



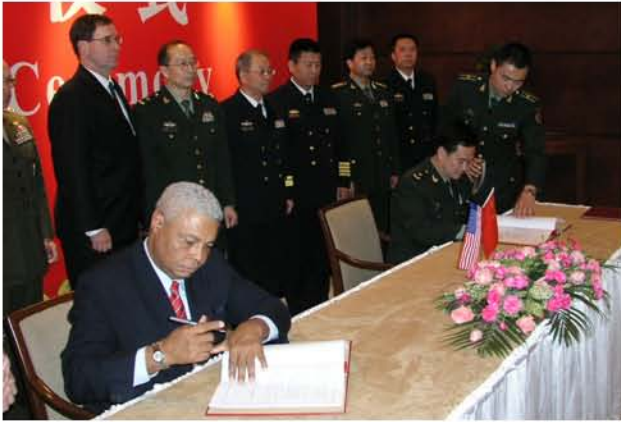
# The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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## U.S. and China sign POW/MIA arrangement in Shanghai



**Ambassador Charles A. Ray (left), Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, and Major General Qian Li Hua, Chinese Ministry of National Defense, sign the POW/MIA arrangement.**

U.S. and Chinese officials signed a document in February to formalize research in Chinese archives on Korean War POW/MIA matters.

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, signed the arrangement with Major General Qian Li Hua of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense. The arrangement outlines expected cooperation between the U.S. and China in researching

the archives, which may shed light on Americans who were missing in action or held as prisoners of war in camps managed by the Chinese.

In seeking to account for the approximately 8,100 servicemen missing from the Korean War, Ray's office, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, has sought access to these archives for more than a decade. The cooperation of the Chinese people and government has led to the recovery of the remains of Americans lost in the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Korean War and World War II. This joint archival effort is expected to open more avenues of research to enable U.S. analysts to narrow their searches for the specific locations where American remains may be buried.

The signing ceremony took place in Shanghai in the same hotel where President Richard Nixon and Premier Cho En-lai signed their historic communiqué in 1972.



**U.S. Air Force pilot Maj. George Wendling stands with his F-86E Sabre jet. Wendling is MIA from the Korean War.**

## U.S. and Indian officials discuss future JPAC missions

Officials from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) met in March with representatives of the Indian government in New Delhi to lay the groundwork for future U.S.-Indian humanitarian operations in Arunachal Pradesh State.

During the meeting, the officials discussed a tentative timeline for future investigations and recoveries of aircraft crash sites associated with missing U.S. servicemen from World War II. In addition, they discussed cooperation in the areas of team security, medical support, logistical requirements and transportation.

JPAC officials will return to the region in the spring to discuss details of future operations with Ministry of Defense and Arunachal Pradesh officials. This will be followed by site visits in early fall to determine the scope of debris fields and evaluate unique logistical requirements associated with each site.

This process sets the groundwork for future recovery teams by clearly defining the work that will be required to efficiently

excavate known aircraft crash locations.

The first full excavation mission should begin shortly after these site visits and is scheduled to be finished by the end of the year.

"This meeting is a significant step in a partnership that will enable our teams to go into areas where we hope to find remains of missing American service members," said U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Donna Crisp, JPAC commander. "We look forward to developing closer ties and stronger working relationships with our Indian counterparts as we work together to accomplish this humanitarian mission."

There are more than 1,300 individuals missing from loss incidents - primarily aircraft crashes - in the region known as "the Hump" or the "China-Burma-India" theatre of operations in WWII. While it is impossible to say with certainty in which country a specific plane was lost, JPAC analysts estimate more than 400 Americans are unaccounted-for in this region.

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## Secretary Gates visits JPAC



**U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates is briefed by U.S. Air Force Maj. Judson Stiglich during Gates' February tour of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.**

*Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jerry Morrison*

## Personnel recovery: A global mission

The Director of Personnel Recovery at the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), U.S. Air Force Col. Glenn Hecht, recently addressed a group of military officers from more than 20 countries to promote shared interests in rescuing isolated personnel.

The group met at the Department of Defense Personnel Recovery Education and Training Center in Fredericksburg, Va., as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen U.S. and partner-nation personnel recovery capabilities. Personnel recovery is the sum of diplomatic, military and civil efforts employed by the U.S. government to return Americans back to friendly control.

Personnel recovery is a global mission for the Department of Defense and for DPMO, and is carried out in close coordination with many U.S. government agencies, partner nations and allies.

"Our international partners are clearly critical if we are to be successful in our personnel recovery mission," Hecht said. "Through international partnerships, the U.S. government is better able to protect its people who are serving all around the world."

By sharing ideas with its allies, the U.S. can more effectively meet the needs of those serving abroad, decreasing the risk that they would become isolated or go missing.

"We're all in the business of saving lives, and we'd all better be on the same page as we train and fight together," Hecht said. "While the world is constantly changing, the commitment to protect the men and women serving this county will always remain paramount."

## DNA collection efforts

Mitochondrial DNA is an important tool used in identifying missing servicemen. Because this type of DNA is only inherited through the maternal bloodline, eligible donors are family members who are maternally related to the missing serviceman.

Military services actively search for family members who are eligible donors, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory has established a program at the monthly family meetings and the two annual government meetings to collect DNA from family members who attend. These efforts bring continued success. Approximately 60 percent of the families of unaccounted-for servicemen missing from the Vietnam and Korean wars have donated DNA. Additionally, collection efforts have reached nearly 90 percent of the families of servicemen who participated in major battles in North Korea during the Korean War.

In the past few years, private groups have tried to assist in the DNA collection efforts by identifying family members who haven't donated, and encouraging them to do so. While these good intentions are fully appreciated, these efforts run the risk of violating family members' privacy and unintentionally leading them to false hope.

Given the sensitive nature of a DNA collection, groups are encouraged to let the trained personnel with the service casualty offices identify family members who may be eligible donors. The most beneficial way for groups to help in the collection efforts is to encourage the family members they encounter to contact their service casualty offices.



**Melissa Scheible (right), a DNA analyst from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, uses a simple cheek swab to collect a DNA sample from a family member at a monthly family meeting.**



## Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory

John Goines III, Chief of the U.S. Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) at Brooks City-Base, Texas, compares a metal buckle recovered at a crash site in Laos, with a matching chest attachment buckle on a reference torso harness from the Vietnam War era. Some military equipment and aircraft wreckage recovered at loss sites are sent to LSEL for scientific evaluation and comparison. Through its equipment-related analysis, LSEL helps to determine the circumstances surrounding the loss incident.

*Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Patrick Putze*



*A belt buckle in excellent condition is compared to one recovered at a crash site in Vietnam. LSEL maintains a collection of military clothing and equipment from different wartime eras to use for comparison purposes.*

*Photo by Don Sutherland*

## Information requests

Family members with questions about their missing loved ones are entitled to receive information at no charge and without submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

The specific information releasable depends on the relationship of the family member to the missing servicemember. Family members may obtain information by submitting a request to their respective Service Casualty Office (SCO) which will ensure they receive the maximum access to information. The SCO contact information is on page four.

Non-family members may receive the maximum lawfully-releasable information on a loss case by submitting a FOIA request to:

*The Office of Freedom of Information  
Room 2C757  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20307-1155*

The FOIA authorizes reasonable charges for requests received by the general public when extensive research is required to collect records or documents.

All lawfully releasable POW/MIA-related information is also on the Library of Congress' web site at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/powquery.html>. As new information is available, it is added to the existing collection.

## Memorial services available for missing servicemembers



**Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.**

Families of servicemembers whose remains have not been recovered may be entitled to a memorial marker at no charge, placed in a cemetery of their choosing, public or private, if space is available. A memorial marker may only be placed if the missing servicemember doesn't already have a memorial in his honor within the U.S. or abroad. For more information, see page four to contact your Service Casualty Office, or contact the organizations below.

### Arlington National Cemetery:

Ms. Vicki Tanner at 703-607-8585

*Arlington National Cemetery provides a memorial marker and ceremony for eligible servicemembers.*

### The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

1-800-697-6947 or visit [www.cem.va.gov/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp)

*The DVA offers memorial headstones and markers for eligible deceased veterans whose remains have not been recovered or identified. This includes servicemen buried at sea.*

### The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC):

703-696-6900 or visit [www.abmc.gov/services/index.php](http://www.abmc.gov/services/index.php)

*ABMC is responsible for the operation of U.S. military cemeteries located overseas. Though it doesn't offer memorial headstones, it offers photographs of headstones and tablets of the missing on which the names of dead or missing are already engraved, as well as arrangements for floral decorations placed at graves and memorials.*

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office  
2900 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-2900



## For your information

### Recent Identifications

Since January 2008, the following servicemen have been accounted for:

#### **WWII (all USAAF)**

Staff Sgt. Albert J. Caruso  
2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Cassidy  
Capt. Robert L. Coleman  
2nd Lt. Arthur F. Eastman  
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Frank  
Tech Sgt. William L. Fraser  
Tech Sgt. Paul Miecias  
Tech Sgt. Robert C. Morgan  
2nd Lt. Irving Schechner  
Pvt. Joseph Thompson  
1st Lt. George E. Wallinder  
2nd Lt. Ronald F. Ward

#### **Korea (all USA)**

Sgt. Gene F. Clark  
Pfc. Milton Dinerboiler, Jr.  
Sgt. Harry J. Laurence  
Cpl. Steven Lucas  
Cpl. Robert L. Mason  
Pfc. Joseph K. Meyer, Jr.  
Sgt. Virgil L. Phillips  
Pfc. Elwood D. Reynolds  
Capt. Edward B. Scullion  
Master Sgt. Cirildo Valencio

### POW/MIA Day

POW/MIA Recognition Day is held on the third Friday in September. This year's POW/MIA day will be September 19. Information about the 2008 POW/MIA poster will be available in June on the DPMO web site: [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

### Free posters

There is still a supply of 2007 POW/MIA Recognition Day posters available. Call (703) 699-1131, or visit [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) to order posters.

### About The Torch

*The Torch* is online: [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo). If you **DO NOT** want to continue receiving this quarterly newsletter, write to or call:

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

### Family Update Schedule

The dates and locations for the remaining 2008 family updates and annual briefings are:

**May 17—Tulsa, Okla.**  
**June 19-21—Southeast Asia annual  
govt. briefing**  
**July 26—Chicago, Ill.**  
**Aug. 23—Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**Oct. 16-18—Korean and Cold War annual  
govt. briefing**  
**Nov. 15—San Diego, Calif.**

**Family members seeking more information  
may call their Service Casualty Offices:**

<b>U.S. Air Force</b> 1-800-531-5501	<b>U.S. Navy</b> 1-800-443-9298
<b>U.S. Army</b> 1-800-892-2490	<b>U.S. Dept. of State</b> 202-647-5470
<b>U.S. Marine Corps</b> 1-800-847-1597	