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

http://www.koreacoldwar.org
August 2019 Issue #64
POW-MIA WE Remember!

SEND TO:

2019 FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE*
September 07 Dayton, OH • November 16 San Juan, PR
January 25 Las Vegas, NV • February 22 Portland, OR
March 21 Miami, FL • April 18 Little Rock, AR
May 16 Chicago, IL • June 17-20 Washington, D.C. (Vietnam War)
August 6-7 Washington, D.C. (Korean/Cold War) • September 12 Colorado Springs, CO

WE NEED HELP
KOREA COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
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MARSEILLE, France —
The aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) arrived in Marseille, France, for a scheduled port visit, April 27.

While in port, Sailors will participate in Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) tours, community outreach (COMREL) projects, explore the culture, and celebrate the U.S. Navy’s partnership with the country of France.

“Time and time again, France’s Marine Nationale and the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSCSG) have worked together at sea pursuing mutual interests in maintaining free and open access for all in international waters. The integration and teamwork involved in this pursuit has been a highlight of our operations over the last six months,” said Capt. Randy Peck, commanding officer of the John C. Stennis. “Now, my crew has the opportunity to more fully appreciate our French partners as allies and friends, and the crew could not be more excited to experience French culture and pursue a more personal connection to the partnership we have enjoyed since 1775.”

The crew will make contributions to the local community through several service initiatives. Sailors will paint and help with other facility improvements at the Marseille’s Youth Center before interacting with the youth. Sailors will also be able to visit Rhone American Cemetery, Blue Stars Football Club, compete in a friendly soccer match with local Marseille firefighters, and be hosted by France Etats-Unis as they enjoy a concert and dinner honoring the Sailors.

The John C. Stennis is in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the JCSCSG deployment in support of maritime security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

For more news on John C. Stennis, visit http://navy.mil/local/cvn74/ or follow along on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stennis74.
IN MY OPINION
By Irene Mandra

There’s an old Italian proverb that says “Chi da se stesso può fare alcuna cosa, non aspetti che altri la faccia”. It means “expect nothing from friends, you have to do it yourself.” I’ve been thinking of this proverb for many reasons. For almost 30 years, we have been asking DPMO (and now DPAA) to get more information from the Russians and Chinese about information they may have on our missing loved ones. Each year we hear the same thing, the Russians or Chinese have searched their archives but they have not found any new information. I don’t blame the men and women of DPAA. I think the Chinese and Russians are happy to lead us on a goose chase and to take the money that DPAA pays them to search their archives. I’d like to know how much money we have paid these governments for “il nulla” (nothing!) I think it’s time we find out how much money we are spending and what are we getting for those efforts! Maybe we would be better off just asking the Russians and Chinese ourselves with a letter writing campaign. I don’t know but I know I’m fed up. I also think of that Italian proverb sometimes as I sit at my desk working on this newsletter.....
Our USRJC team continues to aggressively pursue information from the Russian Side, but cooperation has been inconsistent among the four working groups. The US Side now has the full complement of Congressional Commissioners - Senators Lankford and Manchin; and Representatives Panetta and Wenstrup - all of whom General Foglesong recently met with to update them and enlist their support.

Planning and preparations for a joint exhumation of a cemetery burial in Vladivostok, Russia later in mid-September are well underway. The Russian Side is working closely with local authorities to obtain the necessary permissions and permits needed to excavate specific locations identified during an investigation conducted in May 2018. (This site is possibly associated with a Nov. 6, 1951 Cold War incident) The next round of technical talks for WWII and Vietnam War Working Groups will take place June 18, 2019 here in Washington. Technical talks for Korea and the Cold War will take place in November the normal time for the annual USRJC Plenum. Based on the Russian side changeover of USRJC commissioners they have asked for the 2019 Plenum to be moved to early 2020, date to be determined.

DPAA-contracted researchers continue their work in Russian archives on a monthly basis.
In June 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea and the 92nd and 98th (B-29 groups) deployed. In early July 1950, B-29’s of the 92nd Bombardment Group, Medium arrived from the United States at Yokota AB, Japan. By the time the entire group completed its deployment on July 13th, its aircraft had already flown a leaflet mission to Seoul and a combat mission against the Wonsan marshalling yards in North Korea. The 98th departed 4th August and joined the 92nd at Yokota AB. Under control of the FEAF Bomber Command (Provisional) until October 20th, the 92nd bombed factories, refineries, iron works, hydroelectric plants, airfields, bridges, tunnels, troop concentrations, barracks, marshalling yards, road junctions, rail lines, supply dumps, docks, vehicles and other strategic and interdiction targets. The 92nd BG returned to Spokane AFB, Washington in late October and November 1950. The 98th did not return to Fairchild after the Korean War and was assigned to Lincoln AFB NE and begin to convert to B-47 Aircraft. The 111th SRW (Strategic Reconnaissance Wing) became the 99th SRW at Fairchild, and flew B-29’s until the RB-36’s arrived on 1 January 1953. On June 25th 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea without warning, and the United States intervened on South Korea’s behalf. Although our fighters quickly won air supremacy, their ground attack abilities were very limited. Thus on July 4th, 1950 the 92nd BG and 327th Bombardment Squadron was ordered to deploy to Yokota, Japan and fly missions against North Korea. Just eight days later, the Squadron conducted its first attack. Although there were no North Korean fighters left at the time, the enemy put up a ferocious anti-aircraft defense, and several aircraft of the group were lost. Nevertheless, the Squadron pressed the attack so fiercely that within three months there were no industrial or strategic targets left in North Korea. The Squadron turned to attacking supply lines and troop concentrations, and was released from combat by General MacArthur on October 20th, 1950.
**Ned Forney, Writer, The American Korean Experience**

The FIRST amphibious operation of the Korean War . . .

On July 18, 1950, over 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 vehicles of the US Army’s 1st Cavalry Division landed at Pohang, South Korea, a port 70 miles north of Pusan.

Within 48 hours of hitting the beach, 1st Cavalry soldiers were on the front lines of the Pusan Perimeter, defending the last toehold of freedom on the Korean peninsula. “I do not believe the perimeter could have held without the timely reinforcement of our forces by the First Cavalry Division,” Admiral Turner Joy, Commander Naval Forces, Far East, told reporters.

**Postscript:**

In a little-known aspect of the landing, in the weeks leading up to the operation, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Gen. Edward Almond had agreed to send a team of Marine Corps amphibious experts, led by Col. Edward H. Forney, to work with and advise 1st Cavalry on preparing for the landing.

1st Cavalry Division’s commanding officer, Gen. Hobart Gay, pleased with the expertise and professionalism of the the Marine Corps team, later wrote to Col. Forney, “Your officers and enlisted men displayed untiring effort, complete cooperation, and invaluable technical assistance. . . in preparing for the landing.”

Today we pay tribute to the brave, young men of 1st Cavalry Division who stormed ashore at Pohang and fought at the Pusan Perimeter, and the Marines who worked with them to plan and conduct the first amphibious landing of the Korean War. Teamwork!

**Bill Woodier**

“Unsung Champions”

In today’s challenging environment, it’s easy to forget all the wonderful people who have touched the POW/MIA issue and the folks who always see the mission as something as much greater than a job. I know there are too many folks to count but I want to start taking a moment to shout out those who have made a difference. I refer to these men and women as the Unsung Champions. Mr. William H. Woodier joined DPAA’s predecessor, DPMO, in July of 2000 as a US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. He retired from active duty in May of 2006 (more than 29 years of service!) but continued working at DPAA as a civilian. Bill serves as the primary analyst for unaccounted for American personnel from the Korean War. His primary focus is on Marine ground and air losses as well as US Army 3rd and 7th Infantry Divisions losses. Bill also is an expert in all Navy losses. Bill has a way with words and a passion for the issue. The mission is more than a job for him. It’s a calling. You see, Bill served as a Recon Marine in Vietnam and he lost many friends there and some have never been recovered. So this mission is very personal to him. After his service in the Marine Corps, Bill became an Air Force officer and he has been a constant source of inspiration and dedication to those with whom he works ever since. One of Bill’s favorites quotes is from President Theodore Roosevelt. “Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much, nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.” For those that know Bill, I think this quote captures his essence. (And for the record, I did not know Theodore Roosevelt!)
To Those Who Gave Us Their All
Born to promise - a spark of light,
In our nation’s defense they fought the fight,
With honor and courage, they served with pride,
And for God and Country, there they died.

They asked not for credit, but served beside,
Men of courage who also died,
For this their nation, they lay and bled,
Where many a tear was also shed.

Now they lie down in fields of red,
Where many a boot has also tred,
For they were soldiers - tried and true,
And they fought the fight like many of you.

They ask not for credit, but only a thought,
It was not a medal that they sought,
And now as they lie beneath the blue,
I pray that you yet love them, as much as they loved you!

VERITAS INFINITUM (Truth Forever)

Info we received from DPAA about the hotel for the August Meeting...

“The family members room block has been set up at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View hotel......if you get a phone call from a family member inquiring about room reservations before the initial invite hits the street, please give them this information......have them call 800-228-9290 and reference room block, “Korean/Cold War 2019” .....they have two rates....$148 or $178 which comes with breakfast for two.....”
Army Cpl. Donald E. Angle was accounted for July 2, 2019. In the summer of 1950, Angle was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, fighting against members of the Korean People’s Army. On July 25, 1950, he was reported missing in action in the vicinity of Yongdong, South Korea. Absent of evidence of continued survival, the Department of the Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.

Army Pfc. David C. Wilkes was accounted for June 24, 2019. In late 1950, Wilkes was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. The U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory.

Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd was accounted for June 24, 2019. In late 1950, Judd was a member of Company D, 89th Medium Tank Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950, when he was captured by enemy forces in the vicinity of Ipsok, North Korea. According to reports, Judd died at Hofong Prisoner of War camp, also known as Pukchin-Tarigol, on Feb. 15, 1951, and his remains were unable to be recovered.

Army Cpl. Robert L. Bray was accounted for on June 6, 2019. In July 1950, Bray was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Regiment. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950, when he could not be accounted for following his unit fighting in a defensive action against enemy forces near Taejon, South Korea. With no information concerning his whereabouts, the Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.

Army Cpl. William S. Smith was accounted for June 4, 2019. On Sept. 1, 1950, Smith was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when he was reported missing in action after an enemy assault on his unit’s position along the Naktong River, near Yongasn, South Korea.

Army Pvt. Edward M. Morrison was accounted for on May 31, 2019. In July 1950, Morrison was a member of 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. His unit was holding a defensive position north of P’yon-g’t’aek, South Korea, when he was killed by small arms fire on July 6, 1950. Morrison was the first casualty of his company during its second engagement in the war. His remains could not be recovered following the battle.

Army Master Sgt. James G. Cates was accounted for on May 31, 2019. In late 1950, Cates was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 3, 1950, following combat actions against enemy forces in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea.

Army Pfc. Roger L. Woods was accounted for on May 21, 2019. In the summer of 1950, Woods was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Regiment, fighting against members of the Korean People’s Army. On July 29, 1950, he was reported missing in action in the vicinity of Kochang, South Korea. Absent of evidence of continued survival, the Department of the Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.
Army Cpl. Earl H. Markle was accounted for on May 17, 2019. In November 1950, Markle was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Unsan, North Korea. His remains could not be recovered following the attack, and he was not reported as a prisoner of war. The U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953. On July 27, 2018, following the summit between President Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim in June 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members killed during the Korean War.

Army Cpl. Charles S. Lawler was accounted for on May 13, 2019. In November 1950, Lawler was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Unsan, North Korea. His remains could not be recovered following the attack and he was not reported as a prisoner of war. The U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953. On July 27, 2018, following the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in June 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members killed during the Korean War.

Army Cpl. Billy J. Butler was accounted for on April 29, 2019. In late 1950, Butler was a member of Company C, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the enemy near Kujang, North Korea. On Nov. 28, 1950, his unit’s defensive positions were attacked and he was captured by the Chinese People’s Volunteer Force (CPVF.) Following the war, returning American prisoners reported that Butler died in January 1951, at the prisoner of war camp in Pukchin-Tarigol, North Korea, known by some as Hofong Camp. On March 15, 1954, the U.S. Army declared Butler deceased as of Jan. 27, 1951.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Eldon C. Justus was accounted for on April 16, 2019. In late November 1950, Justus was a member of Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 wounded service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured or killed in enemy territory. When Justus could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle; he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 6, 1950.

Army Pfc. Sterling Geary, Jr. was accounted for on April 8, 2019. In November 1950, Geary was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, which was engaged in battle with the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces in North Korea. He was declared missing in action on Nov. 27, 19510 when he could not be accounted for by his unit following fighting at Hill 234, and Tong-dong Village, North Korea. Following the war, one returning American prisoner of war reported that Geary had been captured by the CPVF and died in March 1951 while being held at prisoner of war Camp 5. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of March 31, 1951.
Army Pfc. Herschel M. Riggs was accounted for on March 21, 2019. In July 1950, Riggs was an infantryman with Headquarters Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, involved in combat actions against North Korean forces near Taegon, South Korea. Riggs was declared missing in action on July 16, 1950, when he could not be accounted for by his unit. Following numerous battlefield searches, the American Graves Registration Service was unable to locate Riggs’ remains and he was declared deceased on July 31, 1953.

Army Capt. Rufus J. Hyman was accounted for on Feb. 20, 2019. In July 1950, Hyman was an infantry officer with Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaging in combat actions against the North Korean People’s Army in the vicinity of Kwonbin-ni, South Korea. Hyman was declared missing in action on July 30, 1950. In July 1951, a Search and Recovery Team from the American Registration Service Group recovered an isolated burial in the vicinity of where Hyman was last seen. The remains were designated X-1575 Tanggok and were sent to the Central Identification Unit in Japan for identification. Unable to be identified, the remains were sent to the National Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, and buried as an Unknown. On Oct. 30, 2017, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-1575 from the Punchbowl for analysis.

Army Cpl. Benjamin W. Scott was accounted for on Feb. 20, 2019. In July 1950, Scott was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaging in combat actions against the North Korean forces in the vicinity of Choch’iwon, South Korea. Scott was declared missing in action on July 12, 1950. In May 1952, remains were found in the vicinity of where Scott was last seen.

Army Cpl. James C. Rix was accounted for on Feb. 8, 2019. In November 1950, Rix was a member of Company E, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was killed in action on Nov. 30, 1950, during heavy fighting between the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) and the 7th Cavalry Regiment in the vicinity of North Pyongan Province, North Korea. His remains were interred at the United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMC) Pyongyang, on Dec. 2, 1950.

Army Cpl. Carlos E. Ferguson was accounted for on Feb. 4, 2019. In May 1951, Ferguson was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, engaged in combat against the Korean People’s Army and the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces. The battle, fought near Hangye, South Korea, from May 16-20, was named the “Battle of the Soyang River.” Ferguson was reported missing in action on May 18, 1951. On June 16, 1951, a set of remains located in the vicinity of where Ferguson was lost, arrived at the Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan.

Army Master Sgt. Charlie J. Mares was accounted for on Feb. 4, 2019. In July 1950, Mares was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat against the Korean People’s Army. Mares was reported missing in action following the battle, fought near Kwonbin-ni, South Korea, on July 31, 1950. In May 1951, a set of remains located in the vicinity of where Mares was lost, arrived at the Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan.
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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