



# THE TORCH

*Illuminating government personnel accounting efforts*



DEFENSE POW/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE

Summer 2003

## Inside

Message From Mr. Jennings 2

1st Korean War Unknown ID'd 3

Cold War Media Campaign Launched 4

PHOTO: First Recovery in Burma of a WWII lost American aircraft 4

History of the POW/MIA Flag 5

Veterans' & Family Updates 5

Upcoming Events 5

A Promise Kept 6

How to Reach Us 6

DPMO's Celebrity Torchbearer 7

2003 National POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster 8

## Families of Missing Meet in D.C.

Several hundred relatives and friends of men missing from the Vietnam War are expected to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families June 26-28, in the nation's capital. During the three-day event U.S. government officials will brief the attendees on current field operations in Southeast Asia, as well as policy matters, intelligence analysis and remains identification efforts.

As in past years, families of the missing will be the honored guests at luncheons hosted by their respective military service. An evening concert performance by the U.S. Army Band is also planned at the Capitol.

Annual government briefings for the families of missing from the Korean and Cold Wars are set for July 25-26 at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Crystal City (Arlington) Virginia. Policy officials from the departments of State and Defense will update attendees on the latest diplomatic initiatives with North Korea. There will also be presentations on the identification process and the use of DNA in that endeavor. Staff from the U.S./Russia Joint Commission plan to brief on their efforts to find information about the fates of Americans who may have ended up in the hands of the former Soviet Union during the Korean and Cold Wars.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Search Finds Vietnam Jungle Site

### Rep Simmons Accompanies Team

A joint team of Americans and Vietnamese, combing the mountainous jungles of the central highlands in search of a U.S. helicopter that crashed there more than 30 years ago, was joined recently by Representative Rob Simmons (R-Conn.). Simmons, a veteran who served nearly three years in Vietnam, returned there in late April hoping to find the remains of U.S. Army Capt. Arnold Holm, who was lost in the 1972 crash of his OH-6A helicopter.

Joining the team in the jungle after flying from Hue City on a Russian helicopter, the congressman went by foot to an area near the recorded loss location where aircraft wreckage was found. Along with aircraft related pieces, the team recovered three boot soles, but their surface search did not yield human remains.

Encouraged by the team's discovery of the wreckage, Rep. Simmons acknowledges there is much more work to be done. Since Capt. Holm's helicopter was not the only aircraft lost in the area, specialists must first analyze the recovered wreckage in an attempt to positively correlate it to a specific incident.

As in other cases of this nature, future efforts at the site will depend upon the results of the wreckage analysis, as well as the weather in this dense jungle area where frequent rain and fog preclude recovery operations for most of the year.

In addition to Capt. Holm, Spc. Robin Yeakley and Pfc. Wayne Bibbs were also on board and are still missing. ♦



*Congressman Simmons inspects the remnants of the soles to a pair of jungle boots found during a site survey, Vung Tau Province, Vietnam. (CILHI Photo)*

**PUBLISHED BY:**

Mr. Jerry Jennings  
*Deputy Assistant  
Secretary of Defense for  
POW/Missing Personnel  
Affairs*

Dr. Kaye Whitley  
*Senior Director,  
Communications*

Ms. Carol Brown  
*Editor*

Ms. Peggy Marish-Boos  
*Editor, Layout Design  
and Photographer*

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Dr. James Connell  
*Senior Analyst, Joint  
Commission Support  
Directorate*

Lt. Col. Olga Kripner  
*Southeast Asia Policy  
Advisor*

Mr. Larry Greer  
*Director, Public Affairs*

CDR Jim Wong  
*Director, Archival  
Research*

Central Identification  
Laboratory, Hawaii  
*Photographs*



Once again, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office is working in high gear to support the annual meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families, which will be followed next month by two days of U.S. government briefings for the relatives of those lost in Korea and during the Cold War. I urge every family to send representatives to these important gatherings to keep current on our worldwide accounting effort.

I am encouraged by our recent success in Iraq, where we liberated our POWs and were able to account for the missing. Moreover, as we continue our important work to account for those missing from past wars, we must recommit ourselves to the overriding principle that we will never abandon those who serve our country and we will work tirelessly to ensure their return home with honor.

Later this summer the major veterans' organizations will hold their national conventions in different cities around the nation. We plan to attend these important events to spread the word. It is particularly important that every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine know that should they become isolated – we will come for them.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming family meetings and veterans conventions this summer.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Jennings  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
POW/Missing Personnel Affairs

## Visit Our Web Site

DPMO is constantly updating and improving its Internet Web site. It includes downloads of lists of unaccounted-for Americans from the Korean, Cold and Vietnam wars. In addition to alphabetical listings, the names can be sorted by state or military service. There is also a complete listing of escapees and returned POWs from the Vietnam War.

Beyond the lists, our site is a handy reference point for the latest statistics, press releases and news on worldwide accounting efforts. In addition, there are also pages explaining U.S. government policies, FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) data, plus loads of special reports and studies.

There is also a special section devoted to families of missing Americans, with information of particular interest to them.

Handy too is our *Links* tab that gives you direct access to the other government, veteran and family Web sites associated with POWs and MIAs.

The DPMO Web site can be found at <http://www.dtic.mil/DPMO> ♦

# FIRST KOREAN WAR UNKNOWN IDENTIFIED

By Larry Greer

**T**he remains of a Korean War U.S. Marine buried as an "unknown" have been identified and returned to his family. He is Pfc. Ronald D. Lilledahl of Minneapolis, Minn. This marks the first unknown serviceman from the Korean War to be identified.

On Nov. 28, 1950, Lilledahl's unit, Company C of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, was surrounded by Chinese forces on the west side of the Chosin Reservoir and cut off from supporting units. During a seesaw battle throughout the day, Lilledahl reportedly was struck and killed by enemy fire and buried in a shallow grave. In the ensuing withdrawal, C Company was unable to retrieve all of its dead, including Lilledahl.

Following the armistice, the North Korean government returned remains believed to be those of U.S. servicemen, but forensic technology at the time was

unable to make positive identifications on more than 800 of those. They were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as The Punchbowl, as "unknowns."

Using leads provided by DPMO Korean analysts that helped narrow the search for possible candidates, CILHI exhumed two of the Korean War unknowns in 1999 for the purpose of possible identification. Their scientists submitted 10 bone or dental samples to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory but no usable mitochondrial DNA data could be extracted from the remains.

Broadening their search effort, CILHI researchers uncovered a postage-stamp sized chest xray in Lilledahl's medical records at the National Personnel Records Center. The scientific staff enlarged it many times and was able to show very strong consistency with the remains. The final piece of evidence confirming his identity came from a new computer program recently developed by CILHI, which allows scientists to compare dental remains to a vast database of almost 40,000 dental patterns seen in

the U.S. Lilledahl's were unique among the entire database, lending tremendous weight to the significance of the match.

Annual negotiations led by the



*Pfc. Ronald D. Lilledahl disinterred from a grave site in 1999 for potential identification, Punchbowl, Hawaii. (CILHI Photo)*

Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office since 1996 have enabled CILHI teams to conduct 25 operations in North Korea, recovering what may be 178 remains of Americans. More than 8,100 are still missing in action from the Korean War. ♦

*(Continued from page 1)*

## Families of Missing Meet in D.C.

The schedule calls for formal presentations in the mornings, leaving both afternoons free for individual families to discuss their cases privately with government analysts and service casualty officers.

Many families will also attend a national salute to Korean War veterans on the afternoon of July 26 at the MCI Center in Washington. The program is sponsored by the Department of Defense 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War

Commemoration Committee. Tickets and additional information are available from service casualty offices.



*Family members receive annual government POW/MIA updates in Washington. (DPMO Photo/Peggy Marish-Boos)*

This is the second year that next-of-kin of Americans unaccounted-for from the Korean and Cold Wars are eligible for commercial air travel assistance to attend the U.S. government briefings in Washington. Family members should contact their service casualty office to determine who qualifies for this air travel. By law, family members traveling under this program must attend the scheduled government briefings. ♦

# COLD WAR MEDIA CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

## *Leads sought in émigré community*

By Dr. James Connell

DPMO's Joint Commission Support Directorate is launching a program within the Russian émigré community seeking information about the fate of U.S. POW/MIA's who may have found themselves on the territory of the former Soviet Union during the Cold War.

The media campaign to identify persons with possible information is kicking off in the New York City area, home to more than a million whose native language is Russian. The coordinator is JCSD senior analyst Dr. James G. Connell, the former chief of the U.S. POW/MIA office in Moscow from 1992 to 2001.

This initiative targets former Soviet citizens who served with their armed forces in the Korean War (1950-1953) and the Vietnam War (1962-1975); had some involvement with the 38 American reconnaissance planes shot down by the Soviets during the Cold War from 1950-1965; or who were inmates in the Soviet prison system (both the GULag and the successor Corrective Labor

Camps) between 1945 and 1991. JCSD believes many of the persons of interest will be among the 450,000 so-called *displaced persons* who refused to return to the Soviet Union at the end of World War II. Another large group of interest is persons from the former Soviet Union, the overwhelming majority Jewish, admitted to the United States since the late seventies under the U.S. refugee program.

As the interview program develops in New York, it will be expanded to other metropolitan areas with large concentrations of elderly immigrants from the FSU, such as Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington/Rockville. Former soviet citizens who may have information are encouraged to contact us at:



Dr. James Connell (r) with a USSR veteran in St. Petersburg, 2001.

**Bay Station  
P.O. Box 351124  
Brooklyn, NY 11235**

The Russian émigré community in NYC will be the first to be reached for information about the fate of Americans who may have been in the FSU during the Cold War



Near Myitkyina, Burma: Helicopter landing site cut out of the mountain-side at approximately 7,500 feet at the crash site of a C-47 transport aircraft lost during WWII flying "The Hump." This is the first recovery in Burma. There are more than 100 aircraft losses with over 300 service-members still missing in this region from this war. Photo taken by CDR Jim Wong, March 2003.

# History of the POW MIA Flag

*Reprinted with permission of the National League of POW/MIA Families*

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. She contacted the vice president of Annin & Company that made the flags for all United Nations members' states. Sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, he, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

On March 9, 1989 an official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both houses hosted the installation ceremony.

In 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the POW/MIA flag and designated it "*as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted-for in Southeast Asia, thus*

*ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation."*

The POW/MIA flag's importance lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIAs. Since 1982, other than *Old Glory*, the POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day (3rd Friday in Sept.).

With passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act during the first term of the 105th congress, the POW/MIA flag will fly each year on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day on the grounds or in the public lobbies of major military installations as designated by the Secretary of the Defense, all Federal national cemeteries, the National Korean War Veterans Memorial, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the White House, all U.S. post offices and at the offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veteran's Affairs and Director of the Selective Service System.

For more information visit [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)



## Mark Your Calendar!

### JULY:

- 1st**—Women's Army Corps (WAC) Established (1943)
- 4th**—Independence Day (1776)
- 25-26**—Annual KW/CW Family Government Briefings, Washington
- 25th**—Korean American Cultural Foundation dance troupe performance in Washington, 7 pm.
- 26th**—Wreath laying and memorial ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, 10 am.
- 26th**—National Salute to Korean War Veterans at the MCI Center in Washington, 4:30 pm.
- 27th**—Armistice Day Ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, 10 am.

### AUGUST:

- 4th**—U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
- 14th**—V-J Day (1945)
- 22nd**—Veterans' Update, Seattle
- 23rd**—Family Update, Seattle

### SEPTEMBER:

- 1st**—Labor Day
- 18th**—U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
- 19th**—National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 19th**—Veterans' Update, St. Louis
- 20th**—Family Update, St. Louis
- 28th**—Gold Star Mother's Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

## Family & Veterans' Update Locations 2003-2004

City selections are based on past update schedules and demographic mapping of family members' home locations. Major metropolitan areas hotel facilities were chosen to accommodate the growing number of attendees.

Date*	Location	Family Members within 300 miles	Last Visit
August 22, 23	Seattle	577	2000
September 19, 20	St. Louis	1,965	1999
October 17, 18	Jacksonville, Fla.	1,422	1999
November 21, 22	Phoenix, Ariz.	580	1997
January 23, 24	Nashville	2,837	Never
February 20, 21	Los Angeles	1,169	2000
February 23, 24	Honolulu	114	2001
April 2-3	Washington	KW/CW	Annual Briefings
May 14, 15	Milwaukee	2,271	2000
June TBD	Washington	SEA Annual Briefings in conjunction with the Annual League Meeting	
July 30, 31	Oklahoma City	1,353	1999
August 27, 28	Denver	421	1998
September 24, 25	Hartford, Conn.	2,781	1999
October 22, 23	Portland, Ore.	711	2002
November 20	Orlando	960	2001

\*First date is Veterans' Update; 2nd date is Family Update

# MISSING NAVY CREW FOUND, IDENTIFIED

## A Promise Kept

By Larry Greer

Nine U.S. Navy crewmembers, whose aircraft went down during the Vietnam War, have been identified and their remains are being returned to their families for burial.

The nine are identified as Cmdr. Delbert A. Olson; Lt.j.g.'s Denis L. Anderson; Arthur C. Buck and Philip P. Stevens; Petty Officers 2<sup>nd</sup> class Richard M. Mancini, Michael L. Roberts, Donald N. Thoresen and Kenneth H. Widon; and Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> class Gale R. Siow. Also aboard the aircraft was a small bull terrier mascot named *Snoopy*.

Aboard a Navy OP-2E *Neptune* aircraft, the nine departed Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base on January 11, 1968 for a mission over Laos to drop sensors that detected enemy movements. During its last radio contact, the crew reported they were descending through dense clouds. When they did not return to their home base, a search was initiated but found no evidence of a crash. Two weeks later, an Air Force

aircrew photographed what appeared to be the crash site, but enemy activity in the area prevented a recovery operation.

Between 1993 and 2002, six U.S.-Lao investigation teams led by the Joint Task Force Full Accounting interviewed villagers in the surrounding area, gathered aircraft debris and surveyed the purported crash site scattered on two ledges of Phou Louang Mountain in Khammouan Province. During a 1996 visit, team members also recovered identification cards for several crewmembers, as well as human remains.

Full-scale recovery missions by the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii in both 2001 and 2002 yielded additional remains as well as identification media for other crewmembers. CILHI team members worked on the narrow ledges of the mountain through operations in 2001 and 2002.

Using the latest techniques in forensic anthropology, odontology and mitochondrial DNA, CILHI scientists were able

to identify the remains. The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory obtained mtDNA data from the samples provided by CILHI, which confirmed the identifications of the entire crew.

More than 1,900 Americans are missing in action from the Vietnam War, with another 86,000 MIA from the Cold War, the Korean War and WWII. ♦



Ms. Sue Jenkins (r), former spouse of Lt. j.g. Denis L. Anderson, co-pilot of the OP-2E, holds *Parade Magazine* article on search for the crew. The excavation team found her husband's wedding band which will be given to her in June. Ms. Peggy Marish-Boos (l) of DPMO shares in her joy. (DPMO Photo/Danica Roark)

## HOW TO REACH US...

USAF Missing Persons Branch  
HQ AFPC/DPWCM  
550 C Street West, Suite 15  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716  
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/powmia/>  
(800) 531-5501

Department of the Army  
Total Army Personnel Command (TAPC-PER)  
2161 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22331-0482  
<http://www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/rfad.htm>  
(800) 892-2490

Headquarters US Marine Corps  
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)  
Personal and Family Readiness Division  
3280 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-5103  
(800) 847-1597

# DPMO's Celebrity Torchbearer—

—**A**drian Cronauer, has been the special assistant to the director of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office for almost two years now.

How did he end up working in DPMO?

"If I were 30 years younger, I would go back into the service," Cronauer said to his wife, Jeane just after Sept. 11, 2001. Her response was that, "I could probably make more of a contribution in DPMO than if I were in uniform and I realized she probably was right," Cronauer continued.

So, he left his Washington legal career to participate from within the Department of Defense in the search for the more than 88,000 U.S. prisoners of war and men missing in action from all wars since WWII.

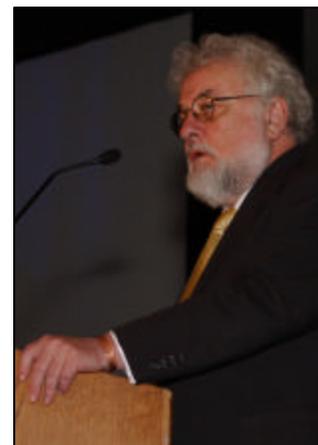
"We have policy oversight of America's missing personnel. But we also advise those who train people in escape and evasion. We're very concerned with making sure the military has the best equipment available to locate them during a rescue operation," he said.

For the first time in 35 years, he returned to Vietnam in June 2002 to assist with coordinating the in-country efforts to account for missing servicemen in Southeast Asia. He wanted to see first-hand what members of the Joint Task Force Full Accounting do in their quest for remains.

Cronauer's always looking for ways to work with families and veterans' groups to ensure they understand all the work and dedication that is and has been taking place on the missing servicemembers behalf.



*He left his D.C. legal career to help from within DoD – searching for the more than 88,000 servicemembers still missing from all wars since WWII*



*Adrian Cronauer joins in DPMO's fullest possible accounting efforts. (DPMO Photo)*

Cronauer gets a kick talking to the younger generations too, unfamiliar with the DPMO mission. He has become a regular on a Raleigh, N.C. high school group's itinerary that visits Washington every spring.

The former disc jockey arrived in Saigon in 1965. During his tour there, the young airman played pop hits and golden oldies, adding one-liners that helped make GI's a little less homesick.

The Robin Williams 1987 film, *Good Morning, Vietnam* that is loosely based on Cronauer's Vietnam stint, portrayed him as a liberal, when in reality, "I've always been a card-carrying Republican."

"A lot of what Robin Williams does, if I did these things, I'd still be in Leavenworth," Cronauer said, referring to the military prison in Kansas, in interviews after the movie came out.

About contact with Williams he says, "We still exchange Christmas cards but that's about it."

But he did help lighten the load of thousands of GI listeners while stationed in Vietnam. Many of the veterans he meets now come up to him to shake his hand and thank him for being their "voice of America."

One of the main points that he wants everyone to know is that the people who work in DPMO and the other organizations involved with this mission are not just "D.C. politicians." He says, "These men and women care very much about our work. They either are currently wearing the uniform or did! It is as personal to them as it is for me."

Cronauer has parlayed his fame into a great cause, and of that cause he became DPMO's celebrity spokesman, or more accurately, a torchbearer for this most important humanitarian mission -- *Keeping the Promise.* ♦

by Peggy Marish-Boos

Department of the Navy  
Navy Personnel Command  
POW/MIA Section (PERS-P62P)  
5720 Integrity Drive  
Millington, TN 38055-6210  
<http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/POW-MIA/62P.htm>  
(800) 443-9298

Department of State  
Office of American Citizens Services  
and Crisis Management  
CA/OCS/ACS/EAP  
2201 C Street, Northwest, Room 4811  
Washington, DC 20520-4818  
(202) 647-6769

Defense Prisoner of War/  
Missing Personnel Office  
2400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-2400

[www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

## Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

2400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-2400



View our Web site at:

[www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

## 2003 National POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster



American warriors of yesterday and today have never failed to answer their nation's call. Through selfless sacrifice, they have brought to the entire world a concept most often associated with American ideals – **Freedom!** A precious word. A word with so many meanings, yet a word that clearly means “This is America!”

The poster reflects on the past and the present. The somber, black POW/MIA flag, a national symbol, is a firm reminder of those still missing, and of their families who have waited decades for answers. “You are not forgotten” reminds us that this nation's work is not done. There are more than 88,000 warriors who are still unaccounted-for from conflicts past. And still, their families wait.

More than 140,000 Americans since World War I have endured the hardships of captivity as prisoners of war. Their sacrifices must never be forgotten. This nation especially honors their names, their undying spirit and their memory on September 19, 2003.

The rippling red, white and blue banner, so clear and so proud through the smoke of battle, leads American warriors forward – toward freedom for oppressed peoples, toward freedom for those who know the word only because it means “America.”

But “Freedom” lies not on the battlefields where our POWs and MIAs have fought so valiantly. It lies in the hearts of the people of entire nations. It lies in ideals so richly American, and it rests on the shoulders of those who we honor on this special day.

**Freedom!**