



THE TORCH



Illuminating government personnel accounting

DEFENSE POW/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE

Fall 2005

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DPMO Hosts Annual Briefings For Vietnam War Families

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) hosted the 2005 Annual Government Briefings for families of Americans missing from the Vietnam War June 15-17, at the Double Tree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Attending the briefings were 263 family members representing 115 unaccounted-for servicemen.

In addition to DPMO officials, representatives from the Military Services' Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Offices, the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the Air Force Life Sciences Support Equipment Laboratory, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory participated. As in years past, government officials briefed family members on topics covering all aspects of the accounting mission. Briefing officials ranged from senior policy officials to intelligence analysts and scientists. Army Lieutenant General Raymond Odierno, Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, represented the Chairman

as the keynote speaker.

On Friday, June 17, the military services hosted luncheons for the families. Guest speakers for the luncheons were: The Honorable Alberto Mora, Department of the Navy General Counsel; Lieutenant General Roger A. Brady, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, Headquarters, United States Air Force; and Major General Dorian T. Anderson, Commanding General, United States Army Human Resources Command. Family members also had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam War Memorial and attend a concert by the Army Concert Band on the steps of the U.S. Capital that evening.

This year, for the first time, DPMO hosted a Veterans & Concerned Citizen Update as part of the briefings. Mr. Adrian Cronauer, Special Assistant to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jennings facilitated the program, which provided information to attending veterans and concerned citizens on Government efforts to account for Americans missing from the Vietnam War.

Korean War Oral History Program

Each year, DPMO Korean War analysts contact 2,500-3,000 American veterans of the Korean War to develop information on circumstances of loss on the more than 8,100 servicemen missing from that war. While war diaries, battle after-action reports, and individual deceased personnel files contribute to our knowledge of losses, we need greater detail on what happened at the company, platoon, and squad level during many of

the battles, and to confirm information about POWs.

Since 1996, DPMO Korean War analysts have attended Army and Marine divisional, Air Force, and former POW reunions 10-15 times each year. Many of the events have been attended jointly with analysts from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Under this

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A Message from the Honorable Jerry D. Jennings

This summer has been resounding success for the Department of Defense accounting community. From the June meetings for the Vietnam War families in Washington, to our family update meetings in Omaha and Columbus, to our attendance at the annual veterans service organization national conventions and reunions, to our veterans meetings, the past few months have been busy. The men and women of DPMO traveled the nation to update families and veterans on the progress the U.S. Government is making to account for our missing heroes and solicit information that might assist us. Additionally, our analysts have traveled the world from Southeast Asia to Eastern Europe to track down leads and open doors for the field teams in Hawaii.

While the fall may bring relief from the heat that has settled on much of the nation, it will bring no relief in the pace of DPMO operations. There is no better way to lead off our fall efforts than to recognize our missing through a solemn ceremony for POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Pentagon on September 16. Following this, we will host the Korean/Cold War annual government briefings in October. I encourage all qualified family members to attend and others to spread the word so that we can make these the most successful meetings to date. Our research in Eastern Europe is paying off with new leads and our analysts will return there to continue investigating throughout the fall. Hopefully, this hard work will lead to closure as was provided for the family of Air Force Captain Troy Cope, a Korean War loss. Additionally, our negotiators plan to return to Southeast and Northeast Asia to seek greater cooperation and access to their countries.

Please keep our brave young men and women serving abroad in harm's way in your hearts and minds as we give thanks for our many blessings in November.

Omaha and Columbus Family Updates

DPMO hosted its most recent family update meetings in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 30th and Columbus, Ohio on August 27th. Ninety-seven family members attended the update in Omaha and 121 attended in Columbus. The vast majority of the families (64%) represented Korean War cases followed by Vietnam War (23%) and World War II (13%). Numerous congressional staff and members of the media attended each event demonstrating the strong support for and interest in the issue.

U.S. Government specialists presented information on various topics including: the challenges in recovering and identifying war missing, archival research efforts, analysis, research in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the use of DNA in the

identification process. At the end of the day, each attending family member had the opportunity to sit down and discuss their loved ones' cases with some of the more than 25 government experts assembled for each meeting.

DPMO will host the next family update September 24th in San Diego, California. A complete listing of the schedule for the remainder of the year, as well as 2006, is on page 8.

Please contact your service casualty office for further information on attending one of these events. We strongly encourage every family member to attend and participate in these unique meetings. We are here to serve you!

DPMO Expands Efforts in Russia

In January 2005, Mr. A. Denis Clift, Co-Chairman of the U.S.– Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs Cold War Working Group, directed a strategic shift of emphasis for the Working Group from its focus of the past several years on north Russia to the Russian Far East. In accordance with this directive, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Michael O'Hara, DPMO's senior analyst for the Cold War Working Group, initiated an extensive media campaign in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk to educate the local population and to appeal to them for any information they might have about the six cases of American military aircraft shot down in the Russian Far East during the Cold War era.

The media campaign paid substantial dividends that provided many new leads. The most important lead came from a local resident, Dmitry Nagirny, who notified the American Consulate that he had found an American aircraft in May 1952. LTC O'Hara and Mr. Slava Sorokin, from DPMO's Moscow office, went into the remote hills north of Vladivostok with Nagirny and Mr. Sergey Kozhin, a reporter from Vladivostok's "Golden Horn" newspaper, to find this crash site. Unfortunately, Nagirny couldn't lead the team to the site he claimed he had found more than 50 years earlier.

Two weeks after the DPMO team returned to the United States, Kozhin found the crash site, and he sent LTC O'Hara more than 20 digital pictures to prove it. After consulting with officials in Washington, LTC O'Hara returned to Russia to search for clues as to whether this aircraft was a Lend-Lease aircraft given to the Soviet Union during World War II (and therefore probably piloted by a Soviet crew) or was one of the U.S. planes shot down during the Cold War.

On July 6, LTC O'Hara and Mr. Mikhail Smolyaninov, from DPMO's Moscow office, traveled to Vladivostok where they met with Kozhin about the expedition. Kozhin warned the team that they could not use the approach to the

site they had used previously because of dense foliage. Another concern was that two tropical storms had recently passed through Vladivostok, flooding parts of the city and causing widespread power outages.

As they began their ascent to the crash site, the team was stunned at how the thick foliage had altered the terrain from the previous trip. It took the team an hour and a half to reach a point where Kozhin felt that they were in the general vicinity of the crash site. LTC O'Hara decided to conduct an expanding-terrain search pattern (a circular pattern that is extended outward with each rotation) using a rock formation as the center point. As it happened, the team discovered it was only about 50 meters from the crash site and, thus, found it on the first pass.

The team examined the site and quickly concluded that no main body of this aircraft was left, only scattered pieces. Nevertheless, there was little question that the aircraft was American. Based on the crash location, the team extrapolated that the plane had passed over Vladivostok on an eastward heading towards the ocean, which was visible from the top of the hill. The plane had crashed into the west side of the hill and some of the parts they found on the ground clearly had been pierced by bullets.

The team spent several hours searching the area during which time they closely examined every piece of wreckage looking for anything that might have a serial number on it. Finally, LTC O'Hara found a piece of plating with a serial number and an identification plate that will require a microscope to read the serial numbers. The team also found an exterior plate, that appeared to be dark blue or blue suede — the same color as that of the P2V-3W "Neptune" and other U.S. reconnaissance aircraft used during the Cold War. These types of aircraft were not transferred to the former

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Captain Cope Comes Home

On May 31, the jets shrieked overhead, one disappearing into the clouds. The rifle volleys echoed through the peaceful valley. Not a single person in attendance attending the ceremony was untouched by the emotion of the moment as they wiped away tears of joy—not of sorrow. Captain Troy G. “Gordy” Cope had finally returned home.

Generally, DPMO does not publish articles on its many successes in the “Torch,” but instead reserves this forum to provide updates on current operations and research to keep you informed. This is an exception to that practice, as it provides insight into how meticulous archival research coupled with careful diplomacy with former adversaries can result in the recovery of a lost American hero.

On September 16, 1952, Captain Troy Gordon Cope departed Kimpo Air Base, Republic of Korea, in a multi-aircraft flight of F-86 fighters. The mission was to engage enemy MiGs along the Yalu River that borders North Korea and China. Captain Cope and his wingman found the MiGs, and an air battle ensued. During the course of the fight, Captain Cope and his wingman were separated, and radio contact with Cope was lost. No further information past this point in time concerning Captain Cope existed in U.S. records. His fate remained a mystery.

In 1999, DPMO analyst Danz Blasser found records in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense in Podolsk, Russia, that started a chain of events leading to Captain Cope’s recovery. According to these records, many Soviet Air Force units were active in defensive patrols on the day Captain Cope was lost. While numerous air battles occurred on that day, and Soviet pilots claimed several shoot downs, only one F-86 aircraft was, in fact, shot down on September 16, 1952 – Captain Cope’s aircraft. Out of all the Soviet shoot down claims for that day, only one comes close to matching the circumstances surrounding Captain Cope’s loss. Soviet Major Zhuravel, the regimental navigator of the 518th Fighter Aviation Regiment, was credited with shooting down an F-86, and it was at the same time and location where Capt. Cope disappeared.

According to the Podolsk records, the commander of Major Zhuravel’s regiment sent a search group to

investigate the shoot down. The group contacted local Chinese authorities and obtained written testimony from two Chinese civil servants who had witnessed the air battle. The search group also recovered small items of wreckage from the F-86 aircraft.

After translating the Chinese witness statements, DPMO analysts learned that, “On September 16, 1952, at 12:00 noon, an F-86 crashed into the third house - Lee D’yen-Cheng’s house - [in] Gu-Cheng Village, 8th District, An-Dong City, China.” The report was extremely detailed and made clear immediately that, if confirmed, it could lead us to Captain Cope’s crash location and, possibly, his current resting place.



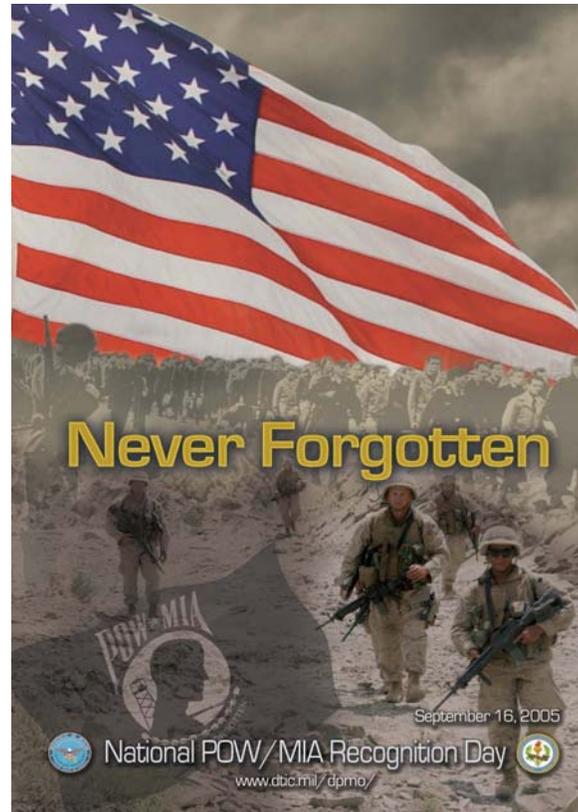
Photograph of Captain Cope and his F-86 fighter aircraft, “Rosie.”

While most Soviet search group documents are rather detailed, they usually reference location in terms of kilometers from a known point, such as two kilometers northwest of the village of X. Thus, locations referenced in 50-year-old documents are problematic. Is the village still there? Has the size of the village changed? Has its name changed? Or if the documents reference a road or a railroad, have they been moved or abandoned with the passage of time? In Captain Cope’s case, however, we had found hard evidence with which to approach the Chinese Government.

In 2003, Mr. Jennings met with Chinese officials in Beijing. He discussed the facts surrounding Captain Cope’s case and presented the Russian documents, along with records from U.S. archives. Mr. Jennings made a compelling argument to the Chinese for permission for the recovery experts from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) to go to Andun (now called Dandong) to survey the site. The Chinese studied the documents, agreed with our analysis, and granted Mr. Jennings’ request.

In March 2004, U.S. officials went to Dandong,

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Each year the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office joins all Americans in honoring America's prisoners of war and missing in action by issuing a poster commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. America traditionally observes POW/MIA Recognition Day on the third Friday in September, which this year is September 16th. On this date, we salute the men and women who served our nation as prisoners of war, as well as those who remain unaccounted-for from all past conflicts.

This year the world commemorates the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. The 2005 poster highlights the sacrifices of America's POWs and MIAs from that war and ties their sacrifices to those of today's heroes. It shows American POWs in captivity during WWII, as well as today's troops in combat.

The flag of the United States of America flies proudly over battlefields, past and present, symbolizing the sacrifices American fighting forces have made throughout our history. The black

POW/MIA flag serves as the reminder of our enduring commitment to those still unaccounted-for — to bring them home to their families and a grateful nation. They are "Never Forgotten."

We remember and honor the POWs and MIAs of what has become known as America's "Greatest Generation." But as we do so, we commit ourselves to doing everything possible to return home safely, and with honor, today's warriors — truly another "Greatest Generation" — who may become captured or missing defending our freedoms.

It is to the brave men and women of America who sacrificed their freedoms and, in many instances, their lives for our nation in the past; to those who remain missing from our past conflicts; and to those serving in harm's way today, their comrades and their families — that we dedicate this poster.

If you would like a poster, please contact our office or visit our website to download a copy.

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Korean War Oral History Program

initiative we have interviewed more than one third of the POWs still living from the war. In addition to these large reunions, we also are interested in separate regiments and battalion reunions. This year, DPMO officials have attended reunions with the 1st Cavalry, 1st Marine, and 2nd Infantry Divisions, the Army Chapter, the Chosin Few, the 7th, 24th, 21st, 34th Infantry Regiments, and the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

This fall, DPMO is planning to attend these reunion events:

- **Korean Ex-POWs/Tiger Survivors,**
September 4-11, San Antonio, TX
- **3rd Infantry Division,**
September 15-18, San Diego, CA
- **24th Infantry Division,**
September 19-24, Philadelphia, PA
- **29th Infantry Regiment,**
September 21-25, Columbus, GA
- **32nd Infantry Regiment,**
September 21-25, San Diego, CA
- **Korean War Veterans Reunion,**
October 3-7, Laughlin, NV

Since 1996, we have interviewed more than 1,700 veterans. Our analysts enter information they correlate to missing servicemen into MIA case summaries and then provide it to the service casualty offices to forward to the next of kin. If you are a veteran with information and we have not interviewed you, please contact us.

HOW TO REACH US...

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

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
ATTN: AHRC-PER
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0482
<http://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/powmia/cmaocpowmia.htm>
(800) 892-2490

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



Korean War Analyst, Herb Artola, interviews a former member of the Army's 24th Infantry Division for information on his missing comrades.

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DPMO Expands Efforts in Russia

USSR during World War II. The team continued the search until late in the afternoon and gathered pieces of wreckage that team members thought most likely could be identifiable.

There are, without a doubt, many more pieces of wreckage beneath the ground the team—not equipped to dig and lacking permission to do so at this time—could not reach. However, the pieces the team did manage to recover may provide enough evidence to warrant an archaeological dig of this site in the future, and the earth might well give up her secrets.

Could this plane be one of the six U.S. Cold War-era losses in this region of Russia? Might we find the long missing American crew at this remote location? These are the intriguing questions that push our intrepid DPMO team to work with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and Smithsonian Museum specialists to find the answers.

Vietnamese Release Politburo Documents on Wartime Diplomatic Strategy

Late last year the Socialist Republic of Vietnam published and publicly released communist party documents relating to their wartime deliberations. Although Vietnamese officials repeatedly told U.S. analysts and investigators working on the POW/MIA issue that the Politburo never addressed related POW questions, researchers have found two documents of interest in the bound volumes on sale in Hanoi.

One document, *On Policy Toward Captured American Pilots in North Vietnam*, is Politburo Resolution 184 dated November 20, 1969. It directs explicit improvements in the care and treatment of U.S. prisoners of war, such as access to mail, family notifications, and recreation. In the past, most POW returnees linked these improvements to the September 1969 death of party Chairman Ho Chi Minh. The resolution is included in the book, [Party Documents: Collected Volumes](#), published in 2004 by the National Political Publishing House, Hanoi.

A second paper of interest is a diplomatic analysis written by the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Titled *The Prisoner of War Issue in the Paris Talks*, it claims that the Nixon Administration was behind the vast U.S. public awareness campaign to "slander" the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's "humanitarian" treatment of American POWs. Published in the book, [The Diplomatic Front During the Paris Talks on Vietnam](#), the paper characterizes the Nixon diplomatic offensive, beginning in May

1969, as besmirching Vietnam's so-called humane treatment by means of letter writing and petition campaigns and a National Day of Prayer in May 1970. The analysis also cites the formation of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, the distribution of POW/MIA bracelets, and the visits by wives and children to Vietnamese embassies worldwide as reasons they were compelled to improve conditions for POWs.

The Vietnamese paper, which was drafted by an official who participated in the Paris peace talks, makes it quite clear that the U.S. public awareness campaign upset the communist government. The author notes that in the following months, they began to respond by inviting American celebrities to meet POWs, providing more identities of those held, and by making some improvements in the living conditions and treatment of the American prisoners.



Vietnam War analysts Bill Dwyer, Paul Mather, and Ron Cima examine Vietnamese Politburo documents.

HOW TO REACH US (continued)..

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

Overseas Citizens Services
U.S. Department of State
SA-29, 4th Floor
2201 C Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20520
(202) 647-5470

Defense Prisoner of
War/Missing Personnel Office
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400
www.dtic.mil/dpmpo
(703) 699-1100

2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400



www.dtic.mil/dpmo

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Captain Cope Comes Home

China where they found eyewitnesses to the crash and located the site, exactly as referenced in the Soviet documents. Our timing was fortuitous. A local resident had been looking at this particular plot of land as a potential site upon which to build his house. The Chinese authorities temporarily put his plans on hold until the site survey could be completed. Shortly after the survey started, JPAC found indications of an aircraft crash crater and other “material evidence.” Since it was still winter in Dandong, a full recovery had to be delayed until the weather improved.

In May 2004, JPAC experts excavated the crash site with the assistance of local officials and Dandong residents. The team’s excavation was successful, as they found buried aircraft debris and human remains. After months of forensic examination, including DNA analysis in U.S. laboratories, the remains were identified as those of United States Air Force Captain Troy Cope.

2005 –2006 Family Update Schedule

Family Updates provide relatives of Americans still unaccounted-for from past wars with the latest information regarding the U.S. government’s POW/MIA accounting activities.

- September 24** San Diego, CA
(October 26-28 ... Korean/Cold War Briefings in D.C.)
- November 19** Spokane, WA
- January 21**..... Dallas, TX
- February 25**..... Savannah, GA
- March 25**..... San Francisco, CA
- April 29**..... St. Louis, MO
- July 22**..... Syracuse, NY
- September 16** Seattle, WA
- November 18**..... Albuquerque, NM

Family members within a 350-mile radius of the Update location will receive an invitation approximately 30 days before the meeting. Other family members outside of that area can register to attend by calling their Casualty Office or online by going to www.dtic.mil/dpmo and clicking on “Upcoming Events.”