



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

Summer 2007



Ambassador Ray and Deputy Prime Minister Khiem

Vietnamese leadership visits D.C.

DPMO welcomes Deputy Prime Minister

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, hosted the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Pham Gia Khiem, at the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office in Washington, D.C., in June.

Khiem and other senior Vietnamese officials met with Ray and senior DPMO staff for a wide-ranging discussion of the accounting mission in Vietnam.

Khiem was part of a delegation that traveled to the United States with Vietnam President Nguyen Minh Triet. Triet also met with President George W. Bush at the White House to discuss a variety of issues. Among the issues raised was the accounting mission in Vietnam. During their meeting, Bush expressed gratitude for Vietnam's support of the POW/MIA accounting mission:

"I thanked the President for his continued cooperation on the issue of POWs and MIAs. I saw firsthand that cooperation when I was in Vietnam."

Meeting held for families of the Vietnam War missing

More than 200 family members of unaccounted-for service personnel from the Vietnam War met in Washington, D.C., June 22-24 for government briefings on efforts to account for those still missing from that conflict.

The briefings were held in conjunction with the 38th annual meeting of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

Families met with numerous civilian and military representatives of the government agencies responsible for the POW/MIA accounting mission. Topics discussed included foreign government negotiation, policy, remains recovery and identification, DNA science, archival research and intelligence analysis.

Family members also had the opportunity to meet one-on-one

with their Service Casualty Officers and ask specific questions regarding their missing loved ones.

A similar meeting is held in October for the Korean and Cold War families. Families who have missing loved ones from all wars are invited to attend family updates, which are held eight times a year in cities around the country.

Family members seeking more information about these programs, or a missing loved one, may call their Service Casualty Offices. The contact information is located on page three.

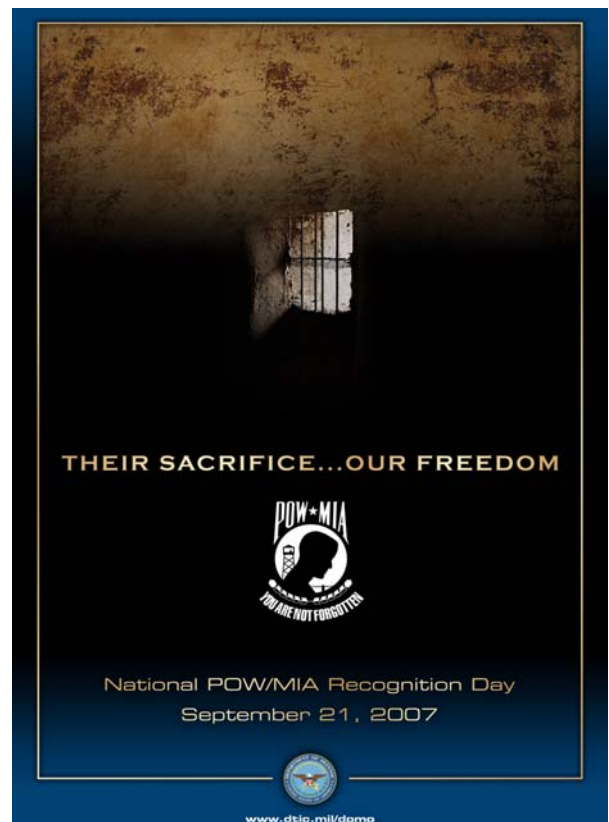
The dates and locations for the remaining 2007 family updates and government briefing are:

Aug. 18—Kansas City, Mo.

Oct. 18-20—Korean and Cold

War Annual Government Briefing

Nov. 17—Phoenix, Ariz.



The 2007 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster was unveiled at the annual Southeast Asia meeting June 22. For more information on obtaining a poster to commemorate this year's POW/MIA Recognition Day on Sept. 21, call (703) 699-1131, or visit www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

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Officials discuss Korean War accounting efforts

Chinese visit yields hope for increased archival information

Chinese officers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Archives Department and others from the Ministry of National Defense visited the United States May 10-15 to discuss assisting U.S. efforts to obtain more information about American servicemembers missing from the Korean War.

The visitors first traveled to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii, where they received briefings on the recovery and identification process. They toured JPAC's facilities, including the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in operation, the Central Identification Laboratory. They also visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

The visitors then traveled to Washington, D.C., where they met with officials from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office to discuss the importance of the accounting mission. They were briefed on how data from the archives is analyzed and put to use in the field, and why this information is valuable in the Korean War accounting process.

They also met with Robin Piacine, the president of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, who expressed her gratitude to the visitors for their cooperation in providing information.

After their visit to D.C., the Chinese officers traveled to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Md., where they heard briefings on records and archives management. This enabled the visitors to see and gather ideas about the organization and administration of a modern archive system.

Department of Defense efforts to gain access to information in the Chinese military archives have been underway for several years. In July 2006, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld met with Gen. Guo Boxiong, a senior PLA officer, who promised increased cooperation in locating information on missing Americans from the Korean War. During this visit, U.S. officials impressed upon the Chinese the importance of the accounting mission. General Guo's commitment paved the way for DPMO to establish a relationship with the Chinese office responsible for searching for and providing POW/MIA-related documents.

U.S. officials hope to develop a formal arrangement to share information with the Chinese, and the visit by the archivists was another step in establishing such an arrangement. Follow-up visits to China are scheduled to gauge the process of their archival modernization efforts and to continue cooperating with them on the POW/MIA issue.

Tribute to our fallen



BUCHAREST, ROMANIA — The U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Nicholas Taubman (right), with U.S. Defense Attaché Air Force Col. Barbara Kuennecke and members of the Romanian Honor Guard, dedicate a monument in June to U.S. servicemen who lost their lives in Romania during WWII, including 106 who are still unaccounted-for. Investigators from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office regularly work with Romania and other Central European countries to gather information on the circumstances of loss involving these missing servicemen.

Servicemembers missing from WWII listed in online database

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office has developed an electronic database listing the names of servicemembers still unaccounted-for from World War II, which is now available online.

This database, listing nearly 78,000 names, was compiled by researchers from DPMO and JPAC. They used hard-copy sources including records from the National Archives II repository in College Park, Md., and the historical source, *The World War II Rosters of the Dead*. They applied various techniques to develop lists of possible discrepancies which were then resolved using additional sources from the National Archives and thousands of personnel files from the Washington National Records Center.

After more than three years of research and coordination to transfer information into an electronic format, efforts to gather more data on unaccounted-for WWII servicemembers continue. New names and information will be added as historical documents and personnel files are located, and the list will assist in recovery operations.

The names of servicemen whose remains are recovered and identified today and in the future will be removed as families accept the identification and inter their loved ones in cemeteries of their choosing.

This WWII database, along with databases listing the missing from the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War and Gulf War, are available on DPMO's web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

The POW/MIA bracelet: a symbol of remembrance



Originated and worn extensively in the 1970s, POW/MIA bracelets are still popular among veterans, POW/MIA family members and the general public as a reminder of the sacrifices of those once held captive, and those still missing in action.

The idea for the bracelets was started by members of a student organization, Voices in a Vital America (VIVA). They thought distributing remembrance bracelets with the names of missing servicemen engraved on them would be a good way to heighten awareness of the POW/MIA issue.

Armed with a few sample bracelets designed with the help of a small engraving shop, the students sought donations to fund their project. In the summer of 1970, a private citizen donated enough brass and copper to make 1,200 bracelets.

Radio and TV personalities began to promote the idea in Los Angeles and on Veterans Day 1970, the organization officially

kicked off the bracelet program. Public response quickly mounted with orders growing to 12,000 requests a day.

Before closing its doors in 1976, VIVA distributed nearly five million bracelets. Sales also enabled the group to distribute millions of bumper stickers, buttons, brochures, matchbooks and other items to raise awareness of the POW/MIA issue. Bracelets are purchased and still worn today to honor the sacrifices of America's POWs and MIAs.

Frequently asked questions:

Q: How do I get a POW/MIA bracelet?

A: Many individuals and private organizations sell them. One source, manned by volunteers, can be reached at: Bracelets, Ohio Chapter MIA/POW, P. O. Box 14853, Columbus, OH 43214

Q: How do I find more information about the serviceman on my POW/MIA bracelet?

A: Some information can be found on the DPMO web site, www.dtic.mil/dpmo/pmsea/index.htm, or write to: DPMO, Attn: Bracelet Request, 241 18th St. S., Ste. 800, Arlington, VA 22202

Q: Can I return my bracelet to a family member of the serviceman?

A: For some families, it is a painful experience to be reminded of a missing loved one, so out of respect for their privacy we do not share their addresses. You may write to the respective military service casualty office to ask if they will forward your bracelet to the family. Their information is below under "Contact Us."

CONTACT US

If you have questions regarding a missing loved one, contact your Service Casualty Office:

U.S. Air Force 1-800-531-5501
HQ AFPC/DPWCM
550 C St. W., Ste. 15
Randolph, AFB TX 78150-4716

U.S. Army 1-800-892-2490
ATTN: AHRC-PER
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria, VA 22332-0482

U.S. Marine Corps 1-800-847-1597
MRC Personal & Family Readiness
3280 Russell Rd.
Quantico, VA 22134-5103

U.S. Navy 1-800-443-9298
POW/MIA Branch (PERS 624)
5720 Integrity Dr.
Millington, TN 38055-6210

U.S. Dept. of State 202-647-5470
Overseas Citizens Services
2100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., 4th Fl.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Requesting POW/MIA documents

The U.S. government provides the public with as much information as possible about its continuing efforts to locate and account for missing servicemembers.

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office has a division responsible for ensuring that POW/MIA-related information is accessible to family members of the missing, and to the public.

All lawfully releasable information contained in DPMO's holdings have been placed, as required by law, in the public domain in the Library of Congress. As new information is available, it is added to the existing collection.

The public may also file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for DPMO documents. These should be routed through the Department of Defense Office of Freedom of Information, and the requests may be submitted electronically online.

The next-of-kin family member of a missing serviceman may obtain U.S. government POW/MIA documents without submitting a FOIA request.

The government's policy is to respond directly to those family members through their respective Service Casualty Offices, and to provide them with the greatest degree of access to information that they are entitled to under the law.

The FOIA does authorize reasonable charges when extensive research is required to collect records or documents. However, family members of MIAs may obtain information related to their case free of charge.

For more information, visit www.dtic.mil/dpmo/familyinfo.htm, or contact your respective Service Casualty Office. See the box on the left for this contact information.

(703) 699-1420
20301-2900
Washington, D.C.
2900 Defense Pentagon
Attn: Public Affairs
DPMO

If you **DO NOT** want to continue
receiving this quarterly
newsletter, write to or call:

www.dtic.mil/dpmo
The Torch is online:

Recent Identifications

Since April 2007, the following servicemen have been accounted for:

WWII

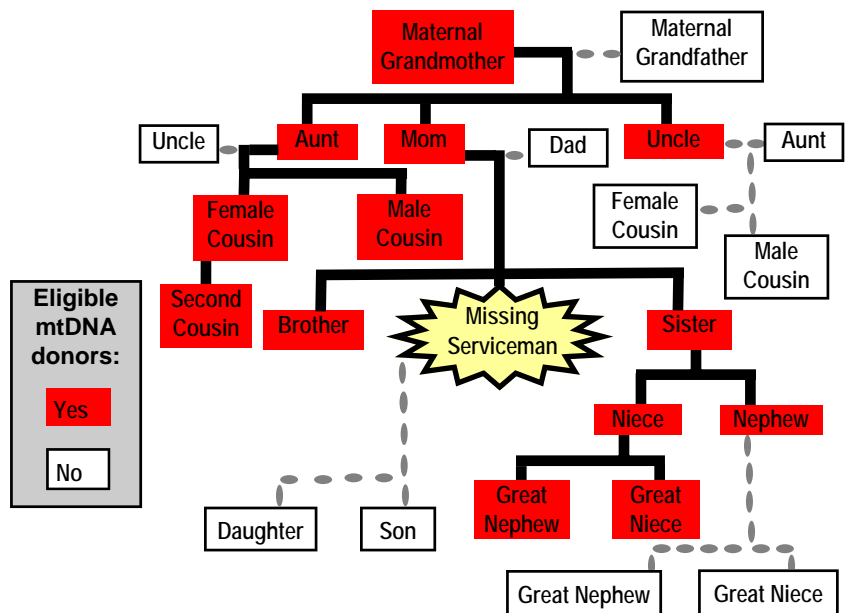
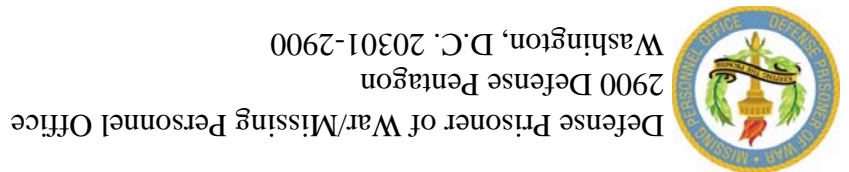
1st Lt. Saul Albert, USA
2nd Lt. William Bujold, USA
Pfc. Lawrence Burkett, USA
Sgt. Harold Fechter, USA
1st Lt. Emil Gentry, USAAF
2nd Lt. Leon King, USA
Fmn. 3rd Class Alfred
Livingston, USN
2nd Lt. John Lubben, USAAF
Tech. Sgt. William Moore,
USA

Korean War

Sgt. Frank Bunchuk, USA
Pfc. Domenico Di Salvo,
USMC
Col. Douglas Hatfield, USAF
Cpl. Robert Imrie, USA
Capt. Richard Simpson,
USAF
Sgt. Donald Trent, USA
Pfc. Carl A. West, USMC
Cpl. Samuel Wirrick, USA

Vietnam War

Lt. Col. James Ayres, USAF
Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Briggs,
USA
Sgt. 1st Class John
Gallagher, USA
Chief Warrant Officer Dennis
Hamilton, USA
Cpl. Jim Moshier, USMC
ATC Roland Pineau, USN
Lt. Col. Alton Rockett, USAF
Capt. Stephen Rusch, USAF
Chief Warrant Officer
Sheldon Schultz, USA
Lt. Col. Charles Stratton,
USAF
Sgt. 1st Class James
Williamson, USA



The diagram above illustrates eligible mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) donors in relation to a missing serviceman. This type of DNA is used in more than 80 percent of identifications and is inherited only through the maternal bloodline. If you think you may be an eligible donor, call your Service Casualty Office. Their contact information is located on page three.