff met with Chinese military archivists May 16-17, 2012. DPMO and PLA Archives Department signed a technical arrangement on May 17 renewing cooperation for another three years on sharing information about American military personnel missing in conflicts with China. As in the past, DPMO will compensate the PLA annually for the support it provides during 2012-2014. The Director of the PLA Archives Department reported that the Ministry of National Defense considers the archival research arrangement to be the most successful component of the U.S.-China mil-to-mil program. This work will include research on Korean War losses.

Major Remains Concentrations in North Korea

Estimated numbers of remains are in parenthesis

*1954 estimate by U.S. Army Graves Registration Services on number of remains recoverable in DMZ.

POW Camp Burial Sites (1,200)

Apex (270)

Camp 5 (322)

Death Valley Camp (233)

Unsan/Chongchon Area (1,549)

Unsan (244)

Kuryong (176)

Kujang (270)

Kunuri (403)

Pyongyang Cemetery (185)



Valley #1 Camp (41)

Chosin Reservoir Area (1,079)

Yudamni (199)

Sinhung (92)

Twiggae (244)

Kotori Cemetery (30)

Hungnam Cemetery (49)

Suan Camps (220)

DMZ (89)*