



DPAA Family/VSO Quarterly Update
April 29, 2024, 2:00-3:00 PM EDT
‘Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise’



Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) mission. This update is intended to provide an overview of efforts during the previous quarter to account for our missing.

Family Group/Veterans Service Organization Participants:

- American Legion: Mario Marques and Alyson Stapleton
- Coalition of Families of Korea/Cold War POW/MIAs: Donna Knox
- Disabled American Veterans: Justin Hart and Marty Pennock
- Jewish War Veterans of the USA: Brenna Van Stone
- Mission: POW-MIA: Dave Huffman
- National League of POW/MIA Families: Aaron Ahlstrom
- Sons and Daughters in Touch: Colleen Shine
- Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association: Dave Gordon
- Veterans of Foreign Wars: Ryan Gallucci
- Vietnam Veterans of America: Grant Coates

Director’s Update (Kelly McKeague)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget. With this year’s appropriations enacted on March 23, our \$191 million (M) budget was finally put into place. Within this, approximately \$30M will fund increased field activities and \$5M will fund the planning and design of the replacement laboratory in Nebraska. With only half the FY with which to obligate the funds, we will be challenged, but should there be future Continuing Resolutions, we will begin the FY capped at the \$190M level.

Laos Impasse. Despite strong advocacy from the U.S. Ambassador and the National League of Families delegation with the Lao Deputy Prime Minister, the protections and immunities for our military and civilian members permanently assigned to our detachment (DET) in Laos is still unresolved. In total, we were forced to cancel 3 Joint Field Activities (JFAs), which comprised 9 Recovery Teams (RTs) and 3 Investigation Teams (ITs). We will conduct the annual consultations in May, and protections will be one of the central issues to be raised. We did restore stipends to Lao officials to both conduct these talks and to prepare for the 5th JFA this summer, which will consist of 3 partner RTs, which will be a first in Laos and involves minimal movement of DET personnel.

Kiribati Access. After understandably denying access in early 2020 to DPAA teams due to COVID-19, the Kiribati Government continues to ignore diplomatic requests seeking to resume DPAA field work, which had been successfully conducted year around due to the significant number of losses on Tarawa. The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command actively engage to advocate for a humanitarian carve-out, but access is still elusive.

External Engagements. A one-day trip to New York City included speaking engagements with the Intrepid Museum, the Foreign Press Center at the U.S. Mission to the UN, Business Executives in National Security (BENS), and the Council of Foreign Relations. A trip to Montgomery and Atlanta included engagements at the Air Force Cultural and Language Center; Georgia Tech; with the local BENS; and with Veterans Resource Groups at Home Depot, Coca-Cola, and UPS. Among the objectives of these trips are the forging of new governmental and private partnerships.

Prestigious Award I: Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Zachary Andrews, one of our medics, was selected as the 2023 Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Senior Enlisted Member of the Year. He competed against peers from OSD organizations and the Joint Staff. Also, he was deployed to Vietnam supporting a recovery mission, flew to DC to meet the board, then returned to the mission.

Prestigious Award II: TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) is a national organization that provides compassionate care and extensive resources for those grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one, all at no cost to surviving families. Each child is provided an active-duty mentor and each year TAPS mentors provide nearly 18,000 hours of support. They selected Army SFC Nicole McMinamin, one of our mortuary affairs specialists, as their Military Mentor of the Year.

Deputy Director for Operations (DDO) Update (Colonel Matt Brannen)

Operations Overview. In the past 3 months, we successfully executed 26 DPAA and partner field missions across 13 countries, including disinterment operations in the Philippines, Italy, France, Tunisia, and Hawaii. After our successful investigation mission in China earlier this year, we are working closely with the People's Liberation Army and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on an in-person archival research exchange in May, an IT in Dandong (a Korean War loss), and an RT in Hunan Province (a World War II (WWII) loss) in July.

Korean War Disinterment Project: On Feb 7, the Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) lifted the 7-week pause of Phase 5 of the Korean War Disinterment Project and approvals of WWII disinterment requests. Accordingly, we have resumed disinterment activities and are on track to complete Phase 5 of the project this FY. With Unknowns representing 19% of the unaccounted-for we estimate to be recoverable; our disinterment program is a key component of our mission and essential to providing answers to the families of the Unknowns.

Augmentees. Each year, we request short-term individual augmentee support from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) and U.S. European Command to supplement the DPAA RTs and ITs for the next FY. The request fills military specialty requirements such as explosive ordnance disposal technicians, divers, mountaineers, medics, communications specialists, and linguists. They filled most of the respective requests -- 389 for the Indo-Pacific missions and 117 for our European missions.

Iwo Jima Identification. We recently accounted for Marine Private George Browning, who was lost on Iwo Jima on February 20, 1945, and whose remains were unidentifiable after the war and buried as an Unknown. After receiving a family request to disinter, the team collaborated closely to complete the required historical and scientific analyses to disinter the unknown remains from the Manila American Cemetery in mid-March, then the laboratory identified Private Browning less than a month later due to extremely strong dental evidence along with other analyses.

Notable Visits. Thanks to Carol Whitmore (VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief) who visited our Hawaii team before her travel to Southeast Asia where she visited the DPAA DETs in Bangkok and Hanoi, as well as with one of the RTs operating in Vietnam. We were also privileged to host William Clark (AMVETS National Commander) and Nancy Espinosa (DAV National Commander) at our Hawaii Lab and Daniel Seehafer (American Legion National Commander) at our Nebraska Lab. Lastly, Ann Mills Griffiths led a National League of Families delegation visit with senior U.S. and foreign officials in Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh.

Key Leader Engagements. We hosted visits by the Commander, Air Mobility Command (AMC), along with 22 civic leaders from 12 AMC bases across the country. AMC provides the invaluable airlift support that transports DPAA teams and equipment all over the globe, and repatriates remains back to Hawaii and Nebraska. The day after relinquishing command of U.S. Pacific Fleet, the incoming USINDOPACOM Commander brought his family for a visit and pledged fullest support from USINDOPACOM. We also hosted students from the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and Naval War College. The Nebraska team hosted the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) Regional Operations Director and the Greater Omaha Chamber Military Liaison.

Farewell. This will be my last Quarterly Call before departing this summer for an assignment at 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, CA. Serving first as the IP Regional Director and then as DDO was truly a highlight of my 26 years as a Marine. I look forward to continuing to serve as an ambassador for this mission as I return to the Marine Corps. Our Senior Operations Officer, Mr. John Figuerres (who goes by "Fig"), will steward this role until a replacement is identified.

Regional Teams Overview

Europe-Mediterranean (EM) Region (Heather Harris)

Research and Analysis. In March, as part of our annual planning process, our researchers participated in the EM Planning Sync to develop operational plans for FYs 2025-26. In addition to routine research and analysis in archives located in DC, EM researchers visited the British National Archives to analyze the records of Polish chaplains searching for information about missing Americans buried by Polish soldiers fighting under the British Commonwealth in WWII. In Austria, a researcher reviewed local church, cemetery, and municipal records in several small Austrian towns, searching for information related to unaccounted-for Airmen associated with multiple aircraft crashes. In one instance, from gleaned historical information, she drove to the area in question, found it was a publicly maintained forest, obtained permission and a more detailed map from the local forest meister, walked to the plot described as the crash location, and very quickly found aircraft wreckage visible on the forest floor which will lead to a future field investigation.

Field Operations. With the arrival of April, our operational season is in full swing. We completed a series of investigations of ground losses in France and Germany where the ITs focused on areas that have also been the subject of disinterments of associated Unknowns from ABMC Cemeteries, several of whom have been identified in recent years. Actioning disinterment research to field investigation allows our teams to develop a new understanding of who might be still buried in battlefield contexts and to home in on particular locations and/or units as they assess evidence made available through the identification process. In France, an RT is at a site of a D-Day loss where the

aircraft crashed after the 14 paratroopers it transported had jumped from the aircraft with 3 of the 5 crew members unaccounted-for. An RT in Italy is excavating a site associated with the loss of a fighter and an underwater IT is operating in Kuwaiti waters conducting remote sensing to locate an Operation DESERT STORM loss of a Navy pilot.

Disinterment Operations. Since disinterment operations in the EM Region began in March, we have conducted disinterments at 4 ABMC locations: Sicily-Rome, Florence, Rhone, and North Africa American Cemeteries, disinterring a total of 24 Unknowns who are associated with ship losses, aircraft crashes, and ground losses which occurred in Italy, France, Egypt, and Tunisia. The second-ever disinterments from the Tunis American Cemetery marked the milestone of 500 Unknowns who were disinterred from cemeteries in the EM area of responsibility.

Planned Field Operations. In May, we will initiate 2 recovery operations in Poland and Germany. The activity in Poland will be a host nation-conducted exhumation at a small local cemetery in search of unaccounted-for U.S. aircrew who may be buried there. The Germany recovery will also take place in a small local cemetery which was formerly the site of active German burials, and where we could not obtain permission to excavate for 10 years.

Planned Disinterments. In recognition of ABMC's Memorial Day ceremonies, we do not conduct disinterments during the month of May and will resume them in June, conducting 46 disinterments at 10 cemeteries located in Belgium, France, Great Britain, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

US–Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). We are sad to report the death of the Russia Side Chairman, Colonel General Vostrotnin, in Feb. He was a staunch advocate for the work of the Commission and will be greatly missed. As we noted during our last call, engagements and activity related to the USRJC are very limited by the current strained bi-lateral relationship. Although our contracted researchers lost access to the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense in December, they have continued to conduct online research in digitized Russian archives, review materials collected prior to losing access, and branched out to explore new possibilities. This last effort recently led to finding information in the Russian State Library related to both accounted-for and unaccounted-for individuals lost during the Korean War. Specifically, they have found Soviet newspaper references to 8 POWs, for which we are checking for correlation to unresolved cases.

Indo-Pacific (IP) Region (Commander Brandon Sims)

Research and Analysis. Vietnam War: Researchers conducted archival research on dozens of cases at the National Archives II in Maryland. This month, we hosted the second Case Coordination Conference of the year with participation from DIA's Stony Beach, the DETs, and various Staff Directorates to coordinate next steps on 262 cases involving 407 individuals. Korean/Cold War: The team is coordinating with our WWII colleagues on cases to present at next month's Archival Exchange with People's Liberation Army researchers in Beijing.

Field Operations. Vietnam War. A JFA in Vietnam consisted of 3 RTs, 1 Vietnamese Recovery Team, 2 Host Nation RTs (RT-H), 1 IT, 1 IT-Light (IT-L), and 1 Host Nation IT for Last Known Alive cases (IT-H (LKA)). Korean War: An IT is conducting a terrestrial investigation in South Korea with our Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) partners. WWII: We completed a successful recovery in Thailand and an

underwater investigation off the coast there, which progressed efforts to correlate aircraft and narrow in on the suspected crash location. Successful ITs completed missions in the Solomon Islands, Malaysia, and on Iwo Jima. Another IT conducted our first-ever mission in Brunei, interviewing residents, divers, and mariners who may have knowledge of 3 underwater cases with a total of 8 missing Servicemen; of note, the Sultan of Brunei is who approved the Diplomatic Note requesting DPAA access.

Disinterment Operations. We conducted 1 disinterment mission to Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM), where we disinterred 34 WWII Unknowns, completing operations there for FY 2024 with a total of 69 WWII Unknowns. We also completed 4 disinterment missions at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), where we disinterred 11 WWII Unknowns and 22 Korean War Unknowns (Phase 5).

Planned Field Operations. Vietnam War: Coordination and planning continue for the third JFA of the FY to Vietnam which will consist of 3 RTs, 1 Underwater RT, 2 RT-Hs, 1 IT, 1 IT-L, 1 IT-H (LKA). Korean War: A terrestrial RT is planned for this next quarter.

Planned Disinterments. We are planning one disinterment mission to the NMCP in May, which will disinter 8 Korean War Unknowns from Phase 5.

Partnerships and Innovations (PI) (Rocky Gillette)

Research. We initiated 6 new research projects and restarted 2 other projects last quarter. Especially noteworthy are the numerous research projects in which we locate, digitize, and analyze one-of-a-kind archival collections across the country. For example, we kicked off a project with the University of Southern Mississippi to digitize the Wiley O. Woods' Archival Collection at the University of Memphis, which holds materials related to approximately 300 unaccounted-for cases in the Philippines. Another new project is with Texas Tech University, who will collaborate with our Vietnam War researchers to transfer and use the collections of the Southeast Asia Helicopter Pilots Association, a digital repository recently donated to Texas Tech that will help us research helicopter losses in the war. We currently have 75 active research projects, with 16 under development, and 2 projects scheduled to conclude in early May.

Current Field Activities. In April, we concluded 6 partner field activities in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Italy, Sweden, Germany, and the Solomon Islands. Four partners are currently conducting field activities in the Netherlands, Italy, and Cambodia, with the latter consisting of an RT and an underwater IT. We particularly want to highlight partner Philippines activities, which benefit greatly from the National Museum of the Philippines, which arranges logistics, access, and security for our partner missions, as well as participate with them.

Future Field Activities. Eight partner missions are planned to commence in May.

Partnership Symposium. We convened 30 partner organizations at a symposium in New Orleans, coinciding with the Society of American Archeologists' annual meeting. The partners received updates on research, field, and innovation efforts. For us, the symposium advanced internal and external collaboration, generated new ways to improve communications, and enhanced partners'

contributions to increasing our capacity and capabilities. Due to the extensive number of partners, we limited attendance to partners who are working active projects, research efforts, or other ongoing activities. We continue to expand our outreach to partners and are looking at possible future events (most likely virtual) that could allow us to connect with more organizations.

New Arrangements. We established new partnerships through a signed Memorandum of Understanding with RECON Offshore and have additional partnerships with Oxford Archaeology and Blake Archaeology and Anthropology Services pending final signatures. The total number of active partners is 103. In the last DPAA Academy held in February, our partner orientation program, 15 partner or prospective partner personnel participated.

Scientific Analysis (SA) Update (Dr. Debbi Zinni)

FY2024 Identifications (newly accounted for)

Total IDs = 50

WWII = 40

Korean War = 5

Vietnam War = 1

In addition, there have been 17 additional portions of remains identified and 4 identifications of remains that were from Service members previously accounted for.

Accessions. Thus far this FY, 305 batches of evidence were accessioned into our laboratory system, consisting of skeletal, dental, and/or material evidence. The evidence originated from disinterments (164), DPAA field activities (23), partner activities (24), and unilateral turnovers (92). The conflict associations were WWII (243), the Korean War (46), and the Vietnam War (15).

Vietnam War Identification Project. After the last JFA in Vietnam, we performed a Joint Forensic Review and concluded with U.S. and Vietnamese forensic experts recommending remains repatriated and returned to the US for further analysis. Since the last call, the VWIP team accounted for Air Force Major John Kerr, lost over Laos in August 1967. The team also made 6 additional portions identifications, which include a group additional portion ID.

Laboratory Accreditation. The laboratory system is preparing to undergo another surveillance assessment of procedures and operations from our accrediting body, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) on 20 May. The lab will be assessed in numerous disciplines under the International Standard Organizations (ISO) 17025 and 17020 Standards. We engage in these assessments to demonstrate the professionalism of our team and the soundness of our scientific and surety methods applied in our casework.

Facility Update. With the FY 2024 Military Construction Appropriations Bill passed, we are working closely with our Air Force partners on preparations to execute planning and design (P&D) for our replacement laboratory facility at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. The bill included \$5M for P&D.

AAFS Conference. At this year's Annual Conference of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 34 from our team provided a total of 16 poster and podium presentations. In addition, Dr Debbie Zinni was elected to Section Chair of Anthropology Section of the AAFS, which is the

preeminent professional organization leading the progression of forensic science. In conjunction with the conference, the Agency Booth had 250 visitors over 3 days, who wanted to learn about our internship program and job openings. We also interviewed 8 odontologists during the conference and extended a tentative job offer to one based on Direct Hire Authority for this job series.

Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) – Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) Update (Dr. Tim McMahon)

Laboratory Accreditation. Last month, the laboratory system underwent our annual accrediting surveillance review of procedures and operations from the ANAB ISO 17025 and FBI Standards. There were 10 scientists from around the U.S. representing laboratory directors or senior leaders from Federal, State and Local DNA Forensic Laboratories.

Collaborations. As a global leader in human remains identification, we have been fostering continuing interactions with countries that are developing or have existing capabilities or assisting with identification efforts:

- 3 scientists from the International Commission on Missing Persons completed 3 weeks of training on Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) processing methods. They have started to transition these to the Vietnamese as part of their USAID-funded initiative.
- 3 Israeli Defense Force (IDF) scientists, to include their laboratory director, completed 3 weeks of reviewing current day human remains laboratory procedures; 3 others will be arriving in mid-May for 2 weeks of the same review. We assisted with 1 new IDF ID from the October 7 attacks and working to assist with one more.
- Assisting with the most difficult samples from the Maui Wildfires to assist with the last few IDs.

New and Emerging Technology. Regarding our nuclear single nuclear polymorphism (SNP) assay that is a custom-developed method with data analysis software, during the review of all the data and the writing of the final validation report, we had to increase certain population data sets. This allowed us to increase the discrimination and identification potential. Our goal is to bring this testing online by September, pending any additional validation testing that may be identified. During the data review and validation write-up, we identified two compelling things:

- We will be able to utilize the mitochondrial NGS results to predict the eligibility and potential success rate of the nuclear SNP test.
- That we need to recover approximately 15,000 SNPs out of 94,000 to be able to generate a nuclear likelihood statistic that at a minimum is 3 times the world's population.

FY 2024 Statistics (as of March 30, 2024)*:

1. DNA Results Reported: 1,837 (306 per month; the goal is 300 per month)
 - a. mtDNA traditional: 474
 - b. NGS: 751 samples (goal is 120 samples per month – a 20% increase over last year)
 - c. Autosomal Short Tandem Repeat: 357
 - d. Y-short Tandem Repeat: 253
2. First-time Named BTB (supporting new Identifications): 58

* AFMES-AFDIL closes monthly metrics on the last working day of each month and collates them all by the 15th of the next month.

Outreach and Communications (Mark Abueg)

Family Member Updates. On Feb 24, we held an in-person FMU in Phoenix, Arizona, which included 255 family members (108 were first-time attendees) and 128 case summary reviews. On Mar 23, we held another in-person FMU event in Kansas City, Missouri, which included 268 family members (159 were first-time attendees) and 127 case summary reviews. Both events were highly successful, and each was livestreamed on our DPAA website, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn social media sites; the archived video is at www.dpaa.mil/Livestreams. We very much appreciate DAV's Department of Arizona and The American Legion National Office for sponsoring the refreshments for family attendees at the Phoenix and Kansas City FMUs, respectively. The last FMU of the FY is scheduled for May 18 in Billings, Montana.

Public Affairs and Social Media. This past quarter, we answered 69 media inquiries and interview requests, gained 501 New LinkedIn followers, 243 new fans for Facebook with over 11,000 reactions and 800 comments. We have also published 380 stories and videos with a video being picked up by DOD social media. You can Like, Follow, and Subscribe to DPAA on our Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and DVIDS platforms.

Stories of Note.

Stars and Stripes

US, South Korea Begin Annual Search for Remains Still Missing from the Korean War

https://www.stripes.com/theaters/asia_pacific/2024-04-09/korean-war-remains-search-dpaa-13515579.html

(Korean War)

DPAA Article

Another Way to Serve Says Defense Health Agency Volunteer on MIA Recovery Missions

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/In-The-News/Article/3737940/another-way-to-serve-says-defense-health-agency-volunteer-on-mia-recovery-missi/>

(WWII)

Yahoo! News

As China Ties Warm, U.S. Military Resumes Search to Bring WWII Fallen Heroes Home from Southern Provinces

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/china-ties-warm-us-military-093000915.html?guccounter=1>

(WWII)

Q & A Session

[Note: In an effort to provide the best answers and/or answers to questions that could only be answered partially, the answers below include the necessary clarifications or amplifications.]

Sons & Daughters in Touch: *Thanks to Matt for your service. Did the survey that was discussed in the last VSO update; was there any movement on that?*

ANSWER: We are still evaluating the surveys and how best to move forward

What percentage of new Vietnam War families are attending the FMUs? Are you doing more outreach for FMUs?

ANSWER: In recent years, we have observed a consistent rise in the participation of Vietnam War families at our FMUs. Last FY, 113 attendees at the 4 FMUs were Vietnam War families; they represented almost 10% of the total FMU attendance. Out of the total number of attendees, 56% attended an FMU for the first time. In terms of FMU outreach, we have not done anything different - we send the invitation letter to the families the SCOs provide for the area of the FMU; this has produced renewed interest and including first timers.

Would you please get out to all of the VSOs the Sept 20 event in Honolulu for the rosette ceremony so more veterans can participate.

ANSWER: We have provided the flyer to the VSOs and Family Groups;

National League of POW/MIA Families: *Thanks for the presentation; no questions. Very happy to hear there might be a breakthrough in Laos.*

Mission POW-MIA: *We are currently in Pensacola doing a presentation for the A3 Sky Warriors Reunion. Had an e-mail exchange with Rocky on partnership opportunities and will follow up with him on some things we would like to do. Regarding the recent ID, was this a recent recovery that yielded an identification?*

ANSWER: It was a recovery from last year in Laos and Air Force Major John Kerr was accounted for April 24, 2024.

We are doing research with multiple families and seeing a lot of redactions since 2016; information that used to be in the reports are now being redacted. Can someone speak to the FOIA redactions being implemented.

ANSWER: Our redactions are guided by DoD policy, specifically in the form of DoD Manual 5400.07, as well as 2001 and 2005 Secretary of Defense Memorandum and various other sources. In Nov 2001, the protections of information regarding DoD personnel became more restrictive. Also, and notably, courts afford foreign nationals the same privacy rights under the FOIA as they afford U.S. citizens. That is the reason VNOSMP personnel's information is redacted.

If you are using an older document that is being used in a new report will the document be re-redacted.

ANSWER: No, previously released documents are not affected and would not be re-redacted.

Collation of Families: *Was going to ask you to update everyone on the Phase 5 halt; glad to hear it is going forward. Can you update everyone on the underlying problem that caused the pause? Knowing that at one point sanctity of the grave was an issue, please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist.*

ANSWER: The Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) is the

approval authority for disinterments. On December 12, 2023, DPAA was directed to pause Korean War disinterments due to concerns P&R had regarding the length of time remains are out of the grave without identification, laboratory capacity, and funding for reinterment. The pause also extended to WWII approvals. DPAA provided a detailed response, noting there are no concerns about laboratory space and families would prefer the Department maintain the remains in the lab for continued analysis. In February 2024, the pause was lifted and disinterment operations resumed.

Regarding DPRK, there's not much going on due to geopolitical situation. There was a recent survey done earlier this year; on the attitude of Americans toward DPRK --- interesting that 73% believe the USG should work with DPRK to repatriate and 69% think POTUS should meet with DPRK leader. I'll send the survey for all to see.

VVA: *Appreciate all of the efforts by all of the organizations. We do retransmit this information to our members. Appreciate Colonel Brannen's service; will miss you when we visit in September.*

VFW: *Appreciate these updates. Thanks to DPAA for the visit by Fern Sumpter Winbush to our National Headquarters before the Kansas City FMU. Thanks for mentioning the Vice Commander's visit; great opportunity to showcase the work of DPAA; kudos to DET 2 for their support. Carol Whitmore is married to a former Vietnam War POW.*

SOA: *Congratulations on finally getting the funds; understand it will be a lot of pressure to spend the funds. Congrats to Col Brannen on his new assignment; been a pleasure working with you. For the two missions in Thailand, what conflict?*

ANSWER: They are WWII cases.

Is there any progress going on in Cambodia; did not see any mention of Cambodia?

ANSWER: DPAA recently completed a partner mission in Cambodia and there is another currently in place. We are executing missions in Cambodia with the full support of the government.

Regarding the upcoming ID from the Vietnam War, is that an air or ground asset?

ANSWER: It is an air loss in Laos.

Jewish War Veterans: *Thanks for the information; it's great to see progress. Please let us know if there is any way for us to collaborate if you find a person of Jewish heritage.*

DAV: *Once again for taking time to meet with us; truly appreciated. Best wishes to Matt. Also, thanks to Fern Sumpter Winbush and Mark Abueg for taking time to meet with our members at our Washington Conference.*

American Legion: *Thank you for all the updates; all of my would-be questions were answered. The Legion has expanded our foreign travel and would like to ask DPAA what countries would raise more attention as it applies to the portfolio. Would like to continue to hear more about any legislative efforts in both Congress and the White House.*

ANSWER: We welcome the opportunity to update all three of the Legion organizations. We will get together internally to determine where best your foreign travel can have an impact and offer suggestions.

Son's and Daughters in Touch: *Would love for VSOs to have representation in September for the Rosette Placement Ceremony in Hawaii on Sep 22. Regarding the Partnership Symposium, we understand you are limited to current/active partners, but it would be really awesome to have a seat at the virtual table, if we are authorized to attend.*

ANSWER: We plan to expand the Partnership Symposium to be able to accommodate more partners.

For the Host Nation IT for LKA cases mentioned, can you provide more information on what that was?

ANSWER: We actively work with the VNOSMP to resolve the last remaining LKA cases. The referenced LKA IT was work on multiple LKA cases with emphasis on interviews, archival review, and work with the VNOSMP to progress these cases.

Does that also include the artifacts in museums?

ANSWER: Yes; we consistently request that if any artifacts are discovered, they be turned over.

Dave Huffman: *Regarding the museum artifacts; will follow up with Rocky to ensure we are considered an active participant.*