

THE QUEST

Summer 2016



FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

THE DIRECTOR'S NOTES



It has been a busy year, and I am delighted to report that DPAA is experiencing a forward momentum that has yielded record-breaking results in our accounting mission. Many throughout the accounting community have contributed to our efforts, filling critical roles in this cast of dedicated professionals, with one goal in mind...to recover, account for, identify, and return our nation's heroes to their families.

It is refreshing to be a part of such a dedicated community, where everyone strives to maintain the highest standards, holding each other accountable; and when one of us encounters what seems to be an insurmountable challenge, there's a teammate or mates ready to reinforce our efforts! Accepting this noble and challenging mission comes with an understanding that the work is demanding and the days are long. What keeps us focused are the families and our nation who depend on us.

Over the last eighteen months, we developed and implemented several strategic and operational directives including the

“Strategic Initiatives and Approach” and the “Global Campaign Plan” to provide direction and unite the agency. From this first set of strategic documents, we recently published our inaugural Operations Plan (OPLAN) to further refine our operational direction for the next two years. The intent of the OPLAN is to provide refined levels of predictability, agility, and precision in the synchronization of our plans with the Department of Defense's resourcing cycles.

Brig. Gen. Spindler and I are committed to this mission, the families and to the success of the DPAA team. Together, we will continue to support our devoted workforce who serve and sacrifice in order to fulfill our nation's obligation, while also ensuring timely and accurate information is provided to the families of the fallen.

Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise!

Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush was selected on October 27, 2015 to serve as the Principal Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). In support of the Director, DPAA, she is responsible for leading the agency in formulating policy, overseeing business development, and increasing outreach initiatives to achieve the agency's goal of providing families and the nation with the fullest possible accounting of missing personnel from past conflicts.

Mrs. Winbush hails from Boston, Massachusetts, where she was a 1989 honor graduate of the University of Massachusetts and a distinguished military graduate of Suffolk University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in Boston. She began her military career as a Private First Class in the Army Reserves in 1983. Her service continued upon her transfer to the Massachusetts Army National Guard until her active duty appointment as a Military Intelligence Second Lieutenant in 1990. Over the next 25 years, she held numerous positions of increased responsibility in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Korea, and the Netherlands culminating with a deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan and subsequently, as the Commander of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Winbush retired from the Army after 31 years of military service in January 2015.

Recently Accounted For

From March 19, 2016 through June 15, 2016

WWII

Seaman 2nd Class James N. Phipps, USN
Fireman 3rd Class John H. Lindsley, USN
Seaman 1st Class William E. Welch, USN
Pfc. John F. Prince, USMC
Chief Storekeeper Herbert J. Hoard, USN
Fire Controlman 1st Class Paul A. Nash, USN
Ensign Joseph P. Hittorff, USN
Pfc. Anthony Brozyna, USMC
Machinist's Mate 1st Class Alfred F. Wells, USN
Pvt. John P. Sersha, USA
Cpl. George G. Simmons, USA
Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Jayne, USN
Pfc. James B. Johnson, USMC
Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran, USN
Machinist's Mate 1st Class Harold F. Carney, USN
Pfc. John Saini, USMC
Pvt. Palmer S. Haraldson, USMC
Lt. Julian B. Jordan, USN
Fireman 3rd Class Edwin C. Hopkins, USN
Fireman 2nd Class James B. Boring, USN
Pfc. Roland E. Schaede, USMC
Pvt. Harry K. Tye, USMC
Pfc. James F. Mansfield, USMC
Pfc. Charles E. Oetjen, USMC
Ensign John C. England, USN
Ensign William M. Finnegan, USN
1st Lt. Donald L. Beals, USAAF
Capt. Elwood J. Euart, USA
Lt. j.g. Aloysius H. Schmitt, USN
Fireman 1st Class Frank E. Nicoles, USN
Seaman 2nd Class Challis R. James, USN
Warrant Officer Daryl H. Goggin, USN
Pvt. Evans E. Overbey, USAAF
Seaman 2nd Cass Vernon N. Grow, USN
Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Howard P. Brisbane, USN
Cpl. Frederick G. Collins, USA

Korea

Cpl. Dennis D. Buckley, USA
Sgt. 1st Class James P. Shunney, USA
Sgt. Harold Sparks, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Davis, USA
Sgt. Bailey Keeton, USA
Cpl. Charles B. Crofts, USA
Pvt. William R. Butz, USA

Vietnam

Lt. Cmdr. Frederick P. Crosby, USN
Col. Patrick H. Wood, USAAF

Service members from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) transfer a casket carrying an unknown hero from the Korean War, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, "Punchbowl," into a truck headed for the DPAA laboratory, May 17. The remains will be taken to the laboratory for a possible identification. (Photo by Sgt. Tiffany Fudge, DPAA)



Paving the way ahead

Witness accounts help locate WWII crash sites in Myanmar

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Roy Woo, DPAA



A witness looks at a photo of herself in earlier years during a DPAA investigation mission in Chin State, Myanmar, May 2, 2016. Forensic anthropologist Dane Magoon and eight DPAA team members deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the remains of seven U.S. Army Air Forces personnel unaccounted for from World War II.

MYANMAR— A Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) investigation team conducted witness interviews and crash site surveys at several different villages and locations throughout Chin State, a mountainous region in western Myanmar, May 3 - 29, 2016. The team deployed in an effort to investigate, locate and possibly recover seven United States Army Air Forces personnel who were lost during World War II.

Comprised of nine team members, the team included subject matter experts such as a forensic anthropologist, analyst, explosive ordnance disposal technician, paramedic, communications expert and a mountaineer. The team was the first sent to Myanmar since April 2014, continuing DPAA's diligent effort to account for missing Americans from past wars for the fullest possible accounting to their families and the nation.

The information received from witnesses helped the team confirm and correlate the missing airplanes to possible crash sites. Upon confirmation, the team braved austere conditions, facing slopes as steep as 50 degrees, in order to search for aircraft wreckage, possible life support equipment and the possible resting place of the service members.

“The mission targeted aircraft crash sites located in the Chin Hills region of Myanmar,” said Dane Magoon, DPAA forensic anthropologist. “And while these may be foothills compared to the Himalayas we were still conducting survey work at elevations well over 7,000 feet above sea level. We did a lot of hiking, and not much of the ground we covered was flat.”

In total, the team conducted five site surveys, which led to the discovery of aircraft wreckage and possible life support equipment. These findings helped in correlating the aircraft crash sites and missing airplanes, which will greatly assist in future recovery operations.

“During this mission we conducted archaeological surveys of five aircraft crash sites that had never been visited by DPAA personnel,” said Magoon. “The effort was very successful, with a great team

and excellent support from local civilians and host nation officials. Four of the five crash sites appear to represent U.S. aircraft associated with known loss incidents, which is exactly what we're looking for. While one site appears to represent a resolved loss incident the other three do not, which is why our survey activities are so important for accurately identifying and evaluating solid targets to pursue with future recovery efforts.”

The attitude of the team was best expressed by Sgt. 1st Class Roderico Balagtas, DPAA analyst. “The witnesses were very helpful to our investigation. This being my first mission, I was nervous because I did not want to fail. Experiencing how difficult the mission was, I realized I must put my best effort into bringing home our missing persons to their families.”



U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Vincent Darilek, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), sweeps for metal hits on a slope in hopes of finding possible evidence during a DPAA investigation mission in Chin State, Myanmar, May 5, 2016. Darilek and eight DPAA team members deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the remains of seven U.S. Army Air Forces personnel unaccounted for from World War II.

75,000 POWs, 65 MILES:

Story by Senior Airman Leah Ferrante, DPAA

PHILIPPINES— World War II was one of the most destructive and brutal wars in American history. By the end of 1945, its various battles claimed the lives of over 131 million Americans. The trials and tribulations endured by these fallen service members is something unspeakable, and can never be repaid.

With each battle, our nation's heroes continued to fight - not just against the enemy, but to stay alive and return home with honor. One battle in particular made it extremely difficult on members trying to remain faithful to the cause: the Bataan Death March.

More than 72 years ago, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Army began their invasion into the Philippines. Within the month they proceeded to capture the capital, Manila, forcing the American and Filipino troops to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula.

After a long three-month battle, the two forces fought side-by-side without navy or air support, to hold off the Japanese forces, with no prevail. April 9, U.S. Maj. Gen. Edward King, leader of defense in the Battle of Bataan surrendered over 75 thousand troops to the enemy, due to the overwhelming number of service members suffering from disease, injuries and hunger.

"We have no further means of organized resistance, we are low on ammunition, have virtually no medical supplies, and our food is all but gone," said King. "Our front lines are destroyed and both flanks severely weakened. The situation has become hopeless. If I do not surrender all forces to the Japanese today, Bataan will be known around the world as the greatest slaughter in history."

The American and Filipino prisoners of war - stripped of all weapons and belongings, were then forced to march more than 65 miles from Mariveles to San Fernando, Philippines. The hike later became known as the Bataan Death March.

"Everything I had in my wallet, in my pockets was taken from me," said survivor Richard Gordon. "I was marched down that road, where they captured me, I passed my battalion commander, Maj. James Ivy. He had been tied to a tree, and he

was stripped to the waist covered with bayonet holes. He was dead obviously and he had bled profusely. He had been bayoneted by many, many bayonets. And that's when I knew we had some troubles on our hands."

The Death March was done in groups of 100 and took approximately five days to complete. Many lost their lives from heat exhaustion, dehydration or the cruel treatment from the Imperial Army. The ones who fell behind were often killed by bayonets or beheaded by samurai swords. The Japanese forces believed that any warrior who surrendered had no honor and was not to be treated as a human being.



THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

Even if the troops survived the march and made it to San Fernando, they were then taken to prisons where the Japanese did not provide the medical care needed for the sick and wounded, leaving it up to the American medics to save as many POW's as they could. Despite the medics' efforts the conditions in the overcrowded prisons caused disease to spread rapidly, killing hundreds.

After numerous casualties, long battles and lost hope, things turned around when the U.S. and Filipino forces finally avenged their defeat in the invasion of Leyte. Then shortly after, the forces recaptured the Bataan Peninsula when World War II ended in 1945.

In September 1945, the Allied troops arrested Japanese Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma and convicted him of war crimes committed during the Bataan Death March. Charged with crimes against humanity, justice was served when Homma was killed by firing squad in 1946, outside Manila.

The number of fallen U.S. and Filipino soldiers during the Bataan Death March is still uncertain and around 207 U.S. POW's are still missing today. It's the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission to search for our nation's heroes, and return them home where they belong. An investigation has been planned for DPAA to enter the Philippines and return these POW's still missing from the Bataan Death March those long 72 years ago.

The sacrifices they made for this nation will never be forgotten.

Archived photos show the extreme conditions service members endured during the Bataan Death March in 1941. American and Filipino Prisoners of War, stripped of all weapons and belongings, were forced to march more than 65 miles from Mariveles to San Fernando, Philippines. The Death March was done in groups of 100 and took approximately five days to complete. Many lost their lives from heat exhaustion, dehydration and behavior from the Imperial Army. (Courtesy archived photo.)



Son La Province, Vietnam

Photos by Sgt. Eric LaClair, DPAA



Left: U.S. service members with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), pose for a team photo in Son La Province, Vietnam, Nov. 19, 2015. DPAA's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting of U.S. personnel who lost their lives during past conflicts, and bring closure to their families.

Top Right: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Reed with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) secures an anchor for mountaineering equipment to allow the team to conduct recovery operations in Son La Province, Vietnam, Nov. 16, 2015.

Middle Right: A local worker helping the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) takes a break from recovery operations in Son La Province, Vietnam, Nov. 16, 2015.

Bottom Right: U.S. Army SSG Daniel Reed with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) takes a break from recovery operations in Son La Province, Vietnam, Nov. 17, 2015.

Background: The landscape of the Son La Province in Vietnam at the end of a day of recovery operations.



REFLECTIONS OF A FAMILY MEMBER ON A TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA

By Sheila Dougherty Badzioch

Though the Korean War is often referred to in America as the “Forgotten War,” I recently found out that it is anything but forgotten in South Korea. Last spring, I joined 48 other family members of missing servicemen (wives, siblings, and children) of 26 servicemen lost during the Korean War to travel to South Korea and see for ourselves that over 60 years after the fighting stopped, the South Korean government and people still remember clearly and truly appreciate and are thankful for the sacrifices of U.S. military personnel and their loved-ones to ensure the freedoms and democratic principles of the Republic of South Korea. It was an experience I will never forget and always cherish.

From May 20 to 26, as part of the “Revisit Korea Program,” the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and Korea Army Academy hosted four days of ceremonial and sightseeing visits to historical and cultural locations in and around Seoul. These well-organized events included emotional individual presentations by senior members of South Korea’s government; a tour of the Demilitarized Zone “DMZ” including the Joint Security Area; a memorial ceremony for the Nevada Outpost Battle (March 26–28, 1953); the offering of incense at the Seoul National Cemetery; and a trip to the Hall of Remembrance where we found our loved ones’ names inscribed in bronze. As emotional as the trip was it was also a wonderful educational opportunity as we were

taken to the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification, commonly known as “MAKRI” which is the South Korean version of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. While there, we learned about current South Korean and U.S. efforts to find and identify human war remains throughout the Korean Peninsula. On the last evening of the visit, we were treated to a formal banquet attended by many dignitaries, to include the Commander of United States Forces Korea, who offered a standing toast to all the fallen and missing soldiers who fought to protect South Korea’s sovereignty.

Overall, in addition to making new friends for life, there is little doubt that all those who were on this trip were deeply moved by the showing of such sincere appreciation and heart-felt remembrance by the South Korean people. Each day, we saw for ourselves what our South Korean hosts meant when they told us “your loved ones will always be our heroes.” We recognized too, however, the tremendous sacrifice made by the South Korean people during the war. Most of all, each family member now more fully appreciated the contributions that all of our loved-ones made in creating the free society and economic success that is South Korea today. For providing us this opportunity, we thanked the South Korean officials who worked so hard to make this trip possible and to ensure that all the sacrifices of our loved ones are remembered and honored.



Our Journey Home

By Spc. Crystal Madriz, DPAA

In May 2011, when I was weighing my options for my next duty assignment, I was told about DPAA (formerly JPAC - Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command). I had no idea a unit like this existed, nor did I know it was possible a Soldier with my job title to be assigned here. The job description did not do it justice. They never told me I would be backpacking through the jungles of Vietnam, climbing mountains in Cambodia, base-camping in the middle of Laos in a tent, scaling glaciers in Alaska, traveling to the fields of France and walking the beaches of Normandy.

There are those that do not get it who ask, “Why do it?” I absolutely love to have this argument. My retort will always be, “Why not?”

They will forever be my brothers, they are not blood but they are my family. Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force - it does not matter what branch you are or what patch you wear, you are my family. If you give your blood, sweat and tears, giving everything you have and ultimately giving your all and never making it home, I will give me, I will literally give my blood, sweat and tears to bring you home.

You have those critics out there that don’t see it, they talk about money or location or it’s not worth it. At the end of the day, we made a promise. A promise that no matter what, if you give your all we will never leave you behind. Should we not honor that promise? Should we not keep our word and our values? You look at any one of the services, in their core values there is always honor, commitment, among others. If they give this for us why not give what we have for the ones that never made it back.

All of this has become a reality since I joined the DPAA team. I have always had a somewhat similar mentality but it never actually set in until the first time I ran my hands through the earth trying to find one of my brothers. And each time it’s the same. We travel to remote places in the world, all in search of them; these men, the ones that stood up the moment we asked them to defend our country and everything it stood for. And some of the greatest lessons in life I have ever learned were on these missions. The one that hit me the hardest was France, my final mission.

As we drove through the countryside in France, I stared out of the car window, I couldn’t help but be humble. I can see it in my head, the D-Day invasion 60 years ago, the skies filled with falling brothers, the

fields filled with Soldiers; Soldiers fighting for their lives, fighting for our freedom, our country. The green grass was once red, the air filled with smoke, the trees gone from the impact of motor and tank rounds; countries torn apart by war, the trees whispering one day this will be history.

We stopped at an American Cemetery in Aisne, France, named Oise Aisne American Cemetery. I looked at the plaque and it explains that there are 6,012 American graves, 241 missing. I walked through the headstones looking for all the ones saying “UNKNOWN,” I touched each one all while whispering, “Brother one day you will find your home, one day we will come back for you, this I promise, someone will come.”

I never truly understood what it was meant by “walk in their footsteps and you will see,” until I walked the beaches of Normandy. I stood on the beach of Omaha, and it took my breath away. It brought me to tears knowing my brothers stood in the exact place and fought with everything they had. I took my shoes off, letting the sand go between my toes, feeling the echoes of my brothers from the past, saying, “You are not alone, for I am here with you”.

Remember the sacrifices we have all made, the battles we have won. Let us join together to ensure our fallen have not made a sacrifice in vain. We are a country united, no matter how different we are.

On the monument of Chateau-Thierry on Hill 204 it says, “Time will not dim the glory of their deeds” - WWI General Pershing. What my brothers did will echo an eternity.

The greatest lessons in life I have learned are perseverance and loyalty. What we do everyday determines who we are, and what we become. We choose it. This country would not be what it is today without their sacrifice, without their willingness to stand up for our future and say, “Today it will be me.” I have climbed mountains in Cambodia, backpacked through the jungles of Vietnam and walked the beaches of Normandy and nothing will ever compare. I have brought my brothers home to their families, I have slept beside their transfer cases. And it was one of the greatest journeys anyone could ever ask for. So for this, I thank you. Until they all return, I thank the future generations who carry on the mission of bringing our brothers home.

(Spc. Madriz is a forensic photographer and has been with DPAA since August 2012.)

DPAA recovers remains from Lindau

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Micaiah Anthony,
100th Air Refueling Wing

LINDAU, Germany— A harmonized hum of Pratt and Whitney engines pierce through the clouds as a cluster of small silhouettes race across the lush green fields and trees of Germany. A formation of P-47 Thunderbolts float majestically through the air. In the distance an enemy vehicle bounces down a narrow road.

As the formation approaches, one aircraft begins its descent. With the vehicle in the pilot's sight he lets loose a barrage of hot metal, creating a stream of dust clouds up to and past the vehicle. The pilot quickly glances back as a large ball of fire catches his eye; his aircraft skirts just a few feet from the ground.

He averts his attention back to the horizon and

pulls back the controls when a wall of trees quickly approaches. His aircraft barely clears the first row of trees, however, one wing gets snagged sending the aircraft swirling into the forest.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) deployed a recovery team to Lindau, Germany, to retrieve the remains of a fallen U.S. service member from World War II, April 11, 2016.

"We were tasked with excavating a World War II-era P-47 Thunderbolt crash site," said Sabrina Taala, DPAA anthropologist. "The aircraft was a single seater and it crashed April 16, 1945, right before the end of the war. The pilot was doing a strafing run on an enemy truck when he lost control of his plane and crashed into the forest."

According to Taala, the U.S. government attempted to recover the pilot's remains back in 1948.

"At that time the U.S. government had to list the pilot as, missing body not recovered," said Taala. With the technology available now, we were able to give it another try."

Before a recovery team could be sent out, an investigation team was dispatched to interview witnesses and find the location of the crash site.

"During the investigation they found an area with a lot of aircraft wreckage, so the investigation team recommended the site for excavation," added Taala.

With the recovery team on scene Taala knew there was still much work they had to do.



"First we have to get the lay of the land as to where the site is," said Taala. "Narrowing down where to dig was the most difficult task we had. You cannot just start digging 100 meters in every direction."

In addition to locating the site, the team also had to construct screening stations and inventory and off-load tools and supplies.

"Once our team hit the ground they were eager to work," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Hughes. "They knew what was at stake and it was reflected in all of their hard work."

The team spent the next two weeks excavating and screening the soil around the impact site and recovered remains, which were sent to the DPAA laboratory for anthropological analysis, as well as to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory for DNA testing and comparison to relatives of the missing service member.

"It is an amazing yet somber feeling to recover the remains of one of our service members," said Hughes. "To be able to bring our own back home and give their families closure is a great honor that I will carry with me forever."



Left: Sabrina Taala, DPAA anthropologist, uses a compass to map out grid coordinates for the recovery site where a P-47 Thunderbolt crashed in Lindau, Germany, during World War II, April 13, 2016. Once the grid is set up the recovery team can begin excavating the area.

Second from Left: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lorena Contreras, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, (DPAA) supply Non-commissioned Officer, pushes soil and rock through a screen during excavation operations at the recovery site of a P-47 Thunderbolt crash, in Lindau, Germany, April 25, 2016.

Second from Right: Wreaths lay on a monument in Zerbst, Germany, to commemorate those who lost their lives during a bombing raid, April 16, 1945.

Right: U.S. Army Pfc. Wyatt Holland, DPAA recovery augmentee, uses a shovel to excavate soil from a unit at the recovery site of a P-47 Thunderbolt crash from World War II, in Lindau, Germany, April 20, 2016. Organic personnel from DPAA and augmentees from across Europe were sent to the site to recover the remains of the pilot.



Korea Repatriation Ceremony

Photos by Sgt. Choi Woo Hyuk, U.S. Forces Korea



Top: Pallbearers hold the caskets of the fallen Soldiers during a repatriation ceremony on Knight Field, Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea, April 28. The ceremony was conducted to return remains of United Nations Command and Korean Soldiers who died on the field of battle during the Korean War.

Bottom Left: Pallbearers hold the caskets of the fallen Soldiers during a repatriation ceremony on Knight Field, April 28.

Bottom Right: The United Nations Command Honor Guard present the combined colors during a repatriation ceremony on Knight Field, April 28.

DPAA Memorial Dedication Ceremony

Story by Senior Airman Leah Ferrante, DPAA

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, DPAA

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The unique mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency brings hope and answers to the families who are still missing loved ones from the Vietnam War era. It states in DPAA's mission statement that they will provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

With this statement comes great commitment, and on April 7, 2001, seven U.S. service members and nine Vietnamese military men paid the ultimate price trying to fulfill that promise when their M-17 helicopter went down on their way to survey proposed sites that had possible POW/MIA remains around the Quang Binh Providence. Investigations determined the crash was due to deteriorating weather conditions and poor visibility.

"It was probably the toughest assignment I ever had," said Ann Mills-Griffiths, president and CEO of the League of POW/MIA Families. "Never ever did we, the POW/MIA family think that possibly we could lose some of our fine young people who were out conducting recovery missions for our missing family members."

This year marked the 15th anniversary of the tragic event that took the lives of fathers, sons, brothers and husbands. However, their legacy will forever be seen in the halls of the Pentagon where a plaque has been hung in honor of all service members who have been killed fulfilling DPAA's mission.

"We never leave a fallen comrade," said U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, during the ceremony for the plaque unveiling. "Even if the risk, or even if it's the cost of our own life, we will bring our fellow fallen Marines, Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors back home."

"We traveled to DC to represent him, his life and legacy," said Pachetta T. Draft-Murphy, spouse to deceased Sgt. 1st Class Tommy L. Murphy.

Pachetta, accompanied by her daughter, Zamora Draft-Murphy, was only four at the time of her father's tragic accident. However, they were not alone, joining them were the other families who had lost their loved one that day.

"I felt so honored to be there, because we never got the chance to grieve with the other families," said Draft-Murphy. "Just to share and realized that other people felt the way that we did was comforting, it was wonderful."

The families watched as the plaque in honor of their loved ones was unveiled, and now hangs in the POW/MIA memorial hallway of the Pentagon. After the ceremony, the families were invited to attend the 47th Annual League of POW/MIA Families banquet where a special tribute was given in their honor.

Although there was great tragedy, the mission to recover our fallen heroes continues. The League of POW/MIA Families and DPAA will always remember Army Lt. Col. Rennie M. Cory Jr., Detachment 2 commander; Air Force Tech. Sgt. Robert M. Flynn, linguist; Navy Hospital Corpsman Chief Pedro J. Gonzales; Air Force Maj. Charles E. Lewis, Detachment 2 deputy commander; Army Lt. Col. George D. Martin, incoming Detachment 2 commander; Air Force Master Sgt. Steven L. Moser, linguist; and Army Sgt. First Class Tommy L. Murphy, Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii



Families of American service members killed in a helicopter crash over Vietnam, April 7, 2001, pose during a dedication ceremony held at the Pentagon, June 23, 2016. The service members were on a mission to recover remains of missing Americans from the Vietnam War, when the helicopter crashed due to bad weather. Seven Americans and nine Vietnamese perished in the crash.



Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency
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Washington, D.C. 20301-2300
Connect with us on social media:
Twitter (@dodpaa) and Facebook (facebook.com/dodpaa)

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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MYANMAR— Myanmar Army Maj. Aung Zaw Lin, Office of the Chief of Military Affairs to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), screens dirt in hopes of finding possible evidence during a DPAA investigation mission in Chin State, Myanmar, May 13, 2016. Nine DPAA team members deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the remains of seven U.S. Army Air Forces personnel unaccounted for from World War II. The mission of DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Roy Woo, DPAA)

