



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Personnel Accounting Progress from the Korean & Cold Wars

As of August 11, 2009

Cold War Loss: On April 15, 1969, North Korean fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 aircraft carrying a crew of 31 over the Sea of Japan. U.S. Navy ships recovered two remains; 29 U.S. service members are still unaccounted-for as a result of this incident.

Korean War Statistics: Total remains unaccounted-for **8039¹**
Total joint field activities (JFAs) completed: 1996 – present 33

Category	Total	Identified
Remains recovered and repatriated through JFAs	229	71
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations, 1990 – 1994 ²	208	31
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations 2007	6	3
Remains disinterred from the “Punchbowl” Cemetery in Hawaii, 1999 - present	11	6
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in China	1	1
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in Japan	1	1
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in South Korea, since 1982	35	5
Total remains identified, 1982 – present		118

Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula

- Korean War Personnel Accounting Strategy – main avenues of pursuit are:
 - **Resolution of the Live Prisoner Issue.** Finding live Americans is the highest priority of our accounting process. DPMO, with the full support of the Intelligence Community, aggressively investigates all credible reports and sightings of alleged American survivors of the Korean War living in North Korea. Since 1995, more than 16,000 defectors from North Korea have been screened for information concerning Americans possibly living in the North. To date this effort has produced no useful information concerning live Americans. Most reports of live Americans in North Korea pertain to six known U.S. defectors. Of the six defectors, only one remains alive in North Korea. Four are reported to have died in the North, and one, Sergeant Jenkins, was returned to U.S. control in 2004.
 - **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in North Korea.** JFAs consist of investigative and recovery operations. The U.S. conducted 33 JFAs in North Korea from 1996 through 2005. The U.S. Government pays fair and reasonable compensation for the efforts associated with recovering remains, but does not pay for remains or information.

¹ This is a working number from the Personnel Missing Korea (PMKOR) list.

² 208 boxes of remains received from DPRK unilateral operations; many remains were commingled.

- **Identifying remains already recovered and under U.S. control.** Remains under U.S. control are located at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and at JPAC’s Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Efforts are underway to identify these remains through DNA and other methods.
- **Investigative and remains recovery operations in South Korea and China.** Approximately 950 remains are located in South Korea and less than a dozen are in China.
- **Exploiting Korean War era archives.** DoD conducted archival research in the U.S., North and South Korea, the former Soviet Union, and China. We are working to continue access to Russian Korean War archives and to gain access to Chinese Korean War era archives that are likely to contain information on POWs from the war. Chinese Communist Forces administered and operated the POW camps in North Korea for most of the war. The goal of archival research is to find materials and maps germane to missing personnel.
- **Pursuing oral history programs in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, and China.** DoD periodically conducts oral history programs in the U.S., South Korea, Russia and China. These programs are designed to uncover information that will help determine the circumstances of loss for missing servicemen; build our knowledge base on Korean War loss incidents; and gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements.

Major Remains Concentrations in North Korea

Estimated numbers of remains are in parenthesis

*1954 estimate by U.S. Army Graves Registration Services on number of remains recoverable in DMZ.

