

U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

Technical Talks

Vietnam War Working Group

Cold War Working Group

20 June 2017

Hilton Crystal City

2399 Jefferson Davis Highway

Arlington, Virginia

U.S. Side Participants:

- General Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, USAF (ret.)
U.S. Chairman, USRJC
- Mrs. Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Department of Defense
U.S. Acting Chairman, USRJC Vietnam War Working Group
Acting Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
- Colonel Timothy C. Shea, USA (ret.)
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Defense Intelligence Agency
U.S. Chairman, USRJC Cold War Working Group
Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe/Eurasia, Defense Intelligence Agency
- Dr. Timothy K. Nenninger
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the U.S. National Archives and
Records Administration
U.S. Chairman, USRJC World War II Working Group
- Dr. James G. Connell, Jr.
U.S. Commissioner
Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of the USRJC
Senior Researcher, Joint Commission Support Division
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Mr. Eric J. Greene
Director, Office of Russian Affairs, Department of State
Representing U.S. Commissioner
- Colonel Christopher S. Forbes, USA
Director, Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- Chief, Moscow Detachment
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Other Participants from the U.S. Side:

- Military Assistant to Acting Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Note Taker
Outreach and Communications Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Note Taker (Historian, WWII)
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Technical Lead, Vietnam War Working Group
Joint Commission Support Division
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Research Analyst/Vietnam War Subject-Matter Expert
Asia-Pacific Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Technical Lead, Korean War Working Group
Joint Commission Support Division
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Technical Lead, WWII War Working Group
Joint Commission Support Division
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Chief of Research, Moscow Detachment
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Senior Enlisted Advisor
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- Researcher
Joint Commission Support Division
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Russian Side Participants:

- Mr. Andrey Leonidovich Taranov
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC
Deputy Director
Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Fallen Defenders of the Motherland
Russian Ministry of Defense
- Colonel Eduard Arkad'evich Paderin
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Deputy Chairman, USRJC Vietnam War Working Group
Chief, Archival Service of the Russian Ministry of Defense
- Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert
Department Chief, Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense
- Chief, International Section
Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Fallen Defenders of the Motherland
Russian Ministry of Defense
- Chief
Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC

Other Participants from the Russian Side:

- Deputy Chief
Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC
- Researcher
Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC
- Researcher
Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC
- Researcher
Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC

Opening Session

10:00-10:45, 20 June 2017

General (ret.) Foglesong: We have had more activity over the last year than we have had for the ten years prior. For this, I would like to credit some people. On the U.S. Side, I want to credit Chris [Forbes] and his team. You have truly reenergized our [U.S.] Side. Special thanks go to Jim Connell and my counterpart here [Mr. Taranov] who have been doing this longer than I. I also want to thank the Russian Side for coming to Washington, opening up an office, and devoting the resources to this mission.

We appreciate your regular and continued engagement with the USRJC. There are times when our two great nations are not in agreement, but on this humanitarian mission we are locked hand in hand. With that, I would like to ask the U.S. Side to introduce themselves, starting with Fern.

Mrs. Sumpter Winbush: I have been the Acting Director of DPAA [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency] since July of last year. I am honored to serve as the Department of Defense Commissioner to the U.S. Side of the Commission. I have met many of you before, but to those I haven't met, welcome to Washington. I personally have been very impressed with the energy of the people on this Commission. I'm very much looking forward to the exchange of information later today in the Vietnam War Working Group. I offer a personal thanks to General Foglesong for his leadership and work on the Commission.

COL (ret.) Shea: I am the Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe/Asia and proud to be a part of this Commission representing the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. I chair the Cold War Working Group for the U.S. Side and would like to echo General Foglesong's remarks. I hope we can demonstrate fruitful and practical working relationship and thus provide a good example to all.

Dr. Nenninger: I am the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) representative on the Commission. I've been working with the Commission since the early nineties. This past year we welcomed Russian representatives at our archives. All work begins in the archives. I am happy to work with these Russian representatives and look forward to continue working with this group.

COL Forbes: I am the Director of the Europe-Mediterranean Regional Directorate, and I am also responsible for the Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD). I speak for all of us when I ask Colonel Taranov to pass our warmest regards to General Vostrotin. We are glad that he sent such a fine delegation to represent the Russian Side. Thanks to the Russian Side for being willing to participate in the League [National League of POW/MIA Families] meeting this week.

Mr. Greene: I represent the U.S. Commissioner from the Department of State. I, too, will echo General Foglesong's remarks. This is important work, regardless of other issues. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Commission. It is an opportunity to showcase our work and to

extend it. In the coming months, both of our countries will have new ambassadors. We will brief our new ambassador on the important work of the Commission.

Chief, Moscow Detachment: I am the Chief of DPAA's Moscow Detachment. Unfortunately, this will be the last event for me. For me, an American service member, the last two years have meant a lot. I especially want to thank the people at TsAMO for all their help.

General (ret.) Foglesong: Thank you for being the connective tissue for us. You get a lot of credit, also, for the re-energized efforts of the Commission.

Dr. Connell: Most of you already know me. I have been the Acting Executive Secretary since 2012. I arrived in Moscow on May 22, 1992. I could not have conceived that I would still be here 25 years later with my Russian and American colleagues. I am very thankful for the time I spent traveling the 11 time zones of the Russian Federation. I want to thank the Chief of the Washington Office, whom I have been working with for two years. [Administrative items are discussed].

General (ret.) Foglesong: Now I will turn the floor over to my counterpart, Colonel Taranov.

Mr. Taranov: I would like to pass on General Vostrotin's regards. He wishes us much success. We are preparing for the Plenum to be held in Moscow in November. This year we have been working much more effectively. I believe we have done more this year than in the past ten years. I will ask the Russian Side to introduce themselves, starting with Colonel Paderin who is the Chief of Archival Service of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

Col. Paderin: Today I will lead the Vietnam War Working Group. It is one of the groups that has not had the best results over the past years, but we are working towards getting better results. We have met many times. Our faces convey good will and temperament. The U.S. and Russia may have disagreements in other areas, as any two countries will; however, our work has other goals. Our efforts are directed to achieving those goals. The work we have done in the archives since the 1990s testify to that. We are conducting research in classified documents and a lot has been done.

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: I am the Cold War expert. I am happy to work together with you today. As Colonel Paderin stated, we are researching classified documents and getting material ready for declassification.

Chief, International Section: I am with the Directorate on Perpetuating the Memory of Fallen Defenders of the Motherland. My job is to support what happens here in Washington. I do what my American counterpart in Russia does. We will continue to develop our relationship and not rest on our laurels.

Mr. Taranov: We are ready for work, but nothing could be done without assistance from our office located in Washington, D.C.

Chief, Washington Office: The last year was tense for us. We had three main tasks: 1) office expansion, 2) work in the German trophy documents in the archives, and 3) the memorial function – searching for [Russian] military burials on U.S. territory. I would like to thank Colonel Forbes for the work he did in Elizabeth City, [North Carolina]. This evening we will show you a mock-up of the monument, and tomorrow we will take it to Elizabeth City.

Mr. Taranov: I want to thank the U.S. Side for the assistance it provides to our Washington office. We feel the warm welcome and friendliness. This helps us to achieve results.

General (ret.) Foglesong: Thank you. Let's take a break, then start up with the working groups.

Vietnam War Working Group Session

11:00-15:00, 20 June 2017

U.S. Side Participants:

- Mrs. Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Department of Defense
U.S. Acting Chairman, USRJC Vietnam War Working Group
Acting Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
- Colonel Christopher S. Forbes, USA
Director
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Technical Lead, Vietnam War Working Group
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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Research Analyst/Vietnam War Subject-Matter Expert
Asia-Pacific Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Chief of Research, Moscow Detachment
Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Note Taker
Outreach and Communications Directorate

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Russian Side Participants:

- Colonel Eduard A. Paderin
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Deputy Russian Chairman, USRJC Vietnam War Working Group
Chief, Archival Service of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- Mr. Andrey L. Taranov
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC
Deputy Director
Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Those Fallen in Defense of the Motherland
Russian Ministry of Defense
- Chief, International Section
Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Those Fallen in Defense of the Motherland
Russian Ministry of Defense

Mrs. Sumpter Winbush welcomed the Russian delegation to D.C. and underscored that she was greatly impressed with the work done since the productive talks in February and March. She was looking forward to the continuity of effort in view of great support of the Russian Side and appreciated Colonel Paderin's decision to provide a six-member team of archivists and experts to conduct Vietnam War-related research in the military archives of the Russian Federation.

Colonel Paderin underscored that the experts of the Russian Side Vietnam War Working Group (VWWG) are highly trained specialists, including archivists and experts from the Research Institute of Military History, Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. After discussions of the Vietnam War issues at the February 2017 Technical Talks with his U.S. Side VWWG counterparts, Colonel Paderin changed his approach to archival search methodology. His group is now reviewing all the classified records within the Vietnam War-related collections from the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense [TsAMO].

The majority of relevant archival records are still classified as they contain information operational in nature that borders on other issues. As such, it involves other agencies. While reviewing the records, specific facts are selected with names and events of interest to the U.S. Side. To search for information in accordance with the datasets the U.S. Side had provided for example, individual ten and eight loss incidents,¹ U.S. personnel died in captivity; air losses for

¹ The U.S. Side provided these individual loss incidents based on the lists of 356 shoot downs of U.S. aircraft found in the TsAMO records by the Russian Side at the beginning of 2000s. Selected shoot down claims from these

1965-67, and others] is not feasible due to the fact that the documents are disconnected and stored in various *delos* [a *delo* in Russian archival terminology is a set of documents or a separate document relating to a single issue or area of activity of the authority or organization] and in different agencies and organizations; at TsAMO, there is no single list of the U.S. military personnel that were shot down or taken prisoner; and records are fragmentary. So any information with last names would have to be fished out of various documents, sometimes even from the ones related to administrative, technical, supplies, and logistics areas – these records can point to other documents with useful information.

Colonel Paderin's group has gone through more than 1,000 TsAMO records since January 2017. Each *delo* contains 350-500 pages of records; and the archivists had reviewed 40 *delos*, so far. This process is very complicated as a certain procedure has to be followed to work with classified material. Even among the experts of the Russian VWWG, not all have clearances to access all of the material. Colonel Paderin, as the head of VWWG research, is the ultimate decision-maker as to the assessment and rendering of these documents, with necessary concurrences by other pertinent offices and expert review.

The group has selected relevant records to submit for an expert review, including all and any events that have to do with flyby, shoot downs, etc. Colonel Paderin underscored that the archivists review all the *delos* that touch upon the events in question, remove non-relevant information [redact], and submit a report for expert assessment to originators of the records. Colonel Paderin reviewed the documents himself and found very few last names. However, even though the documents are descriptive in nature, the information from TsAMO records can be correlated with the information the U.S. Side has. No specific information on the ten and eight loss incidents that the U.S. Side had requested was found in the documents reviewed to date.

Colonel Paderin clarified that records of interest to the U.S. Side could be kept in other agencies' archives. The U.S. Side can request access to those archives through the Russian Chairman of the Commission. He assumed that such requests had been made but since the information was not available to him, he will raise the issue upon return to Moscow and, hopefully, report at the USRJC plenary meeting in November 2017.

Colonel Paderin stated that the datasets provided by the U.S. Side were helpful as the archivists rely upon them for informational purposes and guidance in direction of search. He gave an example: the experts are starting to review specific *delos* for a certain timeframe, which might contain specific reports on flybys, reconnaissance missions, etc. [The U.S. Side described the fields in one of the datasets provided to the Russian Side: reference number, full name of the missing person, date of loss, service, country/province, latitude and longitude, and aircraft type.]

Colonel Paderin stated that in many cases the records provided by the Vietnamese to the Soviets contained a note, "Information provided by the Vietnamese Armed Forces." That meant that

documents have been correlated to actual cases of U.S. losses in Southeast Asia from 1966 to 1972. The U.S. Government seeks additional information within those records, from which the aforementioned lists were compiled.

TsAMO would not and could not have the original source document itself in its possession. For example, the intelligence directorate of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) provided certain information at that time, like the number of pilots shot down over Cambodia and Laos, or over other areas, but there was very little other information included. TsAMO has records related to Vietnam only, that is, records of regular services: ground force, air force, and anti-aircraft defense. As to the records of the special operations that participated in the events, they reported to their respective agencies. TsAMO did not have those records; they were processed through other agencies at that time.

Colonel Forbes asked whether the special group that operated out of the Soviet embassy in Hanoi belonged to special operations or general service. Colonel Paderin explained that that group contained specialists from different areas and agencies and departments (intelligence, defense, anti-aircraft defense, etc.), and each specialist reported to his respective agency or organization. Each agency would have its own reports from its specialist(s) who was/were accountable to their own agency. TsAMO reports relate to logistics (ammo, food, etc.), not operational data. Only some documents have mentions of specialists on certain issues and the last names of the officials who signed those reports, for example, senior military advisors.

Colonel Forbes gave an example of his recent interview with a retired colonel of the former USSR who was in intelligence. On three occasions, this retired colonel claimed to have interviewed captured American pilots. In one of his interviews, the Russian defense attaché was present and leading it. Colonel Forbes asked to seek advice from relevant Russian officials on the ways to access the archives that might contain reports by the Defense Attaché Office in Hanoi. Colonel Paderin stated that his group will continue working with TsAMO records and will pose questions to his leadership on reaching out to other agencies that might have the info the U.S. Side is looking for.

In response to the U.S. Side on what information would be helpful for Colonel Paderin's researchers, the Colonel Paderin asked for an electronic version of the datasets provided by the U.S. VWWG, with the Russian translation. He reiterated that no information on the ten and eight loss incidents previously provided by the U.S. Side, has been located yet, as there is no list of U.S. aircraft shot down or service members captured. Information about aircraft and other information (descriptive details) have been found, but it has not been processed for release yet. Colonel Paderin assured that the information he has found will be provided to the U.S. Side after all the relevant procedures have been followed and all legal regulations are abided by.

The U.S. VWWG submitted additional datasets to the Russian Side, including personnel lost between 1965-67 in Laos and Cambodia, a list of crashes with unknown locations (these could be shoot downs or losses for other reasons, such as the weather), and a list of loss incidents involving F-111A and B-52D aircraft.

Colonel Paderin was interested in the approach to archival research by the Vietnamese.

A participant from the U.S. Side shared his experience working with Vietnamese archives for 17 years; he emphasized that he understands the challenges that the Russians come across looking for records of interest to the U.S. Side, due to the spread of documents and no categorization or indexing.

His first time in Vietnam was 1991, working the mission in Vinh, in Military Region 4. First the Vietnamese provided extracts of documents with information on an aircraft shot down (pilot disposition, when, where, etc.), then provided the entire document after the U.S. expressed to the Vietnamese government the importance of the records. That was the beginning of U.S.-Vietnam archival research cooperation that has grown exponentially. From those documents (Military Region 4 and Group 559-Ho Chi Minh Trail), the U.S. researchers asked for other documents that weren't as direct, such as names of people in specific units. In many ways, the Vietnamese archival research was easier because all of their documents were in one repository for POW/MIA, the central repository in the Ministry of Defense of Vietnam. There were also records belonging to the units; the U.S. research teams would go and coordinate with those units. He underscored that DPAA relationship with the Vietnamese was mature, and the framework was broken into iterations, very specific timeframes. Based on previous research and documents, there were follow-ups on requests due to leads therein.

In response to Colonel Paderin's question about the assessment of the documents received from the Vietnamese, The U.S. Side stated that initial documents, in the early years, were very useful. The later research was not as direct, more subtle, as the U.S. researchers had to seek out and find leads. He emphasized that it's a very good program and worth the effort as the U.S. believes there are some documents that the Vietnamese could turn over. As the U.S.-Vietnam relationship has grown, with 2nd and 3rd generations of the Vietnamese, those who were not direct participants in the war, the discussions became more open and expectations have evolved. One of the most difficult things is expressing to the Vietnamese exactly what the U.S. researchers wanted: there's a lot of information and there's specific info that helps a lot, the U.S. analysts ask for specific bits vice entire documents. Sometimes it helps with classification issues that a nation will deal with.

Colonel Forbes stated that was a good segue to the reason why DPAA asks the Russians for certain things. In the past there has been a broad request for Russia to declassify whole collections, and now DPAA is asking for a more focused redact, declassify and release of information.

Colonel Paderin agreed that was the reason DPAA did not receive the documents in the past and that was the reason he likes the current approach, he doesn't have to declassify the entire document, just select certain parts and declassify them. That's why it's easier for him to work with the keepers of records, because he tells them that only extracted information is needed versus the entire document.

He reiterated that was why when asked about the ten and the eight loss incidents, he was saying it's practically impossible. It might provide just one link in the chain. Both Colonel Paderin and the U.S. Side agreed that they see things alike, as they work directly with archive material: they understand the difficulty. Colonel Paderin asked whether DPAA has any material from Laos or Cambodia.

The U.S. Side explained that DPAA worked there, but the records are not as robust because it appears the documents don't exist as they do in Vietnam. But Group 559 was an organization larger than a division responsible for the Ho Chi Minh trail. DPAA researchers were able to get some helpful documents from Group 559 that operated in Laos and towards Cambodia.

Colonel Forbes raised the issue of DPAA oral history program as it relates to the Vietnam War issues: DPAA interviewed hundreds of Soviet veterans of the Vietnam War in the 1990s and 2000s. He stated that DPAA is trying to get that program reinstated and would be grateful for any help from the Commission reaching out to set up interviews for DPAA this year. He asked whether there are any Vietnamese veterans from Indochina who immigrated to and reside in Russia, as anyone who may have served [in the war], could potentially be a source of relevant information. Colonel Forbes added that based on experience the archives only tell a piece of the story, while eyewitnesses can tell another piece. All of them could add up and help find the missing service member. Colonel Forbes asked for guidance for the lead for the program in DPAA, on the way ahead.

Mr. Taranov agreed that that reinstatement of the oral history program was the right approach. He was not sure about the Vietnamese veteran communities but advised to reach out to the organization called Russian-Vietnamese Friendship [Society] that would have information on veterans who served in the war. He also advised to contact Russian military commissariats directly.

The U.S. Side stated that DPAA met with the heads of two veteran organizations in Moscow to obtain contact information for the organizations' branches in other cities and former republics of the USSR. They asked for further assistance from Mr. Taranov. They also requested access to all events in Russia related to the Vietnam War, including research conferences and seminars about the war and any proceedings. They added that the U.S. VWWG is willing to brief the audiences and interested parties about the U.S. POW/MIA mission and joint U.S.-Russia work of the Group.

Mr. Taranov assured his support in the matter. Colonel Paderin added that in Russia, there is no widespread general research on the Vietnam War because methods [of war] are outdated. They do not present an interest for the general public, in terms of conferences, seminars, and such; however, there is a historic component to it.

The U.S. Side mentioned publications in the early days of the Commission for the general public that encouraged people to reach out to DPAA with any pertinent knowledge of U.S. missing

personnel. They asked the Russian Side's opinion on whether it would be beneficial to do it again. Mr. Taranov believed that in the Commission's line of work, any source of information is always welcome, it doesn't matter what it might be, especially if it leads to finding someone who is missing.

Colonel Forbes opined that this has been the most productive meeting since the parties re-started the work in 2016. Mr. Taranov added that the work is being brought up to speed, little by little.

Colonel Paderin handed over to Colonel Forbes declassified excerpts from the documents found in the Russian archives demonstrating the work done to date. Colonel Forbes expressed his sincere appreciation and added that the families of the missing will be very pleased.

Colonel Forbes and Mr. Taranov adjourned to the closing session.

Cold War Working Group Session

11:00-15:00, 20 June 2017

U.S. Side Participants:

- Colonel Timothy C. Shea, USA (ret.)
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Defense Intelligence Agency
U.S. Chairman, USRJC Cold War Working Group
Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe/Eurasia, Defense Intelligence Agency
- Dr. James G. Connell, Jr.
U.S. Commissioner
Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of the USRJC
Senior Researcher, Joint Commission Support Division
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
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Russian Side Participants:

- Mr. Andrey Leonidovich Taranov
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC
Deputy Director
Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Fallen Defenders of the Motherland
Russian Ministry of Defense
- Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert
Department Chief, Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense
- Chief
Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC

COL (ret.) Shea: It is very real when American families ask me questions. The work that we do has a real impact. The minutes are put on-line so that they are available to the American public. Unlike you, who represent the Central Archives, I work at DIA [Defense Intelligence Agency] so I can utilize our researchers and sister services to look back in history. My agency was not established until 1962 so our information is not as centralized as yours, so we have to spend a lot of time looking for records. That explanation is to justify my text.

We've covered a lot of ground, so I'll go straight to what we call Cold War incidents that involve 39 U.S. aircraft that were shot down by the Soviets in or near the Soviet Union between 1950 and 1965, except two of the incidents which resulted from weather, or the cause was unknown. In all but 10 of these incidents, the Soviets returned the airmen who survived, or their remains, resulting in no missing airmen from 29 flights. There are ten remaining incidents in which there are still missing airmen. The U.S. has acknowledged that these aircraft were not on training or weather missions but rather were collecting electronic intelligence. The Russian side provided names and last known coordinates for the fighter pilots who engaged the U.S. aircraft. In most cases, the pilots knew very little about the shoot downs or the fates of the crew. They fired their guns, returned to base, and were told nothing about the subsequent events. We decided to discuss two of the cold war shoot downs that occurred during the Korean War era at these Tech Talks. The two incidents, from November 6, 1951 and June 13, 1952, are of special interest because of the possibility that the U.S. crew members may have survived and could theoretically have been seized and detained by Soviet officials. One incident was a Navy P2V maritime patrol aircraft. We discussed these incidents at the February Tech Talks. Dr. Connell chaired that session so he will discuss it.

Dr. Connell: Good morning. It's a pleasure to see you here, Andrey. It was an honor to have you at our archival conference in April 2004. I remember you as a young officer. You and your colleagues have been a great help to us over the years.

On November 6, 1951, a U.S. Navy P2V out of Atsugi Air Force Base, Japan was shot down southeast of Vladivostok by two Fifth Fleet LA-11 fighter pilots. The entire crew of ten is missing. This incident has been well researched over the last decade. In connection with this case, we did an excavation near Novosysoyevka near Vladivostok and interviewed a number of witnesses in the Russian Far East. USRJC interviewed many Soviet pilots who shot down U.S. aircraft during the Cold War, but unfortunately Senior Lieutenants Lukashev and Schuchukin had both died by the time the commission attempted to locate them. I have personally taken part in many interviews of pilots who shot down aircraft and it is apparent to me that many pilots had little knowledge or information about the fate of aircraft or airmen they shot down.

Interviews and field investigations have been carried out throughout the former USSR. I personally have been involved in these investigations and research in Riga, Kaliningrad, and Kazakhstan among others. When we collect this information, we share it with the American families of the missing. We have done research at TsAMO in Podolsk, the Central Archives of

the Russian Navy in Gatchina, and the Central Archives of the Border Guards at Pushkino. We also have received records from the Federal Security Service Archives and Presidential Archives, which are now subordinate to General Volkogonov's longtime assistant and Executive Security of Russian Side of the Commission, who is now President Putin's assistant for Presidential Documentation.

We also used publicly available information. We learned that Senior Lieutenants Ivan Yakovlevich Lukashev of Nikopol, Ukraine, and Moisey Kuzmich Schuchkin of Primorsky Krai were awarded the Order of the Red Banner for shooting down the U.S. Navy aircraft on November 6, 1951. It was reported in the Red Star on November 23, 1951 that both Lukashev and Shchukin were summoned to headquarters. They thought they were in trouble for shooting down the plane. They were surprised when they were given medals.

We gave the Russian Side copies of the declassified documents you had given us from the Russian archives over the last 25 years related to the incident because we thought they were not readily available to the Russian Side. The Russian Side was not familiar with the documents. In 2004 the Presidential Administration Department of POWs, Internees, and MIAs was disestablished and the Russian Executive Secretary was let go interrupting the continuity of work. Of course, we are willing to give you these records if it will help. Through our office in Moscow, we put in a formal request for new research avenues. We'd like to see if there has been any success on your side finding information on the November 6, 1951 case.

Mr. Taranov: So far we do not have any additional information. If these documents could be useful, we would like to take them.

Dr. Connell: Before we leave the November 6 shoot down, we have done some more study on this loss. I know what the weather was, and how deep the water was where the plane reportedly went in. We know the cloud cover. We have done a great deal of intensive study on the incident. We realized that the P2V was shot down by fighter aircraft, but it also makes sense that the anti-aircraft units were also tracking the plane when the fighters engaged. The fighters were deployed from the city airport near Vladivostok. We would request that you try to identify the anti-aircraft units in the area and see if there is any information about the incident in the unit records.

We also know from the documents you gave us earlier when we first began researching the Cold War shoot downs that there were at least three Boston A-20 aircraft from the Fifth Fleet that were accompanying the fighters when they engaged the P2V. Therefore, we request that you try to find any reports generated by the pilots of these three A-20s. Though they didn't shoot down the Navy aircraft, they may have observed the shoot down and information might be contained in any reports they recorded. The anti-aircraft documents, though they may have been elsewhere, by now should be in Podolsk. The A-20 pilot reports could be at Gatchina. We appreciate your assistance. Though much work has already been done, we hope to find more.

COL (ret.) Shea: As you know, our focus is on interviewing survivors of the shoot down. The Russian side said that reports from survivors from the Cold War shoot downs, like Gary Powers, John McKone, Bruce Olmstead, and John Roche (all now deceased), do not exist. We just need to confirm that these reports do not exist.

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: The documents you submitted your request for, to continue this work, are not the documents kept in TsAMO. We work with documents specifically held in our archive. You asked for the documents related to the Korean War. According to our plan, the “Krasovsky Group folder” [Air Force Operational Group in China] has been created and we have prepared several documents, in particular, 26 losses, which have not been previously researched by Americans. According to our plan, we should finalize the technical part of our work by September or October 2017 and should be able to pass the documents to our American researchers. These are the documents that were of interest to U.S. researchers a long time ago, but it was not possible to make them available then. We have begun major work, technical work, beginning this year. I think we’ll be able to finalize this work in September. If not, by the end of this year; then, within the first six months of next year, we will be able to provide these documents to you for research. They include the General Krasovsky Group records. As far as the two incidents that occurred in the 1950s, these documents were not from TsAMO, but by using these documents we may discover new research leads. It is the pain of any nation when we have MIAs. Of course, it is our joint goal to decrease the number of MIAs.

Mr. Taranov: You mentioned the Presidential Archive, and we have not fully explored this archive and we will use it to conduct more research.

COL (ret.) Shea: Years ago, a Russian told family member of the sister of Jack Lively, a missing American from November 6, 1951, that there were photographs of the shoot down. We also read that in Admiral Kuznetsov’s report to Stalin from June 13, 1952 that the shoot down was confirmed by gun camera photography. The Russian side provided the U.S. Side with gun camera photography from another incident of a U.S. aircraft shot down on September 2, 1958 over Armenia. Former U.S. Cold War Working Group Co-Chair Denis Clift was convinced that gun camera photography exists for all shoot downs. Have you found gun camera photography for the November 6, 1951 shoot down?

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: TsAMO does not store photographs, therefore we are not able to look for these photographs.

Technical Lead, Korean War Working Group: I work on a lot of Korean War cases. In the Korean War, when the Soviets shot down a U.S. plane, the pilot claiming the shoot down, his wingman, his squadron commander, and the regimental commander would all write a report. They would compile all these reports, prints of the gun camera film, along with expert analysis of the gun camera film, and send the package to the division commander, who had final say on whether the plane was shot down or not and recommend further action. In Korea, this was done for units belonging to both the air force and air defense (PVO). These reports were then

forwarded to the air force or PVO headquarters in Moscow, and those records are now in Podolsk. Is it possible that material for the Cold War shoot downs was similarly compiled and sent to the headquarters? Is it possible that similar reports may now be found in your archives?

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: As I have already mentioned, the so-called Krasovsky Group for the 64th Corps has already been created. We have 26 losses. Whether it will produce something interesting or exciting regarding this loss, we cannot yet say. We can take a look at the air force records and PVO records.

COL (ret.) Shea: Earlier I mentioned that we would introduce a second Cold War shoot down from June 13, 1952. Before we move to this incident, I recommend we take a 10-minute break.

[Break.]

Dr. Connell: Earlier I mentioned a second incident. On June 13, 1952, a USAF RB-29 from Yokota Air Force Base, Japan, was shot down southeast of Vladivostok near Valentin Bay by two fighter pilots from the Fifth Fleet. The entire crew of 12 is missing. This incident has been well researched over the past 25 years. In connection with this case, we have interviewed a number of witnesses in the Russian Far East. Representatives of the Commission have interviewed many Soviet pilots, but unfortunately Captains Fedotov and Proskurin had both died by the time the Commission attempted to locate them. A U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, whom some of you may remember, and I arrived in Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria Republic in November 1994 only to learn that Captain Proskurin had died in August 1994. As I mentioned earlier, interviewing pilots usually added little information or knowledge about the subsequent fate of the U.S. pilots.

There are two distinguishing elements of this incident. The first are memoirs in which a Russian source quotes four unidentified people who claimed to have knowledge of the U.S. air crew including Major Busch and MSgt Moore by name, and their incarceration and eventual execution in Svobodnyy, Khabarovsk Krai, and the USSR. When I left the Moscow office in 2001, we were on the verge of launching an investigative trip to Svobodnyy to investigate the validity of the information in the memoirs. The author emigrated from Russia to Israel, and we interviewed him in Israel about his memoir. We worked with a Russian Side, and the FSB had done a detailed study of his memoirs. At some point before we discount the memoirs, we will discuss the possibility 18 years later of carrying out a joint investigation of the information in the memoirs. Are any of you familiar with these memoirs or the critique of them?

[No Russian Side members were familiar with these memoirs.]

Dr. Connell: The second element of interest regarding this incident is the testimony of two captured members of a different USAF RB-29 shot down three weeks later on 4 July 1952 over North Korea. The crewmen were taken from North Korea to China and thoroughly interrogated and asked many questions about Major Bush regarding his personality, personal history, previous

assignments, etc. Major Busch was the pilot of the RB-29 with the missing crew. We know this from interviews with the surviving crew of the 4 July 1952 shoot down. The second way we know about it is from the documents that were passed to Soviet counterintelligence to participate in the interrogation of these crewmen in China, and there's info about the interrogation of Bush. With the passage of time, both of the two captured crew men who survived the incident have since passed away but we need to determine if this is another possible line of archival research that may yield more information about the incident. We would appreciate it if you will look at those documents and if you think of something that we overlooked.

COL (ret.) Shea: Thank you, Dr. Connell. I'd like to flag one of the key pieces of information in the documents we passed to you regarding the June 13, 1952 incident. The most striking document is a letter from the Minister of the Navy of the USSR Kuznetsov to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Stalin reporting the shoot down by Soviet fighters and the fiery crash into the sea 18 miles offshore, and the fact that the shoot down was recorded by gun camera photography. [Connell added that at this time Kuznetsov had his uniform and rank taken away by Stalin]. I know the U.S. Side added some interesting information earlier about the gun camera photography and its analysis. We have not seen this photography or analysis so we request that you look for additional information about it at TsAMO in Podolsk which might shed more light on the incident. We would be very appreciative if you could identify new research avenues. Where can we go from here to attempt to do further research on the November 6, 1951 and June 13, 1952 incidents?

Mr. Taranov: Our point of view is that if there is any chance of finding out what happened, we should pursue it, and that is what we will do.

COL (ret.) Shea: The next matter is visiting the Pacific Fleet Archives in Vladivostok. We have not visited these archives since 2005. While one might say that the 1951 records should have been sent to the Central Archives of the Russian Navy in Gatchina, we all know how far that is and how much it can cost to send a container with 60-year-old documents by rail or ship the length of the Russian Federation. Is it possible for commission researchers to visit the Pacific Fleet Archives and see if there is additional information about these loss incidents and possible survivors in those archives?

Chief, Washington Office: Documents from that period are located in Gatchina. Have you made the request to Gatchina about these planes?

Dr. Connell: Yes, but it's been awhile. Much of the information in these files came from Gatchina. Years ago we worked in the *fondy* [document collections] in Gatchina. I have not been to Gatchina since 2001, and I think it would be interesting to organize a joint trip to Gatchina to discuss records with them. For instance, concerning the April 8, 1950 shoot down, Gatchina gave us all the declassified info about operation Hedgehog in the Baltic Sea to try to recover the electronic technology on board the aircraft.

COL (ret.) Shea: Until 2003, late Rear Admiral Novyy worked in the Russian Border Guards Service Archives in Pushkino. Could Commission representatives be permitted to access the Border Guards Archives to research the November 6, 1951 incident?

Mr. Taranov: I think we can work through this matter. The only thing we would need would be a person like Novyy to help us bypass potential limitations. And of course there is an official request mechanism but you know that when a researcher works at an institution, it is much more efficient than an official request. When we ask our questions, they must be very precise to receive an answer, but our questions are very complex which complicates matters.

Dr. Connell: Has someone taken the place of the head of the FSB archives?

Mr. Taranov: That's the plan.

COL (ret.) Shea: Have we already sent an official request or diplomatic note to do this research?

Dr. Connell: We will take our minutes and if there are any due-outs, we will work with our Moscow office to make any requests.

Chief, Washington Office: Col Paderin can arrange it too through the archives.

COL (ret.) Shea: I'd like to move the discussion to Aircraft Factory #315. I feel like I've had this conversation 100 times already. A joint visit to the factory, which may still hold the wreckage of U.S. Navy PBY2 shot down off Liepaja, Latvia, on April 8, 1950, which we believe is at Ulitsa Pravdy, 23, in Moscow. We are again requesting the names of the former workers from the factory who may have participated in analysis of wreckage and actual reports of analysis and condition of wreckage which might provide information about the shoot down and the likelihood of survivors.

Dr. Connell: We are still very interested in the April 8, 1950 shoot down even though it has been a long time. We are particularly interested since a Swedish deep sea salvage firm found the wreckage of a Swedish DC-3 shot down by the Soviets in 1952. They raised the airplane, which is now in a Swedish Navy museum. There were 9 crew aboard. They found the remains of 4 of them still in the aircraft. There were 9 widows from that incident and none of them ever remarried. When this firm is working in the Baltic Sea, they are keeping on the lookout for our aircraft. We still hope that we will one day find the wreckage. So we are still interested in any information we can get on the April 8, 1950 incident and would appreciate any information you can find.

COL (ret.) Shea: As Dr. Connell said, we realize it's a long shot, but we would still appreciate any information you can find and access to the factory workers and records.

Mr. Taranov: This is a good question, and we will work on it.

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: This question has been asked before and we said that we have not received documents from this factory. Those records go to a different archive.

Mr. Taranov: We are working on the issue so it is not yet finalized, but we will keep working on it.

[Break for lunch.]

COL (ret.) Shea: We left off with Aircraft Factory 315. If there are no objections, we'll move to the PVO Museum at Balashikha. Another request from the U.S. side: permission to travel to Balashikha, tour the facility, and meet with the director.

Mr. Taranov: Anytime at your convenience. We just need a two-month notice.

Dr. Connell: We are aware of your past inquiries on 6 missing Soviet service members in Ogaden, Ethiopia in 1978. One of the missing servicemen was Lt Col Nikolay Udalov. In 1996, I went to Yekaterinburg, where we were both saddened and gratified to notify the son that his father had died of malaria in a Somalian hospital in 1980. Unfortunately, the place of burial was not known. We plan to approach our intelligence services once again to try to find info about the other five missing Soviet service members.

Mr. Taranov: Thank you.

COL (ret.) Shea: At this point, we are willing to entertain any requests for assistance in contacting former Soviet POWs from the war in Afghanistan or other former Soviet soldiers who might be living in the United States and who might have info on the 264 missing Soviet soldiers still missing in action in Afghanistan. We cannot guarantee that the former Soviet citizens would be willing to be interviewed, but we will do our best to facilitate such interviews.

Mr. Taranov: Thank you very much. It is a very curious subject for us. We want to steer clear of inconveniencing those people and traumatizing them. But it is a subject we are pursuing.

[Discussion pursues between Dr. Connell and Colonel Taranov confirming the actual number of Soviet missing in Afghanistan is 264.]

COL (ret.) Shea: At the February Tech Talks, the Russian Side expressed an interest for assistance in contacting people from the Northern Caucasus who now live in the West and may have information about the burial sites of Russian soldiers. They said you have names, locations, phone numbers, and addresses. Do you have any specific requests at this time? We will do what we can to help within the strictures of privacy laws.

Mr. Taranov: The Russian Side is working on that information. He will be done by November. Some of the info might be out of date or some people have since died. So he is confirming that information.

COL (ret.) Shea: I took a request regarding Lieutenant Colonel Koventsov, a missing Russian soldier, to our partners in Georgia.

With respect to the K-129 submarine incident, we said in February that we believe everything that can be shared has been, but we will ask our intelligence services if any new info has been declassified over the past 25 years. We welcome any specific requests. In 2007, the U.S. Side representatives gave Russia's Pacific Fleet Archive in Vladivostok duplicate copies of the formerly classified documents, including excerpts from the deck logs of the U.S. submarines, *Swordfish* and *Halibut*. I'd like to pass you duplicate copies of these 98 pages of documents so they will be accessible for your study.

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: Thank you.

COL (ret.) Shea: That is all the agenda items we are prepared to present at this time. We welcome your comments and advice on how to best advance the further study of these 9 Cold War shoot downs and determine the ultimate fates of these 126 airmen.

If there is no more business, we will adjourn and await the closing session. Thank you for making the long trip to Washington to discuss the mutual issues. We look forward to continuing our work over the next few days in a mutual effort to reduce the number of missing service members on both sides. Thank you.

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: Thank you for all the material you have and will give to us. We are doing our best to conduct our relations in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. I really appreciate what you said about wanting to reduce the number of people missing in combat.

Mr. Taranov: I would also like to thank you personally for what you said and your work. The issues discussed here are of great interest and are being looked at.

[Dr. Connell handed Lt. Col. Alexeyev TFR-223-1 regarding missing Russian service members in Ethiopia at the end of the meeting.]

Closing Session

15:20-16:00, 20 June 2017

(The Same Participants as during the Opening Session)

General (ret.) Foglesong: Thanks for all the hard work. I will ask each working group head to discuss the results. I think we can use this as part of a template for the plenum this fall. If you agree, Mr. Taranov, I'll ask Chris [Colonel Forbes] to speak about the Vietnam War.

Mr. Taranov: If it's all right, I would like to first present you with some of the practical results of our work. Here are five pages of declassified material on pilots shot down during the Vietnam War. We are thankful that we succeeded getting this declassified in time for this visit. It is our contribution.

COL Forbes: Thank you, Colonel Taranov. It has been a productive day with Colonel Paderin. I consider this payoff for the hard work we accomplished from the plenum last year to General Vostrotin's suggestion that we find three items to lay on the altar of victory. We discussed the top 10 losses and an additional eight shoot downs over Vietnam of U.S. aircraft. Colonel Paderin laid out the procedure on how to address work in other archives through General Vostrotin. We will craft a letter for General Vostrotin from General Foglesong addressing access to other Agency archives in Russia. We hope to give the Russian Side a disc with Last Known Alive losses before they leave on Saturday. We had a candid and worthwhile exchange of information. The U.S. Side gave testimony on archival research in Vietnam for the past 17 years. We closed the session with a good exchange on how we can restart the interview. These were the key highlights of our meeting.

Col. Paderin: As Colonel Forbes said, our meeting was useful and productive. It is good when we get results. It is hard work working in the archives with technical issues. We want to show that our work is directed to providing extracts that are useful for our work. All the unknown parts of the story must be filled in. I think that thanks to the efforts of our colleagues, we will achieve results.

General (ret.) Foglesong: Thank you.

COL (ret.) Shea: I would like to thank the Cold War and Korean Cold War Subject Matter Expert for his participation and patience. We asked for much, and received a number of positive answers. We have learned how to make requests that are useful for each side. I was encouraged by some of the offers made by the Russian Side today. Though we didn't achieve any resolution of losses today, there are some perspectives for the future. We focused on two losses: the November 6, 1951 and June 13, 1952. There were no major breakthroughs, but we did learn we could use some open sources, like the newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda, which might give us some clues. We also offered our assistance with the 264 Soviet soldiers missing from Afghanistan and with a missing airman from the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, which is outside of the Cold War arena, but we have the opportunity to help the Russian Side.

Cold War and Korean War Subject Matter Expert: The work of our group also touched on issues of the Korean War. I stated the plan of last February is almost completed. We will get documents at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. I am speaking of the General Krasovsky Group. We will look for information on the 1951 and 1952 shoot downs that Mr. Shea mentioned. We are looking forward to further cooperation.

General (ret.) Foglesong: Every time we have meetings, we make new progress. We start moving the ball down the field and start shaping the way to make a goal. Sometimes we actually put a ball in the goal. In my 10-years' experience we keep shaping, but this time we got a ball in the net. I will also provide an update to the White House in the near future. I'll be happy to report that we are not just shaping the field, but actually scoring goals. But it is still too early to declare victory. For these goals, I truly credit the people sitting around this table.

Mr. Taranov: In keeping with the soccer analogy, it's important to note that we are on the same team.

General (ret.) Foglesong: Well said!

End Closing Session.