

## THE FRONT PAGE

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



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>  
February 2016      **Issue #51**  
**POW-MIA WE Remember!**

**SEND TO:**

### 2016 TENTATIVE FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE

February 20, 2016, Atlanta, GA - March 19, 2016, Seattle, WA  
April 16, 2016 Austin TX - May 14, 2016, Boston MA  
August 11-12, 2016, Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings, D.C.  
September 10, 2016, Green Bay, WI - November 19, 2016, Reno, NV

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If you have not renewed your membership, please do it now.

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## **IN MY OPINION**

by Irene Mandra

Dear Members,

I am very sad to let you know that Lynn O'Shea passed away in December.

The following statement was released by the National Alliance of Families.

"It is with heavy hearts, we here at the National Alliance of Families share with our members and followers the news of the passing of our Director of Research, Lynn O'Shea. As many of you know, Lynn had been battling cancer for the past year and finally succumbed to this ugly disease in her sleep."

Lynn will be greatly missed.

On another note, because of events happening in North Korea, we are not getting back in there any time soon. Mr. Linnington reports that he has plans to travel to Korea and China in April to foster foreign government partnerships in archival research. The focus right now for the Korean War, is the identification of remains from the Punchbowl disinterments and K208.

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## **HONORING OUR LOVED ONES WHILE WE WAIT**

**By Sherra Basham**

Families of the missing have a number of options available to us while we wait for the return of our loved ones. We can have medals issued, we can have a memorial ceremony and we can have a marker placed at a cemetery of our choosing.

I recently learned of another option offered by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs ("VA"); the VA furnishes a burial flag. The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs website states: "Why Does VA Provide a Burial Flag? A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country.

VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for an other than dishonorably discharged:

- Veteran who served during wartime

- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941

I didn't realize that our family could have my Uncle's burial flag now, even though we have no remains to bury. It is important to note that "The law allows [the VA] to issue one flag for a Veteran's funeral. [They] cannot replace it if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen." I decided to include the burial flag in the mounting of my uncle's medals, honoring the memory of his service.

The first time I went to the post office, I was told that they did not hand burial flags out to family members. VA Form 27-2008 needed to be filled out, signed and submitted by the mortuary. I explained that my uncle was lost in Korea, declared deceased by the Army, but that his remains are still missing. She waved me away.

The flag does not belong to them; it is the property of the VA until given to a family member. You fill out the form and get a flag. The VA then receives the form and sends the post office a new flag. I reviewed the wording on the VA website, confirmed that we were, in fact, entitled to the flag, and went back the next day. I was helped by a different postal worker this time, however, she pushed back the same way saying "we don't give burial flags this way, only to the mortuary." I asked her to check the VA website or even call them. After speaking with her supervisor, she took my documents and returned with the burial flag. The three forms I needed were VA Form 27-2008, Battle Casualty Report (AGO Form 0365), and Finding of Death (AGO Form 0363). The Battle Casualty Report and Finding of Death documents are located in your loved one's Deceased Personnel File.

Contact your service casualty officer for help in getting the Deceased Personnel File. VA Form 27-2008 is available on the internet. Go online to VA.gov click on Burials & Memorials tab select Burial Flags from drop-down list, then scroll down to How Can You Apply. Click on VA Form 27-2008 Application for the U.S. Flag for Burial Purposes. Print the form, fill it out, and take this form to the post office. Note that I included the following in Block 15: Requesting Flag for a Memorial.

Our family is comforted in having this burial flag now. Although we have enduring hope that my uncle's remains will someday be returned home, we so appreciate having his burial flag with his medals now...to honor him...while we wait.

# **Soldiers Missing From Korean War Accounted For**

## **ARMY PFC DAVID S. BURKE**

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors

U.S. Army Pfc. David S. Burke, 18, of Akron, Ohio, was buried Jan.15, 2016 in Rittman, Ohio. On Nov. 25, 1950, Burke was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, when his unit was attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF), near the border between China and North Korea. Under pressure, outnumbered and surrounded by CPVF roadblocks, they were unable to escape. After suffering heavy casualties, the unit was forced to surrender to the CPVF, and four officers and 136 enlisted soldiers were taken prisoner, including Burke. Following the attack, the U.S Army declared Burke missing in action.

In September 1953, as part of a prisoner of war exchange known as "Operation Big Switch," returning American soldiers who had been held as prisoners of war reported that Burke had died between March and May 1951 from malnutrition. A military review board later amended his status to 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, account for 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 area where Burke and other members of his unit were held at POW Camp 5.

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

## **ARMY CPL. KENNETH R. STUCK**

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and have been returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Cpl. Kenneth R. Stuck, 20, of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, was buried Jan. 30 in his hometown. On Nov. 1, 1950, Stuck was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, when his unit was attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces in Unsan, North Korea. Stuck's unit was part of a screening force defending a withdrawal route when enemy forces attacked. On Nov. 2, with little hope of rescue, Stuck's unit attempted to escape and evade the enemy. Stuck was declared missing in action as a result of this attempt.

During the war, Stuck never appeared on any list of POWs held by North Korea, nor did any returning POWs have any knowledge of his fate. The Army subsequently declared Stuck deceased on Dec. 31, 1953.

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, account for 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 area where Stuck was believed to have died.

In the identification of Stuck'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 sister and brother, and Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat DNA analysis, which matched a brother.

## **ARMY SGT. ROBERT C. DAKIN**

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and was returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Sgt. Robert C. Dakin, 22, of Waltham, Mass., was buried Dec. 12, 2015 in his hometown. On Dec. 12, 1950, Dakin was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and was declared missing in action when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir during a heated battle. A military board later amended his status to deceased when no information was available pertaining to his loss.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which we now believe contain 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 area where Dakin was believed to have died.

In June 1999 and July 2001, remains were recovered in Kujang County, North Korea, and in October 2000, additional remains and personal effects were recovered along the Kuryong River, North Korea.

To identify Dakin's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and two forms of DNA analysis, including mitochondrial DNA, which matched maternal references, and autosomal DNA, which matched two sisters.

Today, more than 7,800 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using advances in technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered by American teams.

# DPAA Reaches FOC Status

By Lt. Col. Eric Bjorklund | Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency | February 01, 2016 (from DPAA Website)

In the year since being established as a Defense Agency on Jan. 1, 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has accomplished a critical milestone, reaching “full operational capability” or “FOC” on Jan. 8, 2016. This declaration signifies the completion of the reorganization of the Department of Defense’s legacy past conflict accounting organizations into a single, unified defense agency.

During the reorganization efforts of 2015, the DoD never ceased its efforts to account for missing personnel from past conflicts and provide information to the families of our missing, but the full establishment of DPAA as a defense agency now enables the mission to be done more effectively and efficiently. “I’m very excited about achieving FOC status as it postures the [Defense] Department’s accounting community in a better position to fulfill our noble and important mission,” DPAA Director, retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Linnington, said. “Now is the time to sharpen our focus, increase our efforts, and maximize all aspects of our accounting efforts to better provide answers to the families of our missing.” Over the last year, DPAA has steadily attained many milestones that have led to FOC.

The Secretary of Defense approved the name and establishment of the agency on Jan. 29, 2015, and the next day the interim director, now Vice Adm. Michael Franken, held a small ceremony declaring that DPAA had achieved “initial operational capability,” or “IOC.”

Since then, the agency consolidated many administrative functions and developed a new organizational structure. DPAA is now anchored around two regional, multi-disciplinary teams that enable collaboration among researchers, planners, operators, scientists, and a host of other professionals. One region is focused on Asia and the Pacific while the other is Europe-focused.

“This new regional, multi-disciplinary approach will ensure improvement in operations, as team members are not only focused on their specific region, but are also working together in the same location,” said Army Col. Chris Forbes, director of the Europe-Mediterranean regional directorate. “We are now able to work face-to-face, making it easy to interact and conference as needed.”

Another key decision for the new POW/MIA accounting agency was the Deputy Secretary of Defense’s April 2015 decision to clarify the DoD’s policy on disinterring American Unknowns from cemeteries around the world. This decision addressed multiple family concerns about the difficulty of gaining approval to disinter their loved one’s remains, for the purpose of individual identification. The immediate result of

this decision was the disinterment of the Unknowns associated with the sinking of the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941.

Establishing unity of purpose under a single agency director for the accounting community was one of the drivers for the Secretary of Defense and Congress's decision to reorganize. With the appointment of Linnington as the first DPAA Director (in June 2015) and subsequent arrival of his two deputies, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler and Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush, this critical objective was met. "I'm proud of all the hard work our team members have put into this reorganization," Linnington said. "Their dedication and passion for their work made the past year undeniably successful."

While the reorganization tasks are complete and the agency is operating at full strength, there is still much work to do. The merging of different organizational cultures from the various legacy organizations will take some time to cultivate. "Each of the three separate organizations naturally had their individual ways of approaching the accounting task," said Army Lt. Col. Eric Bjorklund, consolidation team leader. "But there was never any dispute about the importance in accomplishing this mission. Now as one team, we can focus on the same priorities and perform the mission better than ever."

Some of the key recommendations for the new agency to implement will take years to be fully integrated. For example, the case management system that will improve efficiency to workflows and communicate case information to the families of the missing has begun development, but is expected to take several months to become fully functional.

Another key initiative that is now under development, and is expected to grow significantly in the coming years is the agency's strategic partnerships with external organizations (public and private) to augment and assist current capacities in all areas of our accounting mission. The Strategic Partnership office was established last summer and is implementing several partnership programs for 2016. "Our goal is to have many additional professional organizations helping us with the recovery process," Dr. Tom Holland, director of Strategic Partnerships, said. "We greatly appreciate their expertise, resources and enthusiasm for bringing home the remains of our missing war heroes."

As DPAA starts 2016 as fully operational, there is great optimism that the agency is better positioned to fulfill its mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.



## GLENN DOHRMANN HASN'T FORGOTTEN

By Meg Jones

Korea has been dubbed the Forgotten War, but for the men who fought there, who left their blood and buddies behind, it's still fresh in their memories.

Just five years after World War II ended, America was fighting again, this time against Chinese forces on the Korean Peninsula. It lasted three long years, but back home in America things were different. "They were tired of war," said Dohrmann, 89, of Cedarburg, WI who served 8-1/2 months as a rifle platoon leader, earning a Purple Heart and Silver Star.

A library's worth of books have been written about World War II. But the Korean War? Far fewer. And aside from "M\*A\*S\*H," "The Manchurian Candidate" and maybe "The Bridges at Toko Ri," it's difficult to recall a movie about the war in Korea.

Stars and Stripes Honor Flight has not forgotten Korean War veterans. As the number of World War II veterans rapidly dwindles, the organization that takes veterans on a free one-day trip to see military monuments in Washington, D.C., has begun to focus its efforts on Korean War veterans. Stars and Stripes Honor Flight organized a book club discussion centered around "Devotion," a book about an incredible tale of heroism during the Chosin Reservoir battle in Korea in 1950.

Author Adam Makos is posting questions and discussion topics on the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Facebook page and will appear via Skype at the Feb. 27, 2016 book group meeting at Concordia University in Mequon.

A panel of local Korean War veterans, including Dohrmann, will lead the discussion, which is open to anyone who wants to read the book and participate. "I had heard about 'Devotion' and thought, 'How can we get this book in the hands of more people and get our Korean War veterans involved in some way?'" Stars and Stripes Honor Flight spokeswoman Karyn Roelke said. "Supposedly there are 30,000 Korean War veterans in Wisconsin. We'd like to honor as many of those guys as we can and enhance the public's knowledge of their sacrifice and courage."

The inspirational book is about U.S. Navy aviators Lt. Tom Hudner and Ensign Jesse Brown as they fought to defend outnumbered Marines surrounded by Chinese forces in the Chosin Reservoir. Hudner was a white man from a well-to-do New England family and Brown was an African-American from a sharecropper's family in Mississippi. Three years earlier President Harry Truman had desegregated the military.

The two became close friends and wingmen, and when Brown's plane was shot down during the battle, Hudner did the only thing he could do when he saw Brown trapped in the burning wreckage, crash landing his own plane in a heroic attempt to rescue his friend.

Makos met Hudner, now 92 and living in Massachusetts, at a military history conference in 2007 and arranged to interview him. "In effect, he handed me the keys

not to just a great war story, but a key to a friendship and one of the greatest war stories I've ever heard," Makos said in a phone interview from his home in Denver.

When Hudner saw Brown waving from his wrecked plane, said Makos, "he looked down and saw his friend, who he knew had a young wife and young daughter. That day he didn't see Jesse's skin color, he just saw his friend. He decided to essentially throw away his career and take a risk that seems right out of a Hollywood movie."

Dohrmann did not participate in the Chosin Reservoir battle — he arrived in Korea in February 1951 — but he vividly remembers with admiration the Air Force and Navy aviators like Hudner and Brown who supported his troops on the ground.

Dohrmann had served in Korea in the occupation forces in the late 1940s and was not surprised when war broke out in June 1950 because he saw a lot of trouble between North and South Korean forces. He was training troops in Kentucky when he got orders to go to Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division.

After losing his platoon sergeant when a sniper's bullet pierced the man's steel helmet right next to him, Dohrmann changed. "We had gotten to know each other, we had both recently gotten new cars, we were both married and had dogs. I made a vow I wouldn't get to know my men. I would love my men but I wouldn't get close to them," Dohrmann said.

### **Dohrmann's heroic service**

Dohrmann's war in Korea ended on the day he became company commander, the day his captain was killed as his unit prepared to make an attack on a hill called Old Baldy. Though he should have stayed behind to oversee the battle, Dohrmann knew his platoons were undermanned, so he led them into an assault on dug-in Chinese troops firing machine guns, mortars and rifles.

Dohrmann got the first of three wounds that day when shrapnel pierced his right shoulder. He could still move his arm so he stayed in the fight, finishing the last of his 300 rounds of M-2 carbine ammunition. Then he started throwing grenades and tending to his wounded men.

Later in the battle, he was shot in the other shoulder by a round that knocked him out for a few minutes. When he woke up, Dohrmann was hit in the arm by a bullet. He couldn't raise his arms. Dohrmann knew he was done fighting. He was sent to an aid station and spent the next nine months recovering from gunshot wounds, a broken left arm and broken vertebrae.

Dohrmann nominated several of his troops for Bronze and Silver Stars. He was nominated for a Medal of Honor but was denied because not enough men who witnessed his heroism survived. Instead he was awarded a Silver Star.

"Combat is Hell. Capital H. There's nothing glorious about it," Dohrmann said.

## **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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HQ AFPC/DPFCM  
550 C Street West, Suite 15  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716  
(800) 531-5501

### **Army**

Department of the Army  
Attn Past Conflicts AHRC-PDC-R  
1600 Spearhead Division Ave, Dept 450  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405  
(800) 892-2490

### **Marine Corps**

Headquarters U. S. Marine Corps  
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(800) 847-1597

### **Navy**

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Casualty Assistance Division  
POW/MIA Branch (PERS 13)  
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### **State Department**

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

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Family Members and Friends may join/subscribe any time.

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