

THE FRONT PAGE

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



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

SEND TO:

AUGUST 2008 ISSUE #21
POW-MIA WE REMEMBER!

2008 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2008

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

- **2008 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2008 •**

- **August 23 - Salt Lake City, UT •**

- **October 16-18 Korean/Cold War Government Briefings, Washington D.C. •**

- **November 15 - San Diego, CA •**

NATIONAL POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19th, 2008

Casualty Assistance (Air Force Personnel Center) 800-531-5501 • Casualty Assistance (U. S. Army) 800-892-2490
Casualty Assistance (U.S. Navy) 800-443-9298 • Casualty Assistance (USMC) 800-847-1597

House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Hearing:

On Thursday, June 10th, 2008, the HASC, Military Personnel Subcommittee, convened a Hearing on oversight and status of POW-MIA activities. DASD Ambassador Charles Ray (DPMO) and Rear Admiral Donna Crisp Commander JPAC) presented prepared statements and answered questions about Government efforts and funding until 2013.

We see this as a first step towards more in-depth Hearings into the issue of America's abandoned POWs, unaccounted-for MIAs and unrecovered KIAs. Stay Tuned.

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).

Congressional Contacts:

<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>
US Senate : <http://www.senate.gov/>
House : <http://www.house.gov/>
White House: <http://www.house.gov/>

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**Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing
&
National Alliance of POW/MIA Families:**

**President Bush: Make North Korea Return U.S. GIs, Not Just Japanese,
Family Groups Want No More Concessions Without Accounting for U.S. POW/MIAs,
Current U.S. Push Only For Japanese Abductees, Not Americans**

Bellevue, Washington (June 30, 2008) As the U.S. government marches toward improved relations with North Korea, it is ignoring one of its most important obligations – requiring North Korea to account for over 8,000 American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action from the Korean War (1950-3.) The leading groups representing family members of the captured and missing and concerned veterans and citizens are calling on the Bush Administration to demand answers from North Korea immediately -- before any more concessions are granted.

After the end of the war, the United States government demanded an accounting for hundreds of Americans reported captured by the enemy but never returned or accounted for, plus thousands of missing men whose fates are a total mystery. The North Koreans and their Chinese allies refused to provide any credible response. In 1957, a “Sense of the Congress” resolution was passed that stated an accounting and/or return of U.S. POWs and MIAs from Korea should be “a primary objective of the foreign policy of the United States.” In recent years, escapees from North Korea have described seeing men they believe were U.S. prisoners and North Korean officials have mentioned the presence of living “survivors” or “war criminals” from the conflict. Pentagon investigators have also uncovered evidence supporting wartime claims that U.S. prisoners were shipped from North Korea to secret prisons in China and the Soviet Union, from which they never returned. Just two weeks ago, a Chinese government report was revealed that admitted -- breaking 50 years of Chinese and North Korean denials -- Sgt. Richard Desautels was taken from North Korea to China, where Beijing now claims his remains cannot be found. (View fact sheet on US POW/MIAs in North Korea at www.nationalalliance.org/koreapowfacts.htm).

“The United States must not drop North Korea as a ‘State Sponsor of Terrorism’ until it takes a significant first step in accounting for our lost heroes and agrees to a detailed program of accounting for American POWs and MIAs, starting with those captured alive but not returned at the end of the war and the ‘survivors’ and ‘war criminals’ mentioned by the North as remaining alive after the war,” said the National Alliance of Families for the Return of America’s Missing Servicemen (National Alliance of Families/NAF) and Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing.

“My father would be astonished to know North Korea has been dropped from ‘Trading with the Enemy’ status and is now poised to get other major diplomatic concessions with absolutely no requirement to account for him and his lost colleagues,” said Bill Sowles, son of Korean War POW/MIA SFC Lewis Sowles, who disappeared in North Korea during 1950.

Despite this, current negotiations with North Korea do not include U.S. POWs and MIAs. Instead, the U.S. has focused on accounting for Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea. Last week, President Bush stated: “The United States will never forget the abduction of Japanese citizens by the North Koreans. We will continue to closely cooperate and coordinate with Japan and press North Korea to swiftly resolve the abduction issue.”

The POW/MIA family groups strongly support an accounting for Japanese abductees, but call upon President Bush and Congress to honor America’s promise to its lost heroes, our Prisoners and Missing from the Korean War.

Contact:

Irene Mandra --- Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing—(516)694-0989 – email -- imandra@optonline.net

Lynn O’Shea ---- National Alliance of POW/MIA Families – (718) 846-4350 – email – lynn@nationalalliance.org

Press Release

For Immediate Release: June 30, 2008

Latest Statistics May 2008 - Korean War

8,057 TOTAL MISSING

4,140 MIA
2,036 POW
1,783 KIA
98 Non-Battle Death

Branch Of Service: Of the Missing

6,212 USA
910 USAF
656 USMC
279 USN

U.S., South Korean Divers Looking For War Dead In Han River - May 20, 2008

Benjie Telleron - AHN News Writer
Seoul, South Korea (AHN) - Teams of divers from the U.S. and South Korea begun scouring the Han River here on Monday to look for remains of American servicemen killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The search was the first initiative since the war, which ended in a truce. An estimated 8,100 U.S. servicemen were missing after the war, many of them believed to be in North Korea.

The divers consist of 13 members from the U.S. and 10 from South Korea.

South Korean Army Col. Park Shin-Han said that the U.S. divers are equipped with sonar and a magnetometer. The U.S. team hopes to find the wreckage of three planes that crashed into the river during the war.

Focus of the dive is a U.S. F-2F Tigercat fighter jet which was shot down and crashed into the river in September 1950. Two American airmen were on board the aircraft.

H. Res. 111

Although House Resolution 111 is presently stalled in the Congress, that does not mean it is dead. Winning requires a state of mind to succeed; when we express our need to our Representatives in the Congress and they act on that by Cosponsoring H. Res. 111 we are making headway. The obstacle to success is from Nancy Pelosi, she does not want any additional "Select Committees" this congress; this congress ends in January 2009 less than seven months away.

The problem is, if we do get a committee now, before the Congress goes on recess in August, we would have a committee that would only exist for less than six months. This includes the time congressmen/women are busy running for reelection in November.

However, I am working, in the hope that if we don't get the committee this congress, we will get it early the next congress. So do not despair. Our job is to make it happen.

So don't call in complaint to Pelosi's office; call or write to her in concern and express the need for this POW/MIA committee. You don't have to like her for not allowing H. Res. 111 to proceed to a vote for this committee, but we want her to allow the committee in the next congress. It will have a different number assigned, but will be basically the same.

This resolution, has been in every republican and democratic congress since 1996 [under different numbers]. She is the one we have to deal with now.

Chit Chat News By Irene L. Mandra August 2008

Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing sent a condolence card to Keith & Carolyn Maupin over the loss of their son from the Iraq War. If you recall the news story about this terrible tragedy.

Matt Maupin was captured in Iraq and two years later his remains were found. I thought you might like to read the Thank You card our organization received.

"Staff Sergeant Keith "Matt" Maupin served his country with pride and dignity and gave his life in the pursuit of freedom. Our family deeply appreciates your thoughts, efforts, generosity and kind expressions of sympathy in our great loss.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Keith and Carolyn Maupin"

I am sure all of you can sympathize with this family having loss a loved one in War.

Warrior Ethos

***I will always place the mission first
I will never accept defeat
I will never quit
I will never leave a fallen comrade***

GET WELL WISHES FOR OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Pat Dickinson
Carolyn L Tisdale
Joe McNulty
Nick Graziano
Chuck Henley

It's with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our member and friend Nancy Lovell Dean. Nancy and I were board members of the first Korea/Cold War family organization, which originated in Texas in 1992. She has been active in the issue and wrote many articles on the subject. We say good-bye to our advocate, at last she will be with her MIA Father. God needed another star in the sky, so he called our Nancy to the heavens.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Colonel Earl P. Hopper, USA (ret.). Earl was the father of POW-MIA LT Earl P. Hopper, Jr., he was head of Task Force Omega, former Chairman and founding member of the National League of POW-MIA Families, and a veteran of 3 wars - WW II, Korea and Vietnam. Earl was a tireless advocate and activist who will be missed beyond words. To his beloved wife and companion, Patty, and the rest of the Hopper family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

"Wrong no one by intentional or careless injury, nor by partial omission of duty or truth."

"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid, one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory."
General Douglas MacArthur



IN MY OPINION
by IRENE L. MANDRA

Dear Members,

So very much has happened the past months.

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, I went to Hawai'i with a group of members, in April 2008. We attended the Ex-POW dinner and the following day, we had a meeting at JPAC, and both events were most gratifying. I brought back reports from Rear Admiral Crisp that I thought you would like to read. The Admiral is asking families to mail pictures of your MIA loved one to JPAC to help with the identification process. Another point that should be looked at is that all files pertaining to our missing should be in one depository so that it would be easily attainable.

Our Board of Directors, and I asked Admiral Crisp to consider moving the identification laboratory to the main land. JPAC has such a shortage of personnel that if the lab was located on the main land, I feel this problem will be solved. We all know the cost of living in Hawai'i is much too high, and that is the reason we cannot find anthropologists to fill the vacancies.

JPAC is looking into the cost of moving the lab and a good location to do the work. We had hoped to hear about our suggestion by now but so far we don't have a positive answer on whether it's a go or not.

There are no words to express the warmth and attention we received from the members at JPAC. We were treated like family. It was truly a memorable experience, and visiting the National Cemetery of the Pacific, the Punch Bowl, is a life long memory.

We thank the EX-POWs for their gracious reception and we wish to especially thank Marty (Shorty) Esterbrook for his kindness and thoughtfulness. He certainly made our evening.

In the next column and facing page are the comments from JPAC that I thought you would like to read.

Recovery and Identification of unaccounted-for servicemen from the Korean War: The CIL perspective.

1. Scope and scale of the problem: over 8100 men missing. Approximately 6000 north of the MDL and approximately 2000 south of the MDL. An unknown number within the bounds of the DMZ. Over 800 men (10%) are buried as unknowns in the Punchbowl Cemetery. Remains of over 600 men are currently being analyzed in the CIL.

2. Approaches to resolving the problem: A. historical research, B. Field Investigations, C. Recovery operations, D. Laboratory analyses.

3. Challenges:

A. Historical documents are "fragmented" and spread across many repositories. They are not well-studied and not organized in a manner that supports our efforts.

B. Many of the men missing in South Korea are missing due to errors in the original paperwork. A contributor to this problem was the inaccuracy of the maps in use during the war.

C. The war was nearly 60 years ago. The number of surviving witnesses available for interview is diminishing rapidly. Witnesses include both American veterans and Korean citizens who know where Americans were buried.

D. The pace of development in South Korea is accelerating.

E. Access to North Korea is currently denied, but has always been problematic even when granted.

F. North Korean site tampering adds difficulty to our efforts. Many of the remains we have recovered, though not all, have been warehoused prior to excavation by the US teams.

G. The North Koreans have not permitted us to work many of the sites where we believe Americans were left behind.

H. Personnel records for the Korean War missing are often insufficient to support the identification effort. For example, some individuals have no medical or dental records. For many more, the records exist but as a poor copy of the original.

I. Most of our Korean War accessions contain commingled human remains. These cases require significantly greater analytical skill and time on the part of the forensic anthropologists. They also require many more DNA samples which taxes AFDIL in addition to the CIL.

J. The 208 boxes of remains unilaterally turned over to us in the early 1990's—known to us as the "K208"—are extensively commingled and have at best vague location data with them.

K. Analysis of Korean War cases requires large analytical spaces in which to lay out remains and keep them out until analysis is complete.

L. The numerous accessions from the Korean War, which likely include over 600 individuals, would benefit from a larger number of experienced forensic anthropologists on staff than we currently have.

M. Cases from the Punchbowl will not currently support DNA testing, though AFDIL is working on solutions to this problem.

N. The large number of missing from the Korean War limits the power of mitochondrial DNA testing.

O. New research is needed to develop identification methods that will resolve Korean War cases.

P. FRS's are desperately needed.

4. Solutions:

A. Continue to obtain FRS's from the families of the missing.

B. Greatly expand the analytical space of the lab.

C. Increase the number and quality of forensic anthropologists.

D. Continue research & development projects to add new identification methods to the toolkit.

E. Increase the number and quality of historical researchers dedicated to the Korean War.

F. Continue the trend to increase field operations in South Korea.

G. Continue to develop a working relationship with the ROK military.

H. Resolve the site tampering and freedom of movement problems at next round of negotiations with the North Koreans.

All of these solutions are easier said than done.

More From Irene : A major effort has been underway to insure H. Res. 111 becomes a reality - Hearings into the issue of our beloved brothers, fathers and sons who never came home from the Korean War or their missions during the Cold War.

As of this writing, 280 Co-Sponsors have signed on. Unfortunately, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has refused to allow the measure to move forward. Considering that much time is needed to properly prepare for these Hearings, that this is a major election year with the attention of so many Members of Congress focused on the election in general and re-election in particular, it looks like we will have to wait until the new term begins, January 2009. The House Armed Services Committee Hearing on July 10th was NOT an acceptable replacement for full-blown Hearings on this issue.

It has been 11 years since anyone in Congress did anything meaningful on getting to the bottom of this issue - asking hard questions, getting some serious answers.

I assure you all that Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing will be at the forefront of this endeavor. We will keep you posted in subsequent newsletters. Stay tuned.

On The Hill - by Frank Metersky Washington, DC Liaison

RUSSIA--The US and Russia are still going back and forth about a Diplomatic Note requested by the Russian side from US requesting access to their archives. All archive access relates to resolving Korean War MIA's. This all should play out in the next few months and we finally see if the Russians really mean to cooperate

CHINA--A JPAC team will finally go to the Dandong site to work on the Korean War B 29 shoot down in MAY/JUNE and ADM Crisp from JPAC will accompany the team. They are still working on the details with China for the US to gain access to their Korean War PLO archives

SOUTH KOREA--I set of remains recovered from the most recently completed investigative operation in South Korea--something they did not expect to happen -- more remains will be recovered in South Korea from future operations as a full set of operations are completed this year for the first time.

An investigative team maybe installed for extended period for the first time in South Korea because of the Joint Forensic Review agreement with South Korea --will keep you all advised re this

NORTH KOREA--Nothing is happening due to the lack of progress on the nuclear issue and it looks as if we will not see anything until a new President is elected as this White House will not allow DPMO to engage North Korea

Today in the Department of Defense, Thursday, July 10, 2008

Commander Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Charles A. Ray testify at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee on oversight and status of POW-MIA activities at 2 p.m. EDT in room 2212 Rayburn House Office Building.

Honoring Their Sacrifices

As we look upon this hallowed ground...

And pay tribute to them all...

We show our deep respect...

By standing fast and tall!

They didn't die for conquest...

Like critics often say...

They died to keep us free...

That's why we're here today!

So listen to your hearts...

And you may hear them say...

"We'd do it all again...

To save the U.S.A.!"

These warriors who now lie here...

Were much like you and me...

And knew without their sacrifice...

We could have ceased to be!

They had their hopes and dreams...

Like all of us today...

And though some never lived them...

They passed them down our way!

That's why we stand before them...

And honor them each year...

For without their love of freedom...

Who knows if we'd be here?

From Cold War Family Member - Charlotte Busch Mitnik

The Honorable Patrick Murphy
United States House of Representatives

June 26, 2008

Dear Congressman Murphy:

I am a sister of a POW/MIA since June of 1952, and a KIA WWII. I am on the Board of Directors of The Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing. My experience with the Department of Defense has not been satisfactory. They have over the years told my family and many families of the missing, lies half truths and given misinformation. The government wrote us letters that were filled with condescending rhetoric, which was sometimes hard to take. For more than fifty-six years all we have ever wanted was the truth about our loved ones. We just want closure.

It is my understanding that on July 10, 2008 that The Armed Services Committee, Military Personnel Subcommittee will hold hearings on the Oversight and Status of POW/MIA Activities.

There are so many questions that need to be answered. For example:

(1) Why did DPMO withhold information that the Chinese acknowledged taking POWs into China? DPMO is not required to make this information available to Family groups or the public. True. In the specific case of S/Sgt. Richard Desautels, China admitted taking prisoner in 1953. Chinese authorities gave Pentagon officials intriguing new details about Desautels in a March 2003 meeting in Beijing, saying they had found "a complete record of 9-10 pages" in classified archives. The overall information on China's acknowledgment of the movement of POWs to China impacts all Korean War POW/MIA families. The public needed to be informed. And they were not. It was found in the Archives June 24, 2008, by a private citizen.

(2) Why didn't DPMO think that information was important enough to make public? And why didn't they pursue the issue of other POW/MIAs that were taken to China?

(3) Has The White House or Members of Congress approached you about requirements for North Korea to account for our POWs before giving major concessions to North Korea this summer? If not, Why not? At this moment, the Bush Administration is only requiring an Account for Japanese abductees- not American POWs. Does the Administration feel as if Japanese abductees are more important than American POWs?*** Family organization can provide all the information they need showing North Koreans have many more answers than the have given.

At the end of the Korean War the United States went to great lengths to ensure that North Korean soldiers, who had been captured or surrendered DID NOT HAVE TO RETURN TO COMMUNIST NORTH KOREA, if they did not want to. The U.S. went the extra mile to protect the lives and well being of those individuals.

However the U.S. did not do the same with respect to American POW and MIAs. Our government was well aware that North Korea had not returned all our POW when the armistice was signed. This was confirmed by both U. S. Intelligence and reports of returning POWs who reported men held with them were not returned.

(4) Over the years there have been live sightings of men by South Koreans who have escaped from capture in North Korea. Why hasn't the debriefing of these men been made public? Why is it some of the returning South Korean POWs' statements classified?

CONTINUED

In 1996, Insung Lee an analyst with the Defense POW/MIA Office concluded "There are too many sighting reports, specifically observations of several Caucasians in a collective farm by Romanians," and the North Korean defectors' eyewitness of Americans in DPRK9 (N.Korea) to dismiss, that there are no American POWs in North Korea. One of those reports is less than 10 years old. Another POW was seen alive as recent as 2000.

(5) In 1996, Lee was careful to distinguish between the known deserters living in North Korea and Actual P.O.Ws. Yet, the reports of captive Americans too numerous to ignore remain ignored. Why? (After this report Lee no longer remained with DPMO) Why? *

DPMO has the propensity, for whatever reasons to debunk live sightings. It is not just my theory, but those of many family members. There have been several books and articles written about this tactic of this office. Instead of proving eye witnesses theory, they ridicule them.*

(6) What directives are given, analysts in regards the handling of live sightings? Who hands down these directives? The White House, JCS, Secretary of Defense? Or the State Department?

(7) The last Plenum of the USRJC was June 28-29, 2005. Has there been any communication between President Bush and President Putin and/or General Shamanov on the subject recently? What actions have been taken by JCSD, as the Investigation Branch of the Commission, and the research division of DPMO, to obtain declassification of documents concerning the Cold War shoot downs held in the intelligence archives of the U.S.? (:NSA, NSC, CIA, DoS, DIA, SAC, USN, and USAF.

(8) The Russian side of the Commission is in the process of being reconstituted. How long has this been happening? What efforts are being made by DPMO restart the Commission?

During DPMO existence, it was subject to two investigations that I know. The first was a "White Paper" prepared by the Inspector General, DOD in 1995. The second is the still secret Mission Area Analysis, done by the Asner Corp. The conclusion of the 1995 White Paper was, that the organization lacked well-defined missions and tasks, a planning system to see that major goals were accomplished, and a stable organizational structure that supported effective management." Family members have seen little change in all these years.

Ambassador Ray and Admiral Crisp are very new to DPMO and JPAC. Admiral Ray has been with the office for approximately two years, and Admiral Crisp less than a year. Mr. Norman Kass, head of the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD,) had been with DPMO since 1992. I think he would have more insight into the problems.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support on HR111. Unfortunately it is stalled in the House Rules Committee. This is because of Speaker Pelosi's reluctance to allow any additional Select committees during the congressional session. I hope your hearings are not a substitute for HR111. There is so much that needs to be heard.

Thank you, for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Busch Mitnik

*Perfidy

*Resignation Letter of Col. Mike Peck

*Soldiers of Misfortune

*An Enormous Crime

** Attachment

** Attachment

***Do you, Congressman and your Sub Committee agree with the Bush Administration that resolving the cases of Japanese abductees is more important in improving relations with North Korea than the accounting of our American GIs known to have been held in North Korea but never released? If not, please do not let allow the administration to continue their blatant actions towards our America POWs.

IDENTIFICATIONS

Sgt. Gene F. Clark, U.S. Army, of Muncie, Ind. Clark was reported missing on Nov. 2, 1950 and was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

Sgt. John H. White, U.S. Army, of Long Island, Ala. White was reported missing on Nov. 2, 1950, and was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

Sgt. 1st Class W.T. Akins, U.S. Army, of Decatur, Ga. Akins was reported missing on Nov. 2, 1950 and was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

Cpl. Steven Lucas, U.S. Army, of Johnson City, N.Y.

On Nov. 29, remnants of his team began fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the Chosin Reservoir. Lucas never made it to the lines at Hagaru-ri and was last seen on Nov. 30.

Coupon Clippers Support Our Troops

The Air Force Sergeants Association International Auxiliary (AFSA) is clipping, collecting and shipping national brand coupons to U.S. Military bases in the Middle East, Germany, Japan and elsewhere. Military families in overseas commissaries use the coupons. Even expired coupons are accepted at the commissaries up to six months after the expiration date. If you are a clipper, consider sending coupons for baby product, especially diapers, and formula, cleaning supplies, pet food, and over the counter medicines and beauty and health aids to: Nancy Roberts, Coupon Coordinator, AFSA Auxiliary Chapter 102, 10412 Mountain Quail Road, Silver Springs, MD 20901-1657. Questions? Contact Andrea Sanford 800-638-0594X232 or marketing@hqafsa.org

Honor Our Prisoners & Missing & Show Your Support

Delicate 3/4" by 1 1/4" memorial pins, blue bowed head and ribbon border with gold tone metal. Price: \$5.50 each includes shipping and handling.

To order:
Send check or money order to:
Korean Cold War
12966 Daisy Blue Mine Rd
Nevada City, Ca 95959

Need information? eMail Melody at: raglinmia@yahoo.com



China Needs to be Honest About American Prisoners

The U.S. government needs to press China for a fuller accounting of its treatment of prisoners of war from the Korean War. Last week's revelation China buried an Army sergeant in 1953 on its soil demands it.

China long has said no American POWs were moved to Chinese territory from North Korea. Our own government had concerns just after the Korean War ended not all POWs came home. Over the years, though, the official line evolved and the American public was told all POWs China held were returned.

Last week's news, which actually was known by U.S. military leaders in 2003, proves that isn't the truth. We now know at least one, Army Sgt. Richard G. Desautels, of Vermont, was. He was captured in 1950 and was known to have been held in a camp in North Korea. Other reports say he was moved to China, then back to North Korea in 1952. The information China gave to the Pentagon in 2003 said Desautels died in 1953 and was buried in Shenyang, China. With thousands of American troops still unaccounted for, are we realistically to believe Desautels was the only American taken to China and the only one to die there? We don't know the answer to that question, but that is the point. We don't know.

That's why our government needs to press China for more information. There are thousands of families who deserve to know the truth.

We call on our servicemen and servicewomen time and again to protect our country, protect our allies and protect our interests. Sometimes that means putting them in harm's way. And, sometimes that means American soldiers can be taken prisoner.

These brave men and women deserve to know our country will not abandon them and will do everything to ensure they are returned home. In the case of Korean War POWs, it would appear we have to ensure the bodies of the fallen are brought back.

They deserve no less.

BACKGROUND:

June 22, 2008 - China Admits a Korean War POW Was Buried in China - Richard Desautels, who was captured in North Korea in 1950, was reported by Communist China to have perished in 1953, after being TRANSFERRED to China.

June 25, 2008 - President Bush angers POW-MIA families and advocates over his remarks, "I will never forget the abduction issue. I fully understand Japan's concerns and would like to continue close cooperation with Japan." although deeply concerned about Japan's abductees, President Bush has said NOTHING about American POWs and MIAs also in the hands of the Communist North Koreans.

June 26, 2008 - President Bush's remarks on North Korea - "The six-party talks are based on a principle of "action for action." So in keeping with the existing six-party agreements, the United States is responding to North Korea's actions with two actions of our own: First, I'm issuing a proclamation that lifts the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act with respect to North Korea. And secondly, I am notifying Congress of my intent to rescind North Korea's designation as a state sponsor of terror in 45 days."

From the National Alliance of Families: June 2008

NAF Annual forum was held At the Holiday Inn in Crystal City. Their forum consisted of many speakers concerning Korea. DPMO held their briefing in the morning. Prior to DPMO's appearance the National Alliance posed the following questions.

DASD Ambassador Ray
Representing DPMO - Melinda Cooke, Norm Kass, Phil O'Brien Gary Snowdan

Dear Ambassador Ray:

- 1) Does DPMO believe the Communists retained living American POW/MIAs (as opposed to the "Turncoats") after the war ended? If so, which of these countries held them: DPRK, PRC, USSR or other?
- 2) Please provide a description of DPMO's efforts to resolve the fate of Americans LKA in Communist hands during the Korean War and/or those for whom the North Koreans likely have additional information (such as those whose identification media are in North Korean hands.)
- 3) Is there a list of Americans about whom the DPRK should be expected to have additional information? If so, can you share this list with us?
- 4) Please describe DPMO efforts to collect information on Americans who may have been held in North Korea after the war: for example, is there an active tasking to debrief all North Korean escapees, including former ROK POWs? Have the pertinent ROK government organizations searched their files and provided information on this topic?
- 5) Can you please comment on DPMO's analysis of the following widely publicized sightings and information sources:
 - Those by DPRK escapee Oh Young Nam, who according to the New York Times (9/8/1996) stated that from 1983-93 he had repeatedly seen 20-30 men he was told were American POWs. Former DPMO Director Liotta was quoted in the article as saying "We are continuing to investigate several reports to corroborate information suggesting there may still be American prisoners from the Korean War being held in North Korea."
 - The "Oprica/Tomescu" sighting
 - The repeated statements by DPRK escapee Kim Yong (living in Los Angeles during recent year) that he saw Caucasians said to be American and British POWs at 18 at Deukchang in South Pyongan province in 1996 and that they were described "American POW's who were captured near Jang-jin Lake in South Hamkyong Province during the Korean War."
 - The report from DPRK escapee Kim Yong-Hwa that he spent 40 days with an American POW named "John Smith" at the Taechon Airfield during 1971 (U.S. Joint Forces Command was reportedly investigating this sighting during 1996)
 - The various reports cited in the DPMO "In-Sung Lee Memo," which DPMO stated were being followed up during 1996
 - Debriefs with Charles Jenkins
- 6) Can you please update the status of live sightings in the DPRK, including those referenced in Annex A to this letter (DPMO "Classified Generic Case Files" for Korea, last updated in Oct. 2006) and provide us with copies of these reports (if necessary, with the classified information redacted).
- 7) What is the U.S. government's position on what the DPRK must do to resolve the POW/MIA issue before a) Pyongyang is dropped from the terrorism list; b) trade and other sanctions are lifted and/or c) a peace treaty is concluded? They did not answer these questions to my satisfaction.

They said they would respond in writing at a future date.

Update on HR. 111: There is much doubt that it will be presented this session. Speaker Pelosi is holding it up for unknown reasons. Kim Yong , a North Korean escapee, spoke on U.S. Foreigners and Korean citizens in the N. Korean prison system. June Cha and Izumi Asano spoke of Korean War abductees . Bill Sowels son of SFC Lewis Sowels, Serban Oprica and others who saw men believed to be American POWs in N. Korea.

A joint statement on U.S foreign policy was discussed by Suzanne Scholte Chairman of the N Korean Freedom Coalition. The following statement was drafted by the following organizations: Groups Speaking Out for the "Captives of North" June 20, 2008; Crystal City, Virginia

Some call the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the DPRK, or North Korea) a "prison state" and reports of its brutal internal security system have shocked the conscience of the world. For more than six decades, untold numbers of the "Captives of North Korea" have languished in the nation's vast prison system.

North Korea has [held captive private citizens instead of imprisoned international kidnapping victims} from a range of countries, including Japan; families and other civilians taken north from South Korea during the Korean War; U.S. servicemen known to have been alive in North Korean prison camps but never returned at the end of the conflict; Republic of Korea prisoners-of-war, some who've escaped in recent years with evidence of yet more of their colleagues alive in captivity; and the DPRK's own people, thousands of whom have been sentenced to prison for political offenses that violate the most basic international human rights standards.

Despite these outrages, the United States Government today pursues a policy that promises North Korea its most prized objectives while failing to require it to account for those it has imprisoned. To be sure, the U.S. goal of reducing North Korea's nuclear capabilities is a crucial one. However, we the undersigned and many U.S. experts do not believe the effort to resolve the nuclear issue precludes progress on the prisoner issue. Indeed, the Government of Japan, with an intense interest in limiting North Korea's nuclear arsenal, has also made the recovery of its kidnap victims an important priority, winning the release of some and maintaining pressure on North Korean to reveal the truth about the rest.

In this spirit, the undersigned call upon the U.S. government to make progress on the Captives of North Korea a key element of improved relations with North Korea. The DPRK must not be dropped from the list of "state sponsors of terrorism" unless it accounts for instead of if it refuses to take action to account for its hostages and reform a domestic security system that, in its abuse of political prisoners, stands as a definition of "terrorism" used to intimidate those at home and abroad. Similarly, we believe North Korea(delete n)cannot in good faith be removed from the "Trading with the Enemy Act" when it refuses to account for Americans it once imprisoned and continues to hold South Korean soldiers from the military that fought side-by-side with us during the Korean War. Finally, we call for (suggest we delete this: dramatic first steps and because we are only asking what a civilized society should demand) a comprehensive, verifiable process for resolving the issue of the Captives of North Korea to be part of any negotiations to establish a peace treaty between North Korea and the United States. The enormous sacrifice of American, South Korean and U.N. troops to keep Korea free cannot be slighted by a peace treaty that ignores the freedom and accounting of U.S., South Korea, North Korean, Japanese and international prisoners.

Signed:
: National Alliance of Families
: North Korean Freedom Coalition
: Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing
: Korean War Abductees Family Union/Research Institute
: ReAch/Japanese Rescue Movement
: 318 Initiative
Other speakers were Charlotte Mitnik , K.C.W. Lynn O'Shea, Dolores Alford, NAF, Top Holland, Veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam , and Roger Hall giving an overview of the U.S. and R.O.K. issue.

CONTINUED

May 1, 2008

**Admiral Donna L Crisp
310 Worchester Avenue
Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5530**

Dear Admiral Crisp:

On behalf of Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing I wish to thank you for your most gracious reception given to my members and me. There are no words to describe the warm and welcoming attitude we received upon our arrival at JPAC.

We deeply appreciate the effort that you and your staff took with our long and fruitful table discussions and we were enlightened by your idea as far as personnel shortages. My director and I were quite impressed by your enthusiasm and willingness to listen to our ideas.

The fact that at this point we have people looking into the possibly of JPAC identification lab being moved to the mainland is something my organization has been pushing for two years now. At last we will find out the viability of such a move.

We wish to thank all the people involved with the wonderful tour of the lab, Johnnie Webb, Dr. Tom Holland, Stephen Thompson, Capt. Marcus, and Dr. Byrd. We appreciate all the time these wonderful dedicated men gave to our group.

Most of all Admiral Crisp, we are delighted that you have come on board, if we had the ability to pick whom we wanted to head JPAC, we would look no further than yourself. We are so pleased to have you with us. Thank you again for your warm demeanor in making us feel we are all family.

Very truly,
Irene L. Mandra National Chair

**North Korean officer defects to South Korea
April 28, 2008 CNN Asia**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -- South Korea says a North Korean soldier has defected to the South across the heavily fortified border dividing the countries.

A North Korean soldier looks at the southern side of the border through binoculars at a gate tower.

The defection is the first in nearly 10 years.

An official at the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff says the North Korean officer approached a South Korean guard post Sunday on the western part of the frontier.

The official declined Monday to give any further details, and spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is still being investigated.

The North's 1.1 million-member military is the backbone of leader Kim Jong Il's totalitarian rule.

IDENTIFICATIONS

US Army Cpl. Robert L. Mason of Parkersburg, W.Va.
and

US Army Pfc. Joseph K. Meyer, Jr., of Wahpeton, N.D.

Both were attached to the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 7th Infantry Division. The team was engaged against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea from late November to early December, 1950. Both men died as result of intense enemy fire, and their bodies were not recovered at the time.

JUNE 25, 2008

S.Korean POW Defects From N.Korea After 55 Years

A South Korean taken prisoner during the Korean War in the 1950s is said to be hoping to return home after defecting from North Korea to China earlier this month.

The man is known to have enlisted in the South Korean Army at the age of 17 back in 1951, only to be taken prisoner by North Korea after being shot in battle.

During his time in the communist country he reportedly worked mainly as a miner.

COLD WAR BOOKS : COLD WAR BOOKS : COLD WAR BOOKS

The Cold War: A New History - by John Lewis Gaddis
Penguin Press HC, The (December 29, 2005)

America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2002, Updated
by Walter LaFeber (McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 9 edition)

By Any Means Necessary: America's Secret Air War in the Cold War by William E. Burrows - Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 1st edition

The Price of Vigilance: Attacks on American Surveillance Flights

by Larry Tart Ballantine Books; Reprint edition

Trust but Verify: Imagery Analysis in the Cold War (Hardcover)
by David T. Lindgren (US Naval Institute Press)

Twilight Warriors: Covert Air Operations Against the USSR
by Curtis Peebles (US Naval Institute Press (May 1, 2005)

Records Relating to American Prisoners of War and Missing-in-Action Personnel from the Korean Conflict and during the Cold War Era (SuDoc AE 1.124:102)
National Archives and Records Administration

Gulag: Life and Death Inside the Soviet Concentration Camps
by Tomasz Kizny - Firefly Books

The Gray People: Hundreds of Americans Murdered in the Gulag Independent Publishing House

Oklahoma Professor Studying Soviet Camps

Associated Press - July 7, 2008

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) - A University of Oklahoma professor plans to study correspondence between a prisoner in a Soviet labor camp and the prisoner's wife.

Emily Johnson, an associate professor of Russian language and literature, says she discovered the letters almost by accident while working on another project.

The couple kept 432 letters written during a 1 1/2-year time period in the late 1930s.

The National Council for Eurasian and East European Research recently awarded Johnson a \$40,000 grant that will fund her study of the letters.

Her project will focus on the Soviets' forced labor camps, which opened in 1919 and continued until the fall of the Soviet Union and the democratization of Russia in the early 1990s.

Johnson says evidence indicates that some families were able to use letters to maintain contact with prisoners, defying the common perception that most prisoners sent to the gulag were lost to their families forever.

Johnson plans to travel to Russia in 2009 and will spend eight months there doing research.

The Koreans - Update

These are interesting times. We do not have, just yet, an invitation from North Korea to do recovery work during 2008. It might come a little later, or not. I can't speak to any specifics, but I haven't given up on the possibility of "going North" later this year. Meanwhile preparations continue for work in South Korea. Our friends at the Joint POW Accounting Command (JPAC) hope to visit several areas, including the POW march routes leading north into the present Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Work there looks really promising. In just a first "road recon" last year, our JPAC team was able to recover two sets of likely remains, and this year, they'll be able to get into some of the planting areas before new crops go in. That gives us a lot more room to work, and it gives local villagers a lot more time to talk. This is one of the things we'd hoped for, and it is proving true. Very often, we are dealing with members of the same Korean families and they still remember events from during the war. At least some of the second and third generations are not far from the original villages. True, most of these areas evacuated as enemy forces moved forward. But there were people who could not get out, and their stories are pretty well known, family by family. So we'll have a lot to listen to and look for.

Picking up, now, on a previous story, we're also looking much more closely at some of the Unknown burials at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Hawaii, "the Punchbowl." There were a total of 867 burials from the Korean War. One went on to Arlington. Ten others have already been exhumed, and six of them have now been identified. The bad news is that we still cannot use DNA on bone cuts from the early Punchbowl burials to do identifications. The bone material was effectively scrubbed by the preservatives used prior to burial. But we are getting limited results with new methods, so we haven't given up there, either.

The good news is that we've gotten to know these Unknowns a lot better than ever before. Some examples

Two of the burials are from the United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMC) at Inchon. We know the exact dates of original burial for both men, and we have locations and approximate dates of death. One man was likely a POW en route north, early war, from the group that followed Tiger Group in September 1950. We are trying to sort out names. The other man's remains were pretty badly destroyed in combat, but even that gives us a "window of possibility" to work with.

Twenty-one others are from the UNMC at Masan, deep within South Korea. It was set up by the 25th Infantry Division, opened in July 1950, and had its last Unknown burials early in 1951. Now consider the numbers: early war, far south, and many of the missing men from nearby were either known or suspected POWs who worked northward before they died or disappeared. Many names can be excluded very quickly. We're not ready to exhume anyone returned from UNMC Inchon or UNMC Masan just yet, but we are trying to "fine down" the names that are still possible. Can't promise, but I am expecting good progress from both sites. Once again, we have a real advantage in working with Unknowns from South Korea, originally recovered by our own people, for we know exactly where and when they were found.

CONTINUED

Now consider the other side of the coin. For those returned from North Korea during Operation Glory, it's a lot less exact. The Chinese and North Koreans did provide location information for the human remains they passed back. We know from experience, meaning previous identifications, that sometimes they were quite truthful and accurate. And sometimes they were not. Remains coming from Camp 1, Camp 5, and the Chosin Reservoir battle zone, including the temporary cemeteries that we left behind, were typically "pretty close." The Chinese and North Koreans often got individual names wrong, but they weren't too concerned with that. At least they got the locations right.

But there's another case where the Chinese and North Koreans just about "got it all wrong." We opened a large, temporary cemetery at Pyongyang, North Korea. Then we had to leave the burials behind in December 1950 as allied forces fell back. UNMC Pyongyang contained around 650 U.S. and allied burials. When the Chinese and North Koreans returned human remains during Operation Glory, in September and November 1954, they claimed that 439 of the caskets held remains from Pyongyang. Our people at Kokura, Japan, worked on these remains, and identified many of them. So far, so good. But they were also able to positively identify dozens of others, reported from field burials around western North Korea, who were actually from the Pyongyang cemetery. We know, because we had buried them by name, and these remains "matched up." So, at a given point, it was very obvious that someone among the Chinese and North Koreans was playing an ugly little game.

Our best belief, right now, is that UNMC Pyongyang was exhumed completely, except perhaps for one isolated plot containing six graves. It had been part of the main cemetery, but was separated from the other rows by an open area reserved for those still falling in daily combat. Most of the open area was not used, and, quite plausibly, the Chinese and North Koreans never discovered the final six men. We can say this reasonably because there were identifications from every other plot and row within the cemetery. Our task now is to reconstruct which Americans, originally buried at Pyongyang but later wrongly cited from elsewhere, are among the Unknowns at NMCP in Hawaii. We believe that 52 of 58 by-name burials from Pyongyang are now in the Punchbowl. The other six are from that isolated row, and were likely missed, but we're checking for them, as well. This is "needle in a haystack" work, because we're having to go over the burial records for every one of the North Korean returns. But it's worth doing, and the process is very rewarding. Here again, we're not yet ready to start exhuming, but as lists of possible names get shorter and shorter, we will be.

I'll try to have more, "recent" news, next time. Best to all! Phil O'B

POW BOOKS : POW BOOKS : POW BOOKS

American POWs in Korea : Sixteen Personal Accounts

by Harry Spiller , McFarland & Company ISBN-10: 0786405619

Letters From A Captive Heart: Americas Heartbreak in the POW Camps of North Korea by Russell Lunsford (Paperback - Nov 20, 2007)

Escape From North Korea: A Nonfiction Account of Savage Battles and Political Intrigues of the Forgotten War by Paul G. Petredis (Paperback - Jul 6, 2006)

North Korea on the Brink: Struggle for Survival by Glyn Ford and Soyong Kwon (Paperback - Dec 27, 2007)

**Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing with Rear Admiral Crisp
JPAC - April 2008**



On July 10th, 2008, Commander Donna Crisp (JPAC) and DASD Charles Ray (DPMO) testified before the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), a Hearing dedicated to oversight and accounting in the POW-MIA issue.

The prepared statements from all parties may be found at: <http://www.aipowmia.com/testimony/hascoversight100708.html>

The Hearing was strictly about the nuts and bolts side of the issue - funding, allocation of resources, facilities, personnel, medical experts, staffing, operational issues and the basic plans until 2013.

Brought to light was JPAC's incredible backlog of identifications and the massive number of remains in storage, pending identification. Additionally, the serious shortage of anthropological expertise - being able to maintain personnel - came up. Commander Crisp identified a series of problems that impacted retention, and through her question and answer testimony she enunciated that there have been many holes in the process of attracting and retaining highly qualified personnel.

Also brought up was the fact that JPAC is simply maxed out on space.

Of great interest to Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing is how funding and resources are allocated. Presently we see 65% going to Southeast Asia, 20% to Korea and 15% allocated to WW II. According to Crisp, the real world scenario sees differing percentage allocations depending on the task.

ALSO DISCUSSED WERE:

Personnel Accounting Budget Exhibit - What is requested, allocated, and actually needed.

1. Reducing time between recovery and identification.
2. Senior Study Group. More efficient way of doing things. Look at ways to find new efficiencies in future.
3. Organization and Budget Management... are there improvements.
4. Applying business methods to everything they do. "If it ain't working, figure out a new way to do it." Rather than make the same mistakes over and over again, which has been a recurring problem.
5. Two important changes - 2006 looked at the Punchbowl and problem with preserved, powdered remains that destroyed DNA. AFDIL researched a demineralization process. Years ago they needed leg bones for 90% of ID. Now, they can use entire skeleton for 90% ID. Also, instead of 2 grams of DNA, they can use 0.2 grams. Especially important in small, fragmented remains cases.
6. Also, 208 boxes of remains from Korea equal more than 400 missing. JPAC has run out of space. Has procured space from Navy that now allows 3 times space than previously had at JPAC. For the first time they will be able to lay out remains, undisturbed, so that scientists may work uninterrupted to make identifications.
7. Some cases can be solved in a week. If you find teeth. Otherwise ID may take up to 10 years.
8. Family Reference Samples (FRS) are very important. If you have a large enough sample of bone that provides enough DNA, then FRS assists.

9. Paternal line DNA is on the horizon, but maternal line DNA is the only way to go for now.

10. Some cases take 3 years just to do genealogical study to find family members that can provide appropriate FRS DNA.

11. Tracking where every sample goes, what is status, what is still needed.

12. Newfoundland Training loss investigation, underwater and ongoing.

13. Resources. Never enough money. Do all you can with what you have.

14. Activity Submissions: JPAC - all their requirements are being fully funded for 2009 to FY2013. The reality is, are they fully funded to get the job done? Should we go beyond full? According to JPAC 18 field teams are needed, BUT, they only have the staffing for 15. So, do the budgets allow for all 18 teams needed?

15. Manpower - JPAC 86% to 90% manned. Technically this is optimum. But, when you have 18 teams authorized to find thousands of missing personnel, that lack of 100% manpower - 15 rather than 18 field teams, becomes a critical gap.

16. Why are there not 18 fully manned teams allocated through 2013? You can't get the individuals or you don't expect to get the money?

17. Money is not issue. It is a question of manning.

Overall, the Hearing never touched on issues close to family members' hearts, however, the health and well-being of DPMO and JPAC as formal agencies, organizations, and the bureaucratic elements such as funding, technology, real estate and efficiency, in the end impact the issue when it comes to recovery and identification.

This Hearing, slightly short of 2 hours, and attended by virtually no one - although John McHugh was terrific - is not the answer to the questions the families need answered.

As stated, we need H. Res 111 - or whatever number the next incarnation is - to broadly investigate the many levels this issue encompasses.

A 2 hour session, brought about by an 80 page report researched and created by our own Frank Metersky and Ron Broward, into efficiency issues is fine... as an appetizer.

What we need is a full throttle buffet that addresses the following:

- WW II - 78,000 Missing - 20,000-30,000 potentially recoverable
- Korea - 8,056 Missing - 5,400 potentially recoverable - Going back to North Korea, recovery in DMZ and South Korea, Punchbowl, Death March Routes
- Cold War Era - Shoot downs - 20 potentially recoverable
- Southeast Asia - 1,000 potentially recoverable
- Persian Gulf War - 1 potentially recoverable

How to actually organize the recovery a potential universe of 36,000+ unaccounted-for personnel

- Operation Iraqi Freedom - The pattern of executing known POWs is alarming
- Former Soviet Archives, third-party Soviet Bloc Nations
- China - How many more POWs went to China that the USG knows about and hasn't told the families about
- JPAC & DPMO
- Intelligence Agencies - declassification of documents
- Joint Commission Support Directorate - declassification of shoot down records and intelligence
- Lack of Plenums - US - Russia Joint Commission
- Reconstitution of Russian side of USRJC
- BRAC'ing of Life Science Facility - critical - according to DPMO/DOD in May 2007 "The Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) is an Air Force organization that analyzes the life support equipment that JPAC teams recover from aircraft crash sites. It answers questions about the possibility of the crew surviving the incident. LSEL is scheduled to move from San Antonio, TX, to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, under the BRAC, and so far only one analyst appears to be making the move, leading to some question about LSEL's future utility. JPAC continues to develop an organic capability to offset the potential reduction of LSEL capability." (BRAC = Base Realignment and Closure)
- Debriefing of POWs escaping from North Korea
- Debriefing of North Korean military defectors
- GULAGs and Studies
- Live Sightings - All Wars
- Disposition of Last Known Alive cases
- Robert Jenkins debrief
- Review of materials never finished by the Senate Select Committee and the failed follow-up of recommendations made in 1993
- Disengaging the POW-MIA issue from political agendas
- Concessions and delisting of North Korea
- Restoration of POW - Prisoner of War - Status

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

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*YOUR Full NAME: _____

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*City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____

*Email Address: _____

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If you ARE applying for Family MEMBERSHIP please COMPLETE THE REST of this FORM.

*Applicant's relationship to POW-MIA: _____

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