



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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U.S. to resume remains recovery in North Korea

In October 2011, officials from the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) reached an arrangement to resume recovering the remains of American servicemen missing from the Korean War. The three-day talks held in Bangkok were led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Robert J. Newberry. The negotiating team included representatives from across the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the U.S. Pacific Command and the United Nations Command-Korea.

Of the approximately 83,000 Americans missing from all conflicts, more than 7,900 are from the Korean War with 5,500 of those believed to be missing in North Korea.

Accounting for Americans missing in action is a stand-alone humanitarian matter, not tied to any other issue between the two countries.

The agreed upon arrangement calls for American

teams to work in two areas in North Korea—Unsan County, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, and on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir. Analysts believe that remains of more than 2,000 missing American soldiers and Marines are in these areas. The arrangement includes details on logistics and matters to ensure the effectiveness and safety of the remains recovery teams that will be operating in North Korea.

Operations in North Korea are expected to begin in Spring 2011, and will be the first operations since 2005, when the United States had to halt missions due to increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Prior to that time, American specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command had conducted more than 30 operations in the country, for 10 years, recovering the remains of more than 225 service men. More than 175 of those remains have been identified and returned to their loved ones for burial. For more information, go to: <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo>.

"This is a step in the right direction for the families of our missing Korean War servicemen. With the resumption of operations we look forward to bringing home their loved ones."

- DASD Robert Newberry

POW/MIA Recognition Day activities

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day were held across the United States on Sept. 16, at military installations, state capitols, schools, veterans' facilities, and on ships at sea. POW/MIA Recognition Day is held every year on the third Friday in September.

This year, a ceremony was held at the Pentagon that featured remarks from Secretary of Defense, Leon E. Panetta, and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral James A. Winnefeld Jr.

Representatives from DPMO and each of the military services also traveled to New York City, where they visited the New York Stock Exchange, and then they participated in a New York Mets home plate ceremony at Citi Field to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action.



Photo courtesy of Dana Scope

United States-Vietnam talks advance in-country access

By Jack Kull, DPMO

Senior American and Vietnamese defense officials met in Washington D.C., on Sept. 19, for the second annual Defense Policy Dialogue talks aimed at strengthening defense cooperation between the two countries. This year's dialogue included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Vietnam to advance bilateral defense cooperation. Included in the memorandum was language pledging additional cooperation in accounting for American personnel still missing from the Vietnam War.

Vietnam's Deputy Defense Minister and delegation head, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh, provided Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Robert Newberry with information related to American POW/MIAs, and announced the lifting of access-restrictions on six cases involving 19 unaccounted-for Americans from the Vietnam War. Deputy Minister Vinh's announcement reflected recent cooperative actions by the Vietnamese government to provide more access in sensitive security areas of Vietnam.



Photo courtesy of the Vietnamese Embassy

Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh presents DASD Robert Newberry with new information related to American POW/MIA cases in Vietnam.

Family Updates

The following family updates will be conducted for families of those missing in action:

Jan. 28 — Tampa, Fla.

Feb. 25 — Dallas, Texas

April 19-20 — Korea/Cold War Update, Tyson's Corner, Va.

May 19 — Indianapolis, Ind.

June 14-16 — Southeast Asia Annual Briefing, Crystal City, Va.

To register or get more information, go to:
www.dtic.mil/dpmo

Photo by Jessica Pierno



Carol Leighton brought two of her grandsons, Henry Hund, 11 (left), and Leighton Hund, 14, to the Wichita Family Update in October. The boys asked insightful questions throughout the day, and gained a better understanding of the ongoing search for their great uncle, Capt. Michael Donovan, who served in the Vietnam War.

Veterans' memories assist analysts

By Dan Vong, DPMO

The Veterans History Project (VHP) is a part of the American Folklife Center at the U.S. Library of Congress. The mission of the VHP is to collect, preserve, and make the personal accounts of American war veterans accessible so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The VHP carries out this mission by conducting interviews with veterans. Currently, the project has more than 10,000 interviews on file.

DPMO's Korean War analysts periodically review the latest VHP materials for useful information that supplements the interviews that they routinely conduct while investigating losses. Examples of the VHP providing helpful tips include a veteran who provided a map of a battle area where he had plotted points of movement of an MIA soldier. Another veteran remembered participating in a rescue attempt that was unsuccessful due to hostile fire, which led to further details that DPMO was able to correlate with a known air loss.

The VHP's Korean War collections continue to be a unique and helpful resource for analysts. The VHP is also a way that Veterans can continue to serve by sharing their memories.

If you are a veteran, or know of a veteran who would be interested in participating in this project, you can call (888) 371-5848 or visit <http://www.loc.gov/vets>.

Bosnians tended grave for 67 years

Staff Sgt. Meceslaus T. Miaskiewicz served with the 347th Bombardment Squadron, 99th Bombardment Group, in World War II. On May 18, 1944, the B-17, on which he served as engineer, crashed in the part of Yugoslavia, today known as Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Shortly after the war ended, the American Graves Registration Service recovered remains believed to be Miaskiewicz, and he was interred in a group burial with one other crew member in Farmingdale, N.Y.

In 2011, it was discovered that Miaskiewicz's remains had not been recovered in 1944, in fact he had been buried by the villagers of Stubica, a small village near the crash site, immediately after the crash. The villagers carefully wrapped Miaskiewicz's body in his parachute and buried him on a hillside outside the village. Those same villagers tended the grave of this mysterious American soldier for 67 years until authorities notified the American government in 2011.

The Armed Forces Regional Medical Examiner's Office for Europe used dental analysis and mitochondrial DNA — which matched that of Miaskiewicz's sisters in the identification of his remains. (This technology had not been available in 1944.) After notifying Miaskiewicz's family of the discovery of his remains, he was returned home and buried with full military honors on Nov. 12, in his hometown of Salem, Mass.



Courtesy Photo

WWII investigations in Europe

In September, a DPMO investigation team of five World War II historians and analysts (including a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command WWII historian) pursued leads on 54 WWII losses in the area around Malmedy, Bastogne, and Butgenbach, Belgium; and in areas over the borders of Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany. As a result, at least four cases were identified for possible follow-up. While investigating aircraft crashes, tank battles, hospital and ground losses, the team worked with local researchers and collectors, and were provided documents, artifacts and other information.

Another team of four DPMO historians and analysts carried out successful investigations of 14 unaccounted-for WWII servicemen in the Decin area of the Czech Republic. They found new leads to recovery on three of the cases, which included aircraft shoot downs, and POW burials. The team was assisted by a U.S. Army Czech linguist in conducting witness interviews. The team conducted three months of preparatory archival research for the 12-day mission. The team was also called upon to immediately survey and facilitate follow-up for an additional crash site while in Croatia.

Iraq accounting shifts to DPMO

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that the responsibility to account for missing U.S. personnel in Iraq transferred from the U.S. Central Command to DPMO on Dec. 1, 2011. This change is a result of ending military operations in Iraq. In accordance with the Missing Service Personnel Act, the current number of personnel missing from operations in Iraq is six — two service members from Desert Storm; and one service member and three DoD contractors from Iraqi Freedom.

Recently identified

The following servicemen have been accounted for since March 2011:

WWII

Spc. 4 Robert B. Bayne, USA
Staff Sgt. John J. Bono, USAAF
Pfc. Alexander Garon, USA
Sgt. Marvin A. Gill, USAAF
Sgt. John J. Harringer Jr., USAAF
2nd Lt. Arthur W. Luce, USAAF
2nd Lt. Samuel E. Lunday Jr., USAAF
Capt. Jennings H. Mease, USAAF
Staff Sgt. Meceslaus T. Miaskiewicz, USAAF
1st Lt. James Meagher, USAAF
Pfc. Edward L. O'Toole, USA
1st Lt. Stephen L. Pascal, USAAF
Pfc. William F. Stehlin, USA
Pvt. Herman F. Sturmer Jr., USMC
1st Lt. Jack E. Volz, USAAF

Korea

Sgt. Wyatt H. Belton, USA
Sgt. Ralph W. Carlson, USA
Pfc. Floyd T. Coker, USA
Sgt. Gerald F. Day, USA
Pfc. Henry L. Gustafson, USA
Sgt. Lee D. Henry Jr., USA
Pfc. Arthur L. A. Hodapp, USA
Pfc. John G. Lavelle Jr., USA
Sgt. David E. Lemcke, USA
Cpl. Freeman Lindsey, USA
Cpl. Eugene M. Morelli, USA
Cpl. James S. Murray, USA
Pfc. Aaron Pearce, USA
Cpl. Edward M. Pedregon, USA
Cpl. Theodore A. Reynolds, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Benny D. Rogers, USA
Capt. Melvin R. Stai, USA
Cpl. James R. Stroup, USA
Cpl. James N. Sund, USA

Cpl. Robert J. Tucker, USA
Pfc. Samuel K. Watkins, USA

Vietnam

Pfc. Wayne Bibbs, USA
Col. Leo S. Boston, USAF
Lt. Cmdr. Edward J. Broms Jr., USN
Sgt. 1st Class William T. Brown, USA
Maj. Thomas E. Clark, USAF
Spc. 4 Randall D. Dalton, USA
Capt. Arnold E. Holm Jr., USA
Maj. Bruce E. Lawrence, USAF
Lt. Col. Glenn D. McElroy, USA
Capt. John M. Nash, USA
Col. Gilbert S. Palmer Jr., USAF
Spc. 4 Marvin F. Phillips, USA
Maj. Thomas E. Reitmann Jr., USAF
Lt. Col. Edward D. Silver, USAF
Spc. 4 Robin R. Yeakley, USA

Photo courtesy of Maj. Jorge Rosario



POW/MIA flag on Mt. Kilimanjaro

In September, Maj. Jorge Rosario climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro while on vacation in Tanzania. He hoisted the POW/MIA flag after climbing to the summit. Rosario works as a Defense Casualty Liaison Officer, in the External Affairs directorate at DPMO.

Where have you seen the POW/MIA flag? Email us your pictures of the POW/MIA flag for the chance to be featured on our webpage or in the next issue of *The Torch*.
Email: outreach.DPMO@osd.mil

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 (800) 531-5501 **U.S. Marine Corps** (800) 847-1597

U.S. Army (800) 892-2490 **U.S. Navy** (800) 443-9298

U.S. Department of State
(202) 647-5470

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www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

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