



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2900 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2900

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
POLICY

**RELEASE OF ARCHIVAL AND OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS,
VIDEOS, AND IMAGERY TO FAMILIES AND THE PUBLIC**

This policy provides guidance on the release of photography, videography, and imagery obtained or generated by the Department of Defense (DoD) in connection with accounting for missing Americans from all conflicts.

Photographs, videos, and imagery are derived from several sources, including:

- Archival research
- Intelligence acquisition
- DoD records of investigations, excavations or laboratory analysis

The goal of this Department is to provide family members as much information as possible, including copies of photos, videos, and imagery applying to their case. The primary next of kin or the person authorized to direct disposition should convey requests for photographs, videos, and imagery directly related to a missing servicemember to the Service casualty office or Service mortuary affairs office, as appropriate, which shall forward them to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), or any other agency which may possess such photographs, videos and imagery.

In the course of field work, JPAC generates photographs, videos, and imagery of excavation sites believed to be associated with specific loss incidents. Relevant photographs, videos, and imagery will be made available to family members through the appropriate Service casualty office upon request. However, during excavations, these sites are only "believed to be" associated with a missing servicemember. Providing such a photograph, video or imagery to a family in no way confirms that a site is associated with an individual, or that an individual has been or will be identified from the excavation at that site.

Classified photos, videos, and imagery will not be released unless they are capable of being properly declassified by the appropriate agency.

Requests for photos, videos, and imagery of any type from the media or other members of the general public will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act (5 USC 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. Ray".

Charles A. Ray
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs