2019 FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE*
January 26 Birmingham, AL • February 23 San Jose, CA
March 23 San Antonio, TX • April 27 Salt Lake City, UT
May 18 Omaha, NE • September 07 Dayton, OH

REMINDER
Thank you to the many members that sent their 2019 membership renewal checks in.
Please send your check if you haven’t sent one in already. Thank you very much.

Contact your Congressional Reps through the U.S.
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Last November, DPAA repatriated the remains of 64 Koreans to South Korea; these remains had been segregated over the years by DPAA scientists assigned to the DPAA Korean War Project.

As part of an agreement reached between the South Koreans and North Koreans last fall, the two countries have begun demining in the DMZ to enable North and South Korea to conduct joint recovery operations next spring. DPAA is prepared to offer basic scientific support to ROK and DPRK recovery operations.

Accounted for Since November

Army Private Frist Class James C. Williams was accounted for on Dec. 20, 2018. On July 20, 1950, Williams was a member of Medical Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, when he was killed in action near Taegu, South Korea. Multiple eye witnesses stated that Williams was killed while trying to transport patients from the Taegu Air Strip. Fellow Soldiers returned Williams’ remains to the collection point, however the 34th Infantry Regiment’s Medical Company was ordered to withdraw, and during the hasty withdrawal, his remains and those of numerous service members were left behind.

Army Corporal John G. Krebs was accounted for on Dec. 17, 2018. On July 11, 1950, Krebs was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People’s Army south of Cheorwon, South Korea, when he was declared missing in action.

Army Private First Class Karl L. Dye was accounted for on Dec. 3, 2018. In July 1950, Dye was a member of Battery B, 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) forces, near Taegu, South Korea. According to a witness, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar shell and placed in an ambulance. The ambulance allegedly encountered an enemy roadblock. Dye was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950.

Army Corporal Frederick E. Coons was accounted for on Oct. 29, 2018. On July 29, 1950, Coons was declared missing action in the vicinity of Geochang, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea, when he couldn’t be accounted for after a unit withdrawal action to set up a roadblock against North Korean Forces.

During the Opening Session, General Kirilin noted that the 22nd Plenum occurred on the 75th anniversary of the Tehran Conference. He paid tribute to President Roosevelt who, according to Kirilin, saved the conference by proposing to Stalin to have a cup of tea at a critical juncture in the negotiations. Kirilin emphasized that in the 26 years of the joint work of the Commission, the Russians and the Americans have established good working relationships and continue to have regular meetings despite the challenging geopolitical environment. He emphasized that both sides are willing to work hard to find their lost ones. Foglesong echoed the mutual desire to continue to work together in pursuit of the respective noble goals.

Productive meetings took place in the separate Working Group sessions devoted to World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Highlights were: exploring ways in which U.S. records might help the Russians account for the large numbers of displaced persons who immigrated to the West after World War II, a possible field investigation of an alleged B-24 bomber crash site on Kamchatka, and an agreement to carry out a Cold War excavation next year in the region of Vladivostok based on forensic results determined by a joint U.S.-Russian investigative team in May 2018. There was a mutual pledge to do everything possible to account for the 264 Soviet servicemen still missing from the Afghan War from 1979 to 1989.

During the separate meetings, discussions were held regarding additional reviews of restricted records related to the Cold, Korean, and Vietnam Wars among the holdings of the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, to include the archives of the Soviet General Staff. Additionally, the sides agreed to continue work to commemorate aviators lost during “Project Zebra,” a WWII operation that trained allied Soviet aircrews on American-provided naval patrol aircraft. Also, the digitization of information from captured German documents at the National Archives for incorporation into a Russian data base of the missing continues, the main activity of the Russian Side Office in Washington, D.C. The Plenum fittingly concluded with a reception on, November 29, organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in their Washington, D.C. headquarters. In all, the 22nd Plenum provided a venue for mutual updates on the work accomplished throughout the past year and an opportunity to plan for upcoming projects and other joint efforts. Both sides agreed that the 23rd Plenum will be held in Moscow in November 2019 and that meetings for the individual Working Groups would be held throughout the year, with precise dates to be determined.
Unsung Champions:

In today's toxic environment, it's easy to forget all the wonderful people who have touched the POW/MIA issue and the folks who always saw 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 recall those who really made a difference. I refer to these men and women as the Unsung Champions:

Mr. Charles W. Henley retired from the Defense POW/MIA Office in September 2012. As an Army officer and federal employee, Chuck served our country for 42 years! In his last 19 years of government service, Chuck served as the Director for External Affairs for the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) where he led the Department’s outreach efforts to families of missing servicemen, concerned citizens, veterans service organizations, and members of Congress. Chuck was the point man for at least eight congressional hearings on the POW/MIA issue. This effort included two years of the extensive series of hearings and investigations held by the United States Senate Select Committee on POW/MIAs from 1991 to 1993 -- these hearings led to the establishment of DPMO by the Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney. During the formation of DPMO, one of the areas continually identified by Congress for improvement was the Department’s efforts to communicate with families about the efforts to locate our loved ones. In response, Chuck and his team initiated the family update program in 1995 to meet with and individually brief the families. Best of all, and near and dear in my heart, it was Chuck who personally worked with Congress to get “COIN Assist” extended to all the Korean and Cold War Families so we could travel for free to the annual meeting each year. Ever the dashing figure, Chuck stays in touch with me through letters and email -- all of which display the charm and eloquence of one of the nicest persons you ever want to me. To those that knew him, I know you agree. To those that only heard of him, you missed out!

The Washington Post

Trump to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at end of February, White House says

The announcement came after President Trump met in the White House with Kim’s envoy, Kim Yong Chol. “President Donald J. Trump met with Kim Yong Chol for an hour and half, to discuss denuclearization and a second summit, which will take place near the end of February,” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement. “The President looks forward to meeting with Chairman Kim at a place to be announced at a later date.”
Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War

Army Pfc. John A. Taylor, 22, of Winnsboro, Louisiana
WASHINGTON— The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted-for from the Korean War, are those of Army Pfc. John A. Taylor, 22, of Winnsboro, Louisiana. Taylor was accounted for on May 9, 2018.
In August 1950, Taylor was a member of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in South Korea. On Aug. 11, his regiment encountered a Korean People’s Army unit near the village of Haman. Taylor’s company was ordered to move southwest, where they were ambushed and forced to disperse. In the days following, the battalions of 24th Infantry Regiment consolidated their positions, reorganized and began accounting for their Soldiers. After several days of checking adjoining units, aid stations and field hospitals, Taylor was reported as killed in action on Aug. 12, 1950, but his remains were not recovered.
On Jan. 6, 1951, an Army Graves Registration Service search and recovery team recovered a set of unidentified remains near the village of Haman. The remains, which could not be identified, were interred in United States Military Cemetery Masan in South Korea, as Unknown X-213 Masan.
In February 1954, the Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan, examined Unknown X-213 Masan. Unable to make an identification, the remains were declared unidentifiable in April 1955 and buried as an Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

Army Pfc. Mathis O. Ball Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division
Army Pfc. Mathis O. Ball, accounted for on Aug. 14, 2018 Will be buried November 18 in Bokchito, Oklahoma. Ball, 20, of Collin County, Texas, was killed during the Korean War. In July 1950, Ball was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Choch’iwon, South Korea. Ball could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 12, 1950. In December 1953, based on a lack of information regarding his status, Ball was declared deceased. In January 1956, he was declared non-recoverable. On Oct. 4, 1950, a set of unidentified remains was recovered from an isolated grave in the vicinity of Choch’iwon, South Korea, in an area corresponding to where Ball’s unit engaged in battle. The remains, designated X-91, were processed for identification, but a match could not be made. The remains were interred in American Cemetery No. 1, later renamed to United Nations Military Cemetery Taejon.
The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, accounted for from the Korean War, are those of Marine Corps Reserve Sgt. Johnson McAfee, 27, of Laveen, Arizona. McAfee was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2017. In late November, 1950, McAfee was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force fighting against units of the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in North Korea. McAfee was reported to have been killed in action on Nov. 28, 1950, in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir at the Marine position known as Fox Hill. Following his death, McAfee was buried alongside others at the base of Fox Hill prior to the evacuation of the outpost. In September 1953, in accordance with provisions in the armistice agreement, North Korea began the return of U.S. and United Nations Command (UNC) dead for identification. On Sept. 10, 1954, a set of remains, “Unknown X-15012,” was returned, which was reportedly recovered in the vicinity of where McAfee was buried. The remains were determined to be unidentifiable and were transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu and interred as a Korean War Unknown. After a thorough historical and scientific analysis indicated that the remains could likely be identified, X-15012 were disinterred in August 2013 and sent to DPAA for analysis. To identify McAfee’s remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, which matched his records, as well as circumstantial evidence. DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission. Today, 7,675 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. For funeral and family contact information, contact the Marine Corps Casualty Office at (800) 847-1597.

Army Cpl. DeMaret M. Kirtley, 19, of Kaycee, Wyoming

In late November 1950, Kirtley was a member of Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 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. Kirtley was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, when he could not be accounted for after the withdrawal. He was last seen in the vicinity of Hagaru-ri, Changjin County, Hamgyeong Province, North Korea. Kirtley’s name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists and no returning Americans reported Kirtley as a prisoner of war. Due to a lack of information regarding his status, the Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.
WASHINGTON—The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, accounted-for from the Korean War, are those of Marine Corps Sgt. Meredith F. Keirn, 24, of Niagara Falls, New York. Keirn was accounted for on May 22, 2018. In late November, 1950, Keirn was a light machinegun section leader for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He was reported to have been killed Nov. 30, 1950 while defending a hill overlooking the Toktong Pass, a critical main supply route between the villages of Hagaru-ri and Yudam-ni, North Korea. His remains were reportedly buried at the base of “Fox Hill,” in the Toktong Pass, but they could not be recovered following the war. In August 2015, a South Korean citizen turned over remains believed to be U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. The remains were turned over to the U.S. Forces Korea Mortuary Affairs Office in Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea, which were subsequently turned over to DPAA. To identify Keirn’s remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used Next Generation Sequencing and mitochondrial (mtDNA), Y-chromosome (Y-STR) and autosomal (auSTR) DNA analysis, anthropological analysis, as well as material and circumstantial evidence.

Army Master Sgt. Carl H. Lindquist, 32, of Willmar, Minnesota

WASHINGTON—The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted-for from the Korean War, are those of Army Master Sgt. Carl H. Lindquist, 32, of Willmar, Minnesota. Lindquist was accounted for on June 4, 2018. In late November 1950, Lindquist was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. The unit, designated the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), engaged with forces of the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in a battle on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Lindquist was reported missing in action during the battle, on Nov. 29, 1950. 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. None of the recovered remains could be associated with Lindquist and he was declared non-recoverable. One set of remains returned during Operation Glory were reportedly recovered from an isolated grave on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir. The remains, designated X-15902, were determined to be unidentifiable and were interred as an Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.
WASHINGTON— The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted-for from the Korean War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe, 21, of Idabel, Oklahoma, accounted for Sept. 13, 2018, will be buried November 17 in his hometown. In July 1950, Kaniatobe was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People’s Army near Chonui, South Korea. Kaniatobe could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 10, 1950. In December 1953, based on a lack of information regarding his status, Kaniatobe was declared deceased. In January 1956, he was declared non-recoverable. No list provided by the Chinese or North Koreans reported Kaniatobe as a POW, and no returning American POWs reported him as a POW. In early October 1950, a Graves Registration Team attached to Kaniatobe’s regiment recovered the remains of 164 Americans from the area between Chonui and Choch’iwon. On Oct. 6, 1950, a set of unidentified remains, designated Unknown X-173 and recovered in the vicinity of Choch’iwon were interred by the U.S. Army in present-day United Nations Military Cemetery Taegu. In March 1952, Unknown X-173 was exhumed and transferred to the U.S. Army Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan for identification. When an identification could not be made, the remains were reburied as Unknown X-173 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Hawaii. On Oct. 16 2017, Unknown X-173 was disinterred from the Punchbowl and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

Army Cpl. Albert E. Mills, accounted for on July 13, 2018, will be buried November 12 in his hometown.

In July 1950, Mills was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, blocking the Korean People’s Army from advancing along a corridor linking the cities of Taejon and Taegu, South Korea. On July 23, 1950, enemy forces attacked American defenses at Yongdong. Mills was reported missing in action on July 25, 1950, as a result of the fighting, when he could not be accounted for by his unit. On March 28, 1950, based on information provided by a local witness, an American Graves Registration Search and Recovery team recovered two sets of remains from a mountain near Yongdong. The remains, designated X-851 and X-852, were interred in the United Nation’s Military Cemetery (UNMC) Tanggok in April 1951. In an effort to support identification attempts, remains recovered throughout South Korea were sent to the Central Identification Command in Kokura, Japan, for identification. While X-851 was positively identified, X-852 could not be associated with any missing service members. The remains were subsequently transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu and buried as a Korean Unknown. On April 9, 2018, DPAA disinterred “X-852 Tanggok” from the Punchbowl and sent the remains to the laboratory for identification. To identify Mills’ remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological, and chest radiograph comparison analysis which; as well as circumstantial evidence. DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.
ABRELL, CHARLES G.
Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.). Place and date: Hangnyong, Korea, 10 June 1951. Entered service at: Terre Haute, Ind. Born: 12 August 1931, Terre Haute, Ind. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a fire team leader in Company E, in action against enemy aggressor forces. While advancing with his platoon in an attack against well-concealed and heavily fortified enemy hill positions, Corporal Abrell voluntarily rushed forward through the assaulting squad which was pinned down by a hail of intense and accurate automatic-weapons fire from a hostile bunker situated on commanding ground. Although previously wounded by enemy hand grenade fragments, he proceeded to carry out a bold, single-handed attack against the bunker, exhorting his comrades to follow him. Sustaining 2 additional wounds as he stormed toward the emplacement, he resolutely pulled the pin from a grenade clutched in his hand and hurled himself bodily into the bunker with the live missile still in his grasp. Fatally wounded in the resulting explosion which killed the entire enemy guncrew within the stronghold, Corporal Abrell, by his valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death, served to inspire all his comrades and contributed directly to the success of his platoon in attaining its objective. His superb courage and heroic initiative sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

ADAMS, STANLEY T.
Rank and organization: Master Sergeant (then Sergeant. 1st Class.), U.S. Army, Company A, 19th Infantry Regiment. Place and date: Near Sesim-ni, Korea, 4 February 1951. Entered service at: Olathe, Kans. Born: 9 May 1922, DeSoto, Kans. G.O. No.: 66, 2 August 1951. Citation: M/Sergeant Adams, Company A, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against an enemy. At approximately 0100 hours, M/Sergeant Adams’ platoon, holding an outpost some 200 yards ahead of his company, came under a determined attack by an estimated 250 enemy troops. Intense small-arms, machine gun, and mortar fire from 3 sides pressed the platoon back against the main line of resistance. Observing approximately 150 hostile troops silhouetted against the skyline advancing against his platoon, M/Sergeant Adams leaped to his feet, urged his men to fix bayonets, and he, with 13 members of his platoon, charged this hostile force with indomitable courage. Within 50 yards of the enemy M/Sergeant Adams was knocked to the ground when pierced in the leg by an enemy bullet. He jumped to his feet and, ignoring his wound, continued on to close with the enemy when he was knocked down 4 times from the concussion of grenades which had bounced off his body. Shouting orders he charged the enemy positions and engaged them in hand-to-hand combat where man after man fell before his terrific onslaught with bayonet and rifle butt. After nearly an hour of vicious action M/Sergeant Adams and his comrades routed the fanatical foe, killing over 50 and forcing the remainder to withdraw. Upon receiving orders that his battalion was moving back he provided cover fire while his men withdrew. M/Sergeant Adams’ superb leadership, incredible courage, and consummate devotion to duty so inspired his comrades that the enemy attack was completely thwarted, saving his battalion from possible disaster. His sustained personal bravery and indomitable fighting spirit against overwhelming odds reflect the utmost glory upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the infantry and the military service.
Korean War, Full-Text Citations Continued..

**BALDONADO, JOE R.**
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty: Corporal Joe R. Baldonado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting machinegunner in 3d Squad, 2d Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950. On that morning, the enemy launched a strong attack in an effort to seize the hill occupied by Corporal Baldonado and his company. The platoon had expended most of its ammunition in repelling the enemy attack and the platoon leader decided to commit his 3d Squad, with its supply of ammunition, in the defensive action. Since there was no time to dig in because of the proximity of the enemy, who had advanced to within twenty-five yards of the platoon position, Corporal Baldonado emplaced his weapon in an exposed position and delivered a withering stream of fire on the advancing enemy, causing them to fall back in disorder. The enemy then concentrated all their fire on Corporal Baldonado's gun and attempted to knock it out by rushing the position in small groups and hurling hand grenades. Several times, grenades exploded extremely close to Corporal Baldonado but failed to interrupt his continuous firing. The hostile troops made repeated attempts to storm his position and were driven back each time with appalling casualties. The enemy finally withdrew after making a final assault on Corporal Baldonado's position during which a grenade landed near his gun, killing him instantly. Corporal Baldonado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

**BARBER, WILLIAM E.**
Rank and organization: Captain U.S. Marine Corps, commanding officer, Company F, 2d Battalion 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.). Place and date: Chosin Reservoir area, Korea, 28 November to 2 December 1950. Entered service at: West Liberty, Ky. Born: 30 November 1919, Dehart, Ky. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of Company F in action against enemy aggressor forces. Assigned to defend a 3-mile mountain pass along the division's main supply line and commanding the only route of approach in the march from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ri, Capt. Barber took position with his battle-weary troops and, before nightfall, had dug in and set up a defense along the frozen, snow-covered hillside. When a force of estimated regimental strength savagely attacked during the night, inflicting heavy casualties and finally surrounding his position following a bitterly fought 7-hour conflict, Capt. Barber, after repulsing the enemy gave assurance that he could hold if supplied by airdrops and requested permission to stand fast when orders were received by radio to fight his way back to a relieving force after 2 reinforcing units had been driven back under fierce resistance in their attempts to reach the isolated troops. Aware that leaving the position would sever contact with the 8,000 marines trapped at Yudam-ni and jeopardize their chances of joining the 3,000 more awaiting their arrival in Hagaru-ri for the continued drive to the sea, he chose to risk loss of his command rather than sacrifice more men if the enemy seized control and forced a renewed battle to regain the position, or abandon his many wounded who were unable to walk. Although severely wounded in the leg in the early morning of the 29th, Capt. Barber continued to maintain personal control, often moving up and down the lines on a stretcher to direct the defense and consistently encouraging and inspiring his men to supreme efforts despite the staggering opposition. Waging desperate battle throughout 5 days and 6 nights of repeated onslaughts launched by the fanatical aggressors, he and his heroic command accounted for approximately 1,000 enemy dead in this epic stand in bitter subzero weather, and when the company was relieved only 82 of his original 220 men were able to walk away from the position so valiantly defended against insuperable odds. His profound faith and courage, great personal valor, and unwavering fortitude were decisive factors in the successful withdrawal of the division from the deathtrap in the Chosin Reservoir sector and reflect the highest credit upon Capt. Barber, his intrepid officers and men, and the U.S. Naval Service.
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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