

# THE QUEST



Fall 2015  
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FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE



# THE DIRECTOR'S NOTES



**H**appy Holidays! Since our last edition of The Quest, published in late July, DPAA has accounted for 27 of our missing, as well as conducted 15 missions worldwide with 26 recovery teams and eight investigation teams. We are hard at work to fulfill our mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

In addition to our ongoing field operations, we were also encouraged by the participation of so many family members and Veterans Service Organizations at multiple outreach events over the last few months, including visits from the new VFW National Leadership in our Crystal City offices, the Korean/Cold War Annual meeting in D.C. with 324 family members attending, participation in the American Legion National Convention in Baltimore, Md., and Family Member Updates in Norfolk, Va., and Portland, Maine. I also had occasion to update dozens of congressional members and staffers on our mission, and provided answers for numerous constituent issues.

Last month I released the DPAA Strategic Initiatives and Approach document. This overarching strategy document broadly defines the way we will accomplish our mission. One of the initiatives we are aggressively pursuing is to establish relationships with a number of partners who will serve as force multipliers for DPAA. We are currently working on strategic partnerships and arrangements with various academic institutions and other groups and continue to build on our existing relationships with Non-Government Organizations such as History Flight, Bent Prop and other archeological organizations around the world. In addition, our new European-Mediterranean Regional Director, Army Col. Chris Forbes, just returned from a visit to a number of European countries where he is soliciting new support of multi-national investigations and creating strategic partnerships across Europe, including a military-to-military partnership mission in Ukraine for a WW II crash site excavation.

Our new organizational structure is getting closer to completion through the cooperative effort of our directors and our staff. One key addition to our team is the Principal Director of DPAA, Mrs. Fern Winbush, a newly-minted member of the Defense Department's Senior Executive Service. Mrs. Winbush is an executive of proven ability, experience, and excellence in Policy and Operations, Outreach and Communications, and Business Development – and is the perfect fit to lead our D.C. office. I've known Mrs. Winbush for many years, and DPAA is very fortunate to have her joining our team. Once all of our personnel decisions are finalized, our accounting agency will be at Full Operational Capability, "FOC" -- as mandated by the Secretary of Defense's memo of March 2014 -- in just a few weeks.

Today marks the start of my 5th month on the job, and I'm incredibly enthusiastic and optimistic about where we are going as the Defense Department's newest defense agency. I've been to all of our operating detachments world wide, to our three labs (Hawaii, Omaha, and Dayton), and to investigation/recovery sites in Europe and Southeast Asia. At all locations, I've met professional military and civilian employees committed to our mission and dedicated to the families of those we serve. As a new agency still in transition, I want everyone to know that our entire team is dedicated to improvement and the success of this mission going forward.

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!



On Sept. 22, 2015, Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeage was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal by Mr. Michael Linnington, for his service as Commander of JPAC. Following the award, Brig. Gen. Mike Spindler was welcomed and gave remarks as he assumed the role of Deputy Director of DPAA.

USMC Photo by Sgt. Eric M. LaClair/Released

## RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR

*As of Nov. 30, 2015*

### KOREA

Cpl. Charles Edward Ivey, USA  
Sgt. 1st Class Dean Dee Chaney, USA  
Cpl. Martin Allen King, USA  
Cpl. Roger Virgil Witt, USA  
Cpl. Robert Perry Graham, USA  
Cpl. George Hubert Mason, USA  
Cpl. Wilson Meckley, Jr., USA  
Sgt. Christopher Y. Vars, USA  
Pfc. George Letell Rights, USA  
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Reager, USA  
Cpl. Grant Harry Ewing, USA  
Cpl. Robert Earl Meyers, USA  
Pfc. Frank Worley, USA  
Sgt. Billy Joe Williams, USA  
Cpl. Charles Edward Ivey, USA  
Cpl. George Paul Grifford, USA

### WWII

Pvt. John H. Klopp, USA  
Cpl. Roger Keith Nielson, USMC  
Pfc. James Patrick Reilly, USMC  
Cpl. James Dimitri Otto, USMC  
1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, USMC  
Pvt. Robert Junior Carter, USMC  
Pvt. Earl J. Keating, USA  
Capt. Arthur Ernest Halfpapp, USAAF

### SEA

1st Lt. Stanely Garwood Johnson, USMC  
Sgt. 1st Class Billy David Hill, USA  
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Leroy Cunningham, USA





# A REWARDING PARTNERSHIP

by Spc. Crystal Madriz

*Personnel assigned to and working with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency conduct recovery operations as part of a DPAA mission in Rimini, Italy, Aug. 18, 2015. DPAA's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. (U.S. Navy photo by PO1 Vladimir Potapenko/Released)*

In Italy, a group of volunteers driven by pride for their homeland and the history that rests there travel the country in search of warplane crashes and other potential missing in action (MIA) incidents. Known as Archeologi dell'Aria, or Archaeologists of the Air, they tirelessly embark on their volunteer mission to find what remains of the lost aircraft of World War II.

With such closely aligned missions, Archeologi dell'Aria partnered with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) archaeologists for the first time, creating what will be the first of many strategic partnerships with similarly-minded organizations. Such partnerships create force multipliers enabling the agency to expand its capacity and capabilities to carry out its mission worldwide.

“What amazes those of us who have volunteered to help the DPAA, is that they have the uncanny ability to maintain such professionalism without losing their humanity,” said Enzo Lanconelli, a volunteer with Archeologi dell'Aria.

Missing since May 12, 1944, 1st Lt. Robert L. McIntosh was last seen flying his P-38 into thick cloud cover near Imola, Italy, and was declared dead by the War Department on Nov. 7, 1945. In an attempt to locate his remains, investigations of grave registrations were conducted in the vicinity of Imola following World War II. These investigations proved unsuccessful.

A team from Archeologi dell'Aria located a potential World War II crash site in 2013 near Santa Cristina, Italy. In August of that year, the team uncovered aircraft wreckage, including a portion of a 20mm machine gun with a serial number matching the one installed on McIntosh's

P-38. A single bone fragment was also recovered from the site and was sent to the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, who identified McIntosh through the use of mitochondrial DNA analysis.

In August 2015, the agency deployed a 13-member recovery team from Hawaii to join the Italian team to fully excavate the location. The hard work and dedication between the Italians and Americans made this mission a great success, bringing home personal effects and biological material evidence recovered from the site.

Through working with each other, members of DPAA created such a strong bond with the Archeologi dell'Aria team that the resulting relationship was characterized by dependability, dedication, and friendship, according to forensic anthropologist and DPAA recovery leader, Dr. Paul Emanovsky.

“One of the volunteers even went so far as to take a month of unpaid leave just so he could lend his assistance to the mission,” Emanovsky said.

The McIntosh family has always hoped for the recovery and return of remains to be buried at home. Thanks to the partnership between the DPAA and Archeologi dell'Aria, the surviving members of McIntosh's family will finally be able to lay him to rest on American soil.

“Thanks to the efforts of the Archeologi dell'Aria team, McIntosh's three sisters may finally get the closure that they have been waiting over seventy years for,” said Josh Frank, research analyst with DPAA. “His identification is a direct result of their [Archeologi dell'Aria's] hard work and passion, and I am looking forward to working with them to hopefully locate and identify other missing Americans in Italy.”



# NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Clifford Bailey  
Photos by Sgt. Richard Dewitt & Cpl. John Tran

The third Friday of September each year, the nation pauses to remember those who fought for liberty but whose fates remain unknown. Over 80,000 service members remain unaccounted for from America's past conflicts, and on Sept. 18, 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) held a ceremony to recognize the missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

For the last 40 years the U.S. government has been searching for Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. DPAA carries out that mission.

"Some of our service members, our civilians, and their families have made the ultimate sacrifice. To keep our commitment to them, Defense Department personnel travel all around the world, working in quiet archives, remote field sites, and cutting-edge forensic labs," Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said in his remarks at the ceremony in Washington.

Hundreds gathered at the cemetery to remember those still missing and those that were prisoners of war. Mr. Jim Horton, the cemetery director, welcomed everyone with warm remarks, followed then by Capt. Edward Reedy, the DPAA Medical Examiner, who gave remarks on behalf of the agency, reflecting on the mission of searching for, recovering, identifying, and returning the remains of missing Americans to their families.

Mr. Horton urged the audience, in regards to the challenge of the accounting effort, to "go forward and let people understand and know that this battle is going on, this battle is not going to stop, that we will not rest until those POWs and MIAs are accounted for."

The keynote speaker was Mr. Mark L. Stephensen II, the Vice Chairman of the National League of POW/MIA Families. His father, Col. Mark L. Stephensen, USAF, was classified MIA after being shot down over North Vietnam in April 1967. However, his navigator, Capt. Gary Sigler, survived and was held as a POW for six years until his release. Meanwhile, Col. Stephensen's remains had been recovered and held by the North Vietnamese government until April 1988, when they were unilaterally repatriated to and identified by the then Central Identification Laboratory – Hawaii.



"I met the forensic dentist who helped make the I.D. during the board trip here to Hickam. We visited the lab and he took me aside and he viewed dad's post-mortem x-rays with me. He was as sure as he could be that they had identified my dad's remains," Mr. Stephensen said, recounting his time visiting the then-Joint Task Force Full Accounting Lab and learning of the identification of his father's remains.

Following Mr. Stephensen's remarks, the names of those who have been accounted for since the previous National POW/MIA Recognition Day were read aloud. DPAA has accounted for 69 missing Americans since September 2014. A 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps concluded the ceremony.

For some, like Ron Lockwood of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8616 out of Waikiki, it was their first time attending such an event. "It's pretty inspiring," he said. "I will be telling members of my post we need to be here next year...presenting a wreath." Mr. Lockwood served in the Vietnam conflict.

Gary Chamberlin, also a Vietnam veteran, has been attending the ceremony for 10 years now. "It's a worthy cause I want to stay involved with," Chamberlin said. "It's very deep because I've got very close friends who are still missing. Every time I come, I listen to the names and hope that some of them will come back."

Mr. Stephensen has been involved with the accounting effort since 1984.

"It's an issue that continues to need emphasis," said Stephensen. "We have a lot of competing national priorities." He said he appreciates the efforts heretofore, and points out it's not just a matter of funding, but also continuity of leadership.

"We see with the current reorganization very positive things coming out of it," said Stephensen. "We're hoping that indeed there will be renewed emphasis on this type of area and that all those countries that have opened themselves and are asking for more cooperation, that our government can step up and do that."





After more than 70 years, the grandson of one of our nation's most celebrated war heroes, received the closure his family has long sought.

As war gripped the world for a second time, America's armed forces fought as much for the cause of freedom and liberty as they were for the men battling alongside them. Among them was 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., a combat engineer providing support during the Battle of Tarawa.

After hours of fighting the morning of Nov. 22, 1943, Bonnyman led a small engineering team to capture a bunker where Japanese soldiers were hiding. As the Japanese rushed out to defend their position, Bonnyman repelled the enemy with a flamethrower, giving his men the time needed to set crucial demolition charges.



Once emptied, Bonnyman discarded the flamethrower and led a charge against the oncoming forces armed only with his rifle. While this act of valor proved successful, he was mortally wounded in the siege. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions that day in November.

Undaunted, Bonnyman's men continued the charge until the bunker was theirs. After gaining the position, the Marines broke the Japanese hold on Red Beach and pushed east. The next afternoon, all resistance stopped and the battle on Betio Island was over.



*1st Lt. Alexander J. Bonnyman, Jr. in an undated photo.*

Bonnyman's remains, along with many others killed in action during the battle, were not recovered as their burial trench was lost at that time.

In June 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) was notified by History Flight, Inc. that they had unearthed a burial trench on Betio Island and had recovered the remains of approximately 35 U.S. Marines that were buried there, including those of Bonnyman.

Seventy-two years later, this Marine was finally coming home.

"I definitely had tears in my eyes thinking about my great grandparents, who lost their son, and my mom and aunt, who lost their father," said Clay Bonnyman Evans, following the news of his grandfather's recovery and ultimate identification.

"This is not only about our family putting an end to the war, but it is also about the Marines not leaving anyone behind."





# THE HARROWING TALE OF TARAWA

**Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Vladimir Potapenko**  
**Photos provided by DPAA Research & Analysis Group**

nificant strategic value in the Pacific during World War II. Military leaders saw Tarawa as a bridge to setting up forward air bases that could support operations that covered the Philippines and even Japan. By taking Tarawa, the U.S. could further attack and seize the Marshall Islands and then the Mariana Islands, eventually securing the territory needed to establish those all-important forward air bases, and thus take advantage in the war in the Pacific.

The invasion of Tarawa was the largest assembly of forces to that point for any single operation in the Pacific theater. In all, more than 100 ships, including aircraft carriers, battleships, destroyers and cruisers, and 35,000 men, comprised partly from the 2nd Marine Division and the Army’s 27th Infantry Division, were charged with taking the atoll through an amphibious assault. While previous amphibious landings had been met with little to no resistance from the Japanese, the Battle of Tarawa saw the U.S. face serious opposition for the first time.

Understanding Tarawa’s significance, the Japanese had spent the previous year fortifying the atoll against attack. With numerous pill-boxes featuring heavy guns and other such reinforcements, the 4,500 Japanese troops stationed on the island were well equipped and prepared to face assault from an American force. This level of preparation meant that the ensuing battle would be a costly one for both sides.

In all, the U.S. lost more than 1,000 troops, with another 2,000 wounded. Though such losses had been experienced in the Pacific before Tarawa, none had come quite so quickly, as the bulk of those killed came within 72 hours of the initial attack.

The Battle of Tarawa saw many Americans pay the ultimate sacrifice; however, their deaths were not in vain. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander in the Pacific, said “the capture of Tarawa knocked down the front door to the Japanese defenses in the Central Pacific.” Without Tarawa, the Pacific might never have been won.

Of those killed on Tarawa, nearly 500 men are still unaccounted for. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), together with non-governmental organizations such as History Flight, is working to locate, recover and identify these men. DPAA has a highly skilled staff of analysts in its research and analysis section working to locate the graves of the men who fought at Tarawa. One such person is Lyle Otineru, a DPAA historian.

Otineru has a history of military service in his family, with his father, several uncles and even a brother serving as Marines. He understands the historical signifi-

After four days of intense fighting, the Battle of Tarawa was over. Spanning from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23, 1943, the battle saw U.S. Sailors, Marines and Soldiers fight valiantly to secure possession of the tiny island from the Japanese.

Though only a small atoll in the Gilbert Islands, Tarawa held sig-



cance of what the Marines accomplished on Tarawa, and the significance of bringing back the remains of those who fought so bravely to secure the atoll.

While the process of bringing home those still left on Tarawa is arduous and filled with challenges, Otineru sees hope that recent accomplishments by the accounting community will lead to greater numbers of Tarawa identifications.

“I am hoping with the location of Cemetery 27 by History Flight, we will gain momentum; success has a way of leading to more success,” said Otineru, referencing a recent discovery of a mass grave in Tarawa.

To date, DPAA has accounted for 10 service members who were lost during the Battle of Tarawa.

Otineru, like all those working in the accounting community, is proud of the work he is doing and is dedicated to the mission that lies ahead. “We might not be able to find them all, but those we can, we will,” he said.



**Above: Marines transport their wounded via dinghy to a location where they can receive treatment.**

**Opposite: Marines capture an enemy bunker.**



# ONCE LOST, NOW FOUND

## THE STORY OF AN ARMY PILOT MAKING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND FINALLY BEING LAID TO REST

Story and photos by Nicole Rhoton



*The family of 2nd Lt. John W. Herb gather at a ceremony in his honor in Margraten, the Netherlands.*

On September 19, researchers with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) had the honor of attending a ceremony at the American Battle Monument Commission Cemetery in Margraten, The Netherlands, to observe family members Mike and Patti Herb place a rosette on the Tablets of the Missing next to the name of Mike’s recently accounted for cousin, 2nd Lt. John W. Herb. Lt. Herb was killed on April 13, 1945, just weeks before the German surrender, when his P-51 crashed in a small town called Rosien, situated on the eastern side of the Elbe, approximately 70 kilometers southeast of Hamburg. German officials reporting to the scene of the crash had pulled his body out of the aircraft and buried him near the crash site, where he laid “missing” until July 2014.

In 2013 DPAA reviewed the information associated with Lt. Herb, but with very little historical documentation to go on, researchers had little hope of finding a potential recovery site. The best information regarding the P-51 loss came from his wingman, who last observed Herb northwest of Hamburg. DPAA researchers reached out to a local aviation group, the Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team (MAACRT), led by German volunteer Enrico Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz initially had no information on the incident, but learned a few weeks later that another member of his team, Steffan Illsmann, had been in contact with a man named Manfred Romer who recalled a U.S. fighter aircraft crash in the town of Rosien.

Mr. Romer had always wondered if the pilot was still buried near the crash site. He began interviewing people in

the town to see what they could recall about the incident. Most people remembered that the pilot was buried near the crash site along a path through the woods. They said that a refugee woman named Frau Waschke--whose son went missing on the Eastern Front--maintained the grave after the war, keeping the area clean and leaving flowers. The children in Rosien had walked this path to school and the path became known as Fliegerweg, Airmen’s path. While any visible surface features indicating a burial was long gone, Mr. Romer believed that the witness statements were compelling enough to warrant a sub-surface investigation in an area along the Fliegerweg.

In July 2014 a DPAA Investigation Team (IT) worked with MAACRT personnel and Mr. Romer to investigate witness reports in Rosien. Using these accounts to identify the most promising area for a potential burial, the IT began sub-surface investigation on the afternoon of July 18. As the excavator scraped off the first layer of topsoil, a feature was revealed within about 20 minutes of beginning work. Led by recovery leader Hugh Tuller, the IT initiated recovery efforts to recover the remains. The team continued excavation through the night, concluding at 4 o’clock the next morning.

The DPAA lab identified the remains as those of 2nd Lt. John W. Herb. The Service Casualty Office notified the primary next of kin, Mike Herb, and his wife Patti, in February 2015. Mike’s father was Lt. Herb’s cousin. Mike and Patti said they have been extremely moved by the entire process to find and recover the remains of their long-lost relative.

Since the identification, they have traveled to Honolulu to visit the lab and meet DPAA, as well as third-party personnel involved in recovery and identification efforts. They have shared stories about what Lt. Herb meant to their family, even though many never knew him. Lt. Herb died at the age of 21, an only child, not married, with a full scholarship to MIT.

Mike explained that Lt. Herb’s father never got over the loss and memorialized his son on his own gravestone as John had never had one—in America.

Mike and Patti chose Arlington National Cemetery as the most fitting interment location for Lt. Herb. They also invited members of the DPAA, MAACRT, and Mr. Romer to attend the burial at Arlington on July 19, 2015—one year to the day following the impromptu recovery in Rosien, Germany.

Additionally, MAACRT members helped organize a ceremony for the Herb family at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, which took place September 19. Two DPAA members who participated in the excavation in July 2014 were honored to attend this momentous event.

At the ceremony, a rosette was placed next to Lt. Herb’s name on Tablets of the Missing which signifies that Lt. Herb is finally home. DPAA members were awestruck at the amount of names on the wall without rosettes, demonstrating to them how much work the agency still has left to accomplish.

While the ceremony was all about honoring the loss and recovery of Lt. Herb, the experience also highlighted the possibilities that exist when the agency accepts the assistance of dedicated private and public partners. For MAACRT members, this ceremony represents the 25th rosette for which they have directly been involved in recovery efforts, which ultimately led to identification.

All those in attendance at the ceremony were greatly impressed and humbled by the Dutch citizens who devote their time as adopters of names on the wall and graves in the cemetery. The adopters visit the graves or the Tablets, laying flowers and photographs on behalf of the family members in the U.S. who cannot visit the cemetery in The Netherlands. Many of the adopters have also become involved in helping with the research of the cases to find out how their adoptees died, and some are extremely motivated and dedicated in searching for those who are still missing.

Mike and Patti Herb are so delighted with the recovery and identification of Lt. Herb, they plan to write a book with Manfred Romer regarding the events that took place to locate and recover their loved one.

DPAA researchers continue to be inspired by third-party partners who work to support the DPAA mission.

*Nicole Rhoton is a researcher with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency*





# USS OKLAHOMA UPDATE

**From June 8 to November 9, DPAA exhumed all 61 caskets from 45 graves. Analysis is now being done to identify the remains of these Sailors and Marines.**

## FULFILLING THE NATION'S PROMISE



# FAMILY MEMBER UPDATE

The Program continues to successfully inform family members of the work being done to bring home their missing loved ones. Invitations are sent to family members within a 350-mile radius of the city where the event takes place.

The next update events for families with missing loved ones are scheduled for:

JANUARY 23 in Los Angeles

JANUARY 25 in Honolulu

FEBRUARY 20 in Atlanta

To register or for more information, please visit: [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)

## FACES OF DPAA: Sitting Down with a Leader

*Interview by PO2 Clifford Bailey*

*With the reorganization of DPAA finally winding down, we were able to get a few minutes with Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, newly-appointed deputy director of the agency, to get to know him, find out what his goals are for the agency, and learn what he's bringing to the table.*

*How does this compare to previous assignments?*

It's very different! This is the first humanitarian mission I've been a part of, so as a non-combatant organization it's a little bit different in focus, but still it's all about mission, objectives and great leadership.

*What are your short, medium, and long-term goals for the agency?*

My goals are the Director's and Secretary [of Defense's] goals and those are to maximize the accountability because now there's a recommitment to the sacred mission.

It's really just shuffling the deck a little bit adding a new sense of urgency because time does play a factor in getting after the fullest accounting. We lose witnesses; the tyranny of time hits at the remains that are out there for us to find. So we know that we need to get after it and we certainly want to do so very quickly and very efficiently.

*How has being an MP prepared you for this mission?*

I think having that sensitivity as an MP has translated well here. I don't want to overstate the position, but it has certainly helped in understanding operational protocol, scientific protocols, and the need to handle materials in a very careful manner and account for those.

*Given this mission's history, what would you tell the nation is different about us going from JPAC to DPAA?*

I think that new sense of urgency brings with it a new level of efficiency. Before, there were multiple organizations out there that were

in some way or form participating in this mission. Now, by combining all those together and getting after it with greater speed, I think you're starting to see a greater interest from the other stakeholders out there who want to participate.

*What about the organization's personnel? Some would say nothing has changed and it's business as usual.*

Well, let's not assume that's all bad. You know, these different organizations did wonderful things, and though there may have been some problems in the past, there have also been some extraordinary achievements.

Let's not forget the fact that 2,000 missing personnel have been identified and returned to the nation and families; that's a big deal. To the other things that do change, that's what keeps us relevant and what keeps us going.

It's all about communication, too. All organizations have negative things that have happened – you learn from them and you move on. What you don't want to do is sweep them under the carpet; you want to learn from them, and you want to build on that for tomorrow so that you don't repeat those mistakes.

*Why exactly is this mission important – why are we here?*

It's important to make the distinction: as important as it is to return the fallen to their families, it's equally if not more important to the nation. This is our sacred promise that we make to our sons and daughters when we put them in harm's way and ask them to



do the most difficult tasks.

And so, our sacred promise to them is that we will bring them home, and when they know that, you stay a professional force. The force understands that there is a bigger backing out there and that they'll never be forgotten.

Let's bring them home.

*If you walked up to a perfect stranger and had to explain what DPAA was and the meaning behind the mission in eight words or less, what would you say?*

Fulfilling our nation's promise.

*Is there anything else you'd like to add?*

The only thing I would like to add is that I am thrilled to be part of this team; it's a great team, it's a team of teams, it's made of great leaders and you know, having been here just such a short time I can tell you I've seen the policies, I've seen the programs, the protocols, all of them are wonderful things. But the reality is, it comes down to leaders leading through this: men and women, professionals, standing up and saying, "I will do my duty, to get after this sacred promise."

It's a real privilege to be part of this team.





Members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) work meticulously to clear a unit and remove sediment from a P-39 engine found on site in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Feb. 1, 2015. (DOD Photo by MC3 Armando Velez, U.S. Navy/Released)



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Jordan Davis, a field radio operator assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Vietnamese workers conduct wet-screening to help with processing soil during recovery operations in Quang Ngai province, Vietnam, May 30, 2015. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Darien J. Bjorndal, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency/Released)



Laos workers pass buckets of soil during a recovery mission at Salavan, Laos, for processing to see if any possible remains or evidence can be found within. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cody H. Ramirez/Released)



Recovery Team 3 of mission 15-3LA during a recovery mission in Xekong, Laos, April 2, 2015. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Lauren Falk/Released)



Mr. Howard Mariteragi digs up flagged metal hits in Ludwigslust, Germany, May 11, 2015, looking for possible aircraft wreckage or life support material during a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency mission. Mariteragi was assigned as life support investigator to a 15-member specialized recovery team that spent more than 45 days searching for the remains of nine servicemembers whose plane crashed during World War II. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Brian J. Valencia/Released)





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Twitter (@dodpaa) and Facebook (facebook.com/dodpaa)  
<http://www.dpaa.mil>

## For your information

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

U.S. Army  
(800) 892-2490

U.S. Marine Corps  
(800) 847-1597

U.S. Navy  
(800) 443-9298

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



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COASTAL WATERS, Vanuatu (March 4, 2015) Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Dodd (left), a U.S. Army diver with the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment, and Dr. Andrew Pietruszka, an anthropologist with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), rest at a decompression stop during diving and underwater recovery operations off the coast of Vanuatu. The 7th Engineer Dive Detachment is working with DPAA to locate a U.S. service member who went missing during WWII. DPAA aims to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing Americans to their families and the nation. (DoD photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Scichilone/Released)

