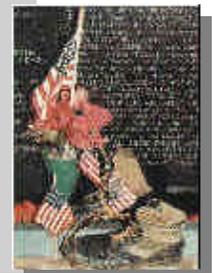




Family Member Orientation Handbook



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400
<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo>

The Road to Understanding the POW/MIA Issue

Welcome

Dear New Family Member,

This handbook is tailored for the new family member. Enclosed is information on numerous topics to assist you in learning more about the government's work to account for your missing loved one. Our objective is to familiarize you with all of the organizations and specialists who work to resolve the POW/MIA issue.

Keeping the promise is our pledge to you. Simply put, we exert every effort to return missing Americans to their loved ones. Our promise to you is that we will ensure that you are a full partner in this humanitarian effort.

As it stands today, there are over 78,000 missing from World War II, over 8,000 missing from the Korean War, over 120 missing from the Cold War and over 1,900 missing from the Vietnam War. Although, there are only 16,000 active family members represented in our data bases. We continue to explore new and innovative ways to reach new families, your help is essential. *Please help to spread the word!*

We solicit your comments and suggestions to make this document a valuable resource for future new members. We hope that you obtain some insight and understanding of our challenges, commitment, and unrelenting resolve on this issue.

Sincerely,

The Family Support Team

Defense Prisoner Of War/Missing Personnel Office

Introduction

The New Family Handbook follows a building block approach to understanding the POW/MIA issue.

First, we describe the numerous government agencies and constituents involved, their missions, and how they are interrelated.

Second, we list the Service Casualty Offices (SCO) that serve as the primary conduit for communication between family members and various government agencies.

Third, we offer basic research tools for the novice researcher interested in exploring complex, colossal store houses of historical documents such as the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Library of Congress (LOC).

Lastly, we address the bereavement some family members experience, as well as when and where one should seek support.

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Who's Who in the POW/ MIA Issue?



The constituents are extensive and they interact on many different levels. On pages 7 through 13 you will find information on some of the agencies involved in the U.S. government's POW/MIA accounting efforts.

Global Effort



Personnel Accounting is truly a global effort. The red stars depict locations around the globe where we find loss sites.



DPMO
Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office

<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/>



Mission: *Exercise policy, control, and oversight within the Department of Defense of the entire process of investigation and recovery related to missing persons (including matters related to search, rescue, escape, and evasion), coordinate for DoD with other departments and agencies of the U.S. on all matters concerning missing persons, and establish procedures to be followed by DoD boards of inquiry and by officials reviewing the reports of such boards (Missing Persons Act).*

Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD)

<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/jcsd>



A Russian Orthodox Church in the Kremlin



Mission: *To determine whether American servicemen are being held against their will on the territory of the former Soviet Union and, if so, to secure their immediate release and repatriation; to locate and return to the United States the remains of any deceased American servicemen interred in the former Soviet Union, and to ascertain the facts regarding American servicemen who were not repatriated and whose fate remains unresolved.*

Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI)

<http://www.cilhi.army.mil/>



An anthropologist works to identify remains

Mission: To conduct search and recovery operations for all wars, particularly WWII, Korean and Vietnam War dead. Process remains and establish identities through the use of anthropological, odontological, and other sophisticated scientific techniques. Accumulate and catalogue information on American and allied personnel listed as missing in action or declared dead but body not recovered.

Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL)

<http://www.afip.org/Departments/oafme/index.html>



A DNA Analyst at work

(Click on DNA Identification Laboratory)



Mission: *To provide worldwide scientific consultation, research, and education services in the field of forensic DNA analysis to the Department of Defense and other agencies. To provide DNA reference specimen collection, accession, and storage of United States military and other authorized personnel.*

Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL)

<https://hswya2.brooks.af.mil/common/mil-gov/yas/yasm/mainpage.htm>



Scientists analyze artifacts found at a crash site



Mission: *To provide scientific analysis of aircraft and military equipment recovered at loss sites to help determine if an individual survived or died.*

Joint Task Force – Full Accounting (JTF-FA)

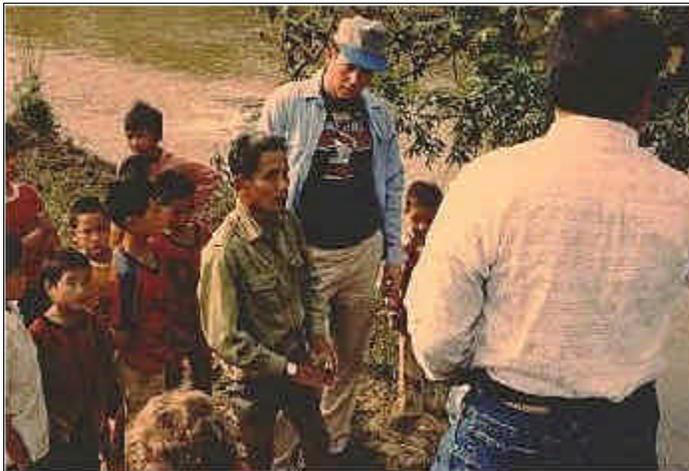
<http://www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm>



A Southeast Asia Recovery Operation

Mission: *To resolve the cases of Americans still unaccounted-for as a result of the Southeast Asian conflict. JTF-FA operations include investigations, archival research, an oral history program, and remains recovery operations.*

Defense Intelligence Agency (Stony Beach)

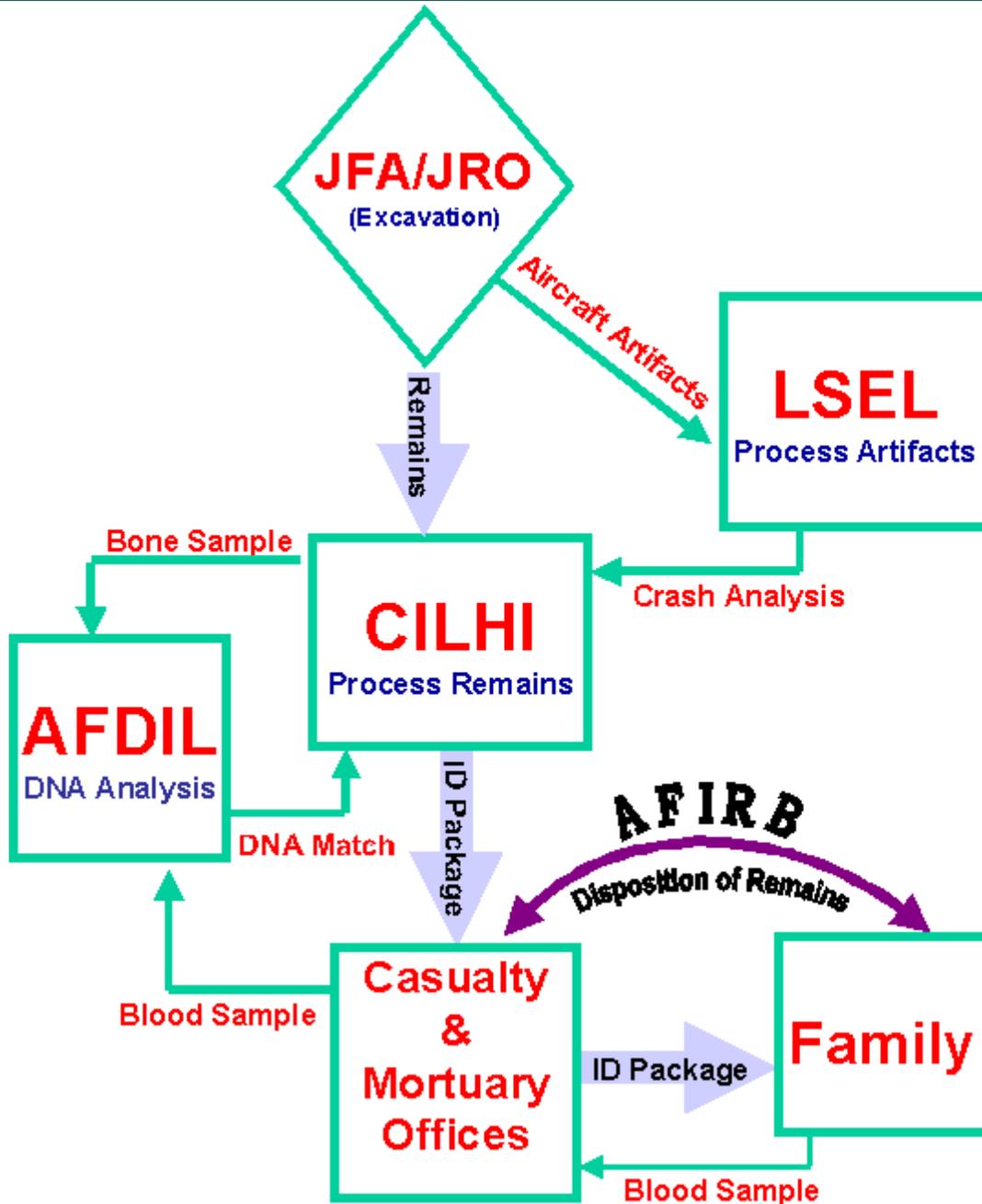


Witness Interview



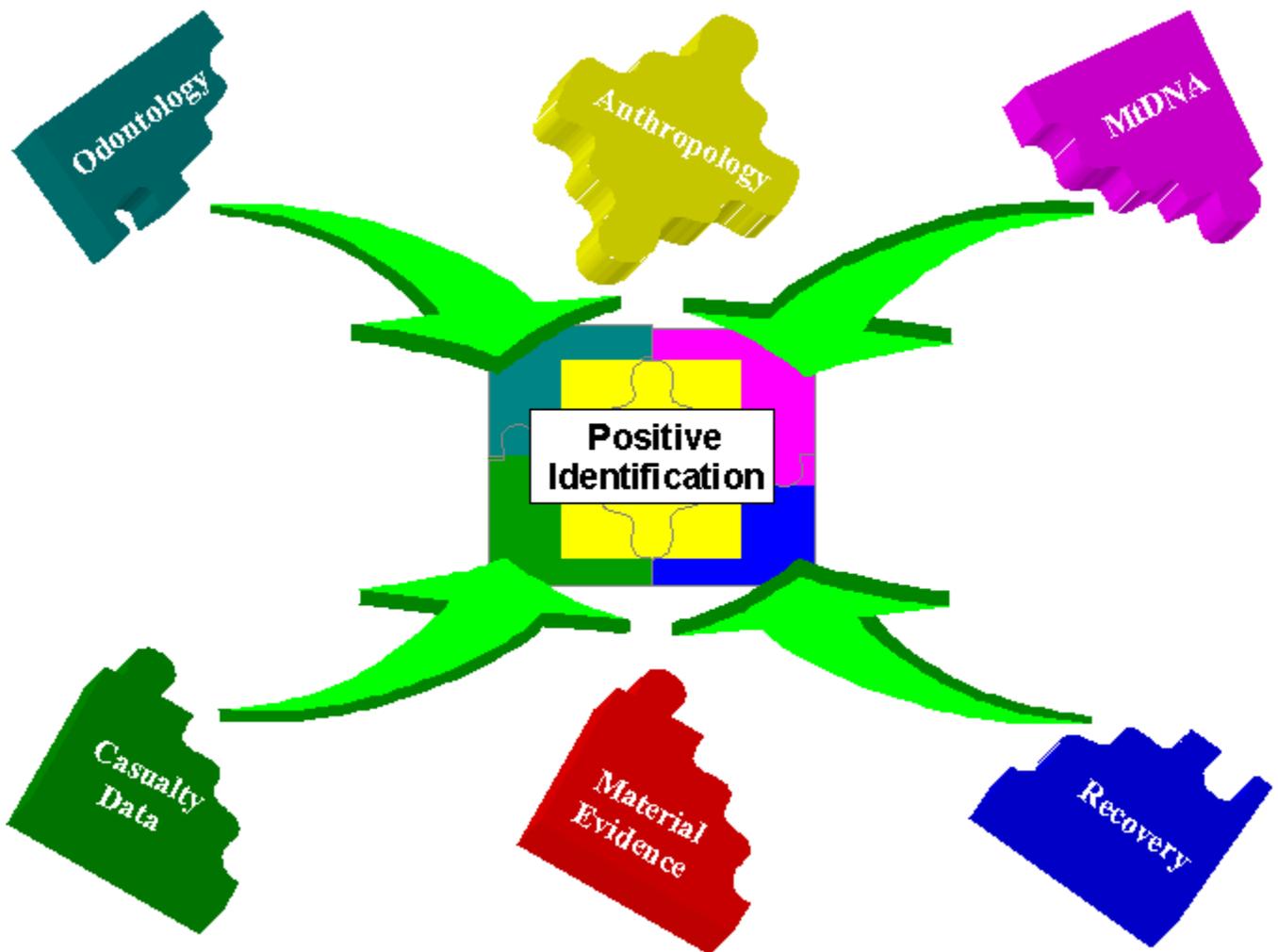
Mission: *The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) maintains a program dedicated solely to Vietnam War accounting, commonly referred to as “Stony Beach.” This team of experts provides direct support to Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and DPMO by interviewing people in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and the United States. They investigate both “last known alive” cases and first-hand “live sighting” reports. Their work contributes to the oral history program.*

Remains Identification Process



The remains identification process is depicted above.

Identification Puzzle



Much like a puzzle, many different pieces of evidence are fit together enabling experts to make an identification.

Casualty Offices

MARINE CORPS

Headquarters
U.S. Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103
(800) 847-1597

ARMY

Department of the Army
Total Army Personnel Command
TAPC-PER
2461 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22331
(800) 892-2490
<https://www.persecom.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/cmaoc.htm>

NAVY

Navy Personnel Command
Casualty Assistance &
Retired Activities Branch
POW/MIA Section (PERS-P665)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210
(800) 443-9298
<http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/POW-MIA/62P.htm>

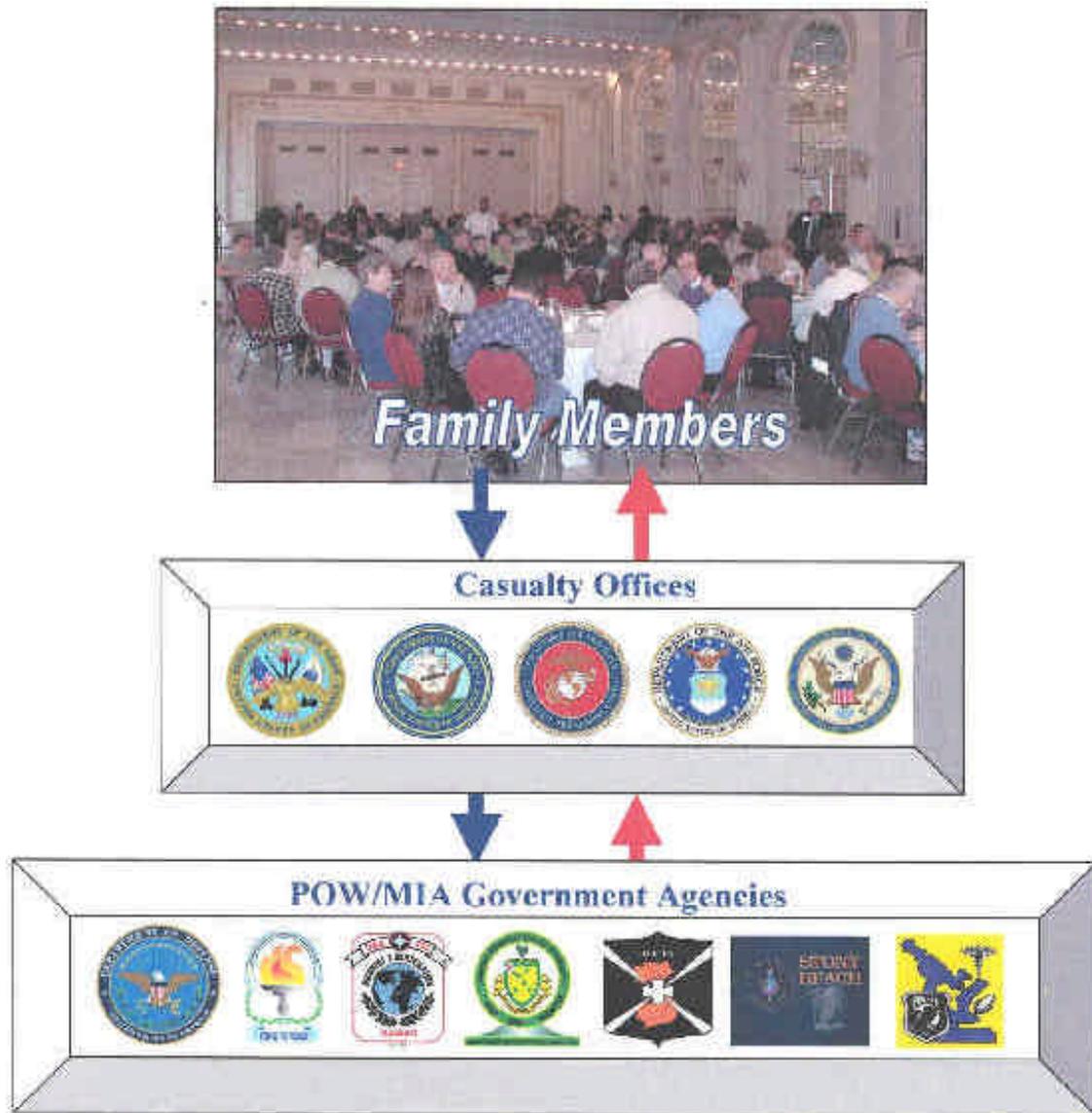
STATE DEPARTMENT

Department of State
Office of American Citizens Services
Attn: Mr. David Gooding
2201 C Street, NW, Rm 4811
Washington, DC 20520-4818
(202) 736-4988

AIR FORCE

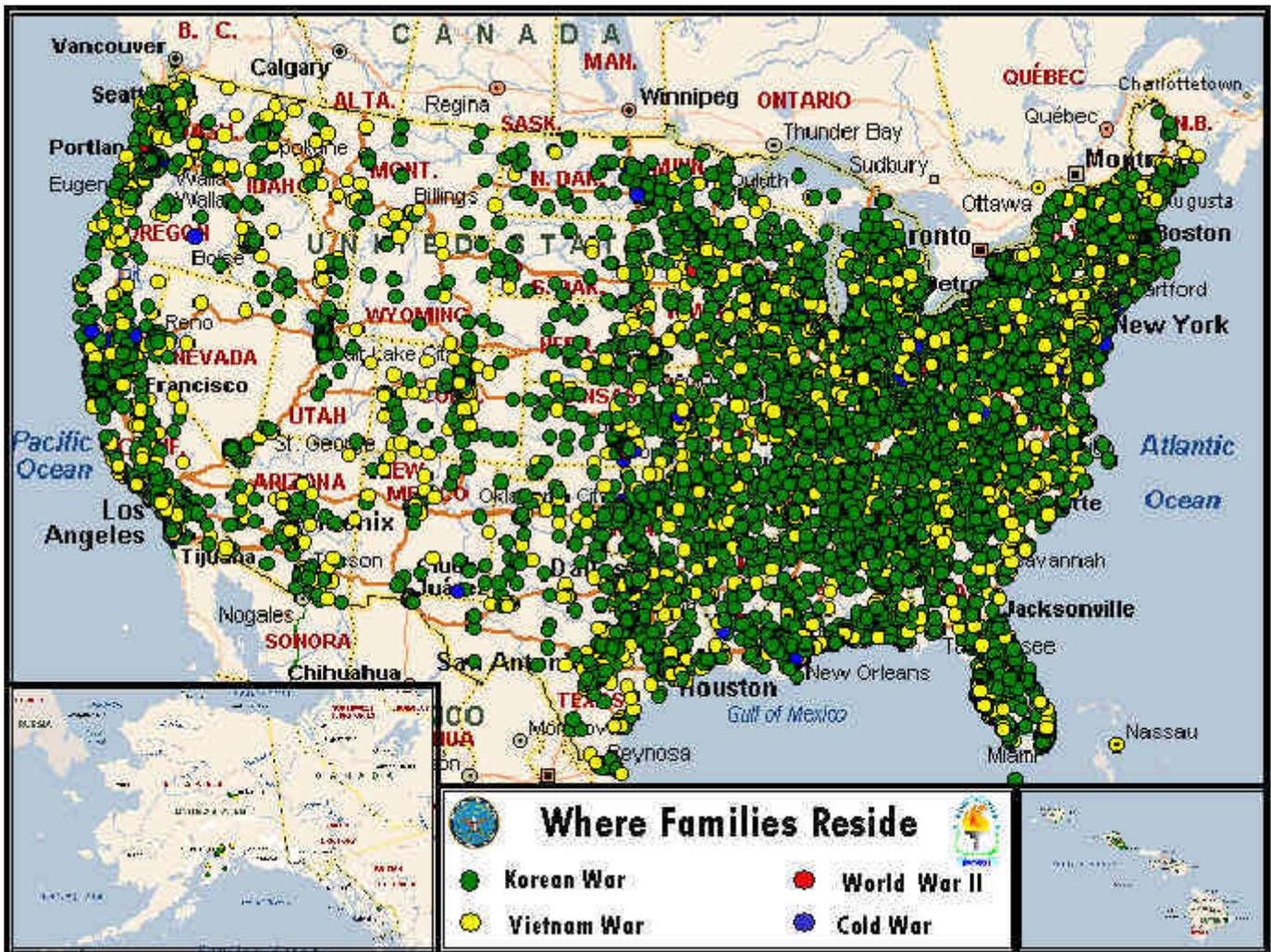
USAF Missing Persons Branch
550 C Street West, Suite 15
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716
(800) 531-5501
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/powmia>

Communications



The Casualty Offices are the families' primary point of contact for requesting information regarding government efforts to recover unaccounted-for Americans.

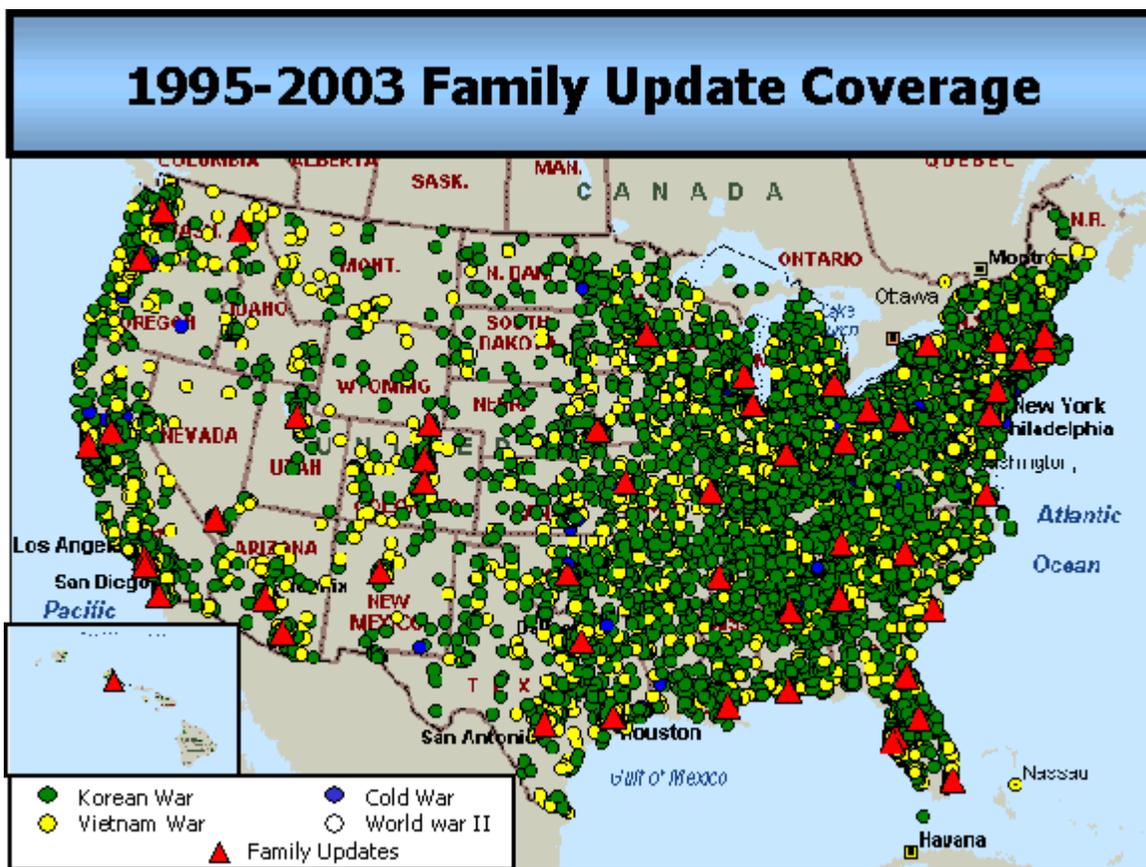
Family Locations



Over 16,000 family members of unaccounted-for Americans have registered with their Casualty Office. Each dot on this map represents a family member.

Family Updates

Family Updates are designed to bring families the latest POW/MIA accounting information.



2003 Family Update Schedule

January 18, 2003	San Francisco, CA
February 22, 2003.....	Birmingham, AL
March 22, 2003	Houston, TX
April 26, 2003.....	Detroit, MI
August 23, 2003.....	Seattle, WA
September 20, 2003	St. Louis, MO
October 18, 2003	Jacksonville, FL
November 22, 2003	Phoenix, AZ

Archives

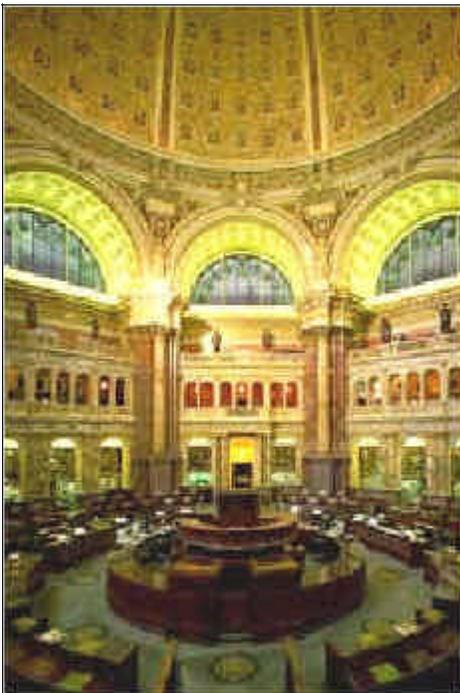
Please refer to Appendix A



Archivists working at NPRC in St. Louis



NARA II in College Park, MD



The Library of Congress



The Bush Presidential Library



Typical Archival Facility

Bereavement and Grief

How To Know If You Need Extra Help With Your Grieving

Grief is painful. And everyone who grieves can use a helping hand and a listening ear. But how do you know if you would benefit from a little extra help, help from an expert in loss and bereavement issues? What clues might indicate you could use some extra care?

Here are ten questions to ask yourself about various aspects of your grief. Any grieving person might experience these briefly, but if you sense them continuing, it's probably time to talk to someone knowledgeable about grieving...if only to reassure yourself that you're on the right path.

1. Are you *always* irritable, annoyed, intolerant or angry these days?
2. Do you experience an *ongoing* sense of numbness or of being isolated from your own self or from others? Do you usually feel that you have no one to talk to about what's happened?
3. Since your loved one died, are you *highly* anxious *most* of the time about your own death or the death of someone you love? Is it beginning to interfere with your relationships, your ability to concentrate or live as you would like to live?
4. Do you feel that you are *always* and *continually* preoccupied with your loved one, his or her death or certain aspects of it even though it's been several months since his or her death?
5. Do you *usually* feel restless or in "high gear"? Do you feel the need to be constantly busy... beyond what's normal for you?
6. Are you afraid of becoming close to new people for fear of losing again?
7. Do you find yourself acting in ways that might prove harmful to you over time: drinking more than you used to; using more prescription or non-prescription drugs; engaging in sexual activity that is unsafe or unwise; driving in an unsafe or reckless manner (beyond what's normal for you); or entertaining serious thoughts about suicide?
8. Are you taking on too much responsibility for surviving family members or close friends? (What's too much responsibility? That varies greatly and depends on the situation, but if you're feeling heavily burdened by it, angry or like the situation is "suffocating" you, it might be time to speak with someone.)
9. Do your grief reactions continue, *over time*, to be limited in some way? Are you experiencing only a few of the reactions or emotions that usually come with grief? Are you unable to express your thoughts or feelings about your loved one and his or her death in words or in actions? Do you remember only certain aspects of your loved one or your relationship together, for example only the good parts as opposed to a more complete and balanced view of him or her?
10. Is there some aspect of what you're experiencing that makes you wonder about whether you're normal or going crazy? Do you feel stuck in your grief in some way, unable to move on, even though it's been quite some time since your loved one's death?

Beyond these ten signs, trust your own judgement. If you think that talking to a professional might help, talk to one or more people to see who you are comfortable with. Take advantage of one who seems helpful to you. After all, grief is painful enough without trying to do it all by yourself. ■

Bereavement Resources

- ❖ American Counseling Association
5999 Stevenson Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
703-823-9800
www.counseling.org

- ❖ American Psychological Association
750 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
202-336-5500, 800-374-2721
www.apa.org

- ❖ National Association of Social Workers
750 First Street, Suite 700
Washington, DC 2002-424
202-408-8600, 800-638-8799

- ❖ Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc.
National Headquarters, 2001 S. Street NW, #300
Washington, DC 20009
800-959-8277

The organizations listed on this page are representational only and their listing is not intended to indicate endorsement by the Department of Defense over any other organization.

Our Missing Men



- ❖ *The table is round—to show the everlasting concern for the men still missing.*
- ❖ *The cloth is white—symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.*
- ❖ *The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing, and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers.*
- ❖ *The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of the continued determination to account for the missing.*
- ❖ *A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.*
- ❖ *A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.*
- ❖ *The glass is inverted—to symbolize their inability to share the toast.*

Appendix A

Basic Research Guide For Family Members of Unaccounted-for Servicemen

Standard Form 180 (Rev. 3-99) Authorized for local reproduction
Prescribed by NARA (36 CFR 1228.162(a)) Previous edition unusable OMB No. 3095-0029 Expires 7/31/2002

REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the instructions at the bottom before filling out this form. Please print clearly or type. If you need more space, use plain paper.

SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible.)

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (Last, first, middle) 2. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 3. DATE OF BIRTH 4. PLACE OF BIRTH

5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)

BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATES OF SERVICE		CHECK ONE		SERVICE NUMBER DURING THIS PERIOD (If unknown, please write unknown)
	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	
a. ACTIVE SERVICE					
b. RESERVE SERVICE					
c. NATIONAL GUARD					

6. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED? If "YES" enter the date of death. NO YES _____

7. IS (WAS) THIS PERSON RETIRED FROM MILITARY SERVICE? YES NO

SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. **REPORT OF SEPARATION** (DD Form 214 or equivalent) This contains information normally needed to verify military service. A copy may be sent to the veteran, the deceased veteran's next of kin, or other persons or organizations if authorized in Section III, below. NOTE: If more than one period of service was performed, even in the same branch, there may be more than one Report of Separation. Be sure to show EACH year that a Report of Separation was issued, for which you need a copy.
 An UNDELETED Report of Separation is requested for the year(s) _____
This normally will be a copy of the full separation document including such sensitive items as the character of separation, authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and dates of time lost. An undeleted version is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits.
 A DELETED Report of Separation is requested for the year(s) _____
The following information will be deleted from the copy sent: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost.

2. **OTHER INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED** _____

3. **PURPOSE (OPTIONAL)**—An explanation of the purpose of the request is strictly voluntary. Such information may help the agency answering this request to provide the best possible response and will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request. _____

SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

1. **REQUESTER IS**
 Military service member or veteran identified in Section I, above Legal guardian (must submit copy of court appointment)
 Next of kin of deceased veteran (relation) _____ Other (specify) _____

2. **SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO** (Please print or type. See instruction 3, below.) _____

3. **AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE REQUIRED** (See instruction 2, below.)
I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section III is true and correct.

Name _____ Signature of requester (Please do not print.) _____
Street _____ Date of this request _____ Daytime phone () _____
City _____ E-mail address _____

****This form is available at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/nprj/180.html> on the National Archives and Records Administration Web Site****

INSTRUCTIONS *Please detach this portion before submitting request.*

1. **Information needed to locate records.** Certain identifying information is necessary to determine the location of an individual's record of military service. Please try to answer each item on this form. If you do not have and cannot obtain the information for an item, show "NA," meaning the information is "not available." Include as much of the requested information as you can.

2. **Restrictions on release of information.** Release of information is subject to restrictions imposed by the military services consistent with Department of Defense regulations and the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act of 1974. The service member (either past or present) or the member's legal guardian has access to almost any information contained in that member's own record. Others requesting information from military personnel/health records must have the release authorization in Section III of this form signed by the member or legal guardian, but if the appropriate signature cannot be obtained, only limited types of information can be provided. If the former member is deceased, surviving next of kin may, under certain circumstances, be entitled to greater access to a deceased veteran's records than a member of the public. The next of kin may be any of the following: unmarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Employers and others needing proof of military service are expected to accept the information shown on documents issued by the military service department at the time a service member is separated.

3. **Where reply may be sent.** The reply may be sent to the member or any other address designated by the member or other authorized requester.

4. **Charges for service.** There is no charge for most services provided to members or their surviving next of kin. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee, you will be notified as soon as that determination is made.

SEE REVERSE FOR PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

A. Overview on Conducting Research on Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel (POW/MP)

1. The key to researching information about a particular POW/MP case is to have available as much basic information as possible on the individual, the loss incident, and any post incident reporting.
 - a. Individual personal information means: full name, nickname, Branch of Service, rank, service number, race, height, weight, hair and eye color, a photograph as close as possible to the date of loss, any distinguishing characteristics, medical and dental records, and a nuclear or mitochondrial DNA reference sample.
 - b. Incident information includes: date, location, description of incident, loss vehicle (if any), others in incident along with their status, and any known witnesses.
 - c. Post incident reporting includes: any information from incident witnesses, subsequent sightings or hearsay from returned POWs or indigenous personnel, physical evidence, and U.S. and/or foreign military, civic, or other documentation.
2. DPMO (all wars), the Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (all wars), the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (Vietnam War only), and the individual Service Casualty Offices maintain most of the information in individual casualty files. Networking with other family members whose loved ones were lost in the same incident or area is a valuable way of locating additional information that may not be in the official case files.
3. The U.S. Government Repository that houses personal information about the individual's service history is the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO, where service records are filed and stored. The first step in obtaining the service record of your loved one is to fill out an SF-180, which can be obtained from the NPRC's website via the Internet (see address on the attached list). If you don't have Internet access, call the service branch at NPRC and leave a message with the serviceman's name and the mailing address. It is important to state whether there is a medical emergency involved.
4. The primary U.S. Government Repository that houses general and specific military information about the individual's unit and its actions and history is the Na-

tional Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA is actually a collection of repositories that includes the main Archives in Washington, DC, NARA II in College Park, MD, the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD, most of the Presidential Libraries, and several regional repositories. NARA has the preponderance of its records organized in "Record Groups" according to the organization that originated them. The more precise you can be in identifying the organization and dates, the more successful you will be finding the records for which you are searching. NARA is not resourced to do the research for you, but they will assist you in getting started. To assist researchers in doing POW/MIA research at its facilities, NARA has published several Reference Information Papers (booklets) on American POWs and Missing in Action Personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the War in Southeast Asia, and the Cold War. You can obtain these directly from NARA for a nominal fee.

5. Other potential domestic repositories that may contain information related to the loss incident or individual or his/her unit include the Service History Offices and Museums (attached list), and local university and public libraries. Many of these facilities have "Special Collections" of individuals who left their personal papers to their university or hometown library.

B. Basic Steps in Conducting Research at any Repository (library, museum, archive, records center)

1. Identify the archives or facilities to be visited and the subject areas to be researched.
2. Prior to traveling:
 - a. Contact the archivist/director by mail or phone first. If first contact is by mail, follow up with a phone call later and ask if there is a finding aid or bibliography and, if so, request a copy by mail;
 - b. Check to see if the collections' card catalogues are available on the Internet; a lot of research can be performed remotely before making a trip;
 - c. Ask about the availability and cost of reproduction;
 - d. If a collection appears to contain only a few documents of interest, ask about the possibility of having someone there make copies and have them sent. Also ask if contract researchers are available on-site -- it may be possible to have someone in the area who's an expert in the specific war of interest or in military history do some research for you;

- e. Ask about records on electronic or other non-paper media. It might be cheaper to buy a complete microfilmed collection and look at it here than to go to a far-away library.
 - f. Ask about interlibrary loan or the ability to borrow the material for a short time (to either review or copy).
3. Upon arrival:
- a. Talk to the local librarian/archivist, and explain exactly what you are looking for. Explain the objective/methodology. Don't just ask for POW/MIA related items; ask for everything related to the specific war. Take into account that there may be important information dated well after the conclusion of hostilities.
 - b. Ask about personal papers and manuscripts of individuals (military and civilian) whose papers might be of interest. Ask for suggestions for places to look. Don't forget about local newspapers and magazines; personal papers of local residents; unpublished manuscripts; theses and dissertations; "vanity press" publications. If other researchers are there working in the same collection or area, ask them what they're working on, and don't be afraid to kibitz. Be specific but not restrictive.
 - c. Ask for the names of any in-house experts in military or the specific war-era history. They may have their own files of interesting materials in a collection. Also ask for the names of any other researchers working in the same era.
 - d. Keep exact records of where each document is located, in case the site/material needs to be visited again (or to look for associated materials), contacts made, material reviewed, material copied or being forwarded, any requirement to return to the archive. If appropriate provide a copy to DPMO and the appropriate Service Casualty Office.

Key Facilities and Repositories

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
(314) 263-7131
Website: www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis.html

National Archives and Records Administration
National Archives II at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
(301) 713-7250 (Military Records Branch)
Website: www.archives.gov

Washington National Records Center
4205 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20409
(301) 457-7000

Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 707-5000
Website: www.locweb.loc.gov

Air Force Historical Research Agency
Bldg 1405
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6678
(205) 953-5723

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library
500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, MO 64050-1789
(816) 833-1400
E-MAIL: library@truman.nara.gov

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library
200 SE 4th St
Abilene, KS 67410-2900
(913) 263-4751
E-MAIL: library@eisenhower.nara.gov

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125-3398
(617) 929-4500
E-MAIL: library@kennedy.nara.gov

Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library
2313 Red River St
Austin, TX 78705
E-MAIL: library@johnson.nara.gov

Nixon Presidential Materials Staff
National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
(301) 713-6950
E-MAIL: nixon@arch2.nara.gov

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library
1001 Beal Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 49504-5353
(313) 741-2218
E-MAIL: library@fordlib.nara.gov

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library
441 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307-3942
(404) 331-3942
E-MAIL: library@carter.nara.gov

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
40 Presidential Drive
Simi Valley, CA 93065-0666
(805) 522-8444
E-MAIL: library@reagan.nara.gov

George H. Bush Presidential Library
1000 George Bush Drive
P.O. Box 10410
College Station, TX 77842-0410
(409) 260-9552
E-MAIL: library@bush.nara.gov

U.S. Army Center of Military History
ATTN: DAMH
103 Third Ave
Fort McNair
Washington, DC 20319-5058
(202) 685-2704

U.S. Military History Institute
Reference Branch
Carlisle Barracks
Carlisle, PA 17013-5008
(717) 245-3611

Appendix B

Frequently Asked Questions

May DPMO release the names or addresses of POW/MIA family members?

DPMO will protect the names and addresses of family members from release. In specific cases where the family member gives written authorization, DPMO may release name and address information. At Family Updates, family members receive the option to provide a written statement to release their personal information to fellow attendees. DPMO facilitates this release of information to help the families in building a network of support.

How do family members learn the results of the accounting process?

Once officials recommend, review, and approve the identity of remains, the government provides the results to the family. Officials from the armed forces and the scientific community go to the home of the family to explain the findings. Once the family has accepted the findings, the Defense Department helps make plans to inter their loved ones with honor and dignity. Please contact your service casualty office for more details.

As a family member, may I visit an excavation site?

Family members who choose to visit an active excavation site with the inherent hardships and difficulties associated with such an undertaking must understand that the United States Government cannot accept liability or responsibility to provide arrangements for guides, interpreters, drivers, vehicles, housing accommodations, etc. Additionally, family members are required to work through normal Department of State and embassy channels to properly coordinate and schedule their visits.

Who should I talk to concerning a missing relative?

Service casualty offices serve family members. Each Military Department maintains a service casualty office. The Department of State does the same for civilians. The officials in these offices serve as the primary liaisons for families concerning personnel recovery and accounting. Full-time civilians who have worked this issue for many years and are experienced and knowledgeable help answer family member questions. Military officials also assist and help explain the methods used to account for families' missing loved ones.

What Defense agencies support fullest possible accounting?

Many Department of Defense (DoD) groups external to DPMO play critical roles in achieving the fullest possible accounting. They bring together many different specialties and perform the majority of our field work. The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) performs DNA testing. This includes mitochondria DNA typing. Their work helps identify remains recovered from all conflicts. They also support other groups outside of DoD when tasked.

The Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) has a worldwide mission. Their people search for, recover, and identify remains of Americans who die while serving our nation. When directed, they support civil humanitarian missions and provide technical assistance on recovering and identifying remains.

Joint Task Force – Full Accounting (JTF-FA) works to resolve cases from the Vietnam War. Their search teams conduct operations including analysis, investigations, archival research, and recovery operations (in close cooperation with CILHI) in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) maintains a program dedicated solely to Vietnam War accounting, commonly referred to as “Stony Beach.” This team of experts provides direct support to Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and DPMO by interviewing people in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and the United States. They investigate both “last known alive” cases and first-hand “live sighting” reports. Their work contributes to the oral history program.

The Life Science Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) provides scientific analysis of aircraft and military equipment recovered at loss sites to help determine if an individual survived or died.

The service casualty offices (SCOs) serve as primary liaison between the family and all other government groups involved in POW/MIA accounting. The Secretaries of the Military Departments maintain offices for each military service as the focal point on all casualty matters while the Department of State handles matters on missing civilians.

What are the different pursuit status categories and how do they pertain to the accounting process?

Background: In 1994-95, members of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), Joint Task Force – Full Accounting (JTF-FA), and Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) conducted a comprehensive review of Southeast Asia MIA cases to identify the best “next steps” in the investigation of each case. As part of that process, they divided the cases into three groups: further pursuit, investigation deferred, and no further pursuit.

Here are the definitions listed in the 1995 report, some further description and examples, and a short discussion of the reason behind dividing the cases into different groups.

Further pursuit: “Those where we have specific next steps to pursue in the investigation process. For some of these, the lead is a single action; in others, several different approaches are necessary.” These next steps might include interviews, research in archives, or crash-site excavations.

Investigation deferred: “Cases where we have exhausted all current leads. We must defer investigation of these cases until additional leads are developed.” We know the least about these cases. Specifically, we do not know what happened to the individual at the time he or she went missing or, in some cases, we do not know what happened to the remains after the incident. In either case, we have run out of leads to follow. Examples include service members whose aircraft were off United States radar-scopes, failed to report to their destinations, and presumably crashed en route. It also includes some cases where a unit had to leave a service member’s body on the battlefield for later recovery, only to have it disappear before friendly forces returned to the area. It is important to note that we are always looking for new information that may pertain to any of the unresolved cases, and if we develop new leads on a “deferred” case during this process, we will certainly follow them. Therefore, we view “deferred” as a transition status.

No further pursuit: “Those cases where we judge no actions by any government will result in the recovery of remains.” In these cases, we have enough information to conclude the individual perished, but all the evidence indicates his or her remains are unrecoverable. For example, this category includes service members who perished at sea and those killed by explosions that destroyed their remains.

The purpose for these categories: Categorizing these cases “allows us to (1) focus our understanding of individual cases, (2) provide the basis for a sound investigative strategy, and (3) define next steps for achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing in Southeast Asia.” Categorizing allows the government to focus its resources and analytic efforts on those cases in which further work might reasonably result in the repatriation of a service member or his or her remains. Secondly, it provides an update on the status of the investigation and clearly identifies those cases for which remains are unrecoverable and no further investigation will occur.

Although the comprehensive case review may be thought of as a study published in 1995, it is more accurately viewed as a dynamic process which began with the intensive study that resulted in the 1995 report and has continued up to the present. We expect this process to continue to be an active part of the full accounting effort as analysts come together several times a year to coordinate the status of cases and plan next steps toward individual case resolution.

What is the “Johnnie Johnson List” and how do I get a copy?

In October 1950, a North Korean Army major took command of over 700 American service men interned as prisoners of war (POWs). Only 262 of these men returned alive. One of the survivors, Army Private First Class Wayne A. “Johnnie” Johnson, secretly recorded the names of 496 fellow prisoners who had died during their captivity and has had it published.

DPMO is actively attempting to advise the families of the 496 men identified on the Johnnie Johnson List. We have direct contact with their organized group, “Tiger Survivors Association” resulting in a very good exchange of information to include additional circumstances of loss and family locator information. Presently, we have a very good idea of when and where most of those lost eventually died, and the locations of their burials. We will use this information in the planning for future excavations in Korea. Visit DPMO’s website to learn more about the heroic efforts of PFC Johnson and to receive a copy of his list.

What is personnel accounting?

There are times when we cannot recover our men and women quickly. We define actions to gather and assess evidence on these missing service members as personnel accounting. Although many regard these efforts as solely related to those cases that require long-term work to resolve, it does not rule out the live recovery option. In fact, it supports live recovery. If we locate a person believed to be one of our missing, we use all available resources to identify him or her quickly. Then we would use the appropriate means available to bring them home quickly.

More than 88,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. The US leads the world in the humanitarian effort to account for its missing warriors. Before the Vietnam War, US officials asked family members to refrain from speaking publicly on their missing loved ones. The US government based this policy on concerns for prisoner safety and public morale. The view of the government changed after families pressed for open dialogue believing it better served our missing and the American public at large.

Today, we welcome the opportunity to speak out on this issue and provide details regarding our accounting efforts. To assist in resolving ongoing cases, we establish uniform procedures to determine the status of our missing. We rely on four broad areas to account for our POWs and missing personnel: investigations, recoveries, identifications, and notifications. These activities ensure the timely and comprehensive storage of facts, tasking of agencies to acquire new evidence, and maintenance of current case files that enable analysts and research specialists to determine the next best steps to case resolution.

What is personnel recovery?

The number one priority of our government is “live recovery.” American service personnel are deployed globally, resulting in our need to bring our men and women home alive anytime, anywhere. DPMO provides policy oversight for the mission to recover captured, missing, or isolated men and women placed in harm’s way while serving our Nation in hostile situations. These actions, defined as “personnel recovery,” are the sum of military, civil, and political acts needed to gain the release or rescue of our men and women.

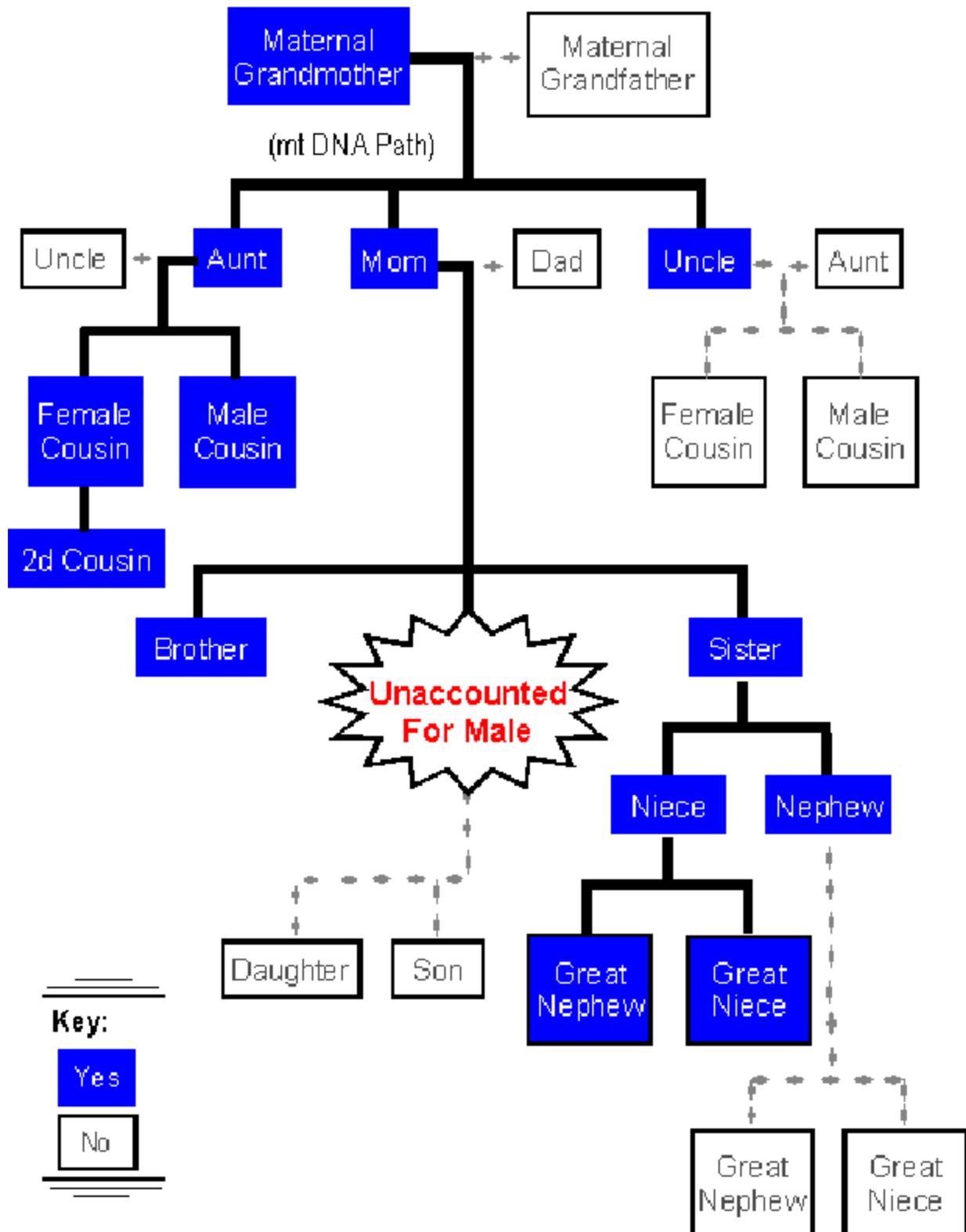
Today, DPMO coordinates throughout DoD and the interagency community on the full range of policy matters dealing with all aspects of personnel recovery. Individuals isolated from friendly forces have a better chance to survive if properly trained and equipped. Our labor provides a policy framework that helps to ensure proper training of our warriors. Of course, those who become isolated from friendly forces during combat require us to locate, monitor, and recover them. DPMO works to create systems for these critical steps. Returning our missing to their loved ones and units alive involves rapid recoveries. We coordinate efforts within DoD and the interagency community to improve our nation's recovery capabilities. This includes developing and implementing policy governing search, rescue, escape, and evasion.

Open debate helps DoD to incorporate the lessons we learn from experience. This has helped eliminate the idea that personnel recovery is primarily an Air Force task. From experience, we know that each service must work with the others to make successful recoveries. This need for a joint focus on recovery issues prompted DoD to merge three groups to provide operational expertise and guidance on personnel recovery to the warfighter. Called the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA), this agency works for the US Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) to promote a unified view of personnel recovery. DPMO works closely with JPRA, the Joint Staff, the Services and combatant commands to coordinate policy and advance important issues pertaining to personnel recovery.

These initiatives greatly increase our ability to keep the promise to bring home safely our men and women who become isolated in harm’s way. They increase the protection provided to Americans placed in harm’s way thus saving their families unnecessary anguish. Additionally, this work helps prevent the exploitation of our men and women by adversaries. Recent recoveries of pilots isolated in dangerous areas highlight the value of our current recovery measures. Units specially trained and dedicated to recovery operations have proven their worth. As a result, far fewer families in recent conflicts have been left with the anguish of unanswered questions about the fate of their loved one.

Am I an eligible donor of mitochondrial DNA?

Eligible Donors of MtDNA Samples



Appendix C

Acronyms

- ◆ **AFDIL:** Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory
- ◆ **AFIRB** Armed Forces Identification Review Board
- ◆ **CILHI:** Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii
- ◆ **DoD:** Department of Defense
- ◆ **DPMO:** Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
- ◆ **JCSD:** Joint Commission Support Directorate
- ◆ **JFA:** Joint Field Activity (Recovery Operations in Southeast Asia)
- ◆ **JRO:** Joint Recovery Operation (Recovery Operations worldwide)
- ◆ **JTF-FA:** Joint Task Force - Full Accounting
- ◆ **LOC:** Library of Congress
- ◆ **LSEL:** Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory
- ◆ **NARA:** National Archives and Records Administration
- ◆ **SCO:** Service Casualty Office

