



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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Summer 2012

DASD 'Q' Winfield welcomes "A New Day" at DPMO

In May 2012, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Montague 'Q' Winfield was appointed, by President Barack Obama, to the dual role of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs and Director of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO). As DASD, he is responsible for developing policy and strategy for personnel recovery, personnel accounting, and DoD support to civil search and rescue. He also defines policy and oversees efforts to recover those who become isolated during operations. As the director, he leads the DoD effort to achieve the fullest possible accounting for American personnel missing as a result of hostile action.

In his first few weeks, DASD Winfield prioritized several initiatives, such as improving cooperation between all members of the accounting community, developing a DoD strategic plan for personnel accounting, and increasing outreach to family members, stakeholders, and partners in the accounting mission. These actions represent "a new day" at DPMO, a theme that is a key priority for DASD Winfield.

Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, Commander of the Joint

POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), agreed with these efforts and said, "We must work to share information and share understanding."

To improve cooperation, DPMO now hosts a video teleconference for the entire Accounting Community twice a month. DPMO and JPAC also started an exchange program, allowing their staffs to work together in person.

DPMO also welcomed a new Principal Director, Ms. Alisa Stack, SES, and a new Chief of Staff, Col. John Potts, to the leadership team. Together, they are improving harmony, engagement, analysis/assessments, and trust (H.E.A.T.) within the accounting community.

According to DASD Winfield, "DPMO is bringing the H.E.A.T. to the mission to account for missing Americans."

SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE:

DPMO is focusing on digital distribution of "The Torch" instead of hardcopy mailings. Please send your email address to: outreach.DPMO@osd.mil.

For those who cannot access "The Torch" via email or online, we will continue to mail it to your address when resources are available.



Photo courtesy of Rob Goelke, DPMO

JPAC Commander Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, and DASD Montague 'Q' Winfield take questions, alongside Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board of Directors, at the National League of Families 43rd Annual Meeting in Arlington, Va., on June 16, 2012.

Investigations in Italy and Austria

In April, a joint DPMO/JPAC team of four historians and analysts, supported by a translator from the Army's Military Intelligence Reserve Command, traveled to Italy and Austria, to investigate seven loss incidents involving 11 missing World War II service members. These investigations resulted from historical research using archival records and contacts with local authorities in Austria and Italy.

The team located several aircraft crash sites and conducted research in local archives and cemeteries in the Italian cities of Ardea, Aprilia, Falvaterra, Cassino, Manziana, Riano, Castelnuovo di Porto, Saludeccio, Cerreto, and Saint Lorenzen, and in Hohenthurn, Austria. The team was assisted by municipal authorities in each of these cities. The team also met with the superintendent of the WWII Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno and collected data concerning the 490 unknown remains interred there.

This meticulous research and the investigations done by DPMO and JPAC WWII historians and analysts greatly aids in the recovery and identification of missing service members.

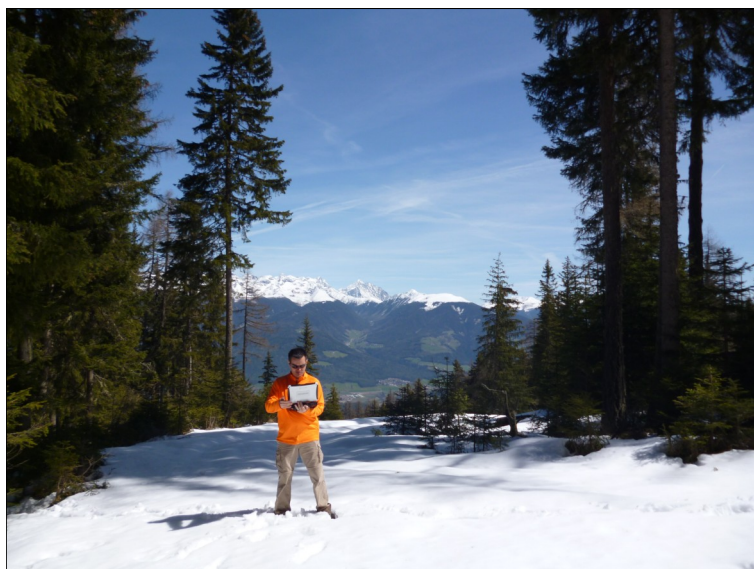


Photo courtesy of Mark Russell, DPMO

After hiking more than a kilometer up snowy roads, Mr. Josh Frank, and the research team from DPMO and JPAC, collected GPS coordinates for use in the Geospatial Information System from a possible aircraft crash site in the Tyrol Alps of northern Italy.

Family Updates

The next update for families with loved ones missing in action will be conducted on:

Sept. 15 in Marshalltown, Iowa.

To register or get more information, see our webpage: www.dtic.mil/dpmo

DPMO is currently planning six Family Updates in Fiscal Year 2013. A tentative schedule with locations will be released soon. The annual Korean/Cold War meeting will take place in April in the Washington, D.C. area, and the annual briefings for Southeast Asia families will take place during the National League of Families 44th Annual Meeting, June 13-15 in Crystal City, Va.

Families have the opportunity to meet with numerous civilian and military specialists from the government whose expertise includes: foreign government negotiation, formulation of national policy, remains recovery and identification, DNA science, archival research and intelligence analysis.

The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission News

In June, representatives of the U.S. Government traveled to Moscow to meet with Ms. Ekaterina Priyetzheva, the new Russian Co-Chairwoman for the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) on POW/MIAs, and Col. Andrey Taranov, the Deputy Executive Secretary for the Russian side of the USRJC. They discussed scheduling a plenary session for the Commission. The meeting was a productive step forward in laying the groundwork for the future of the commission.

In August, DASD Winfield met with General (Ret.) Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, the Chairman of the U.S. side of the USRJC. Together they are shaping the way ahead for the USRJC and the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD), which is a part of DPMO.

Also in Russia, researchers at the DPMO office in Moscow are reviewing materials from three Russian Archives, the Russian State Military Archives, the State Archives of the Russian Federation, and the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense.

These archives contain documents related to the Soviet involvement in repatriating U.S. POWs, who were liberated from German captivity at the end of WWII. They also contain potential information on several U.S. servicemen who were liberated by the Soviets and are still listed as missing.



DPMO recently launched a Twitter account to help highlight the work of DPMO and the Accounting Community to account for more than 83,000 missing Americans.

Follow DPMO @DoDPOWMIA

Strengthening ties with Vietnam

In June, the Vietnamese government turned over archival documents the U.S. has been requesting for several years. Later that month, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta traveled to Vietnam, where he learned the Vietnamese government opened three previously restricted sites for investigations. Also in June, DPMO participated in the U.S./Vietnam Political, Security, Defense dialogue in Hanoi, which is the principal bilateral policy forum between the U.S. and Vietnam.

To continue to build on this progress, JPAC launched an initiative to accelerate operations, called the Vietnam Recovery Team — an excavation team composed primarily of Vietnamese personnel and several Americans, including an anthropologist, linguist, medic, and explosive ordnance specialist. All of these actions support the mission of bringing home Americans who are still unaccounted for in Vietnam.

U.S.-Laos relations

In June, DPMO participated in the fourth U.S.-Laos Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue, hosted by the Department of State. DPMO addressed the use of helicopters versus ground transportation, permission for U.S. teams to camp at excavation sites, permission for ethnic Lao-American and Thai-American JPAC linguists to participate in operations in Laos, and additional access for Stony Beach representatives at the U.S. Embassy.

In July, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton traveled to Laos. She was the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Laos in more than five decades. In her discussions there, she raised the issue of the more than 300 Americans still unaccounted-for in that country, along with the issues that had been raised in the June talks between the two governments.

In August, representatives from DPMO and JPAC participated in semi-annual consultative talks with representatives of the Lao government in Vientiane, Laos. The Lao reaffirmed commitments, to allow the use of ground transportation, where appropriate and safe, and permit the use of remote base camping near excavation sites on a case-by-case basis, which were made to Secretary Clinton during her visit.

Remains recoveries in India

In June, the United States and India agreed to resume remains recovery activities in parts of Northeastern India. There are approximately 400 unaccounted-for Americans in India from some 90 aircraft crashes during WWII.

During his visit in June, Secretary Panetta said, "This is a critical step toward bringing home our service members lost during WWII. The United States and India, working together, can help provide comfort to the families of Americans who were lost during the war."

Recently accounted for

The following service members were recently accounted for and returned to their families for burial with full military honors:

WWII

Pfc. John A. Donovan, USMC
 2nd Lt. Dwight D. Ekstam, USMC
 Cpl. Wayne R. Erickson, USMC
 Pfc. Gerald W. Kight, USA
 1st Lt. Laverne A. Lallathin, USMC
 1st Lt. Warren G. Moxley, USAAF
 Tech. Sgt. James A. Sisney, USMC
 Radioman 1st Class Harry C. Scribner, USN
 2nd Lt. Walter B. Vincent, Jr., USMC
 Cpl. John D. Yeager, USMC

Vietnam

Lt. Col. Clarence F. Blanton, USAF
 Col. Joseph Christiano, USAF
 Chief Master Sgt. William K. Colwell, USAF
 Lt. Col. Dennis L. Eilers, USAF
 Chief Master Sgt. Arden K. Hassenger, USAF
 Col. Derrell B. Jeffords, USAF
 Sgt. John R. Jones, USA

Pfc. James R. Maxwell, USMC
 Capt. Virgil K. Meroney III, USAF
 Lt. Dennis W. Peterson, USN
 Pfc. Richard W. Rivenburgh, USMC
 Chief Master Sgt. Larry C. Thornton, USAF
 Sgt. 1st Class Gunther H. Wald, USA

Korea

Cpl. Clyde E. Anderson, USA
 Sgt. William T. Barker, USA
 Sgt. Thomas J. Barksdale, USA
 Cpl. Kenneth R. Block, USA
 Cpl. David L. Catlin, USA
 Cpl. Pryor Gobble, USA
 Pfc. Richard S. Gzik, USMC
 Cpl. Clarence H. Huff, Jr., USMC
 Cpl. Luther J. James, USA
 Pfc. Francis J. Reimer, USA
 Sgt. Chester L. Williams, USA
 Pfc. Nelson E. Young, USA

DPMO hosts Japanese delegation

In April, DPMO hosted a seven-member Japanese delegation led by a Special Advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister and member of the Japanese Diet, Honda Hiranao and Deputy Director Yamaguchi Masami from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

The group discussed cooperation on WWII remains recovery missions in the Pacific, information and technology exchanges, forensic and DNA techniques, sharing of annual plans for investigations and excavations, and the benefits of joint U.S.-Japan forensic reviews of discovered remains. The delegation was particularly interested in remains recovery operations on Iwo Jima, where Japan is attempting to recover remains of its military personnel, and the U.S. also has missing personnel. The delegation also expressed their gratitude to the U.S. for past assistance in locating information in U.S. archives that has been helpful to their work.

Remains recoveries in Burma

JPAC recently led technical meetings with the Burmese Ministry of Defense and Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs to discuss resuming investigations and remains recovery activities for WWII missing. Both ministries were supportive of the proposal to resume operations in Burma, and they agreed to continue talks to refine the details in the near future. More than 700 Americans are unaccounted for in Burma from WWII.

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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Photo courtesy of Jessica Pierno, DPMO

DASD Winfield (far right) stands with Mr. John Sommer and Ms. Caroline McCall at the unveiling of the 2012 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster. Ms. McCall's brother, Army Pfc. William "Darrell" Johnson, missing since 1968, is featured in the photo on the 2012 POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster. Mr. Sommer fought alongside Johnson in the same unit during the Vietnam War.

**POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on
Friday, Sept. 21, 2012.**