

## THE FRONT PAGE

KOREA-COLD WAR  
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING  
PO BOX 454  
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>

**February 2013      Issue #39**  
**POW-MIA WE Remember!**

## SEND TO:

### TENTATIVE 2013 FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE

March 16, 2013 Birmingham, Alabama / June 13-15, 2013 League of Families Annual Meeting and SEA Families Briefings, Arlington, VA / August 8-9, 2013 Korean Cold War Annual Meeting.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

If you have not renewed your membership for 2013, this will be your last newsletter.

Help us continue our work. Please send your membership fee to:

Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.  
P.O. Box 454  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

No application is necessary if you are already a member. Please provide your name and address on the check

#### CHIT CHAT

We are sorry for the delay in getting the newsletter out to you. Our President, Irene Mandra, had surgery and is making a fast and full recovery.

Ron Broward is very ill. Please keep him in your prayers.

Contact your Congressional Reps through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 1-202-224-3121 or House Cloak Room at 1-202-225-7350 (R) and 1-202-225-7330 (D)

#### Congressional Contacts:

<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>

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## **IN MY OPINION**

**by Irene Mandra**

Dear Members,

Please remember that we still have a POW. Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl remains as a POW. He was captured by the Taliban on June 30, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Attached is a copy of the letter that I sent to President Obama in January.

I am asking EVERYONE to send a letter to our president. Use my example or write your own. Send it until POW Bowe Bergdahl comes home alive. Every president from President Eisenhower till now have brought home live American POWs who were held in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Red China, the USSR, North Korea and only God and the United States government knows where else.

Our president needs to know how many people want Bowe home alive. It will only cost a small amount of your time and a postage stamp to send the letter. Do not wait for someone else to do this. You need to do this yourself.

Please see the letter on the next page.

**YOU can help bring a live American POW home!**

WE REMEMBER



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President Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

As you know, during the course of Operation Enduring Freedom, a U.S. soldier was captured by the Taliban on June 30, 2009 in Afghanistan (Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl). We must ask why POW Bowe Bergdahl is not home. He has been an Afghanistan POW now for over three years.

We are told that our government does not negotiate with terrorists. Lately, our government traded Russian spies for American spies and we saw two hikers ransomed for \$1 million dollars in Iran. Israel traded hundreds of prisoners they had for one soldier the enemy was holding.

We do negotiate with terrorists, it just depends on what we want to negotiate for. If any prominent political or high profile person's child were held captive, we would certainly do everything to get them free. I want to see the same value put on POW Bergdahl and all efforts made to bring him home alive. We do not want to see another American POW left behind.

We cannot ask our military to serve our country if we abandon them, should they be captured by the enemy. The least we can do for those fighting for our freedom is to bring them home alive should they become a prisoner of war. I am asking that you trade prisoners, negotiate or do whatever it takes to bring this man home alive. You as the Commander-in-Chief can negotiate and bring Sgt. Bergdahl home immediately. I am asking you to do this.

I look for your prompt response on this due to the serious nature and the limited time we have to resolve this.

Sincerely,

Irene Mandra  
Korea Cold War Families of the Missing

### **ARMY CPL. ELMER C KIDD**

Army Cpl. Elmer C. Kidd, 22, of Seneca Falls, N.Y., was buried Nov. 9, in Romulus, N.Y. In late November 1950, Kidd and his unit, the 31<sup>st</sup> Regimental Combat Team, known as "Task Force Faith," were advancing along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea when they were attacked by a massive enemy force. They began a fighting withdrawal to positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. It was during this withdrawal that Kidd went missing.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. service members. Analysts from DPMO and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) developed a list of military members missing from the area where the remains were reportedly located. Kidd was listed as missing from one of the recovery sites.

In the identification of the remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as radiograph and mitochondrial DNA—which matched Kidd's sister and nephew.

Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials.

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### **ARMY SGT. STANLEY W. BEAR**

Army Sgt. Stanley W. Bear, 19, of Greenup, Ky., was buried Nov. 10, in Grayson, Ky. On Sept. 4, 1950, Bear and his unit, F Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, battled enemy forces near Haman, South Korea. After the battle, Bear was reported as missing in action.

In 1951, Korean National Police recovered remains associated with the battle and turned them over to U.S. officials. The U.S. Army was unable to identify Bear's remains at the time, and he was buried as "unknown" in the U.N. Cemetery at Tanggok, South Korea. Later that year, the U.S. consolidated cemeteries on the peninsula and the remains were sent to the U.S. Army's Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan, to determine whether they could be identified. When scientific analysis determined an identification wasn't possible, Bear's remains were transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii and re-interred as "unknown."

In 2011, due to advances in identification technology, analysts from DPMO and Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) reevaluated the information associated with the remains interred in Hawaii and concluded that they could likely be identified. The remains were exhumed and scientists from JPAC successfully identified Bear using circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools such as radiograph comparison and dental records.

## U.S. FAILS ON RUSSIA POW SEARCH

December 11, 2012 Washington Times "Inside the Ring" column by Bill Gertz

A joint U.S.-Russia presidential commission set up in 1992 to resolve cases of missing U.S. troops is largely defunct, another casualty of the administration's questionable reset policy with Moscow, according to prisoner of war activist and author Mark Sauter.

Mr. Sauter says there is evidence that U.S. Air Force pilots were taken to Russia during the Korean War and never returned. "The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC), a presidential commission supported by the Pentagon, produced important information in the 1990s, but is now essentially defunct due to Russian foot-dragging and an absence of U.S. resolve," he wrote in a blog post.

Norm Kass, who once was a key official on the American side of the joint commission, said the Pentagon's Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office failed to follow through on a Russia offer to restart POW cooperation in 2010.

"Why does the [2010] work plan that was developed – by the way, at the Russians' suggestion and with their full concurrence – continue to lie fallow even though it offers the only serious, agreed-upon way of moving forward?" Mr. Kass, former head of the U.S. Joint Commission Support Directorate told Mr. Sauter.

According to a Pentagon fact sheet, Russia disbanded its participation in the commission in 2006 and blocked access by U.S. analysts to Russian archives. Then in January 2010, the Russians restored U.S. access to the archives. Six months later, then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev issued a decree setting up the Russian side of the commission again.

"I'd like to ask President Obama one question: Ex-Soviet officials admitted they took our Air Force pilots to Russia, and experts on the president's own POW-MIA commission agreed it happened. So why – more than a decade later – don't we have those men or their remains home?" Mr. Sauter told Inside the Ring.

Pentagon spokeswoman Maj. Carie Parker declined to address critics who say the Pentagon has not pursued work in the joint commission. "The U.S. government remains committed to the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission," she said, adding that the Pentagon POW office "supports the Commission and Russia has granted access to some of its archival records. Both sides have active Commissioners."

## **Update From JPAC: Korea Forward Element 2/2013**

As many of you know, JPAC conducted thirty-three recovery operations in North Korea over a ten-year period, from 1996 to 2005. These operations were very successful and our Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) continues to identify men recovered in the North. Unfortunately we have not been able to get back into North Korea to resume operations. Frustrated by this situation, we looked for other ways to continue our search for men missing from the Korean War. JPAC made a decision to have a more permanent presence in South Korea to work on cases there. The result was the creation of the Korea Forward Element or KFE. The team is organized so specialists from JPAC's Research & Analysis Group rotate in and out of South Korea a few months at a time.

The strategy of the KFE is four-tiered and includes: 1) research and analysis, 2) local population engagement, 3) creation of informant/information networks, and 4) developing a mutually beneficial relationship with MAKRI (South Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification). MAKRI is a JPAC-like organization established to conduct recoveries of South Korean war dead.

In the first few months of operation, the KFE set up its office in Seoul, developed new leads, established working relationships with local Korean War experts, conducted outreach operations to inform South Koreans of their presence, worked to obtain permanent housing for the team's long-term presence, became better acquainted with our MAKRI counterparts, and participated in two joint excavations with MAKRI. The excavations resulted in the recovery of remains, which further resulted in the identification of two individuals within the past few weeks. The names of these two individuals have not been released pending family notification.

Since the beginning of this fiscal year, the KFE has continued the work it started last year. Additionally it is looking at expanding investigation operations into accessible areas of the DMZ, working closely with U.S. and South Korean Public Affairs personnel to spread the word about JPAC, and continuing to improve its relationship with Korean War experts. The members of the KFE are excited about the work they are doing in South Korea. Another team recently replaced the last and they will be in place for about four months. We will continue to support this team of specialists and expect continued success.

## Budget cuts would affect POW-MIA recovery ops

By Marty Callaghan - February 26, 2013 - *The American Legion* (<http://www.legion.org>)

Johnie E. Webb, Deputy to the Commander Public Relations and Legislative Affairs, Joint Personnel Accounting Command, addressed the Legion's National Security/Foreign Relations Commission at the annual Washington Conference. (Photo by Eldon Lindsay)

The American Legion has learned at its Washington Conference that the Department of Defense may have to suspend its overseas efforts to recover the remains of service members who died in combat or as prisoners of war.

The news was broken during a Feb. 25 briefing for members of the Legion's National Security/Foreign Relations Commission.

Johnie E. Webb, Deputy to the Commander Public Relations and Legislative Affairs, Joint Personnel Accounting Command, told Legionnaires that "if sequestration hits, it may essentially close down a lot of our operations," because his office's civilian employees would be forced to take furloughs.

If automatic budget cuts take effect on March 1, many federal employees will have to take two furlough days per two-week pay period. DoD's recovery operations last a minimum of 30 days, and federal workers can't deploy while on furlough.

"So unless we can get an exception to that policy, and let those civilian scientists and others deploy, and then take a string of consecutive days when they get back, unfortunately, we may not be able to do any recovery operations and will be able to do only limited investigation operations."

In Vietnam this year, four joint field activities are planned that will involve 14 U.S. recovery teams and seven from Vietnam. Some sites are still restricted for U.S. personnel, so Vietnamese recovery teams were created and are now conducting operations and cooperating with U.S. teams.

Four joint field activities of 30 days each are scheduled for Laos, but recovery operations had to be suspended in Cambodia because of financial issues; those operations should resume by the third quarter of this year.

In October 2011, the U.S. and North Korean government arranged to conduct searches for remains in 2012. DoD bought 30 brand-new SUVs, trucks, generators and other equipment for the joint endeavor. The first shipment went north, which included all the rice and gasoline supplies.

At that point, Pyongyang decided that joint humanitarian operations were inappropriate, given the fact that U.S. forces were conducting war games in South Korea. That along with North Korea's recent missile tests, canceled the project; all the equipment remains in storage in South Korea.

DoD reports that it is putting more emphasis on recovering remains from World War II, working harder to identify sites and determine whether recovery teams should go in.

"Burma is a breakthrough," Webb said, and his office is "getting cooperation from that government, and we should be doing operations in the near future."

Webb said that 1,653 Americans are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. About 180 sites have been identified and "all that work needs to be done. We need to get teams out and excavate those sites and recover those Americans, and we need to continue to investigate - those witnesses are dying every day."

### **ARMY SGT. 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS HAROLD M. BROWN**

Army Sgt. 1st Class Harold M. Brown, 20, of Winston-Salem, N.C., was buried in Hamptonville, N.C. In late November 1950, Brown and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team, known as "Task Force Faith," were advancing along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. After coming under attack, they began a fighting withdrawal to positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. Brown was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950.

In 1953, a returning American who had been held as a prisoner of war reported that Brown had been captured by Chinese forces and died shortly thereafter as a result of exposure to the elements.

His remains were not recovered by American forces at that time, nor were they repatriated by the Chinese or North Koreans in "Operation Big Switch," in 1954.

In the identification of the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as radiograph and mitochondrial DNA—which matched Brown's aunt and cousin.

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### **ARMY PVC ERNEST V. FUQUA JR.**

Army Pfc. Ernest V. Fuqua Jr., 21, of Detroit, was buried Jan. 15, in Rochester Hills, Mich. In late November 1950, units of the 35th Infantry Regiment and allied forces were deployed in a defensive line advancing across the Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea, when Chinese People's Volunteer Forces enemy forces attacked their position. American units sustained heavy losses as they withdrew south towards the town of Unsan. He was listed as killed in action on Nov. 28, 1950.

To identify the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence, and forensic identification tools such as dental comparisons, mitochondrial DNA which matched Fuqua's brother.

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### **New Book to be Released in 2013**

Macarthur's War: The Flawed Genius Who Challenged the American Political System. By Bevin Alexander Release date May 7, 2013



## ARMY PFC. WELDON A. DAVIS



Army Pfc. Weldon A. Davis, 24, of Tioga, Texas, was buried Feb. 6, in Dallas. In late November 1950, elements of the 25th Infantry Division (ID) were engaged in fighting with units of the Chinese army north of the Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea. In the course of the fighting, and the subsequent withdrawal south by U.S. forces, the 25th ID suffered extensive casualties, with numerous men being taken captive by the Chinese. Davis was last seen in the vicinity of Somindong.

In 1953, as part of Operation Big Switch, soldiers who were returned told debriefers that Davis had been captured and taken by enemy forces to a POW camp known as Death Valley. Soldiers also stated that in January 1951, Davis died from malnutrition and pneumonia. His remains were not among those returned by Communist Forces in 1954.

In 2005, a joint U.S. and Democratic People's Republic Korea (D.P.R.K) team excavated a secondary burial site in Unsan County in North Korea and found remains. The remains subsequently were repatriated to the U.S. To identify the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence, and forensic identification tools such as dental comparisons, which matched Davis' records.

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### ***Stories of American Heroes - Brought to you from the "Home of Heroes" - Pueblo, Colorado***

**Only one flag besides the Stars and Stripes that represents the United States has ever flown over the White House in Washington, DC. Only one flag is ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. That flag is not one that represents an individual state, branch of service, or other select group. It is the POW/MIA (Prisoners of War/Missing In Action) Flag. It calls to mind the sacrifice and plight of those Americans who have sacrificed their own freedom, to preserve liberty for all of us. It's presence serves to remind us that, while we enjoy the privileges of freedom, somewhere there are soldiers who have not been accounted for and may, in fact, be held against their will by the enemies of Freedom.**

## THE JPAC EXPERIENCE – by Arlene Groden Cohen, Editor

I recently returned from Hawaii, where I had the unique opportunity to experience an inside look at JPAC. I made arrangements in advance for a tour of JPAC's facilities at Hickam Air Force Base. When my husband and I arrived we were greeted by familiar faces. Having gone to family meetings for the last 5 years, I recognized many people.

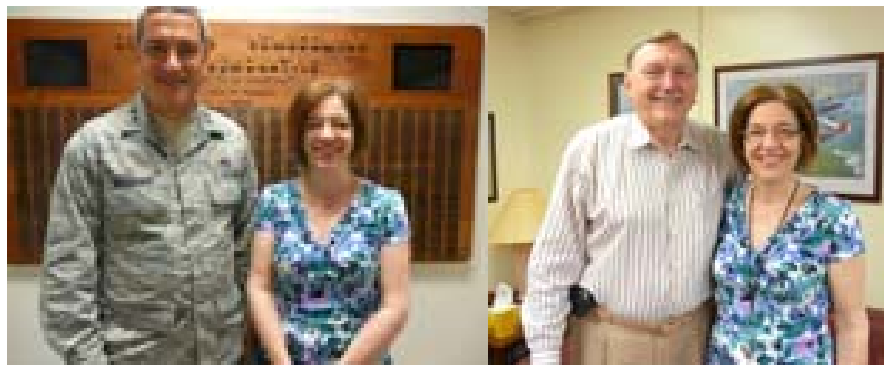
Before our tour I got to meet Major Gen. McKeague who has replaced Maj. General Tom as the commander of JPAC. You will all meet him in August.

We met with Johnie Webb and Steve Thompson. First we were shown a short video describing the work that JPAC does and its recovery efforts. Since my husband had never been to any of the family meetings with me, this was invaluable to him in understanding the issue and JPAC's work.

Johnie gave us a tour in which we saw the identification lab where the work is done. Johnie explained how they take a small cutting from the bone which is then sanded down to remove any materials that could interfere with the DNA testing. I also learned that now with technology, eyeglasses can be used in the identification process. By examining the eyeglass lense a person's vision can be determined and then subsequently matched with eye exams from the medical records.

We also met with Dr. Holland, who The Korea Cold War Families of the Missing will be honoring at our dinner in August. Dr. Holland gave me some brochures which I will be sharing with you in future Newsletters.

After our JPAC tour, my husband and I headed out to The Punchbowl. I knew in my heart that my mother would have been so happy that I was able to get to Hawaii and visit these two places. I located my Uncle's name. He was right on the top. PFC Alfred Gold. It was a sad but productive day which I know that only those of us who have missing loved ones can truly understand.



KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.  
PO Box 454  
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735 USA

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

Families United in a Search for Truth, Dignity, Acknowledgment and Closure

Application for Membership - ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AND EMAIL UPDATES ON THE ISSUE.

All projects are funded through contributions. Annual membership dues and newsletter subscriptions will greatly assist us in our endeavors. Membership and contributions are tax deductible.

Annual Membership is \$25.00. From thereon, all membership renewals will be due 1st January at \$25.00 per year.

Family Members and Friends may join/subscribe any time.

We look forward to working with Family Members and Friends as we strive to find truth, answers and closure.

STAR Fields are required. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

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