

# THE FRONT PAGE

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



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

**SEND TO:**

NOVEMBER 2008 ISSUE #22  
POW-MIA WE REMEMBER!

## 2009 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2009

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

- **2009 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2009** •
- **January 24, 2009 Miami, FL • February 28, 2009 Albuquerque, NM** •
- **March 28, 2009 Baltimore, MD • April 25, 2009 Denver, CO** •
- **May 30, 2009 Walla Walla, WA • June 27, 2009 Nashua, NH** •
- **August 29, 2009 Minneapolis, MN • October, 2009 To Be Announced** •
- **November 21, 2009 Jackson, MS** •
- **2008 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2008** •
- **November 15 - San Diego, CA** •

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

### • REMINDER • REMINDER • REMINDER •

**It is only 7 (yes, seven) weeks until the New Year. It is hard to believe yet another year has flown by. Please RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY.**

**Make sure you receive uninterrupted news and help us help you.**

**Early renewals save us time and money because we do not have to send out reminder notices.**

**Pls send renewals to:**

**Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing  
P.O. Box 454, Farmingdale, NY 11735**

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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House : <http://www.house.gov/>  
White House: <http://www.house.gov/>

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**IN MY OPINION**  
**by IRENE L. MANDRA**

Dear Members,  
This is a very difficult column to write because I always look for the good in others, regardless of the circumstances.

It is very rare that I see the negatives in others; I always look for the good in people and seem to

find it in every human being I have come across.

However, the one thing I cannot tolerate is being lied to, especially by people that I have put my faith and trust in. Not little evasions, we get that all the time. Not some fancy sidestepping, we have seen that dance before as well. But outright lies enrage me. It enrages me more when the lies are from people that represent our government and are vested with the responsibility of working to resolve the issue and help families find answers and closure.

It is not a secret that Korea-Cold War families have been the orphans of the POW-MIA issue, an afterthought of JPAC for many years, with Southeast Asia getting the lion's share of attention, time, effort and finances. As I have repeatedly said, I do not begrudge any family member an opportunity to find answers and closure. But we do ask for fairness to ALL the families, regardless of the conflict. It breaks my heart to think any mother, father, sibling or spouse has to go to their grave not knowing what happened to that loved one who never came home.

As I have reported to our members and our Board, this past April 2008, a number of Korea-Cold War family members traveled to Hawaii to join our Korean War Veterans, Ex-POWs and others and to tour the JPAC facility and lab on the island of Oahu. We indeed planned a fact-finding mission for our meetings with Admiral Donna Crisp, Commander, and Mr. Johnnie Webb.

In addition to our many questions, one of the key aspects for our meeting was the feasibility of moving the identification lab to the mainland. This is something that our organization has been pushing for now for the last 2 years.

During our April meeting, we were promised that such an idea is being looked into and a feasibility study was being conducted with respect to our proposal.

Let me repeat this - During our April meeting, we were promised that such an idea is being looked into and a feasibility study was being conducted with respect to our proposal.

After our return to the mainland and our daily routine, we contacted JPAC several times to inquire how the study was coming along, what were the results? We were always told that they were working on it.

This has gone on for months. In good faith we believed that the Commander and Mr. Webb were duly reporting to the families that a study was being conducted.

Imagine our shock to now find that NO SUCH STUDY WAS or IS BEING CONDUCTED BY JPAC and the truth is that THEY ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO PREVENT SUCH A STUDY.

They lied, flat-out; bold-faced lied - to me, my Board of Directors, the families whom we represent and the members who support us. They lied to each and everyone of us.

We ask how representatives of the government whom we trusted, could have been so blatant in their lies to us.

Yes, the government has lied in the past. They have lied directly to us and lied by omission and secrecy. They have lied to the American public when they said All the POWs are Home from Vietnam. They lied when they said none of our Korean War boys were taken to China. They lied when they said none of our WW II POWs were taken by the Soviets.

Ultimately we all realized the truth and called the government on it.

However, when you work with someone day in and day out and you develop a rapport with them, you may not trust them, but you work to build a trust and an open dialog. In this particular case, it wasn't some unknown bureaucrat from Washington, or the Pentagon that I didn't know.

It was people with whom I have worked rather closely with and had every reason to believe that when they said "Irene" they were talking to me, and through me, to our thousands of members and family members.

I feel betrayed. A feeling that is unfortunately so prevalent in the POW-MIA issue. Betrayal. Not by an enemy or some foreign government or dignitary. But the betrayal has ALWAYS been from our own government. Every time. And in betraying us, they betray our lost loved ones and their solemn oath that they claim to have made to not rest until a final accounting is made.

It would have been easier for Admiral Crisp and Johnnie Webb to have simply said it's not happening. Rather than telling us what they thought we wanted to hear (in front of witnesses no less) they should have simply said it's not something we can pursue at this time.

Let me be clear - I do not want to hear what you think I want to hear. It will not make me happy and go away. I want to hear the truth. And if people like the Admiral and Mr. Webb think that by lying to me and my members that it's what we want, then they are wrong, very, very wrong.

## CONTINUED

It simply makes us want even more to have the feasibility study and in the process I suggest that they do a feasibility study on why Admiral and Mr. Webb have not been truthful to us.

There are many reasons we sought such a study. To name just a few: **1.** By bringing the lab back to the mainland, we would be able to secure the services of more anthropologists. **2.** The cost of living in Hawaii is exceptionally high, higher than the mainland as everything must be imported to the islands. **3.** The facility is overwhelmed and out of room. Although a brand new, much larger facility is underway, the mainland offers a tremendous opportunity to really expand and be able to tackle the enormous task of identifications that is backed up for years. **4.** Easier access to the Life Science facility that is on the mainland. **5.** We have just found out that no new building will be created. Rather an extension is simply being added to the present laboratory. This is yet another example of untruths. We were told that JPAC needed to remain in Hawai'i because the 22 table lab space would grow to 65 tables through the following: A \$700,000.00 addition to existing facilities and the opening of a 2nd lab in Building 220. A renovation tab of 1.8 million USD. An expansion (roughly 40% more) of office space and a 140,000 sq foot replacement facility beginning in 2010. **6.** Where is our mandate? We quote, "In addition to the new lab space, by the end of the year, the command expects the Defense Department to adjust the unit's mandate, which currently focuses almost two-thirds of its efforts to Vietnam War troops, with Korean War and World War II troops roughly splitting up the remainder."

Is our mandate suffering the same fate as the feasibility study?

The trust we had in JPAC has been broken. I had hoped that at the very least the military and civilian heads of JPAC would have the decency to be honest on something so simple as a request for a study. It is NOT national security or black ops. It is simply what are they doing to make identifications and the hiring of personnel easier, cheaper and in the long run, better for all.

Instead they asked for our trust and betrayed it. Again.

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***"Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do so, you apologize for the truth."***

*Benjamin Disraeli  
Statesman & Literary Figure  
1804 - 1881*

## **Chit Chat News by Irene L. Mandra November 2008**

I wish to thank the many members and friends who were so kind to send me Get Well cards, notes and e-mails during my surgery and convalescent period. The worst is over with at last. Our wonderful Board of Directors continued to keep up to date with current issues, so we were all aware of events.

Hats off to Lisa Phillips President of the Word War II Family organization who just got back from Hawaii and has continued to push the issue. Once again we say that all wars should be judged equally, and JPAC should follow that aspect.

It's with great sorrow we announce the passing of William Opferman, a Vietnam veteran who was very active in the POW/MIA issue. He was a dear friend and will be sorely missed. A long time POW-MIA activist, he will be remembered on November 11th. A tree planting/dedication will take place to honor him at Hamilton Twp NJ's Veterans park. Bill passed away in September.

Please send your membership fees in before holiday shopping lest you forget. We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season

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### **ON THE HILL - By Frank Metersky, Washington, DC Liaison**

DPMO with aid of US Embassy in Beijing is in the process of setting up a new date for JPAC to meet with Chinese representatives so they can do the long delayed recovery operations of a B 29 shoot down from Korean War--delayed due to the Beijing Olympics by Chinese government

DPMO also advised that the Chinese have started the agreed upon archival research project to see if they have any info on US Korean War MIA's. The 2 sides expect to meet in early spring to evaluate what the Chinese find as this is part of the agreement the Chinese were paid for in advance.

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### **Some Questions for Admiral Crisp, Commander, JPAC by Frank Metersky**

ADM Crisp for 2009 can you please answer the following questions

1 - Will you have dedicated research team working continuously on the unknown Korean War remains at the Punch Bowl for 2009

2 - Will you have a dedicated team working continuously to identify the over 450 Korean War remains warehoused at JPAC/CIL for 2009

3 - Will there be an investigative team working full time in South Korea along with the 6 scheduled recovery of remains operations fro 2009

4 - Will JPAC/CIL be able to carry out a full set of 4 recovery operations as it has the past in North Korea if a new administration allows DPMO/JPAC back into North Korea in 2009

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***"I don't know why you use a fancy French word like detente when there's a good English phrase for it - Cold War."***

*Golda Meir  
Prime Minsiter of Israel  
1898 - 1978*

## **Brother searches on for twin missing from Korean War 11/06/2008**

By AMANDA PETERSON, Scripps Howard News Service  
Vincent Krepps went to fight in the Korean War in August 1950 with his twin brother, Richard, but he came home alone.

While Krepps was in a Japanese hospital recovering from a leg wound, his brother's Army division was attacked by the Chinese. Krepps learned his twin was missing in action when he rejoined his unit just before Thanksgiving.

Two months later, Krepps was sent home as his family's sole surviving son. He and Richard had never spent more than a day apart before enlisting in the Army, but almost 60 years later, Krepps, 77, from Towson, Md., is still trying to find his brother's remains. He said he dreams of seeing his twin laid to rest before he dies. At first, Krepps said he did not talk about the war with his family. His dad never asked, he said, and he wanted to spare his mom the details. "I wouldn't tell them anything since my mother and dad had such high hopes that he would come home," Krepps said. "After the war, Krepps returned to Essex, Md., where his parents lived. His father died in 1974, and his mother, in 1984, five years before the first Korean War memorial was constructed in Maryland, Krepps said.

The Chinese and American governments reported that Richard, who was held by the Chinese as a prisoner of war, died on different days in the summer of 1951. Krepps did not believe either, so he set out to find veterans who knew his brother. "I wanted to know that he had a friend, someone who cared about him and tried to look out for him while he was suffering," Krepps said. In October 1998, he said he heard from Ron Lovejoy, a former U.S. soldier who had been a POW with Richard and still had a photo Richard had given him while they were in the Chinese prison camp.

Lovejoy told him about how they marched through one of the coldest winters without proper coats and how Richard stopped eating the millet their captors gave them when he grew weak, Krepps said. Eventually, Krepps said, Richard became so sick that he believed life was no longer worth living. Lovejoy, who was freed from the camp in 1953, was with Richard when he died. Gary Sydow, director of research and analysis for the Pentagon's Defense Prisoners of War/ Missing Personnel Office, said details that veterans such as Lovejoy remember about those who died help researchers pinpoint where to look for remains.

American excavation teams have not been allowed in North Korea since 2005, but Sydow said they are ready to return with the new information from veterans.

"When we get the opportunity, we stand ready to bring your loved ones home," Sydow told family members at a yearly briefing held earlier this fall.

Krepps has gone South Korea twice with excavation teams looking for missing service members, and he attends the briefings, hoping for new facts. He said he stays positive, but it is hard.

"I've heard nothing these three days that's new," Krepps said at the October briefing. "I don't know what the next step is."

## **SKorea, US to search DMZ for Korean War missing Oct 19, 2008**

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean and US officials will for the first time search the buffer zone dividing the two Koreas for the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 war, Seoul's defence ministry said Monday.

It said more than 13,000 South Korean and some 2,000 US troops are believed buried inside the four-kilometre-wide (2.5-mile) Demilitarised Zone between South and North Korea.

The zone, which stretches two kilometres each side of the actual border, is part of the world's most heavily fortified frontier.

"The joint search... will be conducted to help provide valuable experience for future excavation projects inside the DMZ, and it will mark the first search ever inside the DMZ," the ministry said in a statement.

The search will last until November 25. It will involve 20 officials from the US Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and dozens more from South Korea's Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification.

Separately, the joint search also hopes to locate the wreckage of a US fighter jet thought to have crashed in March 1953 near the town of Pyeongtaek 80 kilometres south of Seoul.

Some 100,000 South Korean and 8,100 US troops remain missing from the war, in which a US-led United Nations force defended the South following an attack by the North.

In May US and South Korean divers searched Seoul's broad Han River for the remains of US service personnel.

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### **War remains sought in Korea's DMZ - BBC News**

South Korean and American officials are to search the border dividing North and South Korea for the remains of troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War.

It will be the first ever search in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) - which in spite of its name is the world's most heavily armed frontier. The move was announced by South Korea's defence ministry. It said more than 13,000 South Korean troops and about 2,000 US troops were believed to be buried in the zone.

The search of the DMZ - a 4km (2.5-mile) thick ribbon that stretches across the waist of the Korean peninsula - will go on until 25 November, the South Korean defence ministry was quoted as saying. It will involve officials from the US Joint POW/MIA ( Prisoners of War/ Missing in Action) Accounting Command and from South Korea's agency for recovery and identification of missing Korean soldiers.

"The joint search... will be conducted to help provide valuable experience for future excavation projects inside the DMZ, and it will mark the first search ever inside the DMZ," the ministry said in a statement. In a separate development, the joint search group will also try to locate the wreckage of a US fighter jet which is thought to have crashed near the city of Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul, in March 1953.

Brutal - The Korean War - which pitted North against South Korea, but which also deeply embroiled several foreign powers - was extremely brutal and destructive. More napalm was dropped in those three years than during the entire Vietnam war, and the frontline swept up and down the peninsula, leaving behind flattened cities in its wake. Estimates suggest that more than three million people - civilians and soldiers - were killed.

## Hope persists for families of missing in action

By Matthew D. LaPlante - The Salt Lake Tribune 9/2008

For many years Catherine Bramwell allowed the fantasy to persist.

She imagined that her father, a Navy pilot lost in North Korea when she was not yet two years old, would miraculously return to his family in Ogden. Perhaps he'd been held captive for a very long time. Perhaps he would finally seize upon an opportunity to escape.

As the years went by, the fantasy slowly died.

Now another kind of hope persists.

Bramwell is one of about 80 people, mostly Utahns, who on Saturday will learn about the latest efforts being made by the U.S. Defense Department to recover the remains of their loved ones - service members lost during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Some 80,000 Americans are still missing from those conflicts, the most recent of which ended more than 30 years ago.

The meeting - the third of its kind in Salt Lake City since 1997 - is part of an ongoing effort by the U.S. military to keep families informed about the mission of the Washington D.C.-based Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office. The program includes overviews of the office's worldwide operations and one-on-one meetings between family members and military specialists.

Although in many ways the passing of time is an enemy to efforts to recover the remains of lost service members, the years also have brought new potential: Technological leaps in communication, new techniques in forensic investigation and advanced processes in mitochondrial DNA identification are bringing together the pieces of decades-old missing persons mysteries.

Meanwhile, agreements between nations that were once enemies have allowed for the exploration of areas that have long been off limits to Americans.

That is the hope to which Bramwell, 58, clings. Her father, Ross K. Bramwell, is thought to have crashed his plane in a remote area of North Korea. Although the nations have long been estranged - most recently over this issue of nuclear proliferation - there has been sporadic cooperation, over the past decade, on the issue of the identification and repatriation of U.S. military remains.

The office's mission costs U.S. taxpayers about \$105 million a year. In the past 20 years, it has been responsible for the recovery the remains of eight Utahns lost during Vietnam, most recently those of Robert F. Woods, whose remains were identified in February 2007 and returned to Utah late last year.

The stories of repatriation are dramatic and often touching - shortly after Woods' remains were returned, his family received a worn POW/MIA bracelet bearing his name, which had been shared by a pair of ROTC cadets at the University of Utah. But most families must resign themselves to the knowledge that the odds are stacked against them.

"You know, I do know that finding my dad is a pipe dream, especially when you think about the obstacles involving North Korea," Bramwell said.

**CONTINUED**

Bramwell dove into the effort to find her father's remains shortly after she had a headstone placed at Arlington National Cemetery over an empty gravesite. She said the briefings given by the military, such as the one taking place Saturday, help align her optimism with her realism on the issue.

"What we want is to be accessible, to be as helpful as possible," said Mary Olsen, an Air Force officer and spokesman for the missing personnel office.

For families who have sacrificed so much, Olsen said, "it is the least we can do."

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The Ultimate Resource for the Korean War  
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##### Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/korea/large/index.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/korea/large/index.htm)

##### Online Bookshelves - The Korean War

<http://www.history.army.mil/reference/Korea/kw-remem.htm>

##### Korea + 50 - No Longer Forgotten

Joint Effort between Truman and Eisenhower Libraries  
<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/korea/>

##### Spark Notes - The Korean War (1950-1953)

<http://www.sparknotes.com/history/american/koreanwar>

## The Proxy Question - By Andi Wolos

Decades ago, when the terms POW and MIA entered our collective social conscience, young family members - wives, mothers and fathers - rallied, and through their tireless efforts to find the truth, the issue was born.

As the years have progressed and a grassroots issue became an official effort of the government, rules and guidelines have been instituted to insure only the family members, and rightfully so, are the parties present at formal governmental information events.

It is the families that have borne the brunt of not knowing. It is the families who have done battle with various governmental and defense entities in order to open files and get answers. It is the families who have worked endlessly to insure those responsible for accounting for our missing are held accountable at the end of the day. And, it is the families that now face additional hardship because of the many years that have passed.

As the issue has grown older, so have the families. 20, 30 and 40 year olds are now in their 70's and 80's. What once was an easy trip to Laos, South Korea or the former Soviet Union is now an overwhelming proposition just to go to Washington, DC or the next state over.

Health issues and infirmities due to age preclude so many from participating in something that remains a significant part of their lives.

The Department of Defense prevents anyone who is not registered as a family member from participating in a number of assemblages offered by DOD. Understandably so. Too many times events have been disrupted by well-meaning but overly gregarious or contentious activists. The time is too precious to allow a meeting to be hi-jacked for purposes other than getting information to the families.

So now, after all these years, we find ourselves in a Catch-22. You cannot attend meetings unless you are a family member, but many family members cannot attend meetings because of age and health.

Over the years we have seen a decline in the number of attendees at various Outreaches. The public may construe that to mean lesser involvement and interest. It is not. It is the simple fact that folks are getting older and cannot attend.

Absence does not indicate lack of interest or a desire to be there.

The Department of Defense must now seriously and honestly address the issue of PROXIES.

PROXY - 1. the person so authorized; substitute; agent. 2. an ally or confederate who can be relied upon to speak or act in one's behalf.

How many family members did not or cannot go to Family Outreaches, Government Briefings and Annual Conferences because of age or infirmity?

More than anyone realizes.

How many family members would love to be represented but are prevented from doing so by rules and guidelines established by the Department of Defense?

More than anyone realizes.

Registered family members, who do not have relatives or interested relatives able to act on their behalf, should be allowed to appoint and register a Proxy for the purpose ONLY of attending Outreaches, Conferences and Briefings on their behalf. The Proxy would act only as a representative in the following manner:

1. Show a presence on behalf of the family of the Missing service member
2. Obtain handouts and other briefing materials presented during the forum for the family member
3. Present a statement from the family member to appropriate officials
4. Present to Casualty and/or other DPMO, JPAC, DOD officials a list of questions, concerns or requests by the absent family member
5. Take notes on the proceedings in order to update the family member on the event
6. Agree to a limitation of participation such as verbal responses during open Q&A

All responses by officials with respect to the individual case will not be presented to the Proxy, but to the family member via email, US Post or telephone.

This has nothing to do with classified briefings or National Security. Information that is sensitive is not discussed during these events. What is discussed, and is imperative for family members, is the progress being made, new initiatives, new technology, plans for JFAs, status of planned recoveries, identification issues, policies old and new and fiscal year funding.

The powers-that-be will argue that family members get updates through the mail. That presentation materials can or are sent to the families at home. That Casualty is always available to speak with them and address their concerns and questions via telephone, email and regular mail.

All true. To some extent.

They will say that 'outsiders' will be disruptive. As a response I offer that EVERY forum or event I have attended, and there are many, non-family members in attendance by invitation conduct themselves with the utmost grace and decorum. They are generally expert in the issue and respectable in their demeanor. I also offer that it is generally the family members who go after the officials and challenge them openly. And in many instances ferociously. Good for them, they have earned that privilege and they exercise it with passion and intelligence.

That is the point. The vibrancy of interaction among the briefers and the briefees is something that can never be captured in a static handout. The questions that are asked off the cuff, the answers given, the discussion that comes as a result, bringing more questions and answers, are not part of pre-printed materials and Power Point presentations. It is live.

This year alone, the number of individuals who contribute daily to the continuation of this issue who have been unable to attend significant events is sobering. They want their presence known; they want their questions heard.

Time is our real enemy in this issue. And as time passes for aging and infirm family members, it is time that the government acknowledges this reality and allow appointment and registration of Proxies.

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### Learning Curve - Cold War

From the UK National Archives Records Management  
<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/coldwar/>

### World Wars - The Cold War

BBC Interactive, Offering a Global Perspective  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

### Cold War Policies 1945-1991

<http://history.sandiego.edu/gen/20th/coldwar0.html>

### Documents Relating to American Foreign Policy The Cold War

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**September 11, 2008:** Divers from the United States Navy Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Underwater Investigative Team were shocked when two large U-Haul trucks containing equipment belonging to the team were broken into.

The vehicles were parked in Botwood, England, where the group was conducting a diving expedition to investigate the possible repatriation of remains of two American servicemen killed in an airplane crash in Botwood harbour in 1942. A speedy investigation identified the thieves and most of the equipment has been recovered. 3 arrests and 1 charge have so far been made.

### **September 4, 2008 : Medical News Today New Forensic Sciences Exhibition Opens At National Museum Of Health And Medicine**

The National Museum of Health and Medicine of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (NMHM) is proud to announce the public opening of "RESOLVED: Advances in Forensic Identification of U.S. War Dead." RESOLVED highlights the underlying forensic sciences that have evolved to fulfill our nation's commitment to the identification of U.S. service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice. NMHM is open to the public and is located on the campus of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. RESOLVED features dynamic presentations on milestones in forensic identification, including the development of tools such as dog tags and DNA analysis. The exhibit discusses the six lines of evidence critical to a positive scientific forensic identification: material evidence, fingerprinting, forensic dentistry, forensic anthropology and forensic pathology, and DNA analysis. Visitors can examine a variety of objects on display - including a portable dental x-ray device, an FBI Disaster Squad fingerprinting kit, and astonishing new "virtual autopsy" technologies - while photographs immerse the visitor in the working environment of today's forensic anthropologist and DNA technician.

### **October 7, 2008: Warner Robins Memorial Honors POWs**

After 12 years of hard work and fundraising, a new memorial honoring Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action was dedicated at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

**September 29, 2008: Kentucky requests POW-MIA  
Independent Counsel.** Issued as a Resolution, in part it reads:

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to appoint an independent counsel to investigate the issue of American prisoners of war and those missing in action.

**WHEREAS**, the issue of prisoners of war and those missing in action (POW/MIA) has been a national dilemma since the end of WWII; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a strong need for an independent investigation into all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam era, the Korean conflict, World War II, Cold War missions, or the Gulf War, including MIAs and POWs; and

**WHEREAS**; as of July 2005, the Government Accountability Office listed 88,115 service men and women unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean and Cold War conflicts, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and other conflicts.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **DoD Revises Purple Heart Eligibility Criteria to Allow Award to POWs Who Die in Captivity - October 6, 2008**

The Department of Defense announced it has expanded the Purple Heart eligibility criteria allowing prisoners-of-war who died in captivity to receive the award.

The revised department policy presumes, for service members who die in captivity as a qualifying prisoner-of-war, that their death was the "result of enemy action," or the result of wounds incurred "in action with the enemy" during capture, or as a result of wounds incurred as a "result of enemy action" during capture, unless compelling evidence is presented to the contrary.

The revised policy allows retroactive award of the Purple Heart to qualifying prisoners-of-war since Dec. 7, 1941. Posthumous award will be made to the deceased service member's representative, as designated by the secretary of the military department concerned, upon application to that military department.

Each military department will publish application procedures and ensure they are accessible by the general public. Family members with questions may contact the services: Army: Military Awards Branch, (703) 325-8700; Navy: Navy Personnel Command, Retired Records Section, (314) 592-1150; Air Force: Air Force Personnel Center, (800) 616-3775; Marine Corps: Military Awards Branch, (703) 784-9340. For further information, media representatives should contact Eileen Lainez, (703) 695-3895, eileen.lainez@osd.mil.

### **JPAC Turns 5 Years Old - October 8, 2008**

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command - whose mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all missing Americans from the nation's past wars - recognized its fifth anniversary on Wednesday, noting that it conducted more than 368 recovery and investigation missions around the globe. Some of the countries JPAC teams have operated in include: China, North Korea, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Canada, Palau, Albania, Philippines, Newfoundland, Papua New Guinea, Germany, Hungary, France, Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, India and Japan.

On Oct. 1, 2003, the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii at Hickam Air Force Base and U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Task Force Full Accounting at Camp Smith were merged into JPAC.

The unit was initially formed in 1973 after the Vietnam war and was called the Joint Casualty Resolution Center and worked with the newly formed Central Identification Laboratory in Thailand, which handled the remains and identification of Americans killed during the war. By 1976 its operations were relocated to Hawaii with the lab name changed to the Central Identification Laboratory. Its mission was broadened to include the search, recovery and identification of service members killed in Korea, World War II and any future conflicts.

In 1992 it became Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in response to an increased interest from the U.S. government and the public to account for those missing in action in Southeast Asia.

## **National POW-MIA Recognition Day 2008 19 September, 2008**

The White House, President George W. Bush

For Immediate Release  
Office of the Press Secretary  
September 17, 2008

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2008  
A Proclamation by the President of the  
United States of America

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor the brave and patriotic Americans who were held as prisoners of war, and we remember those who are still missing in action. For their valor and selfless devotion to protect the country they love, our Nation owes them a debt we can never fully repay. On this day we underscore our commitment and pledge to those who are still missing in action and to their families that we will not rest until we have achieved the fullest possible accounting for every member of our Armed Forces missing in the line of duty.

To observe this important day, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is flown over the Capitol, the White House, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and other locations across our country. The flag is a solemn reminder of our Nation's enduring obligation and promise to our courageous service members who remain missing and a tribute to those who have been imprisoned while serving their country in conflicts around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 19, 2008, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action for their valiant service to our Nation. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH

### **Legion Joins with Russians to Gather POW/MIA Information**

PHOENIX, Aug 27, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- In 1992, the governments of the United States and the Russian Federation joined together to form the United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, a project designed to provide a forum for both nations to work toward a full accounting of their missing servicemen. The American Legion is now an active partner in the effort.

The Legion signed an agreement with the War Veterans Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (countries which previously made up the Soviet Union) to support the activities of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission in their efforts to determine the fates of POWs and MIAs. The American Legion passed a resolution at its Spring National Executive Committee Meetings last May to sign on with the commission.

**CONTINUED**

The pact was signed Monday in Phoenix by American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser and retired Gen. Ruslan Aushev, president of the War Veterans Committee. Aushev also addressed delegates of The American Legion's 90th National Convention in Phoenix regarding Russia's role in helping the United States identify current POW/MIAs.

"This is a first step in cooperation, and this is a first step in accountability," Conatser said. "As we look at the common thread of veterans worldwide, the cooperative efforts of all veterans groups will make a huge difference in the world. We appreciate this first effort. Where it progresses to is yet to be seen, but you've got to start with a first step."

Aushev -- a decorated Soviet veteran who fought in Afghanistan and the former president of Ingushetia, a republic bordering Chechnya -- spoke optimistically of the partnership between the two organizations and two countries.

"We can and are willing to help our American colleagues to resolve (POW/MIA) issues," Aushev said through a translator. "We are convinced that the humanitarian aspect alone should prevail over departmental and bureaucratic considerations ... This is specifically true to finding persons who were witnesses to events in the Korean and Vietnam wars. In these areas we can be of interest to the American side."

Russia has 271 soldiers missing in action in Afghanistan. Aushev said the United States can reciprocate in helping discover the fate of those soldiers.

"When I was fighting in Afghanistan, the Americans actually helped the mujahideen to attack and to capture our soldiers," Aushev said. "The Pakistani secret service has a lot of information ... (and) the United States has a very good relationship with (them). Both sides of the commission, the Americans and the Russians, need to work actively to resolve these issues so that those who gave their lives on foreign land can be returned to their own homeland."

The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. The Legion's 2.7 million wartime veterans work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

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#### **• VIDEO • DVD • VIDEO • DVD • VIDEO • DVD •**

**Korean War Stories** - by Walter Cronkite, David H. Hackworth, Wally Schirra, and John Glenn (III) (DVD 2003)  
60 minutes - PBS

**The Big Picture Vol. 1 - The Korean War (DVD - 2008)**  
810 minutes - Navarre Corporation

**Korean War in Color (DVD 2007)**  
208 minutes - Goldhil Home Media

**The Korea: The Forgotten War (DVD 2007)**  
271 minutes - Timeless Media Group

**Historic Korean War Film Collection DVD - North and South Korea, Prisoners of War, War Relief Efforts and More (DVD 2006)** 134 minutes - The Historical Archive

**National Archives and Records Administration Series (DVD 2007-2008) Titles Include:**

The Big Picture - The Korean Ceasefire Talks Begin  
The Big Picture - Korean Wind-Up  
The Big Picture - Third Korean Winter  
U.S. Germ Warfare in Korea [KOREAN] English captioned  
Anti-Americanism of the Korean War Era; 1950- 1955  
38th Parallel [Korean Propaganda]

• VIDEO • DVD • VIDEO • DVD • VIDEO • DVD •

**Cold War Era - Bundle Pack** - (DVD 2005 5 Discs)

301 minutes - A2ZCDS

**Cold War Hysteria - Boxed Set**

1027 minutes - Mill Creek Entertainment

**The Greatest Military Clashes- The Cold War (DVD)**

60 minutes

**Vintage Cold War Films DVD - Foreign Threats: USSR, Nazi Germany & the Nuclear/Atomic Arms Race with Russia (from Cold War & Communism Films Collection)**

90 minutes - Quality Information Publishers, Inc.

**National Archives and Records Administration (DVD)**

**Russian Propaganda: Western War Campaigns, 1949 [RUSSIAN]**

**NOVA: Missing in Mig Alley (DVD 2007)**

60 minutes - WGBH Boston

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**Press Release - China & Korean War POWs and MIAs  
18 August, 2008**

Olympics Bring Pain and Frustration to Families of Korean War POW/MIAs

Beijing Kept American Prisoners, Alive or Dead, But Refuses to Account for Them Families Demand Action from China and Bush Administration

For families across America, the Chinese Olympics are a reminder of the unresolved fates of loved ones imprisoned by China and ignored by President Bush.

Following decades of U.S. demands for answers, China on Feb. 29, 2008, agreed to turn over POW documents from its military archives. Yet Beijing has yet to deliver. Meantime, during the Olympics, President Bush has pushed China on human rights and religious freedom but failed to make any public demand for information on Americas 8,000 POW/MIAs.

The Bush Administration, along with Congress and the media have forgotten our lost heroes and their families, said Irene Mandra, whose brother USMC Sgt. Philip Mandra disappeared during combat with the Chinese. They call this Chinas Coming Out Party, but we say its time for Beijing finally to come clean on our missing heroes.

China, fighting for communist North Korea with Soviet help, was Americas primary foe during the 1950-3 war. Many GIs identified by name in prisons run by the Chinese in North Korea never returned. Thousands simply went missing. U.S. intelligence reported some went to secret camps in China itself from which no-one would be repatriated, including selected captives sent on to the Soviet Union.

Army Capt. Harry Moreland, seen by fellow prisoners in a Chinese-run camp, had both legs amputated. He never returned -- the Chinese later claimed he escaped. Gerald Glasser, reported by sixty-six returned Americans, was taken away in a jeep by Chinese officers shortly before wars end. Air Force officers Kassel Keene, Robert Martin and George W. Patton disappeared after sentences for prison time not to be affected by repatriation, intelligence indicated. Sgt. Richard Desautels, a handsome Vermont teenager, angered guards by interpreting Chinese for buddies and showing a bad attitude. Desautels pleaded with a fellow POW that if he should disappear to make inquiries concerning his whereabouts with the proper military authorities. He never came home -- China claimed he too escaped.

**CONTINUED**

For decades Beijing denied it knew anything more about these men, many others identified in its hands, and those reported in the secret Chinese camps. Then, in a move kept quiet until this June by both Beijing and the Pentagon, the Chinese broke 50 years of stonewalling in 2003, admitting Desautels did not escape but instead was secretly taken to China. They now claim he died after a brief mental illness and was buried in Shenyang. His remains have since been lost, China maintains, and the full report on him is classified.

This accounting raises even more questions, said Bill Sowles, whose father, Sgt. Lewis Sowles, went MIA around the same time and place as Desautels. Its quite a coincidence that Beijing lost Sgt. Desautels remains in Shenyang reportedly home to a secret camp from which Americans would never return and, according to at least one source, a shipment point for certain U.S. POWs to Siberia. Embarrassing issues for a place now celebrated on TV as an Olympic soccer venue, Sowles added.

Every major Olympic venue city -- with the exception of Hong Kong, under British control during the war was suspected of holding unreturned U.S. prisoners, according to intelligence reports:

Shanghai: Now an Olympic soccer venue. Then location of a camp to indoctrinate U.S. POWs, some reported by name, at No.35, Lane 1136, Yuyuen Road They have no freedom of movement and are not free to talk. They must attend meetings daily to study communist doctrine.

Qingdao: Now the Olympic sailing center, then a reported camp for American and Allied prisoners. Wu Shu-Jen, a Chinese Communist Party defector, testified under oath to Congress that he saw Caucasians said to be U.S. prisoners considered stubborn elements that refuse to repent during a 1960 visit to a Qingdao tool factory.

Tianjin: Now a soccer venue, then a suspected secret POW camp.

Beijing: Now the main Olympics location. Then: home to a secret camp holding mostly African-Americans; prison site where a repatriated U.S. airman reported his crewmember, 1Lt. Paul Van Voorhis, had been held back; and possible prison for Lt. JG James Deane, Jr., an aviator shot down and captured after the war, according to U.S. intelligence files. Now AND then: home to the Communist Party and Chinese military organizations in charge of the U.S. POW issue since 1950.

While they are ignored by the U.S. government and media at the Games, Evelyn Johnson, wife of Sgt. Sowles, cannot watch events at these venues without thinking of her husband and his fellow POW/MIAs. "I wonder what these poor men must be thinking now, she said.

Irene Mandra

Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing

Lynn O'Shea

National Alliance of POW/MIA Families

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***"Courage, it would seem, is nothing less than the power to overcome danger, misfortune, fear, injustice, while continuing to affirm inwardly that life with all its sorrows is good; that everything is meaningful even if in a sense beyond our understanding; and that there is always tomorrow."***

Dorothy Thompson  
Notable American Journalist  
1893 - 1961

## **Astronaut-fighter pilot backs Korean War museum**

Five O'Clock Shadow - By CHARLES DEAL  
Record Columnist, Winston-Salem Journal

When the Korean War National Museum opens on the outskirts of Springfield, Ill., the term "Forgotten War" will evaporate. The museum is a tribute planned to honor the some 5.7 million troops who went to war, the 33,667 killed in action, 3,249 who died in non-combat duty and unknowns still missing in action or prisoners of war who never returned.

In less than three years, American forces and some United Nations troops saved South Korea from superior North Korean military units. Later, some 300,000 Chinese troops entered the war, but communism was contained in the Far East. The museum will be a permanent tribute to those who came home and those who didn't.

Speed in getting the war museum under way is imperative, says Buzz Aldrin, on the advisory board of the national museum. He is well-known as the astronaut who landed Apollo 11 on the moon in 1969, following fellow astronaut Neil Armstrong as the first humans to walk on the moon. Lesser known is that Aldrin flew 66 combat missions in the Korean War. Flying an F-86 Sabre Jet in MiG Alley, he was credited with shooting down two Russian MiG-15 jets in dogfights.

Although the Korean campaign was one of the coldest, bloodiest wars in world history, Aldrin says, "Some high school history books devote only a cursory overview of the Korean War, little more than an asterisk in American history. Those of us who fought there know better." Getting the war museum operational is essential, say museum planners. The average age of Korean War veterans is now more than 78 and many are already gone.

If we don't record their stories now, we will never have another chance and the Korean War would truly be the "Forgotten War."

The renowned former astronaut said Roy Manning is a GI whose incredible story will be saved at the museum. Manning, on a \$500 bet, joined the Army and was in combat in Korea in July 1950, the second month of what President Harry Truman billed as a police action. Pvt. Manning and his regiment of about 50 found themselves surrounded by superior North Korean forces, becoming prisoners of war. The POWs were forced to march three days and four nights with little food and almost no water. One American who slipped out of the bonds that tied him to other prisoners was made an example by the North Koreans. With the helpless prisoners looking on, the GI was beheaded.

On the morning of Aug. 18, 1950, some 47 prisoners of war were lined up and machine-gunned by their captors. Manning, hit five times and bleeding heavily, took shelter beneath a dead GI. The North Koreans returned to stick bayonets into bodies, checking for survivors. Stabbed in the leg, Roy grunted. Believing the sound came from the body above him, soldiers shot the corpse twice. Both bullets penetrated the body and hit Manning. Later, attempting to escape the massacre scene, Manning was hit five more times in the back. Despite 12 bullet wounds, he managed to reach the American lines. Telling the story of the massacre made Roy Manning a national celebrity.

Aldrin says there are thousands of stories from the war. They will be lost if they are not recorded soon so they can be passed along to future generations. "That's what the Korean War National Museum is all about, preserving and passing along the stories of these brave men," he said. In addition to accounts of the war, the museum will be the only source with a registry of those who served in Korea, the only existing accounting. **CONTINUED**

A traveling exhibit is planned to take the story of the war to tens of thousands of high school students across the nation, depending upon securing financing. In addition to devoting time to the Korean War National Museum, Aldrin is working on a plan to get tourism into outer space. This venture began after he left the Air Force as a colonel, later resigning from the space program. Along the way, he earned a doctorate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Aldrin, one of those Korean War veterans who is 78, pledges to change the "Forgotten War" to the "War That Was." A 20,000-square-foot building is planned for the permanent location war museum, opposite the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield. The temporary war museum operates at Chanute Air Force Base at Rantoul, Ill.

For more on the Korean War National Museum, drop a line to executive director Larry Sassorossi at 303 North Fifth St., P.O. Box 299, Springfield, IL 62705. His Web site is [larrysassorossi@kwnm.org](mailto:larrysassorossi@kwnm.org). A toll free phone is 888-295-7212.

## **DNA Lab Helps Return Servicemembers to their Families**

By Fred W. Baker III - American Forces Press Service  
WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 2008 - Thumb-tacked to the inside of Jennifer O'Callaghan's office cubicle is a picture of Marine Capt. William Francis Mullen.

On her desk is a red metal bracelet engraved with his name, and the date the fighter pilot went missing. Mullen presumably was shot down during a combat mission in Laos in 1966. His body was never found, but O'Callaghan hopes to change that.

"Hopefully, one day, we will find him, too," she said. O'Callaghan works as a mitochondrial DNA analyst at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Md. She is not connected to Mullen in any way other than by the passion that drives her and the others at the lab to painstakingly work through extracting and sequencing the mitochondrial DNA of 800 bone and tooth samples each year provided by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC. DNA testing, once deemed unreliable by the scientific community, has developed to become a key piece of evidence in nearly 85 percent of all missing troop identifications, DoD officials said.

"Once people realized the value of the DNA for forensic examinations and identifications of degraded or unrecognizable remains, it solidified DNA's role in human identification," said Army Lt. Col. Louis Finelli, chief deputy medical examiner and director of the DoD DNA registry. Five teams of technicians, analysts and supervisors work on the cases that are flown in from the JPAC, which is based in Hawaii. The JPAC is one of a handful of DoD agencies charged with recovering and identifying missing servicemembers from past wars. Its Central Identification Lab sends the bone and tooth samples to the DNA lab even as its forensic anthropologists work to identify the remains of recovered servicemembers using other means, such as dental and personnel records, personal items and historical accounts.

The DNA lab has two main missions. One is to provide DNA testing on the remains of current servicemembers who die, and the other is to provide DNA testing on the remains of servicemembers who have been recovered from past wars. In the latter respect, the DNA lab is one of the oldest and largest labs in the world that works with what's known as "ancient DNA testing," or testing from severely degraded samples. It also is the world's leader in working with mitochondrial DNA, officials said. Nuclear DNA testing is most commonly used now in forensic labs around the world to pinpoint a specific identity. But the drawback is that it can be used mostly only on high-quality samples, and other appropriate DNA references by which to confirm the identity are necessary, such as samples from immediate kin or a blood reference sample. Mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA, on the other hand, points only to maternal lineage, but it is easier to extract from severely degraded bone and tooth samples, and reference samples can be from any maternal relative, regardless of the generation. **CONTINUED**

**C O N T I N U E D** - This is especially helpful for identifying servicemembers' remains from past wars, because some remains are decades old and many immediate family members of the servicemembers have since died. The development of using mtDNA testing to aid identification of servicemembers has led to a boom in business for the lab. It has shot up from testing only about 200 samples a year in 1995 to having plans to test as many as 1,000 a year by 2010. Also, since the early 1990s, the lab has processed 12,000 DNA reference samples from family members. Their sample results are entered into a database that is referenced against the missing servicemembers' DNA test results.

Finelli said the mission of the lab speaks to DoD's efforts to recover its missing servicemembers. "I think we're unrivaled in that capacity in the world," Finelli said.

The sampling process can take months, or sometimes years, depending on the quality of the sample. The scientists there work in the "blind," not knowing many of the particulars surrounding the cases of those they are testing. Bone and tooth samples are sent to the lab in a small cardboard envelope sealed with evidence tape to protect them from tampering. Inside is a letter with a case and sample number, the conflict and region from which the sample is returned.

JPAC's recovery teams travel on about 70 missions a year to some of the most remote locations around the world to recover the remains. The DNA lab has received samples from drained rice paddies, termite mounds, glaciers and the sides of mountains, said Jackie Raskin-Burns, a supervisory DNA analyst at AFDIL. She said when remains arrive, the scientists can't help but wonder who they are and what their story was. "Every case is different, and every case is exciting," Raskin-Burns said. She has worked at the lab for 14 years, and said the cases become personal for those who work on them. She keeps track of all cases she works on and matches them with the DoD notifications released after the families are notified.

"I still get goose bumps when a sequence matches a reference," she said. "I still get a little pit in my stomach when it doesn't, because you so want to help bring these guys home." The samples provided are small -- typically only about 5 grams, weighing less than one-half of an ounce. The surface of each sample is sanded and cleaned to remove external contaminants. Technicians take about half of the sample, about the size of a pea, and grind it into a fine powder. Only about two-tenths of a gram of the powder is used for sampling. The samples are purified, and everything in the cell is removed except for the pure mtDNA. The target area of the mtDNA is then replicated within the sample to give the scientists a sufficient number of copies to work with. Hundreds of thousands of copies of the targeted mtDNA are made.

When finished, the mtDNA is separated and actually is visible on a gel when illuminated by an ultraviolet light. Once the scientists verify that mtDNA has been obtained and that the sample is clean and accurate, it again is purified and then broken down into its base pair components. Each of the components is fluorescently tagged, allowing the analysts to record the exact order of the components. The order of these components -- the mitochondrial DNA sequence -- is compared to a reference sequence. Each difference in the sequence is noted, and those differences are compared to a database of other reference sequences. Mitochondrial DNA is not exclusive to an individual, and some sequences are very common. Therefore, a sequence match does not necessarily prove relationship, because others can have the same sequence. But, if two sequences do not match, it does prove they are not related maternally. So, if anthropologists recover remains from an airplane crash, they already think they know who was on the plane.

When tested, if the mtDNA sequence matches that servicemember's family reference sample, it is strong evidence that the sample, indeed, came from the person they believed to be on the plane. The test results are combined with other evidence gathered at the crash site and by forensic anthropologists to make an identification.

On the other hand, if the mtDNA sequence from the recovered remains does not match that of a maternal relative of the servicemember thought to be on the plane, the scientists can conclude that the remains are not those they believed them to be. Once the sequence comparisons are made, a report is sent to the Central Identification Laboratory at the JPAC. If needed, it will return the samples to have them compared to relatives in the family reference sample database. The DNA lab does not make any servicemember identifications. It simply renders a report that indicates whether sample sequences are consistent with reference samples, or that a relationship cannot be determined.

Much of the work is done in test tubes in sterile labs by scientists clad in white lab coats and goggles. Air locks and separate ventilation systems keep stray DNA and other contaminants from ruining the tests. Despite what could be a cold and impersonal scientific environment, many at the lab say they feel personally connected to the mission and are determined to help return the remains to their families. "If a case doesn't look like it's working, I'll put that much more effort into trying to get something out of it, because I know this is somebody's relative," O'Callaghan said. "This is somebody's brother. This is somebody's father. And I can be the one who can help bring him home."

O'Callaghan picked Mullen's name and profile from the Vietnam War Memorial when she started working at the lab. Her husband is a former Marine who served in combat, and O'Callaghan said that as a family member, she appreciates the lab's mission. "I would want somebody to do this for me if something happened to him in Iraq," she said. "So I am very happy to do this for someone else."

Raskin-Burns has attended about a dozen presentations of servicemembers' remains to their families. She said the look on the family members' faces has kept her at the lab for 14 years.

"When you're working so hard at one thing for such a long time, to be rewarded by having this person go home to their family, it's very touching and becomes very personal," she said.

As a soldier, Finelli said that DoD's efforts are well spent, and even owed, to servicemembers' families and to those who have died in combat.

"The parents entrust their sons and daughters to the government every day. It's only right that we provide an answer back to them should [their sons and daughters] pay the ultimate sacrifice in the line of service to the country," Finelli said. "Nobody wants to be the lonely soldier out on the battlefield, not embraced by their country, who they died for." Finelli said he expects that the lab's mission will continue to grow as research and technology continue to break new ground in identifying servicemembers' remains. The lab now leads the way in mtDNA research for the rest of the world, he said, noting that private organizations and other governments have asked for help in many high-profile cases in the past decade. And DoD is investigating expanding the use of DNA testing in the current war on terror, Finelli said. With the advances in technology and science, Finelli said, he thinks the days of returning servicemembers' remains to their families decades after they died on the battlefield are over.

"There will never be an unknown soldier out there ever again," Finelli said. "The government has put their trust and funding into making sure they can tell my parents who I am."

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**The Board of Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing wishes all of our family members, friends, and veterans a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Holiday Season and New Year.**

**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.

\*YOUR Full NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Applicant's relationship to POW-MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

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