



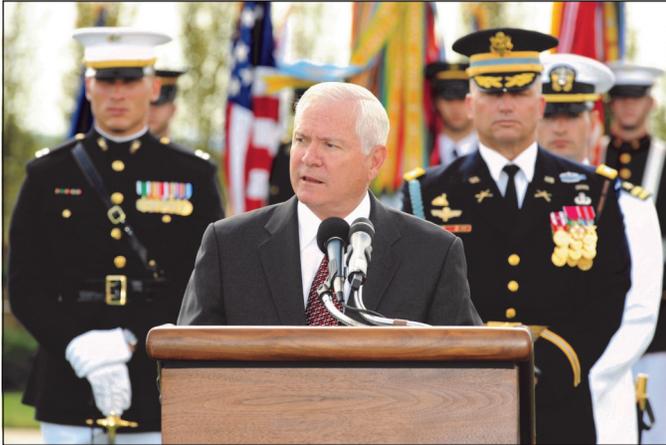
# The Torch

Keeping the Promise

Vol. 4, No. 3

Fall 2010

## Pentagon marks POW/MIA Recognition Day



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates delivers the keynote address at the Pentagon's annual observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

By Elaine Wilson, American Forces Press Service

Standing in front of rows of sharply dressed troops Sept. 17, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates underscored the Department of Defense commitment to bringing missing service members home during the Pentagon's National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony.

"For our nation's missing, we must close the gap," the secretary said. "We must find the fallen. Your love for them will never die, and their country's efforts to get them home will never cease."

The nation is sparing no effort to locate and identify the remains of those service members who have not returned home, Gates said. Every day, he said, American military and civilian experts around the world are working toward this end. These activities have intensified in scope and sophistication throughout the years, he added.

Since last year's ceremony, DoD teams have accounted for 66 formerly missing Americans, Gates said, including 15 from the Vietnam War, 16 from the Korean War, 34 from World War II and one from World War I.

"This is slow and painstaking work," he said. "We pursue it doggedly. The missing and their families deserve no less."

Gates also underscored his commitment to today's service members, who he said are selflessly serving in a time of war.

"We must never grow complacent when it comes to

protecting and accounting for our men and women on the front lines, given the nature of the conflicts we are in and the enemy we face, one not known for taking or keeping prisoners," Gates said. "Our adversaries are on notice."

The nation, he added, will never cease its efforts to locate and bring these troops home if they fall into harm's way.

"Our concern for their welfare is unrelenting," he said, "and if they are missing or captured, we will not rest until we find them, even as the conflicts recede into history."

That commitment extends to those missing from past wars, Gates noted. "This department's commitment to prisoners of war, the missing and their families is deep and abiding, a reflection of the incalculable debt that shall always be owed to them by the people of the United States of America."

While the day was set aside for formal tribute, Marine Corps Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the crowd the nation remembers missing loved ones all year, every year.

The nation has memorials, ships and buildings named after lost loved ones from past wars, Cartwright noted, but while these displays and memorials serve as powerful reminders and tributes, the general said, they don't represent the complete legacy of those left behind.

"You, the families are the true legacy," Cartwright said. "You are what they are most proud of. You are the living reminder of their sacrifice. You are their legacy."

*"This department's  
commitment to prisoners  
of war, the missing and  
their families is deep and  
abiding."*

- Secretary Gates



Photo courtesy of New York Stock Exchange

DASD Robert Newberry (center, gray suit) rings the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day. He was accompanied by representatives of the service casualty and mortuary offices. Later that evening the group participated in a commemoration ceremony at the New York Mets' stadium.

# POW/MIA corridor dedicated

Story and photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden

Defense Department officials dedicated a portion of the Pentagon to prisoners of war and troops missing in action, honoring one of the military's guiding principles: Never leave a comrade behind.

Michèle Flournoy, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, hosted the ceremony on the building's third floor, in Ring A between corridors 6 and 7.

The hallway is lined with information, artifacts and photographs underscoring the service and sacrifice of MIAs and POWs dating back to World War II.

"No matter how far away or how long ago, we will do everything humanly possible to bring all those missing service members home," Flournoy said. "We do this for the sake of their family members, and we also do this for all who serve today."

The exhibit was placed in the corridor because thousands of people—service members, defense civilians and tourists—walk through it each year, Flournoy said. Its location, she added, underscores the importance the Defense Department places on recovering prisoners of war and those missing in action.

"As we stand here today," she said, "many thousands of servicemen and women are deployed around the world in harm's way. In the days and years to come, some of them will give their lives to their country. Some of them may fall into enemy hands.

"Part of what enables our men and women to focus on accomplishing their mission in harsh and dangerous environments is the knowledge that we will do whatever it takes to bring them home," she continued.

Army Air Forces flight engineer and gunner Jerry Wolf was one such service member. His B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down over Germany. He survived the crash and spent 11 months in a German prison. Wolf noted that World War II veterans soon will be extinct, and displays such as the Pentagon corridor will



Under Secretary of Defense Michèle Flournoy (left, foreground) dedicates the POW/MIA corridor in the Pentagon. Among attendees were former POWs Jerry Wolf (baseball cap) and Rear Adm. Robert Shumaker (center, blue tie). Wolf was held in captivity for 11 months in WWII, and Shumaker spent 8 years as a POW in Vietnam.

help their legacy and service live on forever.

"I think the exhibit is wonderful and the recognition is great," Wolf said, adding he donated several letters he wrote while in the prison camp and other artifacts to the display. "It's wonderful to be noted for your service as an ex-prisoner of war."

Retired Navy Rear Adm. Robert Shumaker is another former POW who attended the dedication ceremony. His fighter plane was shot down over North Vietnam in 1965. He spent eight years in a prison camp, three of which were spent in solitary confinement.

"Sometimes you don't have a choice," Shumaker said. "When an airplane crashes, it crashes. It's a terrible feeling, [but] I always knew that I'd never be forgotten by the American people."

In the past year, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command has accounted for 98 missing service members. More than 80,000 service members from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War remain unaccounted-for.

## Family Updates

The following family updates will be conducted for families of service members missing in action:

**Oct. 23** — Omaha, Neb.

**Nov. 20** — San Francisco, Calif.

**Jan. 22** — Phoenix, Ariz.

**Feb. 26** — Baton Rouge, La.

**March 26** — Nashville, Tenn.

(See [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) for more information or to register.)

## Recent identifications

The following service members have been accounted-for since May 2010:

### WWII

2nd Lt. Robert R. Bishop, USAAF  
 Tech. Sgt. Charles A. Bode, USAAF  
 Staff Sgt. Michael A. Chiodo, USAAF  
 1st Lt. Ray F. Fletcher, USAAF  
 Pfc. Lawrence N. Harris, USA  
 Cpl. Judge C. Hellums, USA  
 1st Lt. Richard T. Heuss, USAAF  
 Sgt. Edward T. Jones, USA  
 Pfc. James C. Konyud, USA  
 2nd Lt. Arthur Parkhurst, USAAF  
 Staff Sgt. Claude A. Ray, USAAF  
 1st Lt. William J. Sarsfield, Jr., USAAF

Staff Sgt. John R. Simonetti, USA  
 Staff Sgt. Claude G. Tyler, USAAF

### Korea

Pfc. Junichi Fujimoto, USA  
 Cpl. Frank H. Smith, USA

### Vietnam

Capt. Clyde W. Campbell, USAFR  
 1st Lt. Paul G. Magers, USAR  
 Sfc. Douglas E. Dahill, USA  
 Maj. Woodrow V. Vaden, USAF  
 Master Sgt. Charles V. Newton, USA

## Peoples' Liberation Army archival research

During a recent meeting in Beijing, archivists from the Peoples' Liberation Army shared information on the results of research and field investigations from September 2009 to August 2010.

They provided information on six Korean War air losses—five in China and one in North Korea—all involving U.S. servicemen. They also reported they had reviewed approximately 20 percent of China's Korean War military records, finding 105 reports with information involving American losses.

## Newberry meets with Russian officials

DASD Robert Newberry visited Russia in September, where he met with officials from three key military archives and leaders of major veterans organizations.

He had the first meeting by a U.S. official with Yekaterina Priyetzheva, advisor to the Russian Defense Minister, nominated to co-chair the bilateral presidential POW/MIA commission. The archival officials pledged cooperation in assisting with U.S. research objectives. While in Moscow, Newberry laid a wreath at Russia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

## Vietnam Deputy Minister of Defense visit

Vietnam's deputy defense minister, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh, met DASD Robert Newberry recently during a visit to Washington in preparation for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' defense ministers meeting in Hanoi.

During the visit Vinh announced Vietnam would open four previously off-limits sites to U.S. recovery teams. He stressed the importance of the growing U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship and its positive impact on the accounting mission. He also welcomed the idea of exploring future civil search and rescue efforts.



French citizens in the Parroy Forest display photos of U.S. Army soldiers during a ceremony remembering the enemy attack on the soldiers' M-10 Tank Destroyer on Oct. 9, 1944. Two of the five crew members survived but Pfc. Lawrence N. Harris, Cpl. Judge C. Hellums and another man were killed.

In 1998, an area resident discovered traces of the vehicle and returned over the years to find various artifacts. In 2003, after finding an identification bracelet, he notified French authorities and the items were turned over to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command for analysis. Once accounted-for, Harris was buried in Clarksburg, W.V., in early October and Hellums in Randolph, Miss., also in early October, exactly 66 years after his death.



## JPAC commemorates 100th JFA

In September, Vietnamese officials presented this "painting" to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> planned joint field activity to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command during U.S.-Vietnam technical talks. The rendering depicts Hanoi's Ngoc Son Temple in gemstones adhered to canvas. The gems—ruby, sapphire, spinel, garnet, opal, quartz and tourmaline—are from Vietnamese mines. DPMO participated in the semi-annual event to discuss joint field activities, Vietnam's proposal to accelerate and expand operations and helicopter safety requirements.

## Annual government briefings

Outreach is key to keeping families of missing service members informed. The accounting community conducts two detailed government briefings annually for these families.

This year annual briefings were held in the Washington, D.C. area. Families representing those lost in Southeast Asia met in July and Korean/Cold War families gathered in August.

Participants received updated information from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the State Department and each of the services' casualty offices.

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Michèle Flournoy, was the keynote speaker for the Korean/Cold War event, hosting 478 family members. Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss addressed 204 family members at the Southeast Asia briefing, held in conjunction with the 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the National League of Families.

Travel to the briefings is provided by the Department of Defense as part of a program authorized by Congress.



Sen. Saxby Chambliss

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office  
2600 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-2600



Photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates reviews troops with Vietnamese Defense Minister Gen. Phung Quang Thanh during a Guards of Honor Ceremony commemorating the official U.S. visit to the Vietnamese military headquarters in Hanoi, Vietnam, in early October. Gates met with Vietnamese leaders and spoke at Vietnam National University.

In his remarks there he said, "We have a deep and abiding commitment to locate those missing in action." He noted that Vietnam has provided crucial assistance to repatriate remains of more than 600 Americans since the start of U.S. recovery operations there. Gates praised Vietnam for providing access to four previously restricted sites for POW/MIA operations.

He also met with counterparts in the region and participated in a conference of defense ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

## For your information

Family members seeking more information about missing loved ones may call their respective Service Casualty Office:

**U.S. Air Force**  
1-800-531-5501

**Marine Corps**  
1-800-847-1597

**U.S. Army**  
1-800-892-2490

**U.S. Navy**  
1-800-443-9298

**U.S.**

**U.S. Department of State**  
202-647-5470

*The Torch* newsletter is online: [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo). To unsubscribe, change your address or sign up to receive the hard copy of this quarterly newsletter, write or call:

**DPMO**  
**Attn: Public Affairs**  
**2600 Defense Pentagon**  
**Washington, D.C. 20301-2600**  
**Phone: (703) 699-1420**