

THE FRONT PAGE

KOREA-COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
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<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>
February 2017 **Issue #55**
POW-MIA WE Remember!

SEND TO:

2017 TENTATIVE FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE

February 25, 2017 Charleston, SC

March 24, 2017 New Orleans, LA – April 22, 2017 Kansas City, MO

May 20, 2017 Syracuse, NY – August 10-11, 2017 Korean Cold War Annual, DC
September 9, 2017 Detroit, MI

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IN MY OPINION

by Irene Mandra

Dear Members,

I am not writing this month but am sharing a wonderful article written by Norman Kass.

A LOOK AT THE USRJC: THE FUTURE IN RETROSPECT

We all have calendars showing memorable events which have occurred in the past or which lie ahead. Those committed to accounting for our missing service-members may even have an entry for the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, or USRJC, whose twenty-fifth anniversary coincides with the release of this newsletter. Hailed as an example of the cooperation possible between our Nation and the Russian Federation once the Cold War ended, the Commission was established under presidential direction as a bilateral commitment to a shared humanitarian objective: to resolve the fates or clarify loss circumstances involving all those in uniform, both Americans and Russians, who have not returned from the field of battle.

A quarter of a century has elapsed since this unique and commendable venture was launched. During that time, the optimism expected from a relationship free of ideological rancor and sabre-rattling has, if anything, deteriorated into a state of open hostility, mutual suspicion and virtual rejection of any program, humanitarian or otherwise, that is based on cooperative interaction. What does this mean for the Commission, its goals, viability and its long road back from an extended period of anemic performance? What is the likelihood that the Commission will be around, or even be remembered, when its next anniversary comes along?

The stark contrast between what we hoped for in February 1992 and what we observe today makes the choice of a suitable action plan for the Commission's immediate future clear-cut and straightforward. Two options come to mind. First, if the decision is made to allow the Commission to drift along with no well-defined set of objectives prioritized or adequately resourced, there is little need to tinker with what is now in place. As an example, the USRJC has consistently encountered long delays in the appointment of new members to replace those vacating their positions. It is not at all unusual for those positions to remain vacant for months, if

not years. This has been particularly evident in the case of congressional appointees, whose stature as elected officials with legislative clout and authority has made them singularly effective in dealing with Russian counterparts. Long delays in filling these vacancies become all the more problematic when combined with the glacial pace at which the Commission's support structure is being reconstituted; the lackluster backing of the Commission by the president, to whom its chairman ostensibly reports; and the overall lack of coordination and energy among components of the U.S. government responsible for assuring that the USRJC has the wherewithal to carry out its mission. Taken together or individually, these and other chronic shortcomings leave little doubt that the Commission will continue to fall far short of the objectives it was set up to accomplish.

For those who believe that our government is capable of – and our POW/MIAs and their families are deserving of – a much more professional and competent course of action than what I have presented above, I offer an alternative approach. This approach accepts the fact that disagreement, controversy and conflict have been and are likely to remain inevitable components of the overall U.S.-Russia relationship. They have been in evidence throughout the Commission's lifespan. From the Russian perspective, they include such irritants as NATO expansion and the Balkan Wars of the 1990s and early 2000s. A comparable U.S. concern would be the espionage activity that Aldrich Ames conducted on behalf of the Russian Federation. Then we have the reciprocal ousters of diplomats in 2001, first by the U.S. and then by the Russians later that year. The common denominator of all these events is the fact that none of them was able to derail the USRJC from its mission. Regrettably, a similar mantle shielding the Commission from the effects of discord and conflict does not exist in today's world. If it is to pursue its humanitarian work effectively, the Commission's status as a presidential initiative committed to accounting for our POW/MIAs must be restored to a pre-eminent position unhampered by political turbulence or other intrusions.

The restoration process which I believe must occur would begin with a dialogue between the Trump and Putin administrations leading to an exchange of proclamations in which both leaders reaffirm the validity of the diplomatic notes signed by Washington and Moscow in 2007. Companion statements would underscore the importance which both presidents ascribe to the USRJC's work and their readiness to lend their names and resources to assure that its mission, spelled out 25 years ago, is carried forward. Discussions between the White House and the Congress would then commence without delay to select and appoint Commission members with appropriate qualifications and an active interest in accounting for our missing service personnel. Dedicated resources from the National Security Council would be engaged to activate a well-defined, open communication conduit to the White House and pre-empt a recurrence of the foot-dragging that has stymied past initiatives. Adequate analytical and logistical resources would be provided as a

matter of urgency, not a topic of negotiation or interagency haggling. And alliances, or, in the language of the day, “partnerships,” with family organizations, NGOs, and research institutions, among others, would be explored and established to optimize the prospects of discovering and sharing information that might assist families in learning the fates of their loved ones.

One final point in this restoration, or, perhaps, “make-over” proposal. We need to give the USRJC a contemporary dimension to augment its work on past conflicts. Bilateral discussion should take place to determine where the USRJC’s standing and capabilities can be applied to today’s (and tomorrow’s) engagements in which our military personnel may become unaccounted for. Defining a role of mutual support and assistance in current and future conflicts expands our range of bilateral cooperation and increases the likelihood of more productive relationships overall. With strife and violence now raging in the Middle East and Ukraine and more looming in Europe and elsewhere, such an undertaking will require careful thought, imagination and resolve. The potential results for the accounting process, however, cannot be overstated.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

Author Unknown

**The Soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.**

**'Step forward now, Soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?'**

**The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
'no, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.**

**I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.**

**But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep.
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills just got too steep.**

**And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.**

**I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.**

**If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.**

**There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.**

**'Step forward now, you Soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell.'**

RECENT RECOVERIES

Maj. Jack D. Griffiths U.S. Army Headquarters, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Battalion 11/30/1950 North Korea 10/25/2016

Pfc. Daniel Hunt U.S. Army Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division 9/28/1951 South Korea 11/2/2016

Sgt. 1st Class Robert R. Cummings U.S. Army Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment 11/29/1950 North Korea 11/14/2016

Sgt. 1st Class Harold P. Haugland U.S. Army Battery D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division 12/2/1950 North Korea 11/15/2016

Master Sgt. Joseph Durakovich U.S. Army Company G, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division 11/28/1950 North Korea 11/22/2016

Cpl. Lewis A. Damewood U.S. Army Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Reg, 2nd Infantry Division 2/13/1951 South Korea 11/22/2016

Sgt. Stafford L. Morris U.S. Army Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division 12/1/1950 North Korea 12/7/2016

Sgt. Homer R. Abney U.S. Army Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division 11/30/1950 North Korea 12/9/2016

Cpl. Gerald I. Shepler U.S. Army Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division 11/29/1950 North Korea 12/9/2016

Cpl. Edward Pool U.S. Army 31st Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division 11/30/1950 North Korea 12/9/2016

Cpl. James T. Mainhart U.S. Army Company I, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division 11/30/1950 North Korea 12/12/2016

Cpl. George A. Perreault U.S. Army Headquarters Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division 2/13/1951 South Korea 12/13/2016

Cpl. Jules Hauterman U.S. Army Medical Platoon, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division 12/2/1950 North Korea 12/14/2016

Pfc. Thomas C. Stagg U.S. Army Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment 11/29/1950 North Korea 12/15/2016

Pfc Charles C. Follese U.S. Army Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment 11/30/1950 North Korea 12/17/2016

Sgt. Thomas E. Zimmer U.S. Army Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division 12/6/1950 North Korea 12/18/2016

Cpl. Luis P. Torres U.S. Army Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division 9/1/1950 South Korea 12/15/2016

Cpl. Joseph N. Pelletier U.S Army Headquarters Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division 2/13/1951 North Korea 12/21/2016

Sgt. 1st Class Eugene J. Colley U.S. Army Company C, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division 12/2/1950 North Korea 12/12/2016

Sgt. Edward Saunders U.S. Army Company K, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division 2/12/1951 South Korea 12/20/2016

Sgt. James W. Sharp U.S. Army Battery B, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division , 12/6/1950 North Korea 1/10/2017

**Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Monthly Operations Summary
'Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise'
As of January 12, 2017**

Summary: Keeping the families of our missing and engaged Veterans informed is essential to achieving the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. This Operations Summary is intended to provide an overview of past and future efforts to account for our missing and identify the remains of previously buried, but not individually identified US personnel in Fiscal Year 2017 (October 2016 to September 2017).

Overview: There are currently 15 personnel deployed in support of operations around the world.

Like the rest of the US Government, the Department of Defense (DoD) is operating with limited funding under a congressionally mandated "Continuing Resolution (CR)." This has had a significant negative impact on our field operations. Due to the duration of the CR, the incremental funding associated with it, and the anticipated delay to the start of funding reprogramming actions within DoD, DPAA has had to cancel 19 recovery and 17 investigation missions, reducing our planned field operations by 35%. Our current FY17 operations plan consists of 30 investigation teams and 40 recovery teams operating in 20 countries, broken out below by conflict and country. The effort to achieve our goal of identifying the remains of 200 unaccounted-for personnel this year will come primarily from disinterments of service members buried as Unknowns.

Our planning during December focused on making preparations for Joint Field Activities beginning this month. DPAA has completed its analysis on the operational impacts of

the CR and adjusted accordingly. Operations to account for Vietnam War losses are our main operational focus, though missions there have been reduced. DPAA's operations in Europe and the Mediterranean region were impacted as well, and we are adjusting by deploying more investigation teams than recovery teams in that region. The majority of our long-term disinterment projects for this year will be from United States cemeteries in the Philippines, Hawaii and Europe.

Asia-Pacific Region: DPAA recently began missions in the Asia-Pacific region for the 2nd Quarter of FY17 (Jan-Mar 2017). To maintain momentum in Southeast Asia, DPAA deployed two (2) Investigation Teams (IT) and six (6) Recovery Teams (RT) to Laos; however, DPAA leadership directed a number of reductions, and in many cases, the cancelation of missions in other areas of Asia and the South Pacific in order to maximize our ability to work loss sites in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. Missions had to be reduced in scope in Vietnam and Cambodia also. DPAA activities in Vietnam will be augmented by Vietnamese counterparts. DPAA will continue to reevaluate planned missions, adjusting the size and scope of field activities as dictated by budgetary constraints, degradation of sites by acidic soil, unexploded ordnance (UXO), increased development activity, and host nation requests.

During the 2nd quarter, DPAA will deploy one IT and one RT to Vietnam, as well as our Field Forensic Review and Joint Forensic Review team. Our Vietnamese counterparts will provide one Research and Investigation Team (RIT) and one Unilateral Investigation Team (UIT).

Overall, the planned number of Investigation Teams (ITs) operating in 1st/2nd quarter in the Asia Pacific area was reduced from 22 to 13, resulting in a loss of nine (9) ITs. Recovery Teams (RTs) were reduced from 29 to 22, resulting in a loss of 7 RTs.

- Within the last 30 days DPAA conducted missions in the following Asia Pacific region countries:

Laos, 1xIT/3xRT

Vietnam, 3xIT/6xRT

Solomon Islands, 2xRT

India, 1xIT

Tarawa, (via History Flight Group, DPAA Partner)

- DPAA planned missions in the 2nd Quarter (January-March):

Tarawa, Field Forensic Review (FFR)

Philippines, Disinterment

Laos, 2xIT/6xRT

Cambodia, Pre Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) in prep for 1xRT 3rd QTR

Palau, 1xIT/1xRT (Tentative, pending USN ship availability)

Vietnam, reduced from 3xIT/5xRT to 2xIT/2xRT 1xRT, 1xURT

Burma, reduced from 1xRT/1xIT to 1xRIT

South Korea, 1xIT

- DPAA missions cancelled due to Continuing Resolution impacts:

Micronesia, 1xIT

Solomons, 1xIT

India, Outsourced RT

Kirabati, 1xIT

China, 1xIT

Papua New Guinea, 2xRT

Philippines, 1xIT/1xRT

Indonesia, 1xIT

Europe-Mediterranean Region: Under the current funding arrangement DPAA has sufficient funding to operate at full capacity in the Europe-Mediterranean region through April 17.

- Within the last 30 days DPAA conducted missions in the following Europe-Mediterranean Region:

Germany, 1xRT, History Flight Group, DPAA Partner

- DPAA planned operations/meetings for 2nd Quarter (January-March)
United States-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) Tech Talks in Moscow
Germany, History Flight Group, DPAA Partner, World War II Site Closure

- DPAA Missions in the European-Mediterranean Region, 2nd QTR:

Italy/Sicily, 1xIT

France, 1xIT

Germany/Poland, 1xIT

Italy, 1xIT

Netherlands/Germany, 2xRT, History Flight Pilot Program, DPAA Partner

Disinterments:

Coordination continues with multiple agencies for the repatriation of unknown remains disinterred from the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemetery, in Margraten, Netherlands.

8 scheduled for ABMC Cemeteries (5 in Ardennes, 2 in Sicily, 1 in Tunis)

Scientific Analysis: DPAA laboratories are adequately funded through the 2nd Quarter of FY17. A possible slow-down in identifications is anticipated in second quarter as the senior Medical Examiner assigned to DPAA departs without a replacement on site. The second Medical Examiner provided to DPAA by the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System will continue to validate/authorize identifications in the interim.

- **Statistics:**

Identifications:

Thirty Five (35) Fiscal Year To Date

14 in December 2016

Nine (9) from USS Oklahoma

Three (3) from Tarawa

One (1) from Cabanatuan

One (1) from WWII other

Disinterments: 56 FYTD/8 in December 2016

Information for those who are new to the POW/MIA issue

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) conducts periodic updates and annual government briefings for families of American servicemembers who are missing in action (MIA). These events are designed to keep family members informed of the U.S. government's worldwide mission to account for those still missing and to discuss in detail the latest information available about their specific cases.

At the annual and monthly update meetings, speakers include senior officials, experts, and scientists who work in the wide range of tasks associated with the POW/MIA mission. During the meetings, there are formal presentations, question and answer sessions, and one-one-one discussions between government officials and family members.

DoD has conducted these update programs since 1995, reaching more than 17,000 family members face-to-face.

Family Updates

Up to eight times a year, government officials meet with MIA family members who live within a 350-mile radius of major metropolitan areas across the country. These meetings are designed to address the individual needs of the family members while bringing information to their communities. Government officials also meet one-on-one with family members to discuss the details of each of their cases. About 150-200 family members and 30 government officials attend each meeting.

Annual Briefings

Two briefings are held annually in the Washington, D.C. area. One is for Vietnam War families and the other is for Korean and Cold War families. The location of these events makes it possible for senior government officials to attend and for families to access Washington-based offices related to POW/MIA matters. At these briefings, family members have the opportunity to meet with numerous civilian and military specialists of the government whose expertise includes: foreign government negotiation, formulation of national policy, remains recovery and identification, DNA science, archival research and intelligence analysis.

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.

Air Force

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
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)
Personal and Family Readiness Division
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103
(800) 847-1597

Navy

Navy Personnel Command
Casualty Assistance Division
POW/MIA Branch (PERS 13)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210
(800) 443-9298

State Department

U.S. Department of State CA/OCS/ACS/EAP
SA-17, 10th Floor 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20552-1707
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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.

*I wish to apply as a Family Member. I wish to apply as a Contributor. SELECT ONE.

*YOUR Full Name: _____

*Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

*Address: STREET - _____

*City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

*Email Address: _____

*Home Phone with Area Code: _____

Work Phone with Area Code: _____ Fax with Area Code: _____

CONTACTS/EXPERIENCE/Skills that might be useful:

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH OTHER: _____

Fund Raising Military/VETERANS: _____

Media Computers/Technological: _____

If you are applying for Family Membership please complete the rest of this form.

*Applicant's relationship to POW-MIA: _____

*NAME and RANK of POW-MIA: _____

*BRANCH of SERVICE/UNIT or GROUP: _____

*DATE and AREA of loss: _____

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To join the KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc., please tear out this form,
fill in all required areas and mail, along with check, to the following address:

Korea Cold War Families of the Missing
12 Clifford Drive
Farmingdale, NY 11735

ATTN: Membership/Subscription

Please make checks payable to KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.

PLEASE EMAIL US AT
info@koreacoldwar.org OR imandra@optonline.net

All contributions are tax deductible.

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