

THE FRONT PAGE

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



FEBRUARY 2007 ISSUE #15
POW-MIA WE REMEMBER!

<http://www.koreacoldwar.org/>

SEND TO:

2007 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2007

City selections are based on past update schedules and demographic mapping of family members' home locations.

Family Update 2006 Cities for 2006 • November 18th Albuquerque , NM

Family Update 2007 Cities for 2007

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- Boston, MA - April 21 • Cheyenne, WY - May 19 • Washington, DC - June 21-23 (SEA Annual)
- Cincinnati, OH - July 21 • Kansas City, MO - August 18 • Washington, DC** - October 18-20
- ** - The Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefings • Phoenix, AZ - November 17

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Casualty Assistance (U.S. Army) 800-892-2490

Casualty Assistance (U.S. Navy) 800-443-9298

Casualty Assistance (USMC) 800-847-1597

Treasurer's Corner by Gail Stallone

If you have not renewed your 2007 membership, this will be your last newsletter. Please renew so that there will be no interruption in your latest e-mails and newsletters.

We wish to thank the many members who have renewed; we deeply appreciate your support.

For a hundred dollar donation we are sending the acclaimed, award-winning DVD titled "**Missing, Presumed Dead the Search for America's POWs**". (Bob Dumas' 50-year search for his brother.) A documentary by Bill Dumas. This is our way of thanking you.

Contact your Congressional Rep through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 1-202-224-3121 or House Cloak Room at 1-202-225-7350 (R) and 1-202-225-7330 (D).

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IN MY OPINION by IRENE L. MANDRA

I have received countless calls, letters and emails pertaining to the Department of Defense's definitions for words and phrases used in their various reports found in service members' files.

After speaking with Dan Baughman at DPMO, he was kind enough to provide me with the explanations for terminology used in these reports. Many thanks to Dan, Phil O'Brien and Paul Werring for their sincere efforts. I am most grateful, as I know the families are. I will be putting this information on our web site, so that in the future if families wish to look up the meaning of phrases used by DPMO and the Service Branch casualty offices, they will have a ready guide to help them. Below you will read these phrases, which we have often seen and did not fully understand. I hope this explanation will help you in your search for information pertaining to your missing loved one.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Casualty Data Card: An effort to array names by tabulation in a Sperry-Univac System, especially useful for culling out resolved cases as identifications were made in the mid-1950s. These cards are now "antiques," since we can now do name comparisons in Word and Excel formats, but the originals or paper copies are still kept in Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPFs) at JPAC.

Casualty Report: Military service form or letter that documents the casualty status of a serviceman. An internal notification which began several necessary processes: flagging the casualty to a specific battle zone, notification of the family, assessment of benefit payments, and even comparison of name and some personal data to Unknown recoveries. Casualty reports were often amended as missing men were found to be captured or to have died. Located in the IDPF at JPAC.

Casualty Status Card: This was the manual equivalent, for pen entries, of the Casualty Data Card. The Casualty Status Card was especially useful as additional information came in, for it became a single point of cross-reference as other documents were updated. These cards are handy even now, for they often show the first stages of information collection, even highlighting past name errors. Located in the IDPF at JPAC.

Debriefs from Returning POWs: Dossiers at the National Archives at College Park MD containing reports on a POW's experience in captivity. Extracts from the debriefs containing information on other POWs are in the IDPFs of those POWs. The IDPFs are located at JPAC. There were different series and formats of debriefings, and we are still searching for some of them. Armed Forces Far East (AFFE) 545 sheets were often drawn from these reports, to supplement others done directly by returning POWs. These by-name sheets were handy for collecting information of specific missing men. Often 20 or 30 AFFE 545s could be drawn from a "good" debriefing.

Field Search Case (FSC): Service Graves Registration plan and report on the search for unaccounted for servicemen from a loss incident, located at JPAC. Names of men lost in the same battle were collected together with maps and search instructions for graves registration teams. Later, as bodies were found, or men returned alive, names were deleted from the FSC. FSC areas in South Korea have been thoroughly searched over the years, but those in North Korea are still "open" working documents that our recovery teams consult whenever they are allowed to search. One great advantage to the FSC system is that it greatly reduces the chance of a name being lost in the system, since every missing man should be attributed to an FSC, either series "F" for land actions, "A" for aircraft losses, or "I" for all other cases.

Summary ("Scrub") Sheet: DPMO report on the serviceman's loss incident. Ongoing reporting to families is done by scrub sheets and attached maps. These create a summary of information from the other sources cited. They also give a family a basis for asking follow-on questions. Whenever we do a scrub sheet, either new or an update, we go back to the original source documents, just to be sure that we've used any new information we've received.

"Names of Other Men" who went missing on the same day from the same unit: a list of unaccounted for servicemen associated with an FSC and an appendix of it. These lists are handy for men who might have been lost together on battlefield, or who might have marched north together as POWs. Sometimes we can apply information from one case to help resolve or further develop another. After returning of POWs at war's end, the name lists of most FSCs were rewritten, since so much new information was received.

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"Further Information" on other men in casualty incidents: documents in this realm may include press reporting, references in official service histories located at Service History Centers, information from foreign archives. The services have their own historical files, and sometimes this information proves useful. Most of the time, it is not a by-name mention, but service histories help to build context that can be useful to recovery teams. Sketch maps are especially useful.

Joint POW/MIA Account(ing) Command Holdings (JPAC): Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPFs) and Field Search Case (FSC) files. JPAC holds these files, and Service Casualty Offices and DPMO have access to them. So, the general format for an individual is for an IDPF and for an FSC extract to be combined and scanned into CARIS (see individual entries).

Reports from CIA and NSA (including subject's name or possibility of a match): Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency information. In most cases, men lost on battlefields will not appear by name in CIA or NSA documents, but POW names often appeared in enemy radio broadcasts. These, however, were usually no more than confirmations of capture or of death in captivity. Even so, useful details occasionally emerge.

293 Deceased File: This is the IDPF. Unaccounted for serviceman's file containing Casualty Reports, Casualty Data and Status Cards, extracts from POW debriefs, Reports of Death, letters to the NOK, dental diagrams, reports of non-recoverability from 1955, and FSC extracts. All IDPFs for active cases from the Korean war are at JPAC, and their key documents have been scanned into the CARIS system (note below). Many of the individual documents cited here are kept in the IDPF, and it becomes the principal point of reference for continuing queries into the case. IDPFs for resolved cases are retired to the Washington National Records Center at Suitland MD, but even these are consulted frequently, since men lost in the same action may be able to provide collateral information even after their own identifications.

Personnel Records: National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis (NPRC) has individual files covering training, promotions, discipline, casualty information (including on many occasions witness statements), and other personal data (note: about 75 percent of the Korean War files were destroyed in a fire in 1973). At NPRC there are Army unit rosters and Army/Air Force morning reports which reflect the historical activities of the unit, e.g., movement of the unit, casualties and other events. Morning reports are also useful in verifying dates of loss where surviving men later submit claims of POW status.

Entries in C.A.R.I.S. by possibility or by name (JPAC): CARIS (Centralized Accounting Repository and Information System) is a data base at JPAC that contains IDPF files.

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Morning Report: Daily unit strength report compiled at the company level, indicating status changes of individuals assigned to the unit. Some included a brief description of the day's events. Located at NPRC, St Louis MO.

Unit History Report: Summary of significant activities that occurred at battalion or squadron level, reported monthly. Located at NARA II, College Park MD.

Korea - Cold War Families of the Missing, our Board of Directors and countless Family Members are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Sharon Mitnik, the devoted daughter of our own Charlotte Mitnik, Cold War Family Member and expert, and dedicated web mail secretary.

Sharon was a young and lovely 46. She was bright, warm and wonderful. Her cheery disposition and sunny attitude left everyone who encountered her smiling. She was an invaluable help with so much of our correspondence and the endless things that Korea-Cold War Families has had to deal with.

Her sudden loss leaves each of us with a hole in our heart. Our love and prayers go out to her adoring mother, Charlotte, her family, and to each and everyone touched by this loss.

*"What's wrong with wanting more? If you can fly-then soar!
With all there is-why settle for just a piece of sky?"*

The Korea Times January 10, 2007 Seoul Launches Task Force to Identify War Remains

The Defense Ministry has set up a task force to retrieve and identify the remains of the dead from the 1950-53 Korean War, officials said Wednesday.

The team of 85 is modeled after the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Its mission is to excavate remains and identify them through DNA analysis, they said.

Col. Park Sin-han, chief of the team, said they would start work soon. Since 2000, the military has recovered 1,484 sets of remains, which break down to those of 1,182 South Korean soldiers, eight U.N. soldiers, 217 North Korean soldiers and 77 Chinese soldiers. It has succeeded in identifying the remains of 52 South Korean soldiers so far, according to the ministry.

ON THE WEB : Documents Relating to American Foreign Policy From Mount Holyoke College, MA

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/coldwar.htm>

Remembered Soldiers, Forgotten War by Marti Attoun

Ron Broward, 73, removes a ragged black-and-white snapshot from his wallet and recalls a birthday gift given to him 55 years ago by his childhood friend and fellow U.S. Marine, Warren "Jackson" Rarick. The photograph shows the young men smiling for the camera while relaxing at a military outpost in South Korea during the Korean War.

That day—April 3, 1951—remains vivid in Broward's memory.

"Jackson said, 'I have something for your birthday,'" Broward recalls. "He took out a little mayonnaise jar and said 'open your hands.' Then he poured dirt from the jar into my hands and said, 'This is Downey dirt.'" The soldiers grew up together in Downey, Calif.

Broward rubbed the dirt between his fingers before carefully pouring the hometown memento back into the jar for safekeeping. The gift was typical of Rarick, a strapping 6-foot-4 soldier with a personality as big as his frame, always in a jovial mood and cheering those around him.

Three weeks later, Broward saw his friend for the last time as they fought waves of Chinese troops on Horseshoe Ridge near Chunchon, South Korea. A mortar shell landed between them as they ran down a steep slope choked with trees and vegetation. Both were wounded, but they got up and kept running. They slid about 20 feet down an embankment where a U.S. tank waited to take out the wounded.

"The last time I saw Jackson he was loading his squad leader onto a tank," says Broward, now a businessman in Davis, Calif. (pop. 60,308).

Pfc. Rarick, 21, a machine gunner with the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, was never found and is among 8,100 Korean War soldiers listed officially as missing in action (MIA). Although more than half a century has passed since the close of the Korean War—often referred to as The Forgotten War—Broward has never forgotten his fallen friend or stopped searching for him. "It never leaves your mind," he says. "My job isn't finished yet."

In 1985, Broward, and his wife, Jennifer, made their first of nine trips back to Horseshoe Ridge and began an exhaustive search to find and identify not just Rarick, but the remains of other unaccounted-for Korean War soldiers.

"People ask why I do this, but take a look at all the young faces," Broward says as he studies page after page of boyish faces of Korean War MIAs on his computer screen. "I feel privileged to have returned home. These youngsters never had a chance to live their lives."

Broward interviewed more than a hundred survivors of the Horseshoe Ridge battle to piece together what happened on April 23-24, 1951. He reconstructed maps of battle positions and talked to Korean farmers who tried to pinpoint where they had seen skeletons and GI dog tags when they played on the hill as children in the late '50s.

Broward's work led to two excavations by military search teams from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii to try to locate Rarick and three other missing Marines.

"In this case, a veteran comes to us with an extensive research file. He had done the groundwork," says Mark Leney, a forensic anthropologist at the U.S. Central Identification Laboratory at JPAC. In July 1999, the team excavated 91 foxholes and found remains of Chinese soldiers, along with battle debris and artifacts, including a Marine Corps emblem from the front of a cap, uniform buttons, hand grenade pins, and a bayonet from an M1 rifle.

"We probably would have left it at that, but Broward didn't," Leney says. "He came up with enough information to reopen the site in 2001. We combed the hill and found lots of Chinese soldiers." But Rarick has never been found.

"It's like my brother fell off the face of the earth," says Billie Jo Wallace, 74, Rarick's sister. "Daddy never accepted it. He kept saying 'til the day he died that my brother was coming back."

Wallace, of Palm Desert, Calif. (pop. 41,155), cries as she talks about Broward's decades of devotion to her brother and other Korean War MIAs.

"Ron, bless his heart, has sent me many pictures of the place where he thinks my brother might have been killed," she says. "It looks like a very peaceful area."

Nine years ago, Broward helped arrange a memorial service. A headstone for Rarick was set beside his parents' graves in Downey Cemetery.

"Because of my brother, Ron has gotten into the work he's doing," Wallace says. "This helps me more than anything."

Retired Lt. Col. Robert Brockish of Lafayette, Colo. (pop. 23,197), marvels at Broward's dedication to lost servicemen. "He's put a lot of his personal fortune into this, going back and forth to Korea and Hawaii," says Brockish, a fellow Korean War veteran who helped with the 1999 dig. "He's just one tough Marine who won't let go."

Broward spends about three hours each evening poring over battle records and files of MIAs, comparing ages, heights and dental records with grid locations where remains were found. Several times a year he travels to the military's identification lab in Hawaii to help identify the remains of soldiers.

"We don't have anyone else quite like him," Leney says. "He started off working on the case of his personal friend, but he's become more aware and does all the cases."

"All" includes 867 unidentified Korean War servicemen who were buried in 1956 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

"Essentially, you're going through records day after day and sometimes there's a eureka moment," Leney says. "That was the case with Ward."

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GC O N T I N U E D : Pfc. John L. Ward, of Utica, N.Y. (pop. 60,651), was among the unknown soldiers buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific until being identified in September 2005 after Broward met retired Marine Sgt. Joe Peters of Concord, Mass., at a veterans' reunion.

Like Broward, Peters had carried a treasured photo in his wallet for more than 50 years. Peters showed Broward the picture of Ward, who died in the foxhole beside him on Nov. 6, 1950, while fighting in Korea. Broward questioned Peters and learned that Ward had been buried at Hungnam No.1, a cemetery in North Korea. From his research, he knew that three unidentified Marines buried in the Punchbowl were from that cemetery. North Korea had returned the bodies to the United States after the war.

Forensic experts at JPAC identified Ward, in part with dental records and fingerprints that had been taken of soldiers at enlistment and post-mortem.

Ward's sister, Elenita Ashley, 73, of Titusville, Pa. (pop. 6,146), had long given up hope of bringing her brother's body home to bury. "When I got the call, to tell you the truth, I thought it was a crank. After 55 years, it was unreal," she says. "Ron is an amazing man. He has put so much time and effort into helping families like ours."

Her grandson, Senior Airman Josh Ashley, 21, now serves in Iraq and escorted his great-uncle's casket home for burial last April at Arlington National Cemetery. Ron and Jennifer Broward attended the service.

"Identifying even one is a success," says Broward, who remains optimistic that he will find his own Marine buddy and bring him back home to rest in the dirt of Downey, Calif. More research has convinced him that Rarick's remains lie beneath a paved road.

"My plan is to go back and pay to dig up a section of road," Broward says. "I still think I know where my friend is."

Family members of Korean War MIAs and POWs can help in the identification process by providing a DNA sample from the maternal side of the family. For information, contact the Marine Corps, (800) 847-1597; Navy, (800) 443-9298; Air Force, (800) 531-5501; Army, (800) 892-2490, or log on to www.jpac.pacom.mil.

11/5/2006

Secretary's Corner by Emma Skuybida:

If you would like to write a story about your missing loved one (please include his picture) we will put it on our web site in the Heroes section. Your story would also be of interest to other families and we will include it in our newsletter.

If you attend any family outreaches besides DC , please notify Irene Mandra, we need the attendees list so that we may notify families of our organization. Many Thanks to families that have sent the list it is deeply appreciated.

Eight KW MIAs ID'd - News Release Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office Washington, DC 20301-2400 IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 1, 2006

SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE KOREAN WAR ARE IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of eight U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Master Sgt. Alfred H. Alonzo Sr., of Tampa, Fla.; Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Bucheit, of Hamilton, Ohio; Sgt. Francis E. Lindsay, of Esther, Mo.; Cpl. Joseph Gregori, of West Pittston, Pa.; Cpl. Darrell W. Scarbrough, of Fayetteville, W. Va.; Cpl. Homer L. Sisk, Jr., of Ducor, Calif.; Cpl. Charles E. Sizemore, of Rushville, Ind.; and Cpl. William E. Wood, of Moorhead, Minn.; all U.S. Army. Gregori was buried in August; Bucheit was buried in September; Scarbrough, Sisk and Sizemore were buried in October; Alonzo was buried in November; and Lindsay and Wood's burial dates are being set by their families.

Representatives from the Army met with the next-of-kin of these men in their hometowns to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

The soldiers were assigned to the U.S. 8th Cavalry Regiment and attached units (1st Cavalry Division), when their unit came under attack by Chinese forces near Unsan, North Korea on the night of Nov. 1-2, 1950. During the battle, these eight and nearly 400 others from the 8th Cavalry Regiment were declared missing or killed in action.

In 2000, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of Korea team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), interviewed a farmer living in the vicinity of Unsan who told the team that while doing land reclamation work, he uncovered remains he believed were those of U.S. soldiers.

The team excavated the burial site and uncovered the remains of at least 10 different individuals. They also recovered other items and identification tags belonging to these eight men.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains. Some of the remains could not be identified and will be held for further research and analysis.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at [HYPERLINK "http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo"](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1169. -end-

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! If you have not renewed your 2007 membership, this will be your last newsletter. Please renew so that there will be no interruption in your latest e-mails and newsletters.

Hardly Known, Not Yet Forgotten, South Korean POWs Tell Their Story - January 25th, 2007

Jeon Yong-Il (L), who was taken as a war prisoner by North Korea during the Korean War, appears with Heo Pyeong-Hwan (R), Division commander of South Korea's Army 6th Infantry. Photo: AFP/Jung Yeon-Je
SEOUL—Thousands of South Koreans taken prisoner by the North during the Korean War (1950-53) were sent to do hard labor and were refused the chance to be repatriated under international law.

Those who survived the working conditions found they were still subjected to contempt and discrimination, 50 years after the end of the war.

"One day I found it rather strange that I could not hear the sound of airplanes overhead. Later, I found out the reason the skies had fallen silent: the war was over," POW Cho Chang-Ho told RFA's Korean service shortly before his death.

While 80,000 South Koreans were missing-in-action during the Korean War, only 8,000 POWs were repatriated by North Korea to the South. In contrast, 76,000 North Korean POWs were repatriated by South Korea.

Never informed

One day, my daughter came crying to me, saying that she could not get involved with a man, because she was the child of a South Korean POW. How could words describe the pain of a father?

Oh Jeong Hwan

Former POWs who managed to escape back to South Korea said that they were simply not informed that a prisoner exchange was taking place, or even that the war was over.

"At the time, I was in Manpo Prison, and I had no idea at all about the armistice or prisoner exchange," Cho said.

Another former POW, Kim Chang Seok, said: "I was captured on July 4, 1953, while on a covert mission. I didn't know about the prisoner exchange."

"After coming to South Korea, I examined relevant documents and realized that, after the end of the war, a prisoner exchange had been conducted for a couple of months. South Korean POWs in the North had no idea about the exchange when it happened. Had we known about the prisoner swap at the time, we would have done something about it," Kim told a 34-episode RFA radio documentary series titled POW Story.

The DPRK has no one to be exchanged for except those who deserted the disgraceful army and joined the people's army to fight the enemy in the past Korean War and those who came over to the North of their own accord, cursing the South Korean society.

North Korea's official KCNA news agency, July 15, 1999

Article 118 of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which came into force on Oct. 21 1950, states that: "Prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities."

But thousands of South Koreans were held by the other side. Their true number may never be known. North Korea still denies their existence, and many died from disease, starvation, or in industrial accidents.

Kim Kyu Hwan, a POW repatriated to the South in 2003 after performing forced labor in the Aogi mine, testified that he had worked there for 35 year

"In North Hamgyong Province, because the coal deposit is relatively recent, the coal layers are weak, and if one digs deep, a lot of pressure develops. If the pressure is too high, the coal layers collapse, and mortal danger ensues," said Kim, whose real name has been changed at his request.

"Six hundred and seventy South Korean POWs were confined to hard labor at the Aogi coal mine in 1953, and 30 more arrived later. Out of 700 POWs, there are no more than 20 left now. Over the past five decades, many have died in working accidents, and others have died of old age," Kim said.

South Korean POWs have formally received citizenship and married North Korean women, establishing families in the North. But they have continued to be labeled as "reactionaries during the war of liberation," and are the most oppressed social category in North Korea, according to defectors whose relatives were POWs.

For example, they lacked the freedom to choose their place of work or residence, and were barred from membership in the North Korean Workers' Party.

Gruelling work

Lee Kwang Dok, nephew of Lee Ki Choon, a former POW repatriated in 2004, said his uncle was an educated man, and was sent to work in the Chungjin shipyards instead of a coal mine. Lee said his uncle lived under constant surveillance and perpetual suspicion that he might try to escape to the South Korean shore. He worked hard and lived without having any hope of ever being granted a promotion.

Oh Jeong Hwan, a POW repatriated to the South in 2000, said his sons couldn't join the North Korean army, but were forced to follow in the footsteps of their father and work in a coal mine instead.

In North Hamgyong Province, because the coal deposit is relatively recent, the coal layers are weak, and if one digs deep, a lot of pressure develops. If the pressure is too high, the coal layers collapse, and mortal danger ensues.

Kim Kyu Hwan

"One day, my daughter came crying to me, saying that she could not get involved with a man, because she was the child of a South Korean POW. How could words describe the pain of a father?" said Oh, whose name has also been changed.

"I had lived my life as a broken man since my youth, because I was a POW, and then my offspring had to dwell on this agony again, how could I not be embittered?"

POWs were not only used as forced labor. While the war was still under way, they were often given North Korean uniforms and redeployed as soldiers to fight the other side, defectors said. Some were lucky enough to be taken prisoner by the South once more, and a policy of voluntary repatriation by the South Korean and US forces after the Armistice meant that they could remain there.

Choi Hee Kyung, daughter of a deceased South Korean POW, said she decided to flee North Korea because of the perpetual discrimination and contempt she faced there.

"North Korea never treated us as human beings. Since they could not just slaughter us, they chose to use us as sheer tools devoid of any humanity. We had no future and no freedom," Choi said.

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C O N T I N U E D : "We couldn't travel, study, or go to university, we couldn't live like human beings. Ever since I was born, until I fled North Korea, all I felt was grievance and frustration over the North Korean government's attitude toward me, and all I wanted to do was to live like a human being," she said.

Meanwhile, the remaining POWs are now into their 70s or 80s, with little time left to fulfill their lifelong dream of returning home.

Bae Young-Sook, the daughter of a deceased former POW, fulfilled her father's last wish to be buried in his hometown, and defected to South Korea carrying the urn containing her father's ashes.

"My father always said that if the two Koreas were reunified, he wanted me to visit his hometown, where fruit is plentiful and there is always enough to eat, asking me to bury whatever was left of his remains in his place of birth," she said.

"My father suffered through his entire life in North Korea and died of starvation, longing for his hometown in the South."

For its part, the North Korean government has said little about South Korean POWs under its control, essentially denying their existence.

"The South Korean authorities doggedly refuse the repatriation of unconverted long-term prisoners, calling for the 'exchange' of them for 'POWs of ROK [South Korean] army' and 'those abducted by the North,'" the official KCNA news agency said in a July 15, 1999 report.

"The DPRK has no one to be exchanged, except those who deserted the disgraceful army and joined the people's army to fight the enemy in the past Korean War and those who came over to the North of their own accord, cursing the South Korean society," it said.

Original reporting in Korean by Sookyung Lee. RFA Korean service director: Jaehoon Ahn. Translated and researched by Greg Scarlatoiu and edited by Sooil Chun.

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**The New York Times METRO Tuesday, May 30, 2006
Clyde Haberman, NYC**

AFTER 65 YEARS, A HERO'S MEDAL FINDS A HOME

Nine years of shoe-leather reporting, nine years of doggedness, nine years of bucking an unhelpful bureaucracy took J. Robert Lunney to the deck of an aircraft carrier off the coast of Croatia.

This is a Memorial Day tale, though the events occurred before the observance yesterday. It is a Memorial Day tale because it is about remembrance. And honor. And duty.

But first we must go way back, to Dec. 7, 1941, and the Japanese attack on the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor. No, better to go back to 1893 when Petar Tonic was born to a Croatian family in a Balkan village called Prolog, now in western Bosnia.

He journeyed as a young man to America. For a time, he lived in Queens. In 1917, he enlisted in the Army at Fort Slocum, N.Y., and a year later became an American citizen. As anyone born to an immigrant family knows, names can lose constancy when they cross-oceans. Petar became Peter. Tonic became Tonich, then Tomich.

Days after his discharge from the Army in 1919, Peter Tomich joined the Navy. That is the short version of how he came to be at Pearl Harbor, on the Utah, a former battleship in use as a training ship, when Japanese torpedoes struck. He was in charge of the engine room, with the rank of chief water tender.

The Utah capsized within minutes. While others abandoned ship, Chief Tomich heeded a different inner call. He raced below deck to keep the boilers from exploding and get his crewmen out. Most got away all right. Sixty-four did not. The chief was one of those 65.

Months later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest decoration for valor. It is a rarity these days. Only three medals have been given since the Vietnam War, all posthumously. Two were for actions in Somalia in 1993. The third is the only one to have come out of the war in Iraq: to Army Sgt. First Class Paul R. Smith of Florida, killed near the Baghdad airport on April 4, 2003.

Sergeant Smith had a wife, Birgit, who received his medal from President Bush last year. That is more than can be said about Chief Tomich. His only listed next of kin was a cousin in Los Angeles. No one could find the man.

And so his became the only Medal of Honor in the last 100 years never presented to a recipient or a surviving relative. It became a wanderer, put on display in various places, most recently at the Navy Museum in Washington.

Enter Mr. Lunney. Make that Rear Admiral Lunney. He is a lawyer in White Plains. He is also a Navy veteran of World War II vintage, and judge advocate general of the New York Naval Militia.

It troubled Admiral Lunney that a military tradition had been breached in the case of this onetime New Yorker, Peter Tomich. In 1997, he began a hunt for relatives, only to run into resistance from Navy bureaucrats in Washington pretty much every step of the way.

He went on his own dollar to Prolog. He interviewed villagers. He searched church records. Soon enough, he found Tomich relatives. They went by their clan name, Tonic. Yes, they said, they would be delighted, honored, to receive the medal.

Still the Navy balked, citing different spellings of the names and saying that the family connection had not been proved. Admiral Lunney took it to court, but lost. Then recently, after saying no for so long, naval officials relented, perhaps as a gesture to a friendly country, Croatia.

Twelve days ago, nine years after he got involved, Admiral Lunney found himself aboard the aircraft carrier Enterprise, anchored off the coast of Split, Croatia. There, with full Navy honors and plenty of brass on hand, the long orphaned medal found a home. It went to a distant cousin of Chief Tomich, Srecko Herzeg-Tonic, a military man himself, retired.

For the Tonic clan, it was an emotional moment. For Admiral Lunney, it was a triumph, tempered by the somber recognition that "a true naval hero sacrificed his life."

C O N T I N U E D

CONTINUED: The admiral's family joined him on the Enterprise. So did the commander of the New York Naval Militia, Rear Adm. Robert A. Rosen, who asked, "What makes a man, when the ship is hit with torpedoes and listing 40 degrees and sinking, what makes this simple and honest and straight-forward man stay at his duty station, chasing the people in his command to get out?"

Admiral Rosen did not pretend to have an answer. "That is what is remarkable in human nature," he said, that what we call valor "is done by people who seemingly are so ordinary on the outside."

Robert Lunney USN is a Korean War veteran who is a member of Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing. He is mentioned in a book called "Ship of Miracles", one of the greatest rescue operations in the history of mankind. If you have not read this book it is the story of 14,000 Korean lives running away from the North Korean army and one miraculous voyage in which Robert Lunney was a part of. His ship went through mine fields with 10,000 gallons of jet fuel aboard. Robert won the Navy Cross for his valor. I am so proud to have him as our member.

DNA Registry Unlocks Key to Fallen Servicemembers' Identities

by Donna Miles - American Forces Press Service

Deep within a nondescript warehouse in this Washington suburb lie millions of blood-smeared cardboard cards that hold the key to every servicemember's unique personal identity, captured in DNA. DNA is a substance within every person's cells that provides a personal blueprint, known as a DNA profile. Anyone who watches TV crime shows is likely to have seen police use a suspect's DNA profile to link him to a crime.

The Defense Department is using the same principle to ensure that if a soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman is ever killed in service, his or her remains will never go unidentified, explained James Canik, deputy director of the Department of Defense DNA Registry.

The goal, he said, is to never again have to bury a U.S. servicemember in a "Tomb of the Unknowns" or to keep families wondering about the fate of their loved ones.

"We're here for the families," Canik said during a joint interview yesterday with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel. "Our job, if a servicemember is killed, is to be sure we are able to identify them and get them home to their families."

DoD has been building its DNA registry since 1992, shortly after breakthroughs in DNA technologies made it feasible to use blood samples or saliva swipes to make positive identifications.

Since then, DoD has amassed the world's largest inventory of DNA samples -- adding the 5 millionth sample, from an airman based at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to its collection just yesterday. That's in addition to samples from deployable DoD civilians, as well as some State Department employees.

Canik explained the procedure that gets samples here from 1,200 collection sites around the world. Blood samples are collected from every servicemember who enters initial military training and often when troops undergo physicals and before they deploy overseas. They're smeared on a card with the servicemember's name, Social Security number and other identification, then shipped here to become part of the DNA registry.

In 2006 alone, almost 302,000 new samples arrived for storage. Technicians logged them in, vacuum sealed them in individual pouches to remove any air and keep out any contaminants, then stored them in a huge, two-story freezer set to minus 20 degrees.

Each specimen will remain in the inventory for 50 years, Canik said, unless a donor who has left the military and finished his or her service obligation asks to have it destroyed sooner.

Strict safeguards ensure the collection is used only for identification purposes, Canik said. Only twice in the last 16 years was the registry tapped by law enforcement, under special federal court orders for investigations involving felony crimes.

As another precaution, he said, samples in the DoD registry get "typed" only when the donor dies or in limited numbers for quality control. "We have very tight controls on these samples and how they are used," he said. "We go to great lengths to guard the privacy rights of our servicemembers."

While most specimens will remain untouched for the 50 years they are stored here, some will end up providing a vital key to identifying a servicemember's remains, particularly when identifications aren't possible using standard fingerprints or dental records, Canik explained.

"We pride ourselves in being like a group of firemen," he said. "We're there, and when the need arises, we answer the call."

The registry is particularly valuable in the cases of traumatic injuries, such as a plane crash or massive explosions, he said. In these cases, the people involved often can't be identified by other means, and several sets of remains may be mixed together.

"In many of those cases, DNA may be the lynchpin in making that identification," Canik said. "DNA becomes the sole tool we have so we can return them to their families."

Every time a U.S. servicemember is killed, pathologists at the Armed Forces Medical Examiner's Office in nearby Rockville, Md., pull the servicemember's DNA sample to confirm -- or reconfirm -- the identity, he said. The results usually are determined within 24 hours.

In addition to providing DNA samples to identify troops serving today, the DoD DNA Registry is helping to unlock the mystery of missing servicemembers from past conflicts, Canik said.

Working closely with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, with headquarters at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, the staff at the DNA Registry is applying new technology to help identify remains of troops killed during the Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II and even earlier conflicts.

One of the newest advances in DNA technology, using mitochondrial DNA that's stored in the body's cytoplasm, is proving particularly helpful in identifying remains that have degraded over time and due to environmental exposure, Canik said.

"When people ask what it's like to identify someone who died long before, I tell them that it's just like a current death case," he said.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED: "The loss and the emotion are all there, and you see families react in the same way, knowing that they're finally able to put things to rest."

Whether a servicemember died decades ago or within the last week, Canik said, there's a deep gratification in helping to bring answers to the families left behind.

"That's a driving force behind why we are here," he said. "It's never an easy situation, but the families deserve an answer. And we do our very best so that we can help bring them closure and, in some small way, some comfort."

MY FOUR BROTHERS AND ME **Harriet R. "Willy" Duran**

We grew up in a small town in a place called Besoco, West Virginia. Our father worked very hard to provide for all of us kids but it was hard trying to raise us back in the early thirties on a coal miners wages. After having four boys, my mother started thinking that maybe she would never have a baby girl. My mother was with child again and my oldest brother Don kept telling my mother to please just let him have a sister this time. On November 30, 1938 my mother finally gave birth to a baby girl. My mother told me that when I was born my oldest brother Don went to school telling every one that he now had a baby sister and no more boys would be born into the Trent family. Don would help my mother hang the baby girl's clothes on the clothes line so that everyone could see that he now had a baby sister. He was so very proud of me and he liked to show me off.

As we grew older, Don would help my mother with all of the rest of us kids. We moved away from the coal mines of Besoco and moved to a place called Crab Orchard, WV. By that time we were all in school and each and every morning as we headed off to school, my four brothers would put me in the middle of them and we would walk to school with them protecting me. When school was over for the day, we would all five start walking home from school. They guarded me as though I was something special. If something was going on that my brothers were interested in seeing, they would sit me down and tell me not to move and they would come back and get me. They would go watch a couple of boys in a fight and tell me that "girls wasn't suppose to watch things like that".

Time seemed to fly by and all five of us grew up together and loved doing things together. Don did not care for school very much and he would talk about joining the Army after he graduated from high school. In 1949 Don left the house for school. When the day passed and all of us kids were supposed to come home from school, Don didn't come home. By dinner time, both my parents were walking the floor wondering where Don was and why he hadn't come home from school. My parents got on the five party telephone line calling everyone that they knew of asking if Don had been at their house or did they see him at school that day. It seemed as if he just disappeared with out a trace. Finally my parents called the principal of the high school and ask him if he could check the school attendance record to see if Don was in school that day.

He called my parents back and told them that no Don did not attend school that day. My parents were just beside themselves with worry and were ready to call the police fearing that something terrible had happened to there oldest son. My father was going to call the police and just before he did the telephone rang and it was my brother telling my parents that he had run away and joined the Army and he did not want to come home. He told them that if he had to come home he would run away again and join the Army. His mind was set on becoming one of the Army troops. Although Don was under age, he told them he was 18 years old and so they took him at his word. Don was calling from Fort Knox, KY and he was in seventh heaven. What could my parents do? They talked about it and decided that maybe it was best to leave him in the Army. Don was so happy and he went through his boot training and so happy. All of my brothers missed him so much but I was so sad that my big brother who had watched out for me and protected me was gone and in the Army.

In 1950 there was talk about a war in Korea. My parents were so worried but what parents don't worry about there child who might have to go to war. As it turned out, my parents received a call from Don and he told them that he got orders to report to Fort Lewis, WA and that he was being sent to Korea. Don arrived in Korea in July. His group was one of the first ones sent to Korea. We heard from Don on a regular basis. Living in a small town like Crab Orchard everyone knew everyone and my parents told all of us kids and neighbors that if they saw a taxi cab coming up the dirt road to our house to make sure that if they weren't home to look for them because that would be bad news.

My mother had gone up the road to visit her brother and I was home alone. I saw a taxi cab stop in front of our house and I knew then that I had to get my mother home quickly. The driver of the cab ask for my parents and I told him to stay there and I would get my mother. She come running down the road and by then all of the neighbors had seen the taxi cab and they gathered around the front yard waiting for my mom to read the telegram. Don had been injured and was in a hospital in Japan. As it turned out, Don healed quickly from his injury and was sent back to Korea. By that time it was the end of September and the war was really raging on. Don would write to my parents and tell them not to worry but how can a parent not worry when one of their children is in some God forsaken place in a war. In November Don sent a letter to my father at his office so that mom wouldn't get the letter first and Don told our father that the men had been called up and told to get there insurance and all there papers in order because either the war was going to end or it was going to turn into a bigger war. Don told dad not to worry about him and he would be safe.

On November 27, 1950 about 8 o'clock there was a knock on the door and my dad went to the door and there stood a taxi cab driver. He told my dad that he had a telegram for him from the War Department. We all just gathered around our parents and my dad read the telegram and it said that Don was reported MIA and they had no idea where he was.

CONTINUED

C O N T I N U E D : It seemed like all of our world stopped turning and all we lived for was waiting for the Army to tell my parents that Don was either found or he was dead or MIA/POW. That year 1950 Christmas for us was the saddest time of our lives. My mother just stayed in tears, my dad was a nervous wreck and we kids just seemed to exist somehow.

As time went by, my parents tried to find out anything about my brother. We just had to hope and pray that he would show up on a list of POW's but he never did. By the time the war was ending in 1953 and they were exchanging POW's I think the entire community of Crab Orchard, WV was glued to their radios to listen to the POW's names being released and being turned over to the United States. We did hear a name Donald C. Trent but that young man was from Virginia instead of West Virginia. My parents thought that maybe a mistake was made in the state that young man was from but we found out real quick that it was not my brother. As the months and years passed, we knew nothing about my brother. We didn't know if he was a POW or what happened to him. After a certain time the service had to declare a serviceman dead and it seems to me that it was like seven years and my parents received a letter telling them that he was indeed dead. It is a terrible feeling to not know what happened and a parent keeps worrying and thinking that one day maybe he will just walk through the door.

Since my parents have passed away, I have received information that my brother was a POW and he was in Camp #5. He was taken prisoner on November 27th 1950 and he was marched from camp to camp until he ended up in camp # 5 or so that is what the Army says. Don is supposed to have died sometime in March of 1951. He wasn't listed on a MIA/POW list but after the war ended his name was found to be listed as being in Camp #5. Don had just turned 19 on October 29th 1950 and he died at Camp # 5 March 1951 or so the Army says.

I have had four brothers and now only one of them is living. Two of my brothers joined the service the day after they graduated from high school. The third brother joined the service as soon as he graduated so to say that I am proud of my brothers, I couldn't be more proud of them.

One thing that I don't understand is how our country hasn't really tried to find out what happened to our servicemen who have been MIA/POW's in the Korean War? Why haven't we received anything or there remains? What is being done to let the families know what is being done. Before I leave this world I would love to know what happened to my brother Don in Korea. I want his remains even if it is just a dog tag or one bone saying it is my brother Don. I want to give him the proper burial but most of all I want his remains returned to this country that he served to protect but so far nothing is being done to try and find his remains in North Korea. I have given my DNA so maybe when something is found, I can finally put my brother to rest. With this president that we now have, I don't believe he will sign papers so that the people who go into other countries looking for remains will be able to dig for remains up in North Korea. There should be money to pay for missions to bring our servicemen home to their families so that they might have the proper burial. I still miss my brother and I want him brought home before I die.

Chit Chat News By Irene L. Mandra

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Steve Golding, 50, after a long illness; Steve was an activist in the POW/MIA issue for many years. The POW/MIA community will sorely miss him.

Keep in your prayers and thoughts, Marie and Ray Murphy, for a speedy recovery.

As far as October 2007 family meeting in Washington DC this year, we will again be at the Double Tree at \$150.00 nightly room rate. This will be our last year at the Double Tree, and I look forward to better room rates for 2008. According to the survey that I took many months ago most members are content with the month of October for our family update in DC. I feel if we can get reasonable hotel rates, we would draw many more families. I sincerely hope that DPMO will work on this project so that we all can afford to attend the meeting.

Our fund raising brochures will be changed thanks to Debbe Petro; and our fundraiser Melody Raglin, will start looking for different avenues to pursue. Thanks again to the families that have been sending me the attendees list from the family outreach.

I wish to thank our membership lady Luann Neilson for sending all the newsletters out to these families, and also for getting our February newsletter's taped, folder and mailed.

I want to express an extra special Thank You to all the members who renewed AND to say that thanks to your extra generosity, we are able to send our Washington, DC, Liaison, Frank Metersky to DC for meeting and briefings. **Because of your generosity, Korea-Cold War Families Have A Voice!**

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays, there was no reprieve for Korea/Cold War Organization, we extended our office space; so moving, packing and painting were involved. I am still trying to get rid of old files, which will take weeks of work. The extra space has given us enough room for two printers, faxes, computers, and files. Hallelujah, I was getting claustrophobic in the tiny space that we had.

We have many projects that must be attended to for the year 2007, and one primary goal is to bring attention to the fact that many of the files at Nara concerning the Korean War have been pulled for NATIONAL SECURITY. This is a little hard to believe that security is involved with a war that took place fifty-six years ago. Why is it when it comes to live sighting reports those files are conveniently missing. I believe this is something that we must look into.

DPMO is having a meeting on February 15 for heads of Organizations and Veteran groups, our Washington liaison; Frank Metersky will attend. We will report on this meeting in our next newsletter.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE OF \$25.00 IN TO OUR PO Box 454, FARMINGDALE, NY 11735. ALONE WE CAN DO VERY LITTLE, TOGETHER MUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

POW/MIA Databases & Documents

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/powmia-home.html>

United States-Russia Joint Commission on POWs and MIAs and the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office Joint Commission Support Division Archival Documents Databases

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/tfr/>

Intelligencer Journal (Lancaster, PA) - December 14, 2006
She never forgot - By Larry Alexander
Woman gets closure for father, former MIA

The rotted remains of a left boot. A beaded chain. Some buttons. Crumpled foil from a pack of Lucky Strike cigarettes. A key manufactured in Lancaster by Slaymaker Lock Co. A moldy canvas-and-leather wallet holding a faded photograph. A single military dog tag.

These items, once carried by U.S. Army Master Sgt. Robert V. Layton, are all his daughter, Judith Saylor of Millersville, has to remember her father, personal belongings straight to her from a grave half a world away.

Missing in action in Korea since December 1950, Layton's skeletal remains, and the items buried with him, were returned to his family last month.

"It's closure for us at last," Saylor said Wednesday.

Living in Cincinnati at the time, Saylor was just 5 years old when her father left his wife, Helen, and two young daughters, Geraldine and herself, to fight in Korea. It would be Layton's second war.

Layton won a Bronze Star for valor in World War II and was wounded twice. His European campaign ribbon bears four battle stars. When North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950, Layton, either on his own or through a callback issued by the government, found himself back in uniform.

Assigned to the 37th Regimental Combat Team of the Army's 7th Division, Layton was among the United Nations forces that pushed the North Koreans back across the 38th parallel and kept pushing them north toward the Chinese border.

By November 1950, Layton and his comrades had reached the shores of the Chosin Reservoir. There, they fell victim to a surprise assault by Chinese troops, sent to bolster North Korean forces.

Fierce fighting and subzero temperatures took a severe toll. The 7th Division was surrounded but fought its way out, suffering 15,000 casualties.

One of these was Layton, who fell sometime between Nov. 27 and Nov. 29 in fighting on the reservoir's east side, between Pungnyuri Inlet and Hagaru-ri to the south.

Layton was declared missing in action Dec. 2, 1950 - and legally dead Dec. 31, 1953.

"Mother always felt like he was going to come home, but I think that's just a way of dealing with it," Saylor said.

For the next 50 years, there was no news of the husband and father, although there were some false alarms. Decades ago, the family saw a photograph of an American GI imprisoned in North Korea. The man closely resembled Layton, but it wasn't him.

Then, in the 1990s, a library in Cincinnati displayed a photograph of a prisoner named Robert Layton. However, it was soon discovered the man's middle name was different.

"They were about the same age," Saylor said. "They actually enlisted in the army about the same time, so those kinds of things fed our questions."

It was Saylor's sister Geraldine's persistent inquiries to the Pentagon's POW/MIA Office that finally paid off for the family.

In 2001, U.S. investigators began a careful excavation of a mass grave of American soldiers at Chosin Reservoir. The men buried there, at least 225 of them, had been interred by their comrades before the American withdrawal from the reservoir.

Layton's remains - along with those of three other men - were found in 2004 in a small grave near the mass grave. After being returned to Washington, Layton's remains were identified earlier this year through DNA analysis and dental records, and a letter was sent to Geraldine.

C O N T I N U E D : Unfortunately, Geraldine died in June, so her mother - Layton's 84-year-old widow - got the letter. She phoned Saylor.

At first it didn't seem real, Saylor said. But reality sank in last month when she, her husband, Bill, their two sons and her mother visited Arlington, Va.

There, they were presented with Layton's personal effects, including his wallet, which still contained a faded photo of his young wife and his mother. They also were allowed to view the remains in the casket and place letters, photos and other memorabilia inside.

"That's when I started getting choked up, because all of a sudden, it's real, and it made him more human," said Saylor, whose last memory of her father was a trip to the Cincinnati Zoo just before he left for overseas.

Saylor said her mother was more shaken by the news than Saylor had anticipated.

"It stirred up a lot more than she thought it was going to," Saylor said. "She got real shaky."

She said her mother was wracked with self-recrimination, wondering if she could have been a better wife or if she should have written him more often.

"We told her that's not why he's dead," Saylor said. "It was war, and a lot of men died."

Layton was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on Nov. 28 - 56 years, possibly to the day, that he died.

Finally knowing her father's fate has eased a burden for Saylor.

"To know that he died in combat, that it was quick, that he was buried with some respect, that he was not tortured, and to have him buried at Arlington with respect," she said, "that means a lot."

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December 05, 2006 :: JPAC, said preliminary identification based on artifacts gathered at an excavation site in Korea reveal that remains found most likely belong to U.S. Army Pfc. Everett D. Schenk, MIA July 1953.

"From the battle site, we recovered remains, and have the names of guys in the unit. Some of them had wallets, dog tags, something that determined who they were."

November 29, 2006 :: A Cincinnati soldier identified partly through dental records and a 1944 newspaper clipping found in his billfold was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, more than a half-century after he was killed in action in North Korea.

Master Sgt. Robert V. Layton was among 225 members of an Army battalion killed by Chinese forces at Chosin Reservoir and buried in a mass grave some time between Nov. 27 and Dec. 1, 1950. The battalion had to retreat and listed Layton, 26, as missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950.

Layton was buried in a ceremony attended by his daughter, Judith Saylor of Millersville, Pa., and other family members, said Larry Greer, spokesman for the Pentagon's POW-MIA office.

S.Korean Consulate 'Failed POWs' Families' :: Nine family members of long-term prisoners of war in North Korea were sent back to the North after a South Korean consulate in China failed to protect them. The Consulate in Shenyang has already been given an official warning over its offhand response when kidnapped fisherman Choi Uk-il asked for help there last month. The Monthly Chosun published Thursday reports that nine relatives of three POWs were arrested by Chinese police only a day after they checked into a guesthouse near the consulate.

KOREA-Cold WAR Families of the Missing, Inc.
PO Box 454
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735 USA

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

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*Address: STREET - _____

*City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

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

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