2007 - 2008 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2007- 2008
City selections are based on past update schedules and demographic mapping of family members' home locations.

- 2007 Family Update Cities 2007 • Phoenix, AZ - November 17 •
- 2008 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2008 •
  - January 12 - Houston, TX • February 9 - Atlanta, GA • March 15 - Portland, OR •
  - April 19 - Hartford, CT • May 17 - Tulsa, OK •
  - June 19-21 SEA Government Briefings, Washington D.C. •
  - July 26 - Chicago, IL • August 23 - Salt Lake City, UT •
- October 16-18 Korean/Cold War Government Briefings, Washington D.C. •
- 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

Treasurer's Corner by Gail Stallone:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
The holidays are approaching shortly; please think about sending in you 2007 membership check. It would be a big help to receive the checks before the first of the year, in this way we don't have to send out reminder cards and pay postage.

Please note on the inside pages, our fund raiser is selling magnets, with our logo on them. They are inexpensive, a great size to hold notes and pictures on your refrigerator and file cabinets.

Thank You!

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

Congressional Contacts:
http://congress.org/congressorg/home/
US Senate : http://www.senate.gov/
House : http://www.house.gov/
White House: http://www.whitehouse.gov/

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IN MY OPINION
by IRENE L. MANDRA

Congratulations to DPMO for an up to date forum given in DC. I know it's a tremendous amount of work, which is deeply appreciated. The number given now for our missing is 8,089 from the Korean War, with 861 remains still at the Punch bowl. For the year 2007 nineteen have been identified from the Korean War and a possibility of additional three more very soon. Of the unknowns at the Punch bowl six have been identified. Fifteen total have been identified from the Cold War.

Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing had a stupendous dinner at the Comfort Inn. We had almost fifty people in attendance. I wish to thank our guest speaker General Dr. Robert Foglesong for flying in for the sole purpose of speaking with our members. The good General brought us good news with his opening remarks that the US commission, General Foglesong and Norman Kass will be leaving for Russia, the end of November into the first week of December. We also have a new Russian chairman on the US Russian commission, General Colonel Nikolay I. Reznik. We are delighted that the commission is getting off the ground again, it was an unbelievably happy occasion with General Foglesong and another highlight of the evening was the awarding of our plaque to our Guest of Honor Mr. Ron Broward. (For those of you who are not familiar with Mr. Broward he is the gentleman who works for JPAC for no salary, and flies to Korea on his own dime looking and helping to bring back our fallen loved ones.) The following words were spoken at our dedication.

“Tonight we honor our friend, Ron Broward... Ron; you are the voice of those who have no voice, our beloved brothers, fathers, uncles, husbands and sons. Yours are the arms that reach beyond our simple embrace of hope, Yours are the legs that journey beyond borders and you are a shining ray of light that brightens the darkness that hides the truth and answers. For all you are, for all you do, we honor your selfless dedication to our lost loved ones. With admiration, respect and deep affection, on behalf of Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing, I am honored to present this small token of our gratitude.”

The Plaque inscription reads: "We here by recognize Ron Broward for his selfless efforts to resolve the fates of our POWs and MIAs and to bring closure and peace to those who still wait."

We would also like to thank Jennifer Broward, for all her hard work in helping her husband, in doing so she also helps us family members. We were not aware of her generous time and effort until the night of the dinner: Bless You Jennifer!

JPAC update: General Flowers is retiring as of January, we wish him well in his retirement and we welcome Admiral Donna L. Crisp, USN, who will take command January 2008. I sincerely hope that the Admiral will consider our suggestion, which is, Hawaii is too expensive to live and thus we continue to have a shortage of anthropologists, which hurts the Korean War remains issue. Consideration must be given to the fact that the sibling of the Missing are elderly and cannot continue to wait years for answers. We need JPAC centrally located and that means bringing it to the states where the hiring of anthropologist would not pose a problem. It is too expensive to live in Hawaii and thus we cannot lure families to move there.

Second problem that we hope Admiral Crisp would look at is the resources given to Korea compared to Vietnam. All our beloved men and woman should be equal with all the work being done at JPAC as far as remains. But as it stand at present Korea is only receiving 10% while Vietnam is receiving 85%. WHY THE INEQUITY?? I understand that all this work started with the Vietnam War and I am most grateful for the people that opened these doors, but that was long ago and this irregularity should have been corrected years ago to make it fair to all the families that still wait for closure.

Another issue, we have many notable people who are active in the POW/MIA issue who have a tremendous interest in the Korea-Cold War government briefing. These people especially those who represent organizations should be allowed to attend our meeting. The knowledge that they would learn would be brought back to their organizations and used to benefit the issue. Additionally, we have many family members who are up in their years and would like to send a proxy on their behalf. I hope DPMO would amend their strict policy to include such people.

REMINDER! This is the last issue of the Front Page for 2007. Please renew your membership early! Please help us defray costs by renewing now so that we do not have to send out reminder cards in January 2008!
The Cold War touched even Santa - November 3rd, 2007
During the height of the Cold War, a little girl from Michigan named Michelle Rochon wrote to President Kennedy. Here is his response from the archives of the Kennedy Presidential Library and included in Caroline Kennedy's A Family Christmas.

“October 28, 1961
The White House
Dear Michelle:
I was glad to get your letter about trying to stop the Russians from bombing the North Pole and risking the life of Santa Claus. I share your concern about the atmospheric testing of the Soviet Union, not only for the North Pole but for countries throughout the world; not only for Santa Claus but for people throughout the world.”

KOREAN WAR - COLD WAR
FUNDRAISER
HELP SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION!

Lovely blue & white solid 2” x 3” magnet with full magnetic backing. Features Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing logo and the words WE REMEMBER

$3.00 each
Great as stocking stuffers and for Chanukah.

Shipping & Handling Charges:
1-2 Magnets :$1.00
3-4 Magnets: $1.50
5-6 Magnets: $2.00

Send check or money order to:
Korea - Cold War Families of the Missing
12966 Daisy Blue Mine Rd
Nevada City, CA
95959
Attn: Melody Raglin, Fundraising

Any questions contact Melody at koreancoldwar@yahoo.com
Let’s not forget our Healing Heroes this holiday season. When you are making out your Christmas and New Year’s card list this year, please include the following:

American Red Cross
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-500

American Red Cross
c/o Bethesda Naval Hospital
8901 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20814

Remember, these are our sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, bothers and sisters, too.

They Remembered You...Remember Them!

Veterans Day each year…
Is about all those who gave…
Their youth, their hearts, their blood…
For the homeland of the brave!

From the first days of our nation…
Whenever there was war…
Our veterans kept us free…
A task they gladly bore!

They sacrificed for all of us…
And endured a lot of pain…
But for them it was worthwhile…
Regardless of the strain!

When courage was required…
They ignored their inner fear…
And fought their way to victory…
For the land they loved so dear!

Our nation covets peace…
But will resort to war…
If our freedom is in jeopardy…
Or a threat is at our door!

So remember all our veterans…
Like they remembered you…
When they fought those bloody battles…
For the red, the white, and blue!

By Bob Beskar 10-01-2007
Vietnam War Veteran

ON THE WEB: Korean War

The Korean War - Multinational Forces
http://www.korean-war.com/

Department of the Navy -- Naval Historical Center
http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/kowar/kowar.htm

Korean War - Remembering Our History
http://korea50.army.mil/history/index.shtml

The Korean War Project
http://www.koreanwar.org/

ON THE HILL by Frank Metesky, Washington, DC Liaison

On August 1ST I attended the DPMO update in Washington and the following is a summary of the information received

CHINA— all operations and meeting re access to archives and recovery of remains mission in Dandong previously scheduled for 2008 have been put off until OCT.

RUSSIA --- is dead in the water until Putin gives the Russian side of the Joint Commission authority to cooperate—everything right now is just a big question mark as to what will happen. AMB Fogelson will go to Moscow to see if he get things back on track in OCT

NORTH KOREA—DPMO is ready to meet with them when given permission to work out 4 Joint Recovery Operations for 2008. If this does not happen the assets that would have been used in the North will used to increase operations in South Korea for 2008-This would be a first as in the past we have had either or situation

SOUTH KOREA-- there are at least 3 operations scheduled in the South for 2008 that could yield significant recovery of remains. The 6 remains returned by GOV.Bill Richardson from Unsan area should be identified very soon an released to their next of kin. We could have as many as 30 identified for 2008

I have asked DPMO to go back to the old schedule of a separate update for the Korean Cold War rather than sit there listening to details about Vietnam and WWII before they get to our areas of interest and the issues we need to discuss. This is also important if North Korea comes back on line. Vietnam War representatives have also asked for a separate meeting

MARINE MISSING FROM KOREAN WAR IS IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Pfc. Carl A. West, U.S. Marine Corps, of Amanda Park, Washington. He will be buried Oct. 4 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

West was a member of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, of the 1st Marine Division deployed near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On Nov. 27, 1950, three Communist Chinese Divisions launched an attack on the Marine positions. Over the next several days, U.S. forces staged a fighting withdrawal to the south, first to Hagaru-ri, then Koto-ri, and eventually to defensive positions at Hungnam. West died on Dec. 8, 1950 as a result of enemy action near Koto-ri. He was buried by fellow Marines in a temporary United Nations military cemetery in Hungnam, which fell to the North Koreans in December 1950. His identity was later verified by the FBI from a fingerprint taken at the time of the burial.

During Operation Glory in 1954, the North Korean government repatriated the remains of 2,944 U.S. soldiers and Marines. Included in this repatriation were remains associated with West’s burial. The staff at the U.S. Army Mortuary in Kokura, Japan, however, cited suspected discrepancies between the dental remains and West’s dental file as well as discrepancies between the biological profile derived from the remains and West’s physical characteristics. The remains were among 416 subsequently buried as “unknowns” in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) in Hawaii.

In May 2006, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command exhume remains from The Punchbowl believed to be those of West. Although the remains did not yield usable DNA data, a reevaluation of the skeletal and dental remains led to West’s identification.
My Name is LTC Julius H. Smith, Chief of the Army’s Past Conflict Repatriations Branch (PCRB). We are the Army Representatives who provide the other Department of Defense (DoD) organizations with past conflicts Army/Army Air Corps personnel information, required to research and identify unaccounted-for MIA’s. Our mission is full circle. We are your starting point for contact, collecting mtDNA samples, family member updates, and your point of closure, to brief the Family with the completed identification packet. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Army PCRB operations personnel. I also would like to say “thank you” for your patience and support as we continue the covenant to those still unaccounted-for from America’s past conflicts, WWII, Korea and Southeast Asia. The POW/MIA motto “You Are Not Forgotten” continues to loudly echo in this new millennium and the Army will continue its efforts until that promise has been kept.

PCRB Leadership: MAJ Paul Madrid, Mrs. Linda Baublitz, Mrs. Carolyn Floyd

Operations Section: SFC Tim Collins, SSG Melanie Moore, Mrs. Alice Clifton. They collect documents for genealogy research submission, contact researched genealogy information, and contact Families for mtDNA collection for all Past Conflicts.

Southeast Asia Section (SEA): Mrs. Frieda Powell, Mrs. Lourdes Blanco are committed to providing casualty assistance support to Family members of soldiers still unaccounted for from SEA. 567 remain unaccounted for. The good news is that we have contact with all 567 families.

Korea Section: Ms. Estrellita McGee, Mrs. Linda Henry and Mrs. Evelyn Martin are committed to providing casualty assistance support to Family members of approximately 6235 soldiers still unaccounted for from the Korean War. We have contact with 3928 of those families.

WWII Section: Mrs. Tracy Brown, Mr. Lincoln Berry, Mr. Mark Armstrong are committed to providing casualty assistance support to Family members of approximately 38,000 soldiers still unaccounted for from WWII.

Identification Section: Mr. Johnny Johnson, Mr. Paul Bethke, Mrs. Rena Thompson, represent the Army’s completed identifications for Soldiers recovered from Past Conflicts. Once the identification is received, the Identification Section assumes responsibility as the Army’s primary interface with the Family. We coordinate all matters relating to the escort of remains from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), presentation of recovered personal effects, the funeral, interment in a government or civilian cemetery, military funeral honors and official travel of Family members.

A Word from the Chaplain to the Families of our yet to be repatriated Soldiers: by CMAOC Chaplain: LTC Paul Kauffman

I want to assure you that we who work at the CMAOC take the responsibility for repatriating the remains of your loved ones as a Sacred Duty. We hold these to be our brothers and sisters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to God and Country. So we will not falter in our efforts to recover and repatriate. We are as joyful as you are when we succeed. There is, of course, no guarantee of success but our efforts will be ceaseless and we hope you find that our efforts give due honor to the memory and service of your “yet to be repatriated” loved one.
Seeking family members
The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command encourages anyone who is a family member of an MIA or POW to go to www.jpac.pacom.mil to see whether a DNA swab is needed.

The accounting command has 28 active cases from Missouri and Kansas, including Ward K. Patton and Robert L. Wright. In active cases, the command thinks it has identified remains but needs DNA confirmation.

US Federal News - September 12, 2007
Governor Richardson Urges Secretary of Defense to Restart
US Soldiers Remains Recovery Program with North Korea

The presidential campaign of Gov. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., issued the following news release:

Governor Bill Richardson today sent a letter to Dr. Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense urging him to restart the Joint POW/MIA Accounting command to locate, recover and repatriate the remains of American servicemen in North Korea. The program was suspended the program in May 2005 by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"The time is right for the US to take the next step and work with the North Koreans to identify the additional American soldiers' remains so they can be returned to their homeland, where they belong," said Governor Bill Richardson. "Secretary Gates I urge you to restart Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command missions to recover the remains of American soldiers in North Korea and let those servicemen be returned to their families and placed to rest in the country they loved."

In April North Korean military leaders turned over the remains of six American soldiers to a delegation led by Governor Richardson and former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi. One soldier Cpl. Clem Boody was identified through DNA testing and his family was advised two weeks ago. The Department of Defense is continuing the identification process for the remains of the five other soldiers.

Letter follows:
September 10, 2007
The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Sir,
I am writing to urge you to restart the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command missions to locate, recover and repatriate the remains of American soldiers in North Korea.

Last week the Department of Defense identified the remains of an American soldier repatriated from North Korea on my bipartisan trip in April 2007. Six decades after the end of the North Korean conflict the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) quickly and expertly identified that soldier as Corporal Robert Boody and provided vital closure to his family.

Among the several letters from his family—one member wrote to me and said "I can never express to you the heartfelt gratitude and joy that I feel for the return of my uncle from North Korea. We never dreamed that Uncle Clem would be returned to us in our lifetime.

I need to thank you for escorting the remains of my uncle and the remains of five other servicemen back to their homeland, the United States of America. I pray that the identity of the remaining five well be forthcoming."

I am confident that the DPMO is utilizing every resource to identify the remaining five soldiers and return their remains to their family. But in North Korea, there are an estimated 8,100 US servicemen still unaccounted for and thousands of American families who deserve to have the same closure.

As you will recall, your predecessor Donald Rumsfield suspended the DPMO's participation in joint field activities in May 2005. This successful program had resulted in the recovery and repatriation of 229 remains between 1996 and 2005 the US and North Korea and provided vital closure for many American families.

Last April, during my negotiations with General Ri Chan Bok, North Korea's Commanding General at the Demilitarized Zone, the general was critical of the US withdrawal from the joint remains recovery initiative. During those negotiations, I personally handed over several letters from the families of a half-dozen US soldiers, whose remains are believed to be in North Korea. I emphasized that politics should not derail this important program, and urged the General to remain open to the possibility of joint recovery efforts for the sake of grateful American families who would see this as a gesture of good will on the part of North Korea. Overnight General Ri read those letters and was clearly moved by the desire among the families to identify the remains and have them returned home to the United States.

Having negotiated with the North Koreans several times, I understand how challenging that can be. But in this case, it was the US that withdrew from the joint recovery process as a result of the lack of progress during negotiations with North Korea over its nuclear weapons program. During my trip to North Korea in April, I urged the North Koreans to invite nuclear-weapons inspectors to oversee the shutdown of its nuclear reactor, which they did. I also emphasized the importance of North Korea moving forward with the six-party talks. As you know, progress has been made in terms of disclosure of North Korea's nuclear weapons program and a timeline to dismantle that program.

The time is right for the US to take the next step and work with the North Koreans to identify the additional American soldiers' remains so they can be returned to their homeland, where they belong.

I'd like to conclude with the words of the same Boody family member. "It is important to us that we now have Uncle Clem back in the US. That he soon will be placed to rest in the country that he loved and so proudly fought for."

Secretary Gates I urge you to restart Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command missions to recover the remains of American soldiers in North Korea and let these servicemen be returned to their families and placed to rest in the country they loved.

Sincerely,
Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

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Sincerely,
Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
FOR COLD WAR FAMILIES - Navy Cold War Loss Incidents

Irene:
In response to your e-mail that was forwarded to this office by LTC Julius H. Smith, USA (See attachment), the following information is provided.

Research/investigation of U.S. Cold War Loss Incidents are coordinated by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD), Cold War Working Group (CWWG). Promising leads associated to one of the U.S. Cold War Loss Incidents, including the five Navy Loss Incidents, are coordinated with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the applicable Service Casualty Office.

Of interest to family members is the mission responsibilities that fall within the cognizance of each of the Service components (Navy/Mortuary Offices) and the other agencies that pursue the recovery, identification and disposition of remains associated with these Loss Incidents. I would not presume to speak for DPMO, JPAC, AFDIL or the LSEL; however, I would like to take a brief moment to expand on the Navy POW/MIA Branch's primary responsibility in support of the U.S. Government's "Full Accounting Effort" for Hostile Loss Incidents, as mandated by the Missing Persons Act, Title 37 USC and the Missing Service Personnel Act (MSPA), Title 10 USC (Stated below).

As the Department of the Navy POW/MIA Program Manager, the POW/MIA Branch, Casualty Assistance Division (N135C/PERS-62), serves as the primary liaison between family members of Navy Hostile Unaccounted-For Loss Incidents (WWII through Desert Storm) and those government agencies and service organizations involved in the U.S. Government’s "Full Accounting Effort". I would like to stress this point, as it has recently become apparent that many Navy family members, perhaps some within your organization, do not understand our function, which simply is to represent them: (1) To be the family's advocate regarding case specific information they are seeking from the Department of the Navy or other government agencies, (2) To request clarification of official government reports and correspondence forwarded to them by the Department of Defense (DOD) or other U.S. Government Components, (3) To represent the Department of the Navy and Navy families at DOD Annual Government Briefings and monthly Family Updates, and (4) To share everything that this office has on file in our Navy Unaccounted-For Casualty Records with the service member's family.

Additionally, this office coordinates the Department of the Navy Outreach Programs (WWII through Desert Storm) and in conjunction with Navy Mortuary, the Department of the Navy Family Reference Sample Program (WWII through Desert Storm), the latter of which is directly related to the dozen or so Navy Identifications that are coordinated by this office annually.

As you can see from the above, our sole purpose is to represent and serve Navy family members. We are not involved in the recovery of remains, burial or crash site excavations, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) typing, forensic or skeletal analysis, or analysis of life support equipment, all of which are crucial steps, which lead to the identification of missing American service personnel. We do however, pass this information to Navy family members as it is received from the appropriate agency involved.

R/S
Ken Terry
Head, POW/MIA Branch
Casualty Assistance Division (N135C/PERS-62)
(901) 874-4303

BBC International Reports (Asia) - September 16, 2007

S Korea conducts DNA test on families of POWs in North

Seoul, Sept. 16 (Yonhap) - The Defence Ministry said Sunday it has carried out DNA tests on scores of bereaved families of South Korean prisoners of war who died in North Korea after the end of the 1950-53 Korean War in a prelude to providing them with financial support.

In July the ministry started giving DNA tests to the families who escaped from North Korea to prove they are the prisoners' families before paying 50 million won (US$ 53,821) in compensation to each family, a ministry spokesman said.

"The government is providing the families with the DNA tests for free under the relevant law, which was put in force this year," the spokesman said.

The families of South Korean POWs who died in the North have been supported by the government. But the families of South Korean POWs, who are still alive in the North, have been excluded from the cash-based compensation list as there is a chance the prisoners could return to the South.

The Agency for Defence Development (ADD) affiliated with the ministry has proved 50 persons from 19 families to be the POWs' relatives through the DNA tests, the ministry said.

The ADD has conducted the DNA tests on 38 families, or over 142 persons. The ministry estimates about 560 South Korean POWs are alive in the North. About 19,000 South Korean soldiers went missing in action during the Korean war.

Aug. 7, 2007 - SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE KOREAN WAR IS IDENTIFIED

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

He is Sgt. Frank Bunchuk, U.S. Army, of Medina, N.Y. He will be buried Thursday in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Army met with Bunchuk's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In November 1950, Bunchuk was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division then occupying a defensive position southwest of Unsan, North Korea near a bend in the Kuryong River known as the Camel's Head. On Nov. 1, parts of two Chinese Communist Divisions struck the 1st Cavalry Division's lines, collapsing the perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. In the process, the 3rd Battalion was surrounded and effectively ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Bunchuk was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

In 2002, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of North Korea team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a burial site south of Unsan near the nose of the Camel's Head formed by the joining of the Nammyon and Kuryong rivers. The team recovered human remains. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of Bunchuk's remains.
THE TIGER GROUP - Courtesy of the Korean War Ex-POW Newsletter - from Phil O'Brien

"Dear Friends,

Let's return to Tiger Group, the first organized gathering of U.S. POWs in the Korean War. Most were taken during the opening days of the war, from 6 July near Osan falling back to 22 July 1950 near Taegon. Not everyone captured during this early period became part of Tiger Group, but many did. Picking up the story, by foot and train they worked north, reaching Manpo on the south bank of the Yalu River on or about 11 September. After a brief side trip, to keep them clear of the Chinese armies entering North Korea at Manpo, they began their infamous death march on 31 October to the faraway Apex Camps, where they arrived on or about 9 November 1950. There were three holding points at the Apex, two were villages and the third was an old Japanese army or police enclosure from colonial days. Members of Tiger Group spoke of Chungun or Chungang and of An-dong or Ando-ri, but these names were pretty much generalized. For working purposes we now use Chunngang-jin as the name of the first village, and Hanjang-ni as the name of the second. The police post was between the villages of An-dong and Kaeyambol. Let's have a look at the three sites.

Chunngang-jin was a little village where the trail coming down from the high mountain pass above Chazong met two lower roads, one still following the shore of the Yalu River and the other going inland along a tributary stream. Tiger Group was at Chunngang-jin from roughly 9 through 16 November 1950. Nothing was permanent there. Survivors of the march could go no farther, and some arrived by cart, a real surprise, for many others had already died violently along the wayside. North Korean guards panicked here, running men in circles and pushing them into huts. Some died in the process. Others simply continued to die from the effects of the march. In the week and a half that Tiger Group was at Chunngang-jin, 23 American soldiers and one airman died, with burials nearby. When we finally get back to the area, the biggest problem will be in finding the exact location of the village and these burials, which may have been at two or three sites near the huts. The North Koreans have moved the village name in recent years, from the site near the meeting of the roads which is now known as Chunsang-dong, to another cluster about two miles farther northeast. But we have enough cross-bearing, from accounts given by Tiger Group members, to know where we wish to go.

The second village was the Winter site, Hanjang-ni, where Tiger Group stayed from around 16 November 1950 to 8 March 1951. Hanjang-ni was a day's march northeast from Chunngang-jin, and right above a bend in the Yalu River. There was a small orchard above the river, and the village was above that. The main road, then dirt, is now gravel. It runs above the village, and was laid out by the Japanese sometime before World War II. This road was pretty well engineered, and it was above the flood plain of the Yalu River. This far upstream, the Yalu did not flood as heavily in the Springtime. As near as we can tell, the road has never flooded out. This is important, for many of the burials at Hanjang-ni were above the village and some were even just above the road.

This was a terrible time, five or ten men, or more, died every day. Until Thanksgiving, burials were barely possible. After that, the ground froze up solidly, and surviving men were simply too weak to do very much. Our best estimate is that 203 American servicemen and three American civilians died at Hanjang-ni. After the ground froze, some burials were done with ice and rocks in shallow ditches, and some bodies were simply placed behind a nearby hut. We know that some graves were rummaged by wild animals, but our best hope is that returning villagers later did re-burials wherever they could.

None of this is very pleasant to remember, but when we finally get to Hanjang-ni, we'll be treating the whole site as the scene of a mass casualty, like the crash of a large aircraft.

We know that we will be finding partial, skeletal remains, and that we will be relying very heavily on DNA matches for identifications. This is why we have been working so hard against dates, remembered as well as could be, to determine who actually died at Hanjang-ni.

The "Johnnie Johnson List" becomes especially important here, for it has real dates, as remembered by "JJ" and his friends. After war's end, the Army used a different system for recording official dates of death. If three of four men cited someone, the Army took the latest date, and often rounded it out to month's end or even the end of the next month, trying to give benefit of doubt to the man himself. But in the process, they created mis-leads on where the man had actually died. For example, if a man passed sometime in February of March 1951, and the Army set 30 April 1951 for record purposes, he would have died at Hanjang-ni, but his date would match the police compound, instead. None of this is easy, so we've had to reconstruct man by man. And there are other complications: a few men attributed to Tiger Group after the war may not have been there, and a few others, not well remembered, may have been forgotten. But we'll keep trying. The survivors of Tiger Group moved one more time at the Apex Camps, to the police post between the villages of An-dong and Kaeyambol, sometime around 8 March 1951. Winter was easing into Spring, days were a little longer and a little warmer. More importantly, the sadistic guard commander, The Tiger, had been removed. But many men were very near to death. What cold and hunger had not done, pneumonia often would. Good men continued to die, despite the best efforts of their companions and the little extra food that they were now receiving. Around 68 American servicemen and one British Marine died at the police post. (Civilians were separated and held at a nearby village, but we look on An-dong as one overall site.) Most of the burials occurred at one extended location. Friends carried bodies out the front gate, turned left up the road running along the stream in the valley. They did the burials some distance up the road, probably on both sides. The only saving graces here were that only one or two men died each day, and the ground could now be dug for shallow burials. In the fullness of time, we expect to recover most if not all of these men. The area has changed very little in the last fifty years, and the steam is a small, shallow one, not given to great flooding.

There are other issues, as well. Foreign members of Tiger Group, not just Americans, died at the Apex Camps. Our best procedure, once work begins, will be to recover their remains as well. You can't tell the difference in the field, and this is a courtesy which we would respect in any case. I honestly do not know when we will be able to get to the Apex Camps. I am hoping for 2009, if we can begin work at other North Korean sites, from previous base camps, in 2008. I am also hoping that we can use a stretch of level road near An-dong as a landing ground for possible shuttle flights, from either Pyongyang or Manpo, to support recovery teams. We sincerely doubt that the North Koreans would allow U.S. military aircraft into the area, but there are others that we could charter. Let us worry about the details.

Finally, Tiger Group left the Apex Camps in October 1951. They made a short march up the road to the Yalu River, then poled and floated down to Camp 3 below Changsong, part of the main Chinese camp system on the south bank. One men died en route, 1LT Bernard Ferdinand Roth, and he was buried on the south shore. Several other men from Tiger Group died after reaching Camp 3, but as near as we can tell, all of their bodies were returned by Chinese authorities during Operation Glory in September 1954, and were successfully identified.

Nor the happiest of stories, but this was the incredible journey of Tiger Group."
Secrecy Stalls Search For Cold War MIA
Chicago Tribune - October 3, 2007 - Pg. 10
By Alex Rodriguez, Tribune foreign correspondent

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia -- At the height of the Cold War, the U.S. routinely dispatched spy planes along Soviet shores and borders in a perilous, covert campaign to scrutinize the Kremlin's air defense prowess.

Some of the planes slipped out of Soviet airspace unscathed; some were shot down. Washington told families of the missing airmen that the missions were training runs or weather reconnaissance flights -- anything but the truth.

Today, those families know the truth about those missions. What they lack is an ending, the peace of mind that comes with lying to rest the remains of a son, husband or brother classified for decades as missing.

Atop a ridge choked with underbrush 43 miles from the Sea of Japan, Lt. Col. Tim Hall tries to inch closer to one of those endings.

A Russian forester has led him to a few gnarled, rusting husks of metal resting on a bed of moss, wreckage from a plane that could be one of four reconnaissance flights shot down by Soviet forces in the 1950s.

Soaked in sweat on a sun-baked September afternoon, Hall scours each shard of metal in search of serial numbers that would reveal whether the plane was American-made. He finds only one, 706010, from the engine rotor. There are no signs of remains and no cockpit. Scrap-metal hunters have scavenged the wreckage, leaving behind only the engine and two sections of the plane's wings.

"There's a good chance that we may never find out if this was an American aircraft brought down during the Cold War," says Hall as he leaves the wreckage. "But we had a lead that we needed to follow up on, and I guess this is a message to the families that we'll always do our best."

Hall is a gumshoe in a detective story the U.S. military has been trying to cobble together since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991: What was the fate of U.S. spy planes and their crews shot down by the Soviets in a secret air war intelligence officials said was needed to prevent another Pearl Harbor? In the cases of 18 U.S. servicemen, American military investigators have answered that question. Their remains have been recovered from former Soviet territory and buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

However, 77 crew members of 10 U.S. military reconnaissance planes brought down by Soviet forces remain unaccounted for. They represent a category of missing servicemen little known to most Americans. Unlike the Korean or Vietnam Wars, their work was shrouded in Cold War secrecy, and when they disappeared, the nature and fate of their missions vanished with them.

Five decades later, that veil of secrecy still stonewalls efforts to discover the fates of those servicemen. "It's work that is so bound up in the secrets of the past," said Norman Kass, executive secretary of the American side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA, established after the Soviet collapse to track down leads on missing U.S. servicemen from the Cold War, as well as from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. "It was the intelligence services that would have known what happened, and that makes it difficult to get inside and figure out what happened."

To find the crash sites and the crews' remains, American investigators and their Russian counterparts have spent years trekking through Russian birch forests, poring over reams of military archives and tracking down an ever-dwindling number of Soviet veterans and eyewitnesses for leads and clues.

They have visited the sites of former Soviet gulags, where evidence suggests that U.S. servicemen captured during the Korean, Vietnam and Cold Wars were imprisoned. U.S. military investigators think hundreds of Americans may have been secretly held at such camps during the Soviet era.

The work is painstaking and fraught with dead-end pursuits. U.S. military investigators have not found any remains of American servicemen in Russia since the recovery of the body of Capt. John Dunham of Easton, Md., in 1995. Dunham and seven other crew members aboard an RB-29 reconnaissance plane were flying a secret surveillance mission north of Japan's Hokkaido Island in 1952 when Soviet LA-11 fighter jets shot the plane down. The bodies of the other crew members have never been recovered.

A recent rollback in cooperation from the Russian government has made the work of Kass, Hall and their colleagues even harder.

For the past year, the commission has been denied access to Russian military archives in Podolsk outside Moscow, an indispensable trove of data for investigators. Access to other classified files at Russian military and border guard archives has been shut down for three years.

Russian President Vladimir Putin decided in 2004 to shut down the Russian side of the joint commission, a move his aides attributed to a bureaucratic overhaul at the Kremlin.

Washington and Moscow have talked about the resurrection of the Russian side of the commission, but so far the Kremlin hasn't taken action.

"Our access to the archives was routine for eight or nine years," Kass said. "To have it shut down so suddenly has an enormous impact on our work."

In Washington, the CIA and the National Security Agency allow the commission's U.S. investigators to pore over records, but restrict the release of information from those records, Kass said.

For years, Patricia Lively Dickinson has sought information from NSA files about the Nov. 6, 1951, downing of a Navy P2V Neptune reconnaissance plane carrying her brother, Jack Lively, and nine other crewmen. The plane was shot down by Soviet fighter jets over the Sea of Japan.

NSA officials repeatedly rejected Dickinson's requests on the grounds that the information was classified. Then in 2000, the agency sent her a six-page document with most of its contents blacked out.

"I'm not looking for government secrets or war plans; I simply need to know what happened to my brother," said Dickinson of Meadow Bridge, W.Va. "After 56 years, I certainly believe the records can be released with no problem."

"The worst has already happened. But not knowing, it's very hard," Dickinson said. The missions that the Cold War's airmen flew were steeped in risk. Some flights, known as "ferrets," were meant to be detected so that Soviet air defense installations would switch on their radars. The reconnaissance crew would then gather data for analysis.

U.S. reconnaissance flights over Russian territory continued until the 1970s, when an increased reliance on satellites for intelligence-gathering lessened the need for spy planes. Less than a year after the Soviet collapse, then-President Boris Yeltsin told Congress that Soviet forces had shot down U.S. aircraft during the Cold War and said some of the airmen were jailed in Soviet prisons.

Through interviews with former gulag inmates, the commission has amassed a database of alleged sightings of U.S. servicemen imprisoned in gulag camps across Russia, from Vorkuta in the Russian Arctic to Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East.

CONTINUED
COLD WAR - CONTINUED
Many of those servicemen were allegedly captured in the Korean War and turned over to Soviet forces, according to a commission report released in 2005. Commission investigators are checking into whether some of the men taken to gulags were crew members on spy planes shot down by Soviet forces. Access to Russian classified archives could corroborate witness accounts the commission has compiled. The U.S. side of the commission has relied on a retired Soviet admiral, Boris Novyy, to pore over classified Russian military reports for scraps of information that could help investigators learn about missing U.S. servicemen. But with the Russian side of the commission dormant, Novyy can only view the unclassified documents available to any Russian citizen.

“Without access to these documents, I’m limited to relying on witness accounts, which isn’t enough,” Novyy said. “I can’t put together the complete picture of what happened.” The time Novyy, Hall and the rest of the commission have to complete that picture continues to ebb, as the number of living Soviet veterans and witnesses with leads grows smaller.

“The early Cold War veterans are few and far between -- and dying quickly. It’s a treasure trove that’s diminishing,” Hall said.

“I’d say in 10 to 15 years, we may have to turn out the lights. No more clues to look at, no more witnesses to interview. But we’re certainly not there yet now.”

DID YOU KNOW - That the Korean War is still considered an ongoing war? South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il agreed during their summit in Pyongyang last month that three or four heads of state will announce the end of the war on the peninsula. However, no concrete plans to have a summit with three or four heads of state to declare the end of the 1950-53 Korean War is on the horizon. After 54 years, a fragile Armistice is in place, but no formal end.

NEW AT JPAC
Colonel John R. Hahn, Deputy Commander

Colonel Hahn has an illustrious career beginning as a Marine Corps Second Lieutenant in 1984. He has served on Okinawa, Japan; Camp Pendleton, California, USA; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; during Operation Restore Hope, Somalia; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Darwin, Australia; participated in U.S. International Force East Timor and United Nations Transition Assistance East Timor operations; Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, USA; deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) to the Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and off the coast of Liberia for Operation Joint Task Force Liberia.

He served as the U.S. Pacific Command J512 Japan Country Director. He served in this capacity until assuming the responsibilities as Deputy Commander for Internal Operations and Administration, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command during June 2006. He was promoted to Colonel on September 1, 2006.

Col. Hahn’s personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with two gold stars), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with gold star), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with gold star), and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Chit Chat News By Irene L. Mandra
ALOHA! This is a Palapala kono (invitation) for our friends, family members and veterans to Ho’olu komo la kaua (join us) this coming April, 2008, on the beautiful islands of Hawai’i.

Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing is planning a group visit to the Hawaiian Islands. This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip that will combine a fact-finding mission, visitation to pay our respects to our fallen and unknown Heroes, and experience a little culture and vacation time.

Some of our members have already expressed an interest in joining us. I would like to hear from the rest of you, so that I may get information on hotels, transportation, other services and costs. The trip is planned to coincide with the Korean War Ex-POWs’ visit to Oahu.

Our tentative agenda is as follows:
April 2nd: Arrival, Honolulu International Airport, Oahu
April 3rd, Dinner with our brothers, the Korean War Ex-POWs

Planned visits to:
Oahu - Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) and the Honolulu Memorial, Camp H.M. Smith - JPAC, the Dole Pineapple Plantation and a Luau.

We would also like to visit other islands and go holoholo (day tripping) - Big Island Hawaii - see the stunning Kilaeua Volcano at Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, the lush waterfalls in Waipio Valley, St. Benedict’s Painted Church, visit Kailua-Kona and the coffee farms near Kealakekua Bay, stroll historic Hilo.

Mau'i - the Magical Isle - Lahaina, the historic whaling village, and perhaps some breathtaking views from Ulupalakua Ranch, Big Beach, Hana and Oheo Gulch.

Kauai - Waimea Canyon (the Grand Canyon of the Pacific) and the Napali Coast.

Lanai - See the Dolphins in Hulopoe Bay and experience the lunar landscapes of Keahiakawelo, the “Garden of the Gods”.

Molokai - Boat out to see the world’s tallest sea cliffs (3600 feet) along the North Shore and maybe take a mule ride through Kalaupapa National Historical Park.

These are just some ideas. You can plan to stay as long or as short as you like. Please email me with your ideas so that we can plan a memorable and meaningful trip for all of us.

If you have visited Hawai’i, please advise us on what we should be visiting. The EX-POWs will be on the island of Hawai’i from April 2 to the 10. It would be wonderful if our itinerary could coincide with theirs so that we can spend some time with our guys. Everyone who is thinking of going should look into his or her own plane fare.

Much Aloha and Mahalo nui loa - Thank you very much!
Irene

NEW BOOKS - NEW VIDEOS - NEW BOOKS - NEW VIDEOS
The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War by David Halberstam - Hyperion - Sep 25, 2007
Korea - The Forgotten War (History Channel) by Robert Stack (DVD - Sep 27, 2005)
Korean War in Color by War in Color - Goldhill Home Media (DVD - Sep 25, 2007)
Remembering the Korean War (3-cd Set)
The Cold War: A New History by John Lewis Gaddis (Paperback - Dec 26, 2006)
Korean POW, author to be buried today
Phil Riddle - editor@weatherforddemocrat.com

It’s a rare combination of characteristics that makes a man a warrior and a missionary — Larry Zellers was both.

The 84-year-old Weatherford resident, World War II veteran and survivor of a Korean prison camp, died Sunday leaving a legacy of service to his country and his God.

After graduating from Weatherford High School, then Weatherford College, Zellers volunteered to join the fray, which was WWII.

He trained for the Army Air Corps in Utah and was stationed in England, where he served as a radio technician on C-46 Commando aircraft.

After the war was over, Zellers ferried planes back to the United States until he got out of the service and answered the ministerial call. He studied at Southern Methodist University and joined the Fellowship of Christian Reconstruction to teach Japanese and Korean students.

His assignment in Korea led him to meet a fellow missionary, Frances Rogers, who became his wife. Their union lasted 57 years.

“The thing that kept us together so long was our faith,” Frances said. “Our faith grew together, almost like a fusing, we were so close in our beliefs.”

As a newly-married Methodist missionary in a small South Korean village near the 38th parallel in late June of 1950, Zellers was taken prisoner by North Korean soldiers and kept in brutal conditions for three years. His experiences surviving brutal cold and inhumane treatment led him to write what was widely regarded as one of the most accurate accounts of the Korean war ever penned, "In Enemy Hands: A Prisoner in North Korea."

Frances admitted she was afraid while Larry was being held, but held on to her faith.

“The people in church, in Weatherford and in Fort Worth, accepted me and put me to work,” said the then-recent Georgia transplant. “It was the best thing for me, too. It gave me something to do to pass the time.”

Friend David Aiken, also of Weatherford, said Zellers and his fellow prisoners were treated horribly while in custody of the North Korean army.

“He was on a forced march in the dead of winter and survived the brutality of a North Korean Major nicknamed ‘Tiger’ Aiken wrote, reporting Zellers’ death.

But, in spite of the treatment Zellers received at the hands of his captors, he eventually returned to the armed forces, serving as a chaplain, drawing on his life’s experiences to become a missionary to warriors.

Larry served as an Air Force chaplain for 18 years, where, along with his ministerial duties, he did family counseling and survival training, still combining his unique skill sets.

While on duty in Yokusuka, Japan, he met Reverend Mitsuo Fuchida, the planner of the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor.

Zellers later returned to Korea at the request of the United Nations to help negotiate the recovery of buried remains of the “Tiger” Unit.

Services for Zellers, under the direction of White’s Funeral Home, are set for 11 a.m. this morning at Couts Memorial United Methodist Church.

Russia Loses Two Men of the Cold War Era
by Jacki Lyden
All Things Considered, November 3, 2007 - Two figures who played pivotal roles in the Cold War died this past week.

Alexander Feklisov died in Moscow at the age of 93; he was the KGB handler of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed in 1953 for giving America’s atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.

And Russian choreographer Igor Moiseyev, who brought his folk dance troupe to the Metropolitan Opera house in a cultural exchange in 1958, died Friday at the age of 101.

One Came Home By Vincent Krepps (Korean War Veteran)
Author Vincent Krepps writes lovingly, passionately and intently about his life experiences involving his twin brother, Richard. Although he lost his brother during the hostile Korean War, Vincent never let Richard’s legacy go unexplored or unrecorded.

There is a striking quality of togetherness felt throughout the entirety of the story, even after Richard’s passing.

There are pictures, letters, and legal documents place periodically throughout “One Came Home”. Once again, the reader was able to make visual and emotional connections to the text. The autobiography is truly one of brotherhood and patriotism. This hard cover book contains twenty-nine chapters, 320 pages and over 500 photos, the Korean War and POW/MIA history, and honors paid to those that saved a country.

If you wish to order please call 410-828-8978, or e-mail at vak1950@starpower.net Cost $26.95 or you may write to: Vincent Krepps, 24 Goucher Woods Court Towson, MD 21286-5655

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

October 8th, 2007 - Remains Identified: In the spring of 1950, Donald Morris Walker hunched over a testing booklet at a Louisville recruiting office, hoping for a passing score to enter the Navy. When he failed, he drove to a Marine recruiting office and enlisted that same day. Within months, that decision would place the 19-year-old in the frozen hell of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea, where outnumbered U.S. Marines and soldiers faced a Chinese onslaught in one of the war’s bloodiest battles. Walker died during combat. He was hastily buried during the December retreat on land that soon fell into enemy hands. The United States was allowed to exhume his remains, but for decades they lay in Hawaii as an unknown soldier.

Fifty-seven years later, Walker’s remains are being returned to his family.

October 8th, 2007: Al Chang, 85; combat photographer captured iconic images of Korean War
Army cameraman also chronicled conflict in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart. Al Chang, a combat news photographer who covered three wars and whose best-known image showed a U.S. infantryman in the Korean conflict weeping in another soldier’s arms, died Sept. 30 at a veterans care center in Honolulu. He was 85. His Korean War picture, taken Aug. 28, 1950, shows a distraught soldier who has learned that his replacement as radio operator had been killed. In vivid contrast, it also shows a corpsman in the background sifting through casualty information with apparent detachment. The tableau of grief and comfort, taken in the Haktong-ni area of South Korea, became one of the enduring images of the Korean War. The photograph was featured in Edward Steichen’s celebrated “Family of Man” photography exhibit in 1955 at New York’s Museum of Modern Art, and has been reproduced in many newspapers, magazines, books and museum shows honoring wartime photography.

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KOREA-COLD WAR FAMILIES OF THE MISSING, INC.
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