

THE FRONT PAGE

KOREA-COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
12 CLIFFORD DRIVE
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>
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POW-MIA WE Remember!

SEND TO:

2016 TENTATIVE FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE

September 10, 2016, Green Bay, WI - November 19, 2016, Reno, NV
January 28, 2017 Phoenix, AZ – February 25, 2017 Charleston, SC
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AFDIL's role in Korean and Cold War identification

By Senior Airman Ashlin Federick | Armed Forces Medical Examiner System Public Affairs

Four hundred twenty-six family members of servicemen met at the 2016 Korean/Cold War Annual government briefings, Aug. 11-12, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia.

At these briefings, family members had the opportunity to meet with numerous government officials who specialize in certain expertise to include policy update, global operations, DNA process and identification.

Air Force Lt. Col. Alice Briones, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System Department of Defense DNA Registry director, gave a brief about the DNA process and why the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory plays a vital role in the Korean/Cold War government briefings. Briones said their role is to provide DNA sequences and “believed to be” summaries from those sequences to the scientists at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency laboratory which contributes to their evidence to hopefully come up with identification.

“We are the only Department of Defense DNA Human Identification Laboratory for testing,” said Briones. “So we are a vital part of the whole identification process because we do the DNA testing and we have the foremost conditions and technologies to achieve getting DNA sequences from very challenging samples.”

Another role AFDIL has at the briefings is collecting family reference samples to compare profiles of the remains because in order to have identification they need something to compare their findings to. At the end of the briefings, AFDIL collected 51 family reference samples. “AFDIL collects, runs and controls a database of family reference samples for past conflicts,” said Briones. “They coordinate with the Service Casualty Officers to make sure the right family members are contacted to donate a sample. They also run the remains that come through DPAA to create a data summary of ‘believed to be’ to be compared to references in hopes of identification.”

Kristine Momper and Shari Mulvey, nieces of Army Sgt . Donald Dean Noehren, attended the event to gain information about the identification of their uncle. Momper said their journey started in 2004 when their brother was searching their last name and information about Korean War veterans missing in action came up. Noehren had no family listed. She said they informed their mom about the situation and they have been attending family updates since. Momper and her sister Mulvey were told a few weeks ago that their uncle had been identified. Noehren was identified by DNA.

“I didn’t believe it,” said Momper. “The whole time I was telling Peggy they are probably never going to find his remains and then it happened right away. They really did find him. It was a pretty special feeling.” Briones said there is a definite sense of closure and satisfaction in knowing that the strengths of the science and dedication of the scientists is bringing closure to the families in supporting identification.



IN MY OPINION

by Irene Mandra

Dear Members,

The US/Russian Commission is in the process of selecting a Senator to the group. Four men are being considered. We are delighted at long last, that the seat which has been unfilled, is being looked at.

I sincerely wish that we can get into KGB/GRU files. I know this is a tall order, but it can't hurt to keep asking for information only pertaining to POW & MIAs.

Would it be possible to get another meeting with the Russians before Fall of 2017?

When can we get information on our POW/MIAs from the Chinese? Why don't we get tough and stop importing so much of their goods. Let them know we demand answers. They will get the message when it affects their economy.

My big question: WHEN WILL DECADE OLD DOCUMENTS AT NRA, STATE DEPARTMENT, CIA, NSA BE DECLASSIFIED? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME?

CHIT CHAT NEWS

We had our annual dinner this year, honoring Robert Goeke and Gregory Hayes. It was a huge success, and everyone had a wonderful time.



DPAA had a very informative family update, and we truly appreciate the information given to the families.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For:

Gen. Vessey, led America's efforts to account for our nation's missing personnel, dies at 94 By Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, DPAA | Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Gen. (Ret.) John W. Vessey, Jr., had an Army career that began prior to America's entry into World War II, when he lied about his age to enlist in the Minnesota Army National Guard. He spent much of his career on battlefields, fighting in World War II and the Vietnam War, and commanding all U.S. forces in South Korea in the late 1970s. Vessey retired from the Army in 1985 as the 10th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after serving for more than 46 years. Following his military service, President Ronald Reagan tasked him to serve as a special envoy to Vietnam in order to account for Americans who were still missing following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Vessey passed away at his home in Minnesota, Aug. 18, at the age of 94.

In addition to accounting for Americans still missing from the war, Vessey was tasked to reunite separated families and help release former South Vietnamese leaders from prison camps, Amerasian children from Vietnam, and Vietnamese living in refugee camps in Cambodia. Vessey diligently undertook this task that President Reagan estimated would take three months, before a government agency would take the reins. Six years later, he was still pursuing the fate of missing Americans. His work in Vietnam not only earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992 awarded by President George H.W. Bush, but it also spearheaded the mission of what is now the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency.

Army Col. (Ret.) Richard Childress served with Vessey at Fort Carson five decades ago, when Vessey commanded the 4th Infantry Division. He went on, years later, to work with him on the Vietnam mission. "John was a dedicated, mission-oriented, down-to-earth man," said Childress. "He was a knowledgeable negotiator and was dedicated to the mission, sticking with it longer than anyone expected." Vessey learned every aspect of the mission in detail, taking multiple trips to Hanoi to make progress and build relationships with the Vietnamese.

"General Vessey played a pivotal role in convincing the Vietnamese to allow U.S. teams to be on the ground conducting investigations of reported loss sites alongside Vietnamese counterparts," said Johnie Webb, deputy director for Outreach and Communications, DPAA. "Through his negotiation skills, he was able to convince the Vietnamese that it was in their best interest to cooperate with the United States in accounting for Americans lost during the war." Childress said one of Vessey's greatest contributions were the instituting of joint crash investigations between the United States and Vietnam, convincing the Vietnamese he was serious about the mission and that more regular investigations were required to bring home missing Americans.

"The mechanisms he put in place for unilateral cooperation brought more accountability," said Childress. "He was a Soldier's Soldier and the Vietnamese respected him for his dedication to those who lost their lives fighting for their country," said Webb.

DPAA conducts missions worldwide throughout the year to recover the remains of those still missing from not only the Vietnam War, but World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War. Presently, more than 82,000 Americans remain missing.

Army Cpl. Curtis J. Wells

Army Cpl. Curtis J. Wells, 19, of Ubly, Michigan, will be buried Sept. 10 in Harbor Beach, Michigan. In late November 1950, while Wells was assigned to Company C, 65th Engineer Combat Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, his company joined with Task Force (TF) Wilson to fight the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea. The TF was overwhelmed by a large force of CPVF soldiers, and by Nov. 27, 1950, they began to extricate themselves south and Company C returned to the control of the battalion. As the battalion attempted to account for its casualties, Wells was reported missing in action.

In late 1953, as part of a prisoner of war exchange, known as "Operation Big Switch," no repatriated Americans had any knowledge of Wells' whereabouts. As a result of this, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of March 18, 1954.

In October 1998, during a Joint Recovery Operation, a U.S./North Korean recovery team excavated a site in Kujang County, North P'yongan-Pukto Province, North Korea, based on information provided by witnesses concerning buried American soldiers. This site correlated with the area of the battle between TF Wilson and the CPVF.

To identify Wells' remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence, DNA analysis, including mitochondrial DNA, Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat and autosomal DNA, which matched two brothers, as well as dental and anthropological analysis, which matched Wells' records.

Army Pvt. Virgil B. Adkins

Army Pvt. Virgil B. Adkins, 21, of Hinton, West Virginia, was buried Sept. 3 in Hinton, West Virginia. On July 17, 1953, Adkins was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, on a combat patrol to reconnoiter enemy activity in an area north of the former Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), North Korea, when it came under attack, forcing a withdrawal back to friendly lines. As a result of the fighting, Adkins was reported missing in action.

Following Operation Big Switch, where American prisoners of war were returned, the Army Forces Far East reported evidence of the death of Adkins on July 17, 1953, although his remains were not returned during Operation Glory in 1954. Based on the lack of information regarding Adkins, the U.S. Army declared him deceased.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which when combined with remains recovered during joint recovery operations in North Korea between 1996 and 2005, included the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents included in the repatriation indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the vicinity where Adkins was believed to have died.

To identify Adkins' remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial, Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat and autosomal DNA analysis, which matched his brother and sister, as well as anthropological analysis and circumstantial evidence.

Army Sgt. James L. Campbell

Army Sgt. James L. Campbell, 18, of Waterford, Connecticut, was buried August 26 in his hometown. In late November 1950, Campbell was one of 2,500 U.S. and 700 Republic of Korea soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River. On the night of Nov. 27, the Chinese People's Volunteer Force surrounded the 31st RCT and attacked. Continued attacks over subsequent days forced Americans to withdraw. By Dec. 6, 1950, approximately 1,500 wounded soldiers were evacuated, and the remaining had been either captured or killed. Campbell was reported missing in action as a result of the battles.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which when combined with remains recovered during joint recovery operations in North Korea, included the remains of approximately 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents included in the repatriation indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Campbell was believed to have died.

To identify Campbell's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including mitochondrial DNA analysis, which matched a brother and a sister.

Army Cpl. Ronald M. Sparks

Army Cpl. Ronald M. Sparks, 19, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was buried August 19 in Everett, Massachusetts. On Feb. 12, 1951, Sparks was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was clearing a road block held by enemy forces in the vicinity of Hoengsong, South Korea. Sparks was reported missing in action during the mission.

A repatriated American POW reported that Sparks died while in captivity at POW Camp 1, Changsong, North Korea, on May 26, 1951. Based on this information, a military review board amended his status to deceased.

In 1954, United Nations and communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called "Operation Glory." All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army's Central Identification Unit for analysis. The remains they were unable to identify were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the "Punchbowl."

In 1999, due to advances in technology, the Department of Defense began to re-examine records and concluded that the possibility for identification of some of these unknowns now existed. The remains designated X-14082 were exhumed on Dec. 7, 2015, so further analysis could be conducted.

In the identification of Sparks' remains, scientists from DPAA used dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analyses, which matched Sparks' records, as well as circumstantial evidence.

Army Pfc. William R. Butz

Army Pfc. William R. Butz, 19, of Glendive, Montana, was buried August 12 in Vancouver, Washington. On Dec. 12, 1950, Butz, a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was declared missing in action after his unit was heavily attacked by enemy forces in an area known as the "inlet," near the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Due to a prolonged lack of information regarding his status, a military review board amended his status to deceased in 1953.

In 1954, United Nations and communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called "Operation Glory." All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army's Central Identification Unit for analysis. The remains they were unable to identify were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the "Punchbowl."

In 1999, due to advances in technology, the DOD began to re-examine records and concluded that the possibility for identification of some of these unknowns now existed. The remains designated X-15726 were exhumed on Dec. 7, 2015, so further analysis could be conducted.

In the identification of Butz' remains, scientists from DPAA used dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, which matched his records, as well as circumstantial evidence.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Adolphus Nava

Army Chief Warrant Officer Adolphus Nava, 38, of Uniondale, New York, was buried August 4, in Calverton, New York. In late 1950, Nava was a member of Battery B, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) between the towns of Sinhung-dong and Kunu-Ri, North Korea. Their mission was part of a United Nations Command offensive to advance north to the Yalu River. On Nov. 29, the unit was in danger of being encircled and destroyed by the CPVF and were ordered to withdraw. In the escape route, termed "The Gauntlet," units were overrun by aggressive attacks from the CPVF, and Nava's unit elected to destroy its guns and escape through the mountains on foot.

For more than a week after battle, soldiers made their way through enemy lines back to their units. After searching adjacent units, aid stations and hospitals, Nava was declared missing in action.

At the end of the war, during Operation Big Switch, where both sides exchanged all remaining POWs, repatriated Americans provided information on the capture and death of Nava at Pyoktong/Camp 5, where most prisoners of war from the unit were held. Although the American Graves Registration Service hoped to recover the remains of United Nations Command (UNC) and American soldiers who remained north of the DMZ after the war, conflict between the UNC and North Korea complicated efforts.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which when combined with remains recovered during joint recovery operations in North Korea between 1996 and 2005, included the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen.

To identify Nava's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial, Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat and autosomal DNA analysis, which matched his brother and daughter, as well as chest radiograph comparison and anthropological analyses, and circumstantial evidence.

U.S. Army Cpl. Charles A. White

U.S. Army Cpl. Charles A. White, 20, of New Lexington, Ohio, was buried July 29 in New Lexington, Ohio. On December 3, 1950, White was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, when his company's position was overrun by the Chinese Communist Forces near Huksu-ri, North Korea. Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that White died in captivity at Prisoner of War Camp 1, Changsong, North Korea, in 1951. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared White deceased as of May 12, 1951.

In 1954, United Nations and communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called "Operation Glory." All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army's Central Identification Unit for analysis. The remains they were unable to identify were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the "Punchbowl."

In 1999, due to advances in technology, the Department of Defense began to re-examine records and concluded that the possibility for identification of some of these unknowns now existed. The remains designated X-14173 were exhumed on May 18, 2015, so further analysis could be conducted.

To identify White's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used anthropological, dental and chest radiograph comparison analyses; mitochondrial DNA analysis, using the Next Generation Sequencing technique, which matched a niece, a nephew and a sister; as well as circumstantial and material evidence.

Army Cpl. Charles B. Crofts

Army Cpl. Charles B. Crofts, 19, of Shelley, Idaho, was buried July 9 in his hometown. In late November 1950, Crofts was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, as one of approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers who were assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT). The 31st RCT was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, NK, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces, driving the remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, to begin a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir.

Crofts could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, and the U.S. Army reported him missing in action as of Dec. 2, 1950. Although the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service hoped to recover American remains from north of the Korean Demilitarized Zone after the war, administrative details between the United Nations Command and North Korea complicated recovery efforts. An agreement was made and in September and October 1954, in what was known as Operation Glory, remains were returned. However, Crofts' remains were not included and he was declared non-recoverable.

During the 36th Joint Recovery Operation in 2004, U.S. and North Korean recovery teams conducted operations on the eastern bank of the Chosin Reservoir, Changjin County, North Korea, in the area where Crofts was reported missing in action. At least nine individuals were recovered and returned to the laboratory for processing.

To identify Crofts' remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial and anthropological evidence, as well as DNA analysis, including mitochondrial DNA, Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat and autosomal DNA, which matched a sister and a brother.

Leadership at DPAA



Brigadier General Mark Spindler assumed duties as the 2nd Deputy Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) September 22, 2015 after most recently serving as the 47th Commandant of the United States Army Military Police School and Chief of the Military Police Regiment at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Brigadier General Spindler hails from St. Louis, Missouri, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps and Regular Army of the United States from the University of Missouri-Columbia. In the course of his career, he has earned advanced degrees from Central Michigan University and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington DC.

Brigadier General Spindler has commanded Soldiers and Civilians from Platoon through Brigade level in both the United States and abroad. He has served in four overseas tours in the European Area of Operation, as well as multiple tours of duty in the Pentagon and the Military District of Washington. His operational assignments include: peace enforcement operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a Battalion Operations Officer; Stability Operations in Kosovo as a combat support Battalion Commander; and combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq as a combat support Brigade Commander. Brigadier General Spindler has also served in key staff positions on both the Army Staff as a Personnel Specialist, and the Joint Staff as a Strategist in the design and development of the National Military Strategy. As Deputy Director of DPAA, Brigadier General Spindler is responsible for the global analysis and investigation, search and recovery, and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting. In addition to his individual awards and decorations, Brigadier General Spindler has been awarded the Army Superior and Meritorious Unit Awards for Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Joint Guardian, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brigadier General Spindler is married to the former Ellen Carroll of St Louis Missouri. They have four children; Dan currently working on his education, Tom a Graphic Designer, Ben a Geologist, and their youngest child Mary enters the University of Missouri – Columbia this August as a freshman.

Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush was selected on October 27, 2015 to serve as the Principal Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). In support of the Director, DPAA, she is responsible for leading the Washington D.C. office in formulating policy, overseeing business development, and increasing outreach initiatives to achieve the agency's goal of providing families and the nation with the fullest possible accounting of missing personnel from past conflicts.

Mrs. Winbush hails from Boston, Massachusetts, where she was a 1989 honor graduate of the University of Massachusetts and a distinguished military graduate of Suffolk University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in Boston. She began her military career as a Private First Class in the Army Reserves in 1983. Her service continued upon her transfer to the Massachusetts Army National Guard until her active duty appointment as a Military Intelligence Second Lieutenant in 1990.

Over the next 25 years, she held numerous positions of increased responsibility in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Korea, and the Netherlands culminating with a deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan and subsequently, as the Commander of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Winbush retired from the Army after 31 years of military service in January 2015.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Business Management-Information Systems from the University of Massachusetts; a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Command and General Staff College; Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; and Airborne School.

Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Sixth Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Achievement Medal.

Mrs. Winbush is married and has one son.

Sergeant Major Michael E. Swam is a native of Tampa, Florida and entered the Army on December 2, 1987. He attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and Advanced Individual Training as an 92M (Mortuary Affairs Specialist) at Fort Lee, VA. During his 28-year career, he has served in various positions such as Mortuary Affairs Specialist, Casualty Assistance Specialist, Scout Observer, Squad Leader, Team Sergeant, Small Group Leader, Senior Small Group Leader, Senior Team Sergeant, Military Transition Team Logistic Advisor, J3 Plans Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, First Sergeant, Rear Detachment Command Sergeant Major, J4 NCOIC and Command Senior Enlisted Leader.

His previous assignments include the 240th Quartermaster Battalion and 54th Quartermaster Company, Fort Lee, Virginia; Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; 1st Infantry Division, Camp Doha, Kuwait; NCO Academy, Fort Lee, Virginia; Central Identification Laboratory, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; U.S. Army Pacific Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; 25th Infantry Division (L), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; 590th Service Support Company, South West Asia, Saudi Arabia; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Infantry Division (L) and 590th Service Support Company, Fort Ord, California.

Sergeant Major Swam's combat and humanitarian experience include Operation Just Cause (Panama), Operation Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq), and Operation Unified Response (Haiti). His military education includes Primary Leadership Development Course; Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course; Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course; Equal Opportunity Leader Course; Total Army Instructors Course; First Sergeant Course; SERE Training; Air Assault Course; Airborne Course; and Ranger Course. He is currently enrolled in Sergeants Major Nonresident Course. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Joint Service Achievement Medal (2nd award), Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (7th award), Army Superior Unit Award (2nd award), Good Conduct Medal (9th award), the National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, South West Asia Service Medal (2nd award), Iraq Campaign Medal (1BSS), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3rd award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (5th award), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Ranger Tab, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Drivers and Mechanic Badge, and German Schutzenschnur Award (Gold Badge).

Sergeant Major Swam is married to Denise Swam and has one son, Chase and two grandsons Noah and Tyler.

SERVICE CASUALTY OFFICES

Service Casualty Offices serve family members. Each Military Department maintains a service casualty office. The Department of State does the same for civilians. The officials in these offices serve as the primary liaisons for families concerning personnel recovery and accounting. Full-time civilians who have worked this issue for many years and are experienced and knowledgeable help answer family member questions. Military officials also assist to help explain the methods used to account for families' missing loved ones.

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