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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTH KOREA AGREES TO REPATRIATE REMAINS

The Department of Defense announced today that agreements have been reached with representatives of the North Korean government to transfer remains of what are believed to be four American soldiers missing since the Korean War. Delegations from the United States and North Korea met in New York City this past week to work out details for the immediate repatriation of the remains which had been located in recovery operations earlier this year. These talks included a representative from the United Nations' Command.

Robert L. Jones, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel, will lead a delegation to Pyongyang on Oct. 25 to accept the remains. He will be accompanied by a repatriation team from U.S. Forces Korea. From North Korea, the team will travel to Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Honolulu, Hawaii, where the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory will seek to positively identify the remains.

These agreements signify an end to the stalemate that had hampered recovery operations since June of this year.