



## **Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office** **Joint Commission Support Directorate** **Fact Sheet**

The Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) provides administrative and analytic support to the U.S. side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) and conducts research in Russia on missing U.S. servicemen. JCSD also assists the Russians with efforts to account for their missing military personnel.

### **Background**

The USRJC was established in 1992 by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Boris Yeltsin as a forum through which both nations seek to determine the fates of their missing servicemen.

From August 1997 to October 2006, U.S. analysts had access to Russian archives for research on past conflicts. The Russians disbanded their side of the commission in 2006 and as a result, suspended archival access. In January 2010, the Russian Government restored access to the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense in Podolsk, Russia—the largest military archive in Europe—allowing U.S. analysts to continue research efforts. President Dmitry Medvedev issued a Presidential decree, in June 2011, establishing an Interagency Commission on Prisoners of War, Internees and missing in Action. According to the decree this commission reconstituted the Russian side of the USRJC, appointing 33 members, including Chair E.G. Prizzheva and Deputy Chair A.V. Kirilin.

### **Efforts Relating to World War II**

- JCSD analysts review documents from Soviet WWII units, as well as captured German documents.

### **Efforts Relating to the Korean War**

- Soviet-era archives detail combat activities in China and South Korea during the Korean War.
- Several cases involving missing U.S. servicemen from the Korean War have been clarified using Russian archival data.
- Researchers interviewed more than 1,000 Soviet veterans of the Korean War since the USRJC began its work in the former USSR.

### **Efforts Relating to the Cold War**

- JCSD analysts investigate the air losses of U.S. servicemen missing during the Cold War between 1950 and 1965.
- In Murmansk, during 2006 and 2007, JCSD analysts met with local veterans' organizations, government officials and archival researchers to gather data on a 1960 U.S. military aircrew loss.
- In 2007, analysts from JCSD surveyed a possible U.S. military aircraft crash site near Vladivostok. They shared information with Russian officials that shed light on the loss of a Soviet submarine crew, which sank in the Pacific in March 1968.
- DPMO continues to assist the Russians in accounting for Soviet soldiers missing from the 1979-1989 war in Afghanistan.

### **Efforts related to the Vietnam War**

- Since 2008, researchers interviewed approximately 40 Soviet veterans of the Vietnam War.
- JCSD cultivates contacts with Russian veterans' groups to identify possible interview subjects.
- DPMO will continue to pursue declassification of Russia's Vietnam War information.