



# DPAA

## YEAR IN REVIEW

OCTOBER 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022



166

Accounted For

Oct 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2022

Visit [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil) for full profiles of these individuals.

ARMY

World War II

(Includes Army Air Forces)

Pvt. Edward M. Ryan  
TSgt. Ross H. Thompson  
Pfc. William B. Coleman  
SSgt. Grady H. Canup  
Pvt. Walter G. Wildman  
SSgt. Casimir P. Lobacz  
Pfc. Sanford K. Bowen  
Pfc. Merl W. Holm  
Pvt. Carl G. Dorsey  
Pfc. David N. Owens  
Sgt. Garland W. Collier  
Pfc. Robert L. Alexander  
Pfc. Lowell D. Smith  
Pfc. Worley D. Jacks  
Pvt. John P. Cooper  
Pfc. Francis P. Martin  
Pfc. Donald Hofman  
Pfc. John W. Gordon  
Pvt. Myron E. Williams  
Pfc. Willard H. Brinks  
Pfc. Leonard E. Adams  
Pfc. Arthur Barrett  
Pfc. Arthur Pierce  
Capt. Donald H. Froemke  
Cpl. Franklin H. Bennett  
Sgt. Thaddeus S. Matuszak  
Cpl. Joe Vinyard  
Pfc. Clinton P. Koloski  
Pvt. Robert R. Gruwell  
Pfc. Mark P. Wilson  
Cpl. Joseph H. Gunnoe  
SSgt. James Rotunno  
Pvt. James R. Tash  
Pvt. J. C. Brooks  
Pfc. Roy J. Searle  
Cpl. Leo J. Barlosky  
Pfc. Clinton E. Smith Jr.  
1st Lt. John J. Heffernan Jr.  
SSgt. Adolph Olenik  
Pfc. Edward H. Benson Jr.  
2nd Lt. Eugene P. Shauvin  
1st Lt. Newell F. Mills Jr.  
Sgt. Elvin L. Phillips  
1st Lt. Louis V. Girard  
Lt. Col. Addison E. Baker  
TSgt. William F. Teaf  
2nd Lt. David M. Lewis  
SSgt. Michael Uhrin  
SSgt. William O. Wood  
SSgt. George B. Walker  
SSgt. Roy Carney  
SSgt. Donald R. Duchene  
SSgt. Herald R. Boyd  
SSgt. Moses F. Tate  
2nd Lt. Pharis E. Weekley  
Sgt. Zelwood A. Gravlin  
Pfc. John L. Ferguson  
Cpl. Merle L. Pickup  
2nd Lt. Peter A. Timp  
1st Lt. Roy C. Harms

SSgt. Walter Nies  
Pvt. David S. Whipple  
Pvt. Joseph E. Lescaut  
TSgt. John M. Carroll  
SSgt. David E. Holeman  
1st Lt. Howard L. Dickson  
TSgt. Harold Kretzer  
TSgt. James M. Howie  
2nd Lt. John F. Minogue  
2nd Lt. Francis V. Montermurro  
2nd Lt. Theodore F. Scarborough  
2nd Lt. Wayne L. Dyer  
1st Lt. Melvin B. Meyer  
1st Lt. Carl D. Nesbitt  
SSgt. George E. Davies  
SSgt. Ralph D. Kolb  
TSgt. Ralph E. Richardson  
1st Lt. Paul W. Schmidt  
1st Lt. John B. Thomas

Korean War

Cpl. Marvin D. Actkinson  
Sgt. Howard R. Belden  
Pfc. Jack E. Lilley  
Pfc. Jimmy Rowland  
Sgt. Roy C. Delauter  
Pfc. Kenneth L. Bridger  
Cpl. Donald L. Menken  
Cpl. Francis J. Jury  
Cpl. Lawrence L. Brown  
Cpl. William M. Zoellick  
Sgt. 1st Class James A. Coleman  
Pfc. Donald M. Born  
Pfc. Edward J. Reiter  
Pvt. Felix M. Yanez  
Pfc. Melvin J. Little Bear  
Pfc. Harry J. Hartmann Jr.  
Cpl. Alton Christie  
Pfc. George T. Grimes  
Sgt. Charles Garrigus  
Cpl. Tommie T. Hanks  
Pfc. Robert A. Wright  
Cpl. David N. Defibaugh  
Pfc. Adelaido M. Solis  
Cpl. Joseph J. Puopolo  
Sgt. Alfred H. Sidney  
MSgt. Merritt L. Wynn  
Pfc. Ithiel E. Whatley  
Cpl. Clark E. Worline  
Sgt. 1st Class Ellis Coon  
Cpl. Delbert L. White

Vietnam War

Pfc. Thomas Green  
SSgt. Sanford Finger

NAVY

World War II

Fire Controlman 1st Class Hubert P. Clement  
Fireman 2nd Class Edward E. Casinger  
Electrician's Mate 1st Class Edward L. Conway  
Seaman 1st Class Billy Turner  
Seaman 2nd Class Pete Turk  
Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Newton

Fireman 2nd Class Hal J. Allison  
Ship's Cook 1st Class Clarence Thompson  
Yeoman 1st Class Harding C. Blackburn  
Steward's Mate 1st Class Randall W. Brewer  
Machinist's Mate 2nd Class James R. Buchanan  
Electrician's Mate 1st Class William M. Curry  
Storekeeper 3rd Class George P. Foote  
Fireman 2nd Class George E. Giesa  
Electrician's Mate Chief William I. Gurganus  
Seaman 1st Class Robert E. Halterman  
Musician 2nd Class Louis E. Harris Jr.  
Seaman 2nd Class Jimmie L. Henrichsen  
Radioman 3rd Class Frank S. Hoag Jr.  
Storekeeper 3rd Class Chester G. Hord  
Officer's Cook 1st Class Willie Jackson  
Seaman 2nd Class Charles H. Johannes  
Steward's Mate 3rd Class Jerry Jones  
Radioman 3rd Class Warren J. Kempf  
Shipfitter 2nd Class Algeo V. Malfante  
Electrician's Mate 1st Class Walter B. Manning  
Seaman 2nd Class Lloyd E. McLaughlin  
Yeoman 3rd Class Sam D. Nevill  
Musician 2nd Class James J. Palides  
Storekeeper 3rd Class Eldon C. Ray  
Water Tender 1st Class Leo Regan  
Radioman 3rd Class Clyde Ridenour Jr.  
Seaman 2nd Class William L. Sellon  
Musician 1st Class Rowland H. Smith  
Seaman 2nd Class Rangner F. Tanner Jr.  
Seaman 2nd Class Charles E. Walters  
Seaman 1st Class Jack D. White  
Musician 2nd Class Albert L. Williams  
Steward 3rd Class Wilbur S. Williams  
Gunner's Mate 2nd Class John L. Wortham  
Chief Signalman Thomas Zvansky  
Seaman 2nd Class Teeollyar Simmons  
Shipfitter 2nd Class Claude R. Garcia  
Seaman 2nd Class Stanley C. Galaszewski  
Machinist's Mate 1st Class Keith W. Tipsword  
Commander Frederick R. Schrader

MARINE CORPS

World War II

Sgt. Arthur B. Ervin  
2nd Lt. Gordon E. Thompson  
Pvt. Fay G. Teter  
Pfc. Lawrence E. Garrison  
Pfc. Basil J. Gillis  
Sgt. George R. Greenlee  
Pfc. Robert J. Prew  
Cpl. William R. Ragsdale  
Cpl. Jack S. Brown

On The Cover

An Official Turnover of Possible Remains of U.S. Personnel packet rests on a table during a DPAA repatriation ceremony in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nov. 2, *Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Blake Gonzales*

The Year's Highlights



The red pins in the map indicate locations where DPAA conducted investigation or recovery missions. The yellow pins represent disinterments locations.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and private partner teams conducted 86 investigation and recovery missions in 37 countries. There were 166 Department of Defense (DoD) personnel accounted for and 283 accessions of osseous material into Agency laboratories.

On the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 6-year USS *Oklahoma* Identification Project formally concluded. The 33 Unknowns unable to be identified at this time were accounted for as a group and reinterred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP). In total, 361 Sailors and Marines were individually identified (a remarkable 92 percent) and all 394 Unknowns have been accounted for.

In June, the Agency conducted its Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings virtually via Zoom across two half-days. The Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings were held in July, in-person for the first time in 3 years, with over 400 family members attending. These families also attended the ceremony unveiling the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

Over the summer, DPAA leaders spoke at the national conventions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion. These outreach opportunities provide updates to the respective membership whose comrades-in-arms are still missing.

The Agency continued to make significant progress on its disinterment projects for the Korean War and the Ploesti Raid, with a Medal of Honor recipient from the latter identified. The advancement of these projects is achieved from the strong partnership with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System's DNA Identification Laboratory.

Ceremonies marking National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 16th were held at the Pentagon, the NMCP, and U.S. Embassies in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The Vietnam ceremony also included the repatriation of remains unilaterally recovered by a Vietnamese team.







2021

# October

Dr. Willa Trask (standing), a DPAA scientific recovery expert (SRE), assists Dr. Katie Fine, DPAA SRE, with site setup using the Total Station equipment during recovery operations in Nghe An Province, Vietnam, Oct. 28. This was Fine's first excavation with DPAA. The recovery team deployed to the area to search for the remains of two missing Sailors from the Vietnam War. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Corey Idleburg*

DPAA and partner missions took place all over the world as fiscal year 2022 kicked off in October. The agency had teams in the Republic of Panama, the Marshall Islands, the French Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Italian Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Poland, and the Federal Republic of Germany. DPAA made the final individual identification from the USS *Oklahoma* as the project moved towards completion.

Additionally, we disinterred eight World War II Unknowns from the NMCP in Honolulu and accounted for 43 service members formerly missing from past conflicts, 33 of whom were a group identification of the USS *Oklahoma* crewmen the agency was unable to individually identify.







**PANAMA TRAINING**  
Photo by Marine Sgt. Melanye Martinez

Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Westley Gorman (right), a DPAA medic, and a Panama Servicio Nacional Aeronaval (SENAN) Security Force service member participate in joint casualty evacuation training in Santiago, Panama, Oct. 18. DPAA later conducted recovery operations in Panama for 60 days in an attempt to find missing two naval aircrew members lost during a training flight in 1985.

**HAYDEN FUNERAL**  
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette

Lydia Evers, Marine Pfc. Harold W. Hayden's sister, lays a rose on his casket at Hayden's Arlington National Cemetery funeral in Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 27. Hayden was killed on Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Republic of Kiribati during World War II. Also at the funeral was Hayden's brother, Warren Hayden, and his sister, Phyllis Burkett, as well as a number of other family and friends.

**GERMANY PARTNER RECOVERY**  
Photo by Steven R. Steininger, U.S. Forces Liaison Officer for Rhineland Palatinate, Saarland, and Northern Germany

Recovery team members from DPAA and Cranfield University, one of our partner universities, dig through multiple layers of clay in the middle of a forest near Wiesbaden, Germany, Oct. 27, in an effort to recover those lost in a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crash in early 1945 during World War II. Cranfield University has conducted multiple missions for DPAA across Europe.

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY**  
Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Miller

Air Force Col. Chip Hollinger, Commander, Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, Dover AFB, Del., receives from Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante, DPAA forensic photographer, custody of the remains of Air Force Col. Patrick Wood during a chain of custody ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Oct. 19. Wood was originally identified in 2016 and the Vietnamese government recovered and turned over these additional remains. DPAA is grateful for the longstanding partnership with Vietnam especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.





2021

# November

Kristen Baker, a DPAA scientific recovery expert, rappels down towards a mission site in Santa Fe National Park, Panama, Nov. 3. This was part of recovery operations to find missing naval aircrew members lost during a training flight in 1985.

*Photo by Marine Sgt. Melanye Martinez*



In November, DPAA had agency and partner missions taking place in the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, the Italian Republic, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Panama, the French Republic, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and an underwater mission in Hawaii. Additionally, DPAA disinterred 15 World War II Unknowns from the NMCP in Honolulu. This month the agency accounted for six previously unidentified service members from past conflicts.





**LAOS MEDICAL  
OUTREACH**

Photo by Army Staff Sgt.  
Michael O'Neal

Army Capt. Muhammad Mansoor, an Internal Medicine physician attached to a DPAA recovery team, examines a local villager in Xiangkhouang Province, Laos, Nov. 18. During recovery missions, members of the medical team often provide health care to local villagers as part of DPAA's medical outreach initiative.

**SICILY RECOVERY**

Photo by Army Sgt. Mitchell Ryan

Army Sgt. Mitchell Neyman, a DPAA recovery team member, carries buckets towards a wet screening station during a recovery operation near Sciacca, Sicily, Nov. 28. The team deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the crew of a B-25 Mitchell bomber that crashed during World War II.



**VIETNAM  
RECOVERY**

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rusty  
Frank

DPAA recovery team members excavate on a site during a mission in Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam, Nov. 19 in an effort to find a U.S. Navy reconnaissance pilot lost during the Vietnam War.



**U.S. Embassy Thanksgiving Meal**  
Courtesy Photo

U.S. Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic Peter Haymond visited the DPAA recovery team during a Joint Field Activity, Nov. 23. DPAA members enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal provided by DPAA Detachment 3 and the U.S. Embassy community.

**PUNCHBOWL  
DISINTERMENT**

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Apyrl Hall

NMCP disinterment personnel and DPAA members prepare for a disinterment ceremony the morning of Nov. 1. The disinterred remains of unknown service members lost during World War II and the Korean War then undergo forensic analyses for the purpose of identification.







The Navy held a ceremony at the NMCP, Dec. 7, for the group re-interment of remains of service members who were unable to be individually identified in DPAA's USS *Oklahoma* Identification Project. The ceremony officially marked the end of the project which culminated in all 394 of the Sailors and Marines from the USS *Oklahoma* being accounted for. *Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James Thompson*

2021

# December

The 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 was remembered with several ceremonies and events in Hawaii, and DPAA participated in several, including a media round-table held jointly with the Navy and a question-and-answer session with a panel of Pearl Harbor veterans. The agency also had both DPAA and partner missions taking place in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Panama, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Italian Republic, and PNG.







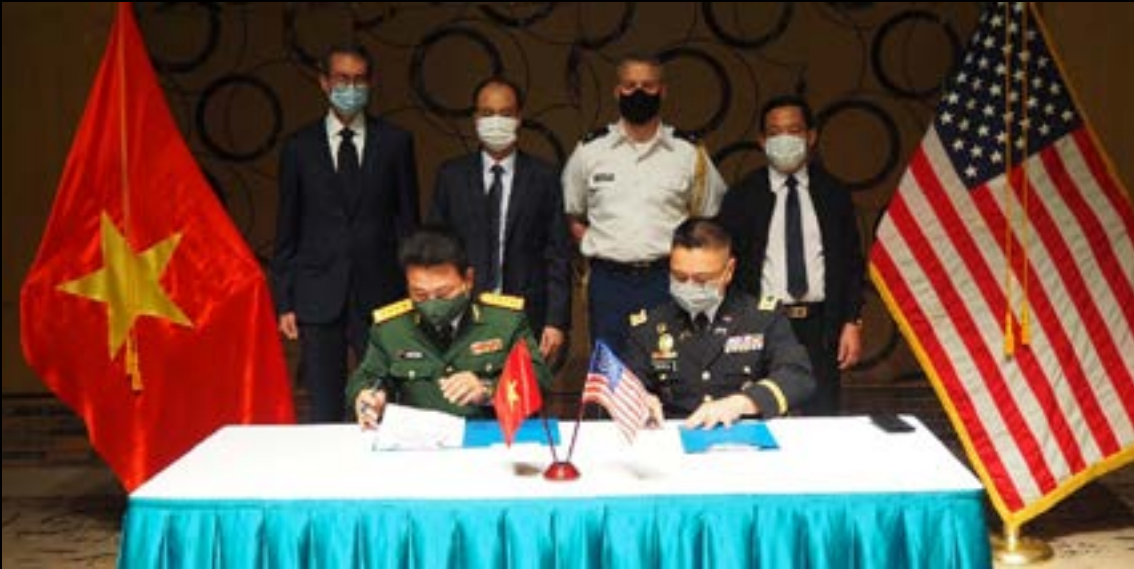
**LAOS REPATRIATION**  
Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

DPAA service members carry a transfer case of possible remains to an awaiting U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft during a repatriation ceremony at Savannakhet, Laos, Dec. 10, to close out a joint field activity to locate missing service members from the Vietnam War. There are currently 285 Americans still missing from operations in or over Laos during the war.



**SICILY RECOVERY**  
Photo by Army Sgt. Mitchell Ryan

Dr. Clive Vella (right), DPAA's scientific recovery expert, and Air Force MSgt. Bernard Bueno (left), a team medic, screen clay at a wet screening station during a recovery operation near Sciacca, Sicily, Dec. 7. The team found possible osseous material during this mission while dealing with rainy weather and cold temperatures on an almost daily basis.



**157th TURNOVER CEREMONY**  
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rusty Frank

Senior Col. Nguyen Ba Thang (seated left), Deputy Director of the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons, and Lt. Col. Selmer Santos (seated right), commander of DPAA's Detachment 2, sign turnover documents during the 157th Remains Turnover Ceremony Dec. 14 in Da Nang, Vietnam.

**First Space Force Augmentee**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry

U.S. Space Force Master Sgt. Hanh Le, a linguist augmentee to the DPAA team, prepares to catch a tool during a recovery mission in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam. Hanh is a Language Enabled Airman Program Scholar and while in the Air Force, she previously supported four DPAA recovery missions in Vietnam. During this mission, Hanh led the collection of \$1,700 in non-perishable food items, toiletries, and clothing, which were donated to local workers.





Directorate Recap

# Europe-Mediterranean

The Euro-Mediterranean (EM) Team resumed pre-COVID-19 levels of field investigations, recoveries, and disinterments in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. DPAA-led teams accomplished three research trips, nine investigation missions, and four recoveries in 10 countries. Private partner-led contributed an additional four underwater investigations, three underwater recoveries, 18 terrestrial recoveries, and one innovation project in nine countries and the state of Maine. The recovery and identification of three U.S. Army Air Forces personnel who died while held captive in a prisoner of war camp in Lithuania marked the end of accounting efforts in that country, as no Americans are unaccounted for in Lithuania. During the FY, the EM Team accomplished 55 disinterments of Unknowns buried in 9 American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemeteries. Of special significance, five of those from the first disinterment conducted in the North Africa American Cemetery located in Tunisia. This was the result of 6 years of negotiations with the Government of Tunisia to allow access and the repatriation of remains. Although the February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine increased tensions in the U.S.- Russia bilateral relationship, the Joint Commission Support Division Team supporting the U.S. Side of the U.S./Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs persevered in conducting research in Russian archives. This was reflective of the humanitarian nature of the work of the Commission. In addition to conducting the research and analysis which underpins all the efforts outlined above, EM historians and analysts supported both virtual and in person Family Member Update (FMU) events as well as the Annual Government Briefings for Vietnam War and Korean/Cold War families.



Directorate Recap

# Indo-Pacific



The Indo-Pacific (IP) Team planned 19 recovery and 13 investigation missions during the FY. The first recovery in Thailand since 2005 received strong support from the Royal Thai Government and interest from Thai media. Vietnam continued its commitment to unilateral recoveries by executing six recovery operations. A research exchange and joint investigation strengthened collaboration with DPAA's South Korean counterparts. For disinterments of Unknowns, the IP Team completed 13 missions at the NMCP and two at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) repatriating 93 and 71 sets of remains, respectively this FY. For the first time in three years, DPAA conducted in-person Consultative Talks hosting a Lao delegation in Hawaii and traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia. The inaugural PNG Operations Summit culminated in the signing of a new arrangement that will expand investigation and recovery missions there. Eased COVID-19 restrictions allowed IP historians to resume archival research and wartime imagery collection at the National Archives. Also, IP analysts conducted research at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, the Army Corps of Engineers Archives, the Library of Congress, and the MacArthur Library. Directorate analysts wrote or updated 466 Case Summaries and conducted 258 reviews at virtual and in-person FMU events. For the virtual Vietnam War Government Briefings, they updated 109 Case Summaries, and 324 for the Korean/Cold War in-person briefings. Researchers also interviewed dozens of Veterans at the Chosin Few Veterans Association Meeting, National Museum of the Marine Corps, the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Helicopter and Tiltrotor Association Reunion, and the Special Operations Association Reunion.





# 2022 January

Air Force Staff Sgt. Alize Lopez, a DPAA recovery team member, verifies measurements of an excavation grid during recovery operations in Sekong Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Jan. 30. DPAA recovery missions are conducted using rigorous anthropological and archaeological methods and standards in order to ensure the recovery process is optimized and nothing is missed. *Photo by Army Staff Sgt. John Miller*



DPAA began the New Year by sending an investigation team to the Republic of Poland and recovery teams to PNG, the Italian Republic, and the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic to continue our search and recovery efforts to account for those still missing from our past wars and conflicts. We also held a Virtual FMU for the families of missing Americans from Miami, Florida, and the surrounding area. Additionally, the agency disinterred 16 World War II Unknowns from the NMCP and we accounted for eight formerly missing persons.







**PUNCHBOWL  
DISINTERMENT**  
Photo by Army Sgt. Edward  
Randolph

DPAA service members honor the fallen during a disinterment ceremony at the NMCP in Honolulu Jan. 24. The disinterred remains will be transferred to DPAA's Hawaii laboratory for identification.



Dr. Brittany Walter, DPAA forensic anthropologist, provides a brief on the recovery and identification process during a Virtual FMU for families within a 35-mile radius of Miami, Florida, Jan. 22. Conducted via Zoom, the FMU had 134 family registrants with 343 logging in at some point during the 4-hour event; the archived video was also accessed by 190 other viewers.

**VIRTUAL FMU**  
Courtesy Photo



**POLAND  
INVESTIGATION**  
Photo by Dr. Michael  
Polczynski

Ryan Taira, a DPAA Geographic Information Systems specialist, operates ground penetrating radar in the search for the isolated burial location of a missing Airman in the mountains of southern Poland Jan. 24. Ground penetrating radar works by emitting a pulse into the ground and translating the echoes that bounce off of buried objects into images of those objects.

## Directorate Recap

# Partnerships & Innovations

The Partnerships and Innovations (PI) Team now have 76 Memorandums of Understanding in place, pursued 51 potential new partner leads, and are working with 203 organizations at various stages of the process. Improvements the team made in the vetting and selection processes have discovered many new, highly capable organizations. Despite diverse challenges, such as COVID-19 impacts, to partner projects, the PI Team executed 46 partner field missions in 13 countries after having planned 63 of them. The fiscal year included very complex terrestrial and underwater efforts in Southeast Asia, missions in European deep-water areas, and multi-year arrangements in specific countries or to test unique approaches. The increasing capabilities and productivity of partners continued to demonstrate a maturation of the program. The PI Research Team also expanded efforts working on 69 separate projects of varying scope. These efforts included some foundational research the DPAA staff lacked the capacity to conduct, as well as some focused, case progression research. As the nascent Innovation Program stepped into being, over the course of the year, four separate pilot projects were launched. The first-ever Partner Symposium, which included 38 participants, fostered discussions on lessons learned in past partner efforts. The PI Team also focused a major part of the year on fostering program improvements by codifying standard operating procedures and developing systematic approaches across the expanding PI portfolios. To ensure the effective implementation of all partner projects and efforts, the partner peer review process was enhanced, resulting in 76 finalized reports.







Heang Sambo of Golden West Humanitarian Foundation uses a metal detector to scan an excavation floor on Feb. 14, before excavation of the next level at a site on Koh Tang, Kingdom of Cambodia, during a mission led by Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc (OVAI), a DPAA partner. Each excavation unit is scanned before, during, and after excavation by an expert in detecting and identifying unexploded ordnance (UXO). *Photo by Jarrod Burkes, Co-Principal Investigator with OVAI.*

2022

# February

In February, DPAA and partner missions were underway in the Republic of the Philippines, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Serbia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Kingdom of Thailand. DPAA disinterred eight World War II Unknowns from the NMCP, and we accounted for four formerly missing persons from past conflicts.







**THAILAND RECOVERY**  
Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

Navy Chief Petty Officer David Hanaumi, a DPAA Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, searches for metal hits at an excavation site in Lampang Province, Thailand, Feb. 16. Clearing unexploded ordnance is a critical step prior to beginning an excavation. DPAA recovered remains of a missing World War II Airman from this crash.



Dr. Katie Fine (right), a DPAA scientific recovery expert, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andy Thomas examine possible material evidence during a recovery mission in Sekong Province, Laos, Feb. 19. There are currently 285 missing service members from the Vietnam War believed to be located in Laos.

**LAOS RECOVERY**  
Photo by Army Staff Sgt. John Miller



**ARMY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT**  
Photo by Army Sgt. Edward Randolph

Dr. Owen O'Leary, DPAA archaeologist, briefs Lt. Gen. Gary Brito, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, at the DPAA laboratory on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Feb. 24. The Agency hosts distinguished visitors in an effort to educate them about the worldwide mission and laboratory capabilities.

**WORLD WAR II DISINTERMENT**  
Photo by Army Sgt. Edward Randolph

DPAA service members conduct a flag folding ceremony during a disinterment at the NMCP, Feb. 7. Disinterments of unknown service members are an important part of DPAA's mission to return unaccounted for Americans to their families.





# Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System-Armed Forces DNA Identification laboratory (AFMES-AFDIL) continued to support the DPAA with critical DNA analysis leading to the identifications of Americans unaccounted for from past conflicts. It overcame challenges due to post-pandemic shortages in essential laboratory supplies through strategic planning and ordering. AFMES-AFDIL's Past Accounting Section reported over 3,600 results from analyses involving mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), Y-Short Tandem Repeat (Y-STR) DNA, and Autosomal STR (auSTR) DNA, all of which generated over 274 DNA Reports, 119 of which supported new identifications. The Family Reference Section implemented an automated whole genome mtDNA NGS method for maternal references that allows for 90 samples to be processed at a time. Scientists completed training and certification in August and the first 90 samples were completed in September. The Emerging Technology Section completed its work with Parabon NanoLabs, Inc. as part of a Department of Defense-funded research project to complete the development of a nuclear DNA Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) assay and analytical software that will work with both chemically treated and non-chemically treated samples. This SNP assay is similar to the Investigative Genetic Genealogy testing that is currently being performed to assist with solving cold cases, but tailored specifically for the challenging samples that DPAA submits for testing. The assay and software are currently undergoing extensive forensic validation testing according to ISO-17025 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Quality Assurance standards.



## DNA Laboratory Recap

# Scientific Analysis

The Scientific Analysis (SA) Team spearheaded the identification of 172 Americans, including six previously accounted for, and identified 71 additional remains of previously accounted for Service members. Forensic scientists successfully conducted archaeological operations in 19 countries and monitored external field activities in 10 others. DPAA field teams worked at 135 locations in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB) field accreditation standards and scientists monitored external partner activities at 58 other sites. New disinterment projects accessioned during the year included Myitkyina, Tokyo Prison Fire, and the USS Utah. Collaborating with DPAA historians, scientists also produced 61 disinterment requests for 622 Unknowns, which were approved, including the Enoura Maru Project for 430 Unknowns. The Stable Isotope Program continued to expand its capabilities and increased the number of reports generated by 20 percent over last fiscal year. In addition, equipment for sample preparation and analysis were consolidated into one analytical suite of adjoining spaces, which allowed for better controls. Lab personnel authored 16 publications in peer-reviewed journals, research that directly contributes to DPAA as a center of excellence. In September, the SA Team hosted 29 external participants from 11 countries at the first in-person Scientific Summit. Its goal was to exchange scientific best practice methodologies, all of which strengthened existing relationships and forged new ones. In November, the SA Team began the reaccreditation process to maintain accredited status. Assessors from ANAB evaluated the competence of the lab and its conformance with all applicable accreditation requirements finding only six minor findings (all corrected) out of a possible 175 applicable requirements, granting reaccreditation in February.





# 2022 March



U.S. Embassy Bangkok Chargé d’Affaires Michael Heath (right) and U.S. Consul General Sean O’Neill swing pickaxes in an excavation unit during a visit to a DPAA recovery operation in Lampang Province, Kingdom of Thailand, March. 3. Along with Thai government officials and media, the distinguished visitors observed recovery efforts for a missing U.S. service member lost during World War II. *Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael O’Neal*



March saw agency and partner investigation and recovery missions in the Republic of the Philippines, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Serbia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Territory of Guam. Additionally, DPAA disinterred 55 World War II Unknowns -- 41 from the MACM and Memorial in the Philippines, eight from the NMCP, and six from Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Italy. DPAA also accounted for six service members missing from past conflicts.





**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS**  
Courtesy Photo

Drew Speelhoffer, DPAA World War II historian, left, and Fern Sumpter Winbush, DPAA Principal Deputy Director, speak with an attendee at the Organization of American Historians Conference on March 31, in Boston. Bringing together historians from around the world, the conference serves as a recruiting opportunity for DPAA to promote the mission at this information booth.



**SICILY PARTNER RECOVERY**  
Photo courtesy of Cranfield University

Cranfield Recovery and Identification of Conflict Casualties (CRICC), a unit from DPAA partner Cranfield University, performed recovery operations near Sciacca, Sicily, from Jan. 25 to March 31. This was a follow-on mission at the same site DPAA investigated in November and December. The Cranfield team found possible human remains and aircraft wreckage.



**CAMBODIA INVESTIGATION**  
Photo by Army Sgt. Edward Randolph



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Peter Tarassov, a DPAA Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, shovels soil out of a test pit in search of evidence during an investigation mission in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia, March 27. The team was searching for evidence of two missing American journalists, four Soldiers, and ten Airmen from the Vietnam War. There are currently 46 missing service members from the Vietnam War believed to be located in Cambodia.

**HONORABLE CARRY**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James Thompson

DPAA service members conduct an honorable carry ceremony on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, March 1. The remains are returning from India missions conducted in 2020 that could not be repatriated due to COVID-19. DPAA is thankful to the U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander, Admiral Samuel Papparo, for enabling their safe return.







2022  
**April**

Families of unaccounted-for service members attend the Minneapolis FMU, April 23. DPAA provides periodic updates and hosts annual government briefings for families of Americans who are missing from past conflicts. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Corey Idleburg*

In April, DPAA went on the road to Minneapolis where we held the first in-person FMU since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The agency had missions underway in the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This month there were 15 disinterments from both the Korean War and World War II; eight were from the NMCP and seven were from the MACM. DPAA accounted for four total service members this month.







**ENGLAND RECOVERY MISSION**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry

Army Staff Sgt. Lloyd Williams, a DPAA recovery team noncommissioned officer, constructs a wet-screening system during a recovery mission in England, April 11. The recovery team was searching for U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. John A. Strauss, a World War II MIA lost in a plane crash.

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU DV VISIT**  
Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Jack Rigsby

Surangel Whipps, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, is briefed by Dr. Denise To, DPAA laboratory manager, April 26, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii. Mr. Whipps, the second Head of State to visit a DPAA facility, met with senior leaders and scientists while gaining an in-depth exposure to the DPAA mission, the support provided by his government agencies, and the extensive investigation and recovery efforts in his nation.



**21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MI-17 TRAGEDY**  
Photo by Air Force Lt. Col. Tamara Fischer-Carter

A memorial outside DPAA's Hawaii facility displays the names of the seven Americans and nine Vietnamese who were tragically killed in a MI-17 crash in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam on April 7, 2000. Each year, DPAA commemorates the tragedy with a remembrance ceremony that pays tribute to the joint U.S.-Vietnam team that was flying in the helicopter to prepare for an upcoming filed mission.

**LEE FUNERAL AT ARLINGTON**  
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everett

A sergeant major with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment honor guard (The Old Guard) gives an American flag to the next of kin during Army Cpl. Charles E. Lee's funeral April 11, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Lee, 18 years old, of Cincinnati, was killed during the Korean War and buried as an Unknown at the NCMP. DPAA disinterred his remains as part of Phase 2 of the Korean War Disinterment Project in 2019 and accounted for him in 2021.





2022

# May

Army Sgt. 1st Class Luigi Lawrence, a DPAA team sergeant, rakes a pile of wheat during a DPAA recovery mission in England May 13. Members of the recovery team removed wheat in certain areas of the site in order to make those areas easier to dig up soil.

*Photo by Air Force Staff SSgt. Jonathan McElderry*



This month, DPAA hosted a PNG Operations Summit in Hawaii. The first-ever summit included participants from the U.S., PNG, and Australia. The agency was also able to launch the first investigation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) after new COVID-19 guidelines were in place and had ongoing missions in the LPDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain. For the month, there were eight disinterments, all of which were World War II Unknowns and all from the NMCP. There were seven formerly missing service members accounted for.







**PDD VISITS  
ENGLAND SITE**

Photo by Air Force  
Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry

Fern Sumpter Winbush, DPAA Principal Deputy Director, looks through a magnifying glass to examine the details of material evidence recovered at the dry screening station set up by the DPAA recovery team, May 25. The team was excavating a U.S. Army Air Forces B-26 Marauder aircraft crash site located in a farmer's field in England.

**PNG SUMMIT**

Photo by Air Force  
Staff Sgt. David Owsianka

Dr. Debra Zinni, DPAA laboratory deputy director, briefs attendees on remains identification during a PNG Operations Summit hosted by DPAA on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, May 9. The PNG National Museum Art Gallery is the primary host nation government partner assigned to DPAA and over 25 years has assisted in the repatriation of over 320 U.S. service members. DPAA renewed its MOU with PNG at a signing ceremony during the summit.



**TUNISIA SIGNS  
ACCESS MOU**

Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Tunis

Natasha Franceschi, U.S. Embassy Tunis Chargée d'Affaires, holds a signed historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Othman Jerandi, Tunisian Foreign Minister, at the North Africa American Cemetery in Carthage, Tunisia, May 30. The document permits DPAA operations in Tunisia, which begins with the disinterment of the remains of American service members buried as Unknowns at the cemetery.



**RETURN FROM THAILAND**

Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Morgan L. R. Burgess

DPAA military and civilian members participate in an honorable carry ceremony on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, May 19. Following a repatriation ceremony in Thailand, DPAA received the possible remains of an Airman recovered from a World War II aircraft crash site.



**POST COVID-19  
LAOS MISSION**

Photo by Air Force  
Staff Sgt. James Thompson

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Cowell, DPAA team sergeant, crosses a river with two Lao People's Democratic Republic locals during a joint field activity in Savannakhet Province, Laos, May 18. The team surveyed several locations across the region to help facilitate future excavations, gathering data in the process.







Sailors assigned to U.S. Navy Region Hawaii conduct an internment ceremony for U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Everett Raymond Stewart, of California, at the NMCP, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 16, 2022. Stewart was assigned to the USS *Oklahoma*, which sustained fire from Japanese aircraft and multiple torpedo hits causing the ship to capsize and resulted in the deaths of more than 400 crew members on Dec. 7, 1941, at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. Stewart was recently identified through DNA analysis by the DPAA forensic laboratory and laid to rest with full military honors. *(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rusty Frank)*

2022  
**June**

The Virtual Annual Vietnam War Government Briefings enabled the DoD to provide these families updates on Agency efforts and information on their loved one's case. Among the field work in the month, the University of New Orleans, in collaboration with the University of Innsbruck, conducted a recovery in Austria. During the month, 20 Unknowns from the Korean War and from World War II were disinterred from the NMCP and two American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries in France and one in Italy. DPAA also had 13 identifications this month.







### AUSTRIA PARTNER RECOVERY

Photo by Elena Ricci, Courtesy of the UNO Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Members of a recovery team screen soil at their worksite in Austria, June 11. From May 20 to July 5, DPAA partner, the University of New Orleans, collaborating with the University of Innsbruck, excavated a site in the vicinity of Mount Zimpasser, Carinthia, Austria. This was the second of a planned three-year project at the very steep and complex site.

### LITHUANIA EXHUMATION

Archival Photo

Because of joint work conducted by DPAA, Lithuanian public and private archaeological entities; and DPAA partner, Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., three graves from the former World War II POW Camp pictured here, near Heydekrug, Lithuania, were exhumed in June 2022. Subsequently, U.S. Army Air Forces Technical Sgt. William Teaff, Staff Sgt. Walter Nies, and Staff Sgt. George Walker were identified, and all missing Americans from Lithuania are now accounted for.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Kevin S. "Coop" Coopman

Enterprise Service Desk Division Chief  
October 11, 1965 -- August 5, 2022  
Veteran, U.S. Air Force, 20 years  
Service to this mission, 10 years

"Coop was an amazing husband, father, and grandfather, with a dazzling smile that could light up the room. He was also an amazing coworker who dedicated his life to serving his country."



## Stewart W. "Stew" Holbrook

Senior Operations Officer  
December 13, 1962 -- September 8, 2022  
Veteran, U.S. Navy, 30 years  
Service to this mission, 5 years

"Stew was hard not-to-like and had the friendliness of your local barber. His nickname was 'The Diplomat' because of his calm demeanor and steadiness despite the stress thrown his way."





2022

# July



DPAA and personnel from various organizations prepare for the investigation of a 1945 loss incident involving a U.S. Navy Patrol Bomber Mariner flying boat near Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, July 11. The U.S. Coast Guard provided the watercraft and crews. Divers from the Royal Australian Navy and the Mexican Navy, who were participating in the U.S. Pacific Fleet's RIMPAC exercise, assisted the DPAA team.(33 to 99 feet) of water.



The agency hosted the Korean War and Cold War Annual Government Briefings at Arlington, Virginia, the first in-person in three years. Agency leaders also visited government officials in the Republic of India to discuss renewing past agreements and resuming field operations there. The DPAA Director spoke at the national conventions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans. The month had 20 disinterments of Unknowns from the Korean War and World War II from the NMCP and American cemeteries in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. DPAA had 21 identifications of previously unknown service members.





**SECRETARY OF THE NAVY VISITS DPAA**  
Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Jack Rigsby

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro speaks to DPAA members during a tour at the DPAA Hawaii facility on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, July 18. In addition to several mission strategic updates, the Secretary received updates on the success of projects dedicated to the Battle of Tarawa and the Unknowns from Navy ships lost at Pearl Harbor.

**PUNCHBOWL DISINTERMENT**  
Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Morgan L. R. Burgess

DPAA service members load a casket during a disinterment ceremony at the NMCP, July 25. The ceremony continues DPAA’s efforts to forensically analyze the unknown remains of service members lost during the Korean War for the purpose of identification.



**KOREAN WAR FAMILIES**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James Thompson

A family member asks a question during the Korean War and Cold War Annual Government Briefings at Arlington, Virginia, July 26. Over 400 family members and veterans gathered during the two-day event to receive updates regarding their loved ones who are still unaccounted.



Army Sergeant 1st Class Luigi Lawrence, a DPAA recovery team leader, removes dirt from an excavation unit during a DPAA recovery mission in Kamp-Bornhofen, Germany, July 27.

**RECOVERY IN GERMANY**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry







# 2022 August

Dr. Rene Zielinski, a DPAA Scientific recovery expert, documents details about the excavation site in a field notebook during a DPAA recovery mission in Kamp-Bornhofen, Germany, Aug 3. (Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Johnathan McElderry)

This month, DPAA personnel at three locations hosted a Vietnamese delegation as part of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Agency members also attended the American Legion National Convention to inform attendees of efforts to find their missing comrades-in-arms. DPAA investigation and recovery teams were deployed to PNG and the Federal Republic of Germany. Of the 21 disinterments in the month, all of World War II Unknowns, 19 were from the American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery in Belgium and the other from the NMCP. During the month, the agency identified 28 previously unaccounted for service members.







**US AND MALAYSIA  
SIGN MOU**

Photo Courtesy of Ministry of  
Defense of Malaysia

U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Brian McFeeters holds a signed MOU with Dato' Sri Muez Abd Aziz, Malaysian Ministry of Defense Secretary General, after a signing ceremony at the Port Dickson Army Museum, Malaysia, Aug 4. The document provides DPAA access to Malaysia, secures their government's cooperation, and provides the framework for field activities within the country.

**PHILLIPS' FUNERAL**

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Blake Gonzales

A Sailor assigned to U.S. Navy Region Hawaii carries the remains of Water Tender 1st Class Milo E. Phillips during his funeral ceremony at the NMCP, Aug 4. Phillips was assigned to the USS *Oklahoma*, which capsized after sustaining multiple hits on Dec. 7, 1941, at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. Stewart was recently identified through DNA analysis by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System's DNA Identification Laboratory and laid to rest with full military honors.



**103rd AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. David Owsianka

Kristina Schmidt, a DPAA external relations specialist, describes the different aspects of a skull that anthropologists use to identify a human during the American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Aug 27. The different features of a human skull help determine a person's gender and other information unique to the individual.



**UNDERWATER OPERATIONS**

Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Jack Rigsby

U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, Kevin Levey, a short-term individual augmentee, conducts dive operations during an underwater recovery mission in Wewak, PNG, Aug 31. He assisted the DPAA team in finding crewmen missing from an aircraft crash during World War II.





2022

# September

Thuan Chau, DPAA isotope mass spectrometrist, gives a tour of the stable isotope lab during the scientific summit held at DPAA's Hawaii facility, Sept. 20, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The inaugural summit strengthened ties with counterpart organizations and host nation partners and shared best practices in DPAA's forensic efforts in both the field and in the laboratory. *Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James Thompson*



DPAA's Hawaii facility hosted a scientific summit and for the first time in three years DPAA had an in-person ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition day at the NMCP. This month the agency sent recovery teams to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Finally, in September we had five disinterments, all from World War II and all coming from the North Africa American Cemetery. During this month DPAA identified 27 previously unknown service members.





**INVESTIGATION TEAM IN GERMANY**  
Courtesy Photo

DPA team members conduct site survey operations in the Federal Republic of Germany, Sept. 11. The team separately investigated the loss of four aircraft and one possible isolated burial from World War II, with a total of six missing Americans associated with these losses. Although the team did not excavate, they did recover from test pits possible human remains and material evidence from three of the sites investigated.



**INVESTIGATION TEAM IN PNG**  
Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Miller

Ms. Nicole Rhoton, DPA historian, screens dirt in Ulingan, PNG, Sept. 29, as part of an investigative site survey. The team visited multiple areas across the coastal Madang Province in hopes of finding and correlating information that will lead to a future recovery of missing U.S. service members lost during World War II.

**VIETNAM REPATRIATION**  
Courtesy Photo

In conjunction with the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Marc Knapper and U.S. and Vietnamese civilian and military officials participate in a repatriation ceremony at the DPAA Detachment 2 Facility in Hanoi, Vietnam, Sep. 16. A Vietnamese team recovered the remains of a U.S. Airman from an aircraft crash site that was at risk due to a shrimp farm being dredged and expanded.



**NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY 2022**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry

Service members from DPAA and other units prepare to lay wreaths during the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at the NMCP, Sept. 16. First established in 1979 through a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter, the annual observance recognizes the sacrifices of those Americans who have been prisoners of war and to remind the nation of those still missing in action.



**DENVER FMU**  
Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Blake Gonzales

Kelly Arnholt, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) DNA analyst, swabs a MIA family member during the DPAA FMU in Denver, Colorado, Sept. 10. Family Reference Samples are vital to the success of accounting for missing service members.





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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



U.S. Army  
(800) 892-2490



U.S. Marine Corps  
(866) 210-3421, Opt. 1



U.S. Navy  
(800) 443-9298



U.S. Air Force  
(800) 531-5501



U.S. Department of State  
(202) 485-6125



U.S. Coast Guard  
(202) 795-6637



Central Intelligence Agency  
(703) 874-4270

## DPAA Leadership

Kelly McKeague - Director

Fern Sumpter Winbush - Principal Deputy Director

## DPAA Outreach and Communications

Mark Abueg - Director, Outreach and Communications

Johnie Webb - Deputy Director, Outreach and Communications

Air Force Lt. Col. Tamara Fischer-Carter - Chief, Public Affairs

Ashley Wright - Chief, Strategic Communications

Army Sgt. 1st Class Corey Idleburg - Chief, Visual Information and Forensic Imaging

Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette - Public Affairs NCO

Marine Corps Sgt. Morgan L. R. Burgess - Forensic Photographer

Air Force Staff Sgt. Blake Gonzales - Forensic Photographer

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DVIDS: [www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA)

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/FcSwcb57OGg>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dodpaa>

## 2023 FMU Schedule\*

Date	Location
November 19	Norfolk, VA
February 25	Orlando, FL
March 25	Dallas, TX
April 22	Chicago, IL
June 29-30	Arlington, VA**
August 17-18	Arlington, VA***

\* FMUs may be subject to change. Please check the DPAA website.

\*\*The Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings

\*\*\* The Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings

