


The Quest




Winter/Spring 2017

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Dunn, a recovery non-commissioned officer temporarily assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), helps to excavate a site while searching for the remains of a U.S. service member still considered missing-in-action from the Vietnam War, in Boualapha Province, Laos, Jan. 29, 2017. The mission of DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. (DPAA photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Bruch)



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Francis Sangiamvongse, linguist, screens soil with local villagers during excavation operations as part of DPAA's mission in the Khammouan Province, Laos, Jan. 27, 2017. The Recovery Team executed excavation operations in search of two missing U.S. Air Force pilots who crashed while on a visual reconnaissance mission during the Vietnam War more than 48 years ago. (DPAA photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante)



The Acting Director's Notes

As we head into the summer season, I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and months—at FMU's, your national conventions, annual meetings, holiday events, and during my visits abroad.

I have been serving as the Acting Director for about a year now, and while the job has been rewarding, I am looking forward, like many of you, to the hiring of a new director this summer. Despite the director vacancy, the men and women of DPAA continued to passionately pursue the fullest possible accounting, while also diligently working to make the organization better by tightening processes, codifying policy, and hiring against our vacancies so that the new director can hit the ground running.

Since January I have had an active congressional season, meeting with numerous House and Senate Armed Services Committee staffers, as well as personal Congressional staffers. I welcome their requests for updates on our

operations and greatly appreciate their collective support for our mission.

Likewise, many Veterans and Military Service Organizations have gone before Congress providing tremendous support to DPAA and advocacy for the accounting mission. Specifically, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and American Legions. Their testimonies are important to keeping this mission in the forefront of our nation's elected officials.

We have also received support from the Secretary of Defense as he emphasized his budgetary priorities across the Department of Defense. The Secretary stressed the defense budget should focus on readiness and modernization and also keep faith with our families. The department has put his guidance into action with the FY18 President's Budget request of \$131M for DPAA.

With the approval of our Charter in January 2017 and a budget that supports our full operational capability, DPAA is on a solid trajectory to navigate future challenges. With the authorities delegated by the Secretary of Defense, we will continue to follow U.S. and Department of Defense policies, especially with respect to country clearance and engagement and disinterment policy. DPAA is committed to innovative and creative ways to solve some of our mission challenges and use the full authority granted to us as a defense agency in pursuit of the fullest possible accounting.

In pursuit of the fullest possible accounting, I want to highlight two significant foreign engagements. First, the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission met in late February in Moscow, and met during the week of June 19th engaging in Technical Talks for the upcoming plenum this fall. Our Joint Commission Support Division has made steady progress, making detailed requests to the Russians for assistance, and they have been very receptive. Additionally, our relationship continues to strengthen as we provide information about their WWII losses. As a result of our maturing cooperation, they recently provided North Korean maps we have been seeking for more than 20 years. Overall, our shared mission and vision continue to be realized.

Finally, in April I traveled to South Korea to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (MAKRI). We appreciate the long standing cooperation and friendship we have with MAKRI and celebrate this significant milestone for their country and citizens.

As always, we are steadfastly committed to our mission, consistently displaying a determination that should comfort the families of the missing and their advocates

~Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise~

Recently Accounted For

From December 15, 2016 through June 13, 2017

WWII

Staff Sgt. Byron H. Nelson, USAAF
Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Holm, USN
Seaman 1st Class Harold R. Roesch, USN
Seaman 2nd Class Floyd F. Clifford, USN
Seaman 1st Class Camillus M. O'Grady, USN
Radioman 3rd Class Howard W. Bean, USN
Fire Controlman 2nd Class Donald R. McCloud, USN
1st Lt. Francis J. Pitonyak, USAAF
Coxwain Verne F. Knipp, USN
Fireman 3rd Class Glaydon I.C. Iverson, USN
Pvt. Gene J. Appleby, USA
Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux, USN
Cpl. Walter G. Critchley, USMC
Gunnery Sgt. Sidney A. Cook, USMC
Pfc. Larry Roberts, USMC
Pfc. James O. Whitehurst, USMC
2nd Lt. Ernest Matthews, USMCR
Mr. John D. Armstrong, civilian
Mr. Maax C. Hammer, Jr., civilian
Mr. Peter W. Atkinson, civilian
1st Lt. William J. Gray, USAAF
2nd Lt. Charles E. Carlson, USAAF
2nd Lt. John D. Mumford, USAAF
Fireman 3rd Class Robert N. Walkowiak, USN
Fireman 1st Class Michael Galajdik, USN
Gunner's Mate 1st Class Arthur C. Neuenschwander, USN
Fireman 1st Class William H. Kennedy, USN
Storekeeper 2nd Class Glenn G. Cyriack, USN
Seaman 2nd Class George T. George, USN
Musician 1st Class Elliot D. Larsen, USN
Fire Controlman 3rd Class Robert L. Pribble, USN
Fireman 1st Class Charles W. Thompson, USN

Pvt. William D. Gruber, USAAF
Steward's Mate 1st Class Cyril I. Dusset, USN
Seaman 1st Class Paul S. Raimond, USN
Fireman 1st Class Lawrence H. Fecho, USN
Fireman 1st Class Walter B. Rogers, USN
1st Lt. Robert E. Oxford, USAAF
Fireman 1st Class Elmer T. Kerestes, USN
Fireman 1st Class Charles R. Casto, USN
Pvt. Donald S. Spayd, USMCR
Seaman 1st Class Monroe Temple, USN
Pfc. Jack J. Fox, USMCR
Pfc. Reece Gass, USA
Seaman 1st Class George A. Coke, USN
Seaman 1st Class George A. Coke, USN
Machinist's Mate 1st Class Fred M. Jones, USN
1st Lt. Ewart T. Sconiers, USAAF
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Don O. Neher, USN
Ensign William M. Thompson, USN
Technician 4th Grade John Kovach, Jr., USA
Pvt. Harold S. Hirschi, USAAF
2nd Lt. Harry H. Gaver, Jr., USMC
Seaman 1st Class. Milton R. Surratt, USN
2nd Lt. George S. Bussa, USMC
Pfc. Lonnie Eichelberger, USA
Staff. Sgt. Michael Aiello, USA
Pfc. Sam J. Kourkos, USMCR
Cpl. Henry Andregg, Jr., USMCR
1st Lt. George W. Betchley, USAAF
Pfc. George B. Murray, USMC
Staff Sgt. Gerald L. Jacobsen, USA
Pvt. Archie W. Newell, USMC
Pfc. Ray James, USMCR

Korea

Sgt. 1st Class Eugene J. Colley, USA
Cpl. Jules Hauterman, USA
Cpl. Luis P. Torres, USA
Pfc. Thomas C. Stagg, USA
Pfc. Charles C. Follese, USA
Sgt. Thomas E. Zimmer, USA
Sgt. Edward Saunders, USA
Sgt. James W. Sharp, USA
Sgt. Donald D. Noehren, USA
Cpl. Billie J. Jimerson, USA
Sgt. Willie Rowe, USA
Pfc. Manuel M. Quintana, USA
Pfc. Robert E. Mitchell, USA
Cpl. William R. Sadewasser, USA
Cpl. Freddie L. Henson, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Richard G. Cushman, USA
Pfc. Richard A. Lucas, USA
Cpl. Leslie R. Sutton, USA
Pvt. Walter F. Piper, USA
Cpl. Richard Seadore, USA
Cpl. John Lane, USA
Cpl. Frank L. Sandoval, USA
Cpl. Glen E. Kritzwiser, USA
Cpl. Edward L. Borders, USA
Pfc. Albert E. Atkins, USA

Vietnam

1st Lt. William C. Ryan, USMCR
Capt. Robert R. Barnett, USAF
Capt. Daniel W. Thomas, USAF
Cpl. Glyn Runnels, USMC
Capt. John A. House, USMC
LCpl. John D. Killen, III, USMC
Col. William Campbell, USAF
Capt. Joseph S. Smith, USAFR
Cmdr. Charles B. Goodwin, USNR
Col. Roosevelt Hestle, Jr., USAF



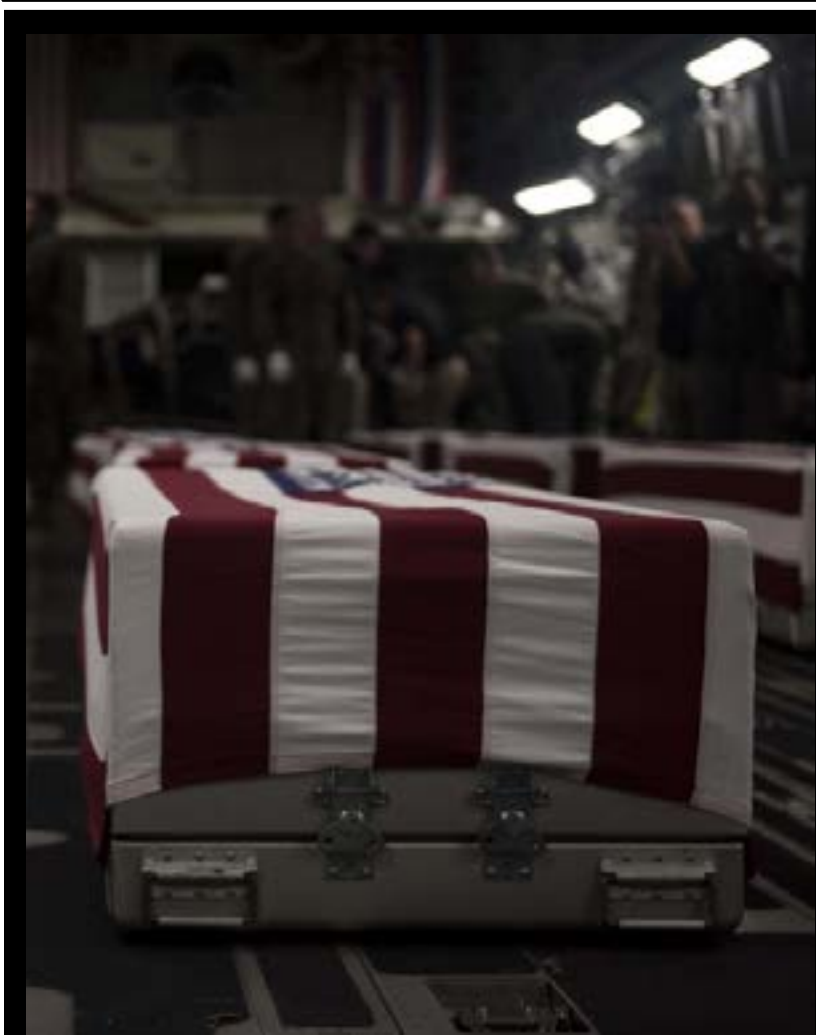
The Repatriation of Tarawa Marines

Tarawa is a historic place for the 2nd Marine Division. During the island-hopping campaign of WWII many Marines lives' were lost on the small atoll in the Pacific. Many of the Marines who fell were never recovered. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has been working tirelessly to bring these Marines home, not only by doing recovery operations on the atoll, but by partnering with History Flight. The Agency has also begun to disinter the remains of the men who were brought back to Hawaii and buried as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. DPAA's forensic scientists at the skeletal identification laboratory, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, are working to analyze and identify these remains.





U.S. Marines, assigned to DPAA, carry a transfer case containing possible remains of an unidentified U.S. Marine during a repatriation ceremony, Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati, Feb. 10, 2017. The contents of the transfer cases will be examined by forensic scientists at DPAA's skeletal identification laboratory on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (DPAA photos by Marine Corps Cpl. Julian Temblador)



Returning with honor

Members of DPAA participate in recovery operations as part of DPAA's mission in the Khammouane Province, Laos, Jan. 26, 2017. The Recovery Team executed excavation operations in search of two missing U.S. Air Force pilots who crashed while on a visual reconnaissance mission during the Vietnam War more than 48 years ago. (DPAA photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante)



KHAMMOUANE, Laos—With currently 1,608 service members missing in action from the Vietnam War, (as of June 21, 2017), the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) deploys hundreds of service members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors all over the world in hopes of returning our nation's fallen heroes.

In February a team of 59 personnel completed DPAA's second Laos mission of fiscal year 2017, covering the Central East region of Laos. From rice paddies to mountainsides, the teams excavated thousands of square meters of land recovering important evidence relating to missing servicemen lost during the war.

"I'm very honored to have been part of this initiative to bring our missing home," said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Walgenbach, recovery non-commissioned officer. "This mission has been the most unique part of my 13-year career in the military and I know others feel the same way."

Whether the recovery non-commissioned officer is setting up the sites, or the recovery leader is

collecting scientific data, working together ensures nothing is overlooked and the safety of the team remains the number-one priority.

Due to the efforts of the teams, Lao representatives handed over possible remains to the U.S. to be repatriated and welcomed back on American soil after 48 years. Upon arrival, the possible remains were transported to DPAA's laboratory for examination and possible identification.

"During this mission I have worked alongside some of the greatest men and women I've had the pleasure of meeting, and being chosen for the repatriation ceremony was a perfect way to end such a great mission," said U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Andrew Brod. "It is truly an honor to be bringing closure to the families of our fallen service members."

The hard work and continued dedication of these teams makes it possible for DPAA to fulfill our nation's promise and provide fullest possible accounting for our missing service members to their families and the nation.

Major Renovation Project Underway at Honolulu Memorial

A traditional Hawaiian site blessing and groundbreaking ceremony for the Courts of the Missing project at the Honolulu Memorial within the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl occurred in December 2016. (Image courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)



HONOLULU-- The Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is undergoing a major renovation, which began in 2014. The Italian Trani limestone panels at the Courts of the Missing, containing more than 25,000 names from World War II and the Korean War, will be replaced and re-engraved. The original stone selected in the 1960s proved to be prone to staining, deteriorating the overall look of the memorial. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) committed more than \$10 million for this project, which included a year-long study to identify an appropriate stone of similar appearance, but higher quality and design, and an improved mounting system. The stone selected is a Portuguese limestone. The work on the eight Courts of the Missing is expected to be completed in 2018.

The Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial honor those Americans who went missing in action, or were lost or buried at sea in the Pacific during World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. The Honolulu Memorial includes only a portion of the names from World War II who were lost in the Pacific—more than 36,000 names are engraved on the Walls of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. The Courts of the Missing for the Vietnam War, which were added in the 1980s, are in fair

condition, of a different stone and unnecessary to replace at the current time.

The Army Corps of Engineers is leading the site management of the project, which includes construction work by MIRA Image Construction LLC, and architectural design and historic preservation by Fung Associates, Inc. The memorial is located within the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, which is operated by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), an agency within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The cemetery will remain open and accessible to the public with normal operating hours.

During the work, portions of the Courts of the Missing will not be accessible to the public due to safety concerns. The majority of the monument itself will be open including all map pavilions, the chapel, the upper terrace, the Vietnam Courts of Missing and the public restrooms. If you are planning a visit to honor someone commemorated in the Courts of the Missing, please contact Tim Nosal at 703-696-6789 for the most up-to-date information.

GI Film Festival premieres story of loss and hope

"2 Sides Project" connects families

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Duus

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Margot Carlson Delogne was just two years old when her dad was lost in the Vietnam War. She has no memories of him, only stories, home videos, audio letters and pictures her mom kept as precious keepsakes. Carlson Delogne grew up in an age where it was common to hold onto hatred toward the Vietnamese, but, as she grew older, she realized there was another side of the story to be told.

"If I was going to have any lasting peace, I was going to need to meet the other side, the sons and daughters."

Carlson Delogne understood the other side of the story involved meeting the children who lost their fathers fighting American troops during the war. While they are no longer children, they all share a common ache- the loss of a loved one during war. In order to tell her story, Carlson Delogne created the "2 Sides Project," where she and five other American children of Vietnam losses traveled to the other side of the world to meet and

connect with those who understood her pain.

The 2 Sides Project is now a nonprofit organization that connects sons and daughters who lost fathers on opposite sides of the Vietnam War. The first meetings of the opposite sides were featured in a documentary film, which premiered at the GI Film Festival, in Washington, D.C., May 25.

"I went with a lot of fear and trepidation," said Carlson Delogne.



"We met 21 Vietnamese counterparts in four cities, and I was not sure how we would be received- if they'd be angry, or if I'd be angry. I had no idea. The Vietnamese look at the war as a collective. They don't look at it as what they lost personally; they look at what the country lost."

Over several weeks, Delogne and five American sons and daughters who accompanied her-- Mike Burkett, Susan Mitchell-Mattera, Ron Reyes, Margaret Von Lienen and Patty Young Loew-- traveled throughout Vietnam, speaking with other sons and daughters, and visiting the locations their fathers were lost. They paid tribute to their fathers with traditional Vietnamese offerings, as well as a touch of their own personalization. Burkett had with him a photo of his father's prized car. Reyes brought a couple of beers and played a recording of his father's favorite song.

Of the six, only Carlson Delogne's and Von Lienen's fathers remain missing. Von Lienen's father, Robert Saavedra, was a Navy pilot who was shot down over Ha Tinh Province, April 28, 1968. Carlson Delogne's father, Capt. John W. Carlson, went missing in December 1966 near Bien Hoa. Both ladies remain dedicated to finding their fathers' remains.

Carlson Delogne said her family has worked alongside government agencies for 50 years, trying to find her father's remains. She continues to work with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, (DPAA) looking for answers.

Carlson Delogne's father was on a mission to bomb a depot and had just released the bombs when his plane went down about 200 meters from his target location.

"Before I went, I sat in the hotel with the filmmaker looking at coordinates on the map," she said. "We drew the line, made the measurement, found the 200 meters. When we got there, we were at a rubber plantation with paths to walk on. We walked in that direction. We got 200 meters and found a crater."

Carlson Delogne said she had conflicting feelings about her dad and Vietnam. During her visit, she saw a beautiful country and wonderful people. She could not understand how we, as Americans, could have been at war with them. Even so, she felt her father's presence the entire time she was there.

Carlson Delogne hopes people will be moved by her story and meet the other side, regardless of the war or the debate. The GI Film festival, held annually, focuses on veterans' stories. Hers tells the story of what happens after the war ends to the families left behind.

For more information on the 2 Sides Project, visit <http://www.2sidesproject.com>

For more information on the GI Film Festival, visit <https://gifilmfestival.com>



Cambodian workers set up a base camp operated by members of DPAA for a mission in Ratanakiri, Cambodia, March 6, 2017. (DPAA photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Demetrius Munnerlyn)

Then and Now: DPAA in Cambodia

Story by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd
Class Armando Velez
Photos By Sgt. Demetrius Munnerlyn

HONOLULU – The Vietnam War raged in the tri-border area of Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia despite Cambodia's claim to neutrality. The proximity of the war left the tri-border area riddled with elaborate labyrinths of supply routes, warehouse complexes, border crossing points and support units to transport supplies and protect the flow of logistics by Vietnamese Forces, which had been developing since the 1950s.

"During this time period the Vietnamese took advantage of Cambodia to create a chain of supply routes to support their war efforts in the surrounding areas," said Alvin Teel, Casualty Resolution Specialist for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA.)

Unable to ignore the fact that long-

standing neutral Cambodia was a sanctuary to the Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army Forces, the U.S. took action. The administration chose to disrupt the operation of the sanctuary, despite the proclamation of military de-escalation.

U.S. strategy efforts against Communist logistical stations led to the flight of an F-4D aircraft with the purpose of a tactical air strike during Operation Freedom Deal on May 13, 1970. Capt. Alan Trent, aircraft commander, and 1stLt. Eric Huberth, pilot, led the strike mission with the intent of disrupting one of the enemy's passageways.

Due to terrain and unforeseen circumstances the F-4D aircraft crashed. Trent and Huberth did not eject and the

aircraft was obliterated.

The two patriots were lost.

In their ongoing effort to bring home Trent and Huberth, DPAA deployed a 15-member team to conduct a recovery operation. Facing the challenges that a remote wilderness site poses, the team relied on one another to complete the recovery and keep each other safe.

"We're making really good excavation progress, despite the fact that we are dealing with a lot of bamboo and uneven terrain," said Dr. Mary Megyesi, Scientific Recovery Expert at DPAA.

Living conditions find all involved base camping due to the location of the site. "The terrain is very heavily bamboo, number one. Number two, it is also a very isolated spot. There's almost no villagers around there. The villagers that come to help actually have to do a lengthy trip over land...through Vietnam, as a matter of fact," said Teel.



Science, Ancestry and Identity: | What I learned from following my DNA

Story by Senior Airman Ashlin Federick
Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Delaware – As I settled into my new assignment at the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System this past year I embarked on a personal DNA journey. To be honest, I never really understood the in-depth specifics surrounding DNA and the potential influence it has in providing closure to military families.

Last year I had the opportunity to attend a Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency Family Member Update in

Arlington, Virginia. This is an event like no other. Family members of those still unaccounted for from past conflicts gathered in one location to hear briefings from various experts and receive updates about their specific cases. I witnessed relatives of those lost contribute Family Reference Samples to the AFMES's DNA identification lab. The reference samples can then be used to possibly match their DNA to their unidentified loved ones. This was all very interesting to me because I never really thought about DNA in this manner before.

As a military service member, we are required to have a blood stained card on file for the purpose of identification.

A DNA data base for military members does not exist. Since I now work at AFMES and may go into the labs

on occasion, it is necessary for my DNA sequence to be on file for

exclusionary purposes. For this reason I was able to go through the exact same process family members do by having my DNA collected and analyzed. I felt the need to follow this process and share my story. I have never been

really good in science so it took me a few minutes to learn all the scientific



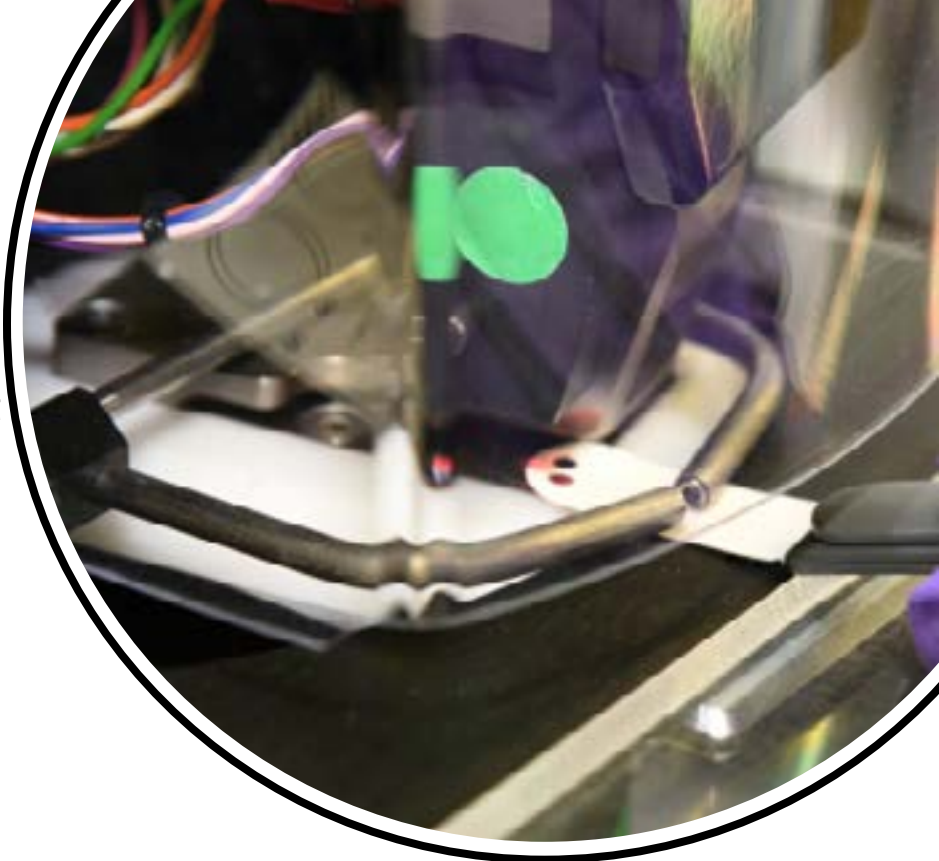
terms for what the analysts were doing but after a day or so I began to understand.

During this process I learned that mitochondrial (mtDNA) is passed on through your mother's side of the family. This means if you were to put my mother's DNA and my DNA side-by-side they would look exactly the same. I also learned that nuclear DNA comes from both parents and it is the DNA that is unique to you unless you have a twin.

Marc Keirstead, AFMES DoD DNA Registry quality control analyst, said there are differences between mtDNA and nuclear DNA. Nuclear is inherited from both the mother and the father and is unique to an individual whereas mtDNA is maternal and is common amongst anyone following the maternal line.

"As a result, nuclear DNA will provide you with more discriminatory power, but only if it is available," said Keirstead. "In situations where remains are older or severely degraded, that may not be the case. Within a cell, you will only have two copies of nuclear DNA where you would have more than 1000 copies of mtDNA, making it an excellent tool and resource in identifying these types of remains based on the sheer number alone."

Jennie McMahon, AFMES DoD DNA Registry supervisory DNA analyst, said she thinks the whole DNA process is amazing because each year new



advances are made allowing them to piece together more DNA puzzles using smaller portions of samples and ultimately identify more missing service members.

"I'm very proud to be associated with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory mission," said McMahon. "I have been part of the past accounting section for 18 years and still get excited each time a sample gets reported out. I know that our work with DNA brings that individual one step closer to being identified and the family one step closer to having closure. We want each family to know their loved one has been found and will be returned home."

To read the full article, visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3085749/science-ancestry-and-identity-learned-following-my-dna>



DPAA Travels to Sicily

Story by Tech. Sgt.
Kathrine Dodd

The agency is known for its recovery missions: teams spending weeks digging on farmlands, glaciers and mountainsides, how does the agency get to the point to that it knows where to start excavation operations?

There is a lot of research and investigation that goes into every case of every service member the agency is tasked to find. Before a shovel goes into the ground, there is a breadth of work done by historians and analysts in finding and following a paper trail. Once research points to a certain area where there may be a certain level of success, investigation teams are sent out to fill gaps that cannot be found in records available and confirm what are believed to be viable recovery sites.

An investigation team traveled through the country side of Sicily in February and March 2017 to track down sites of men lost during

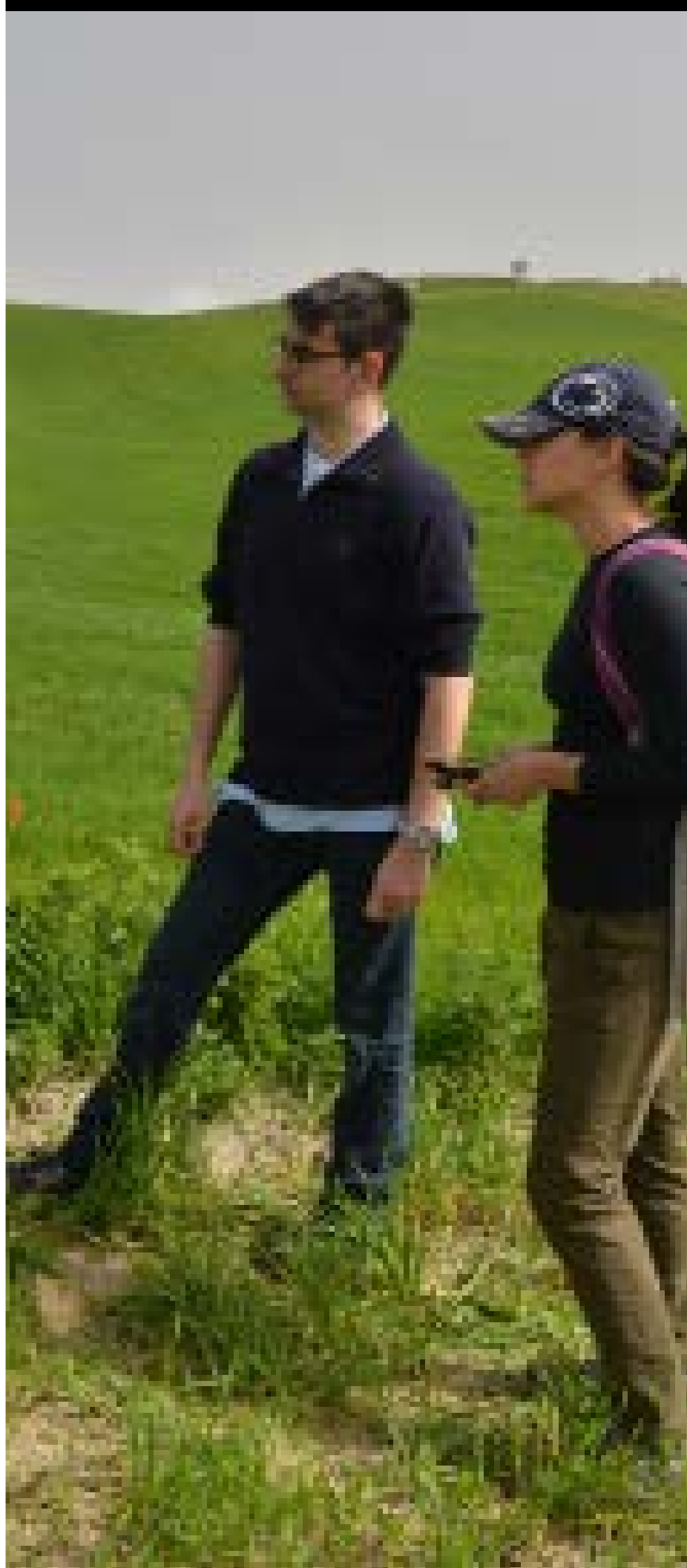
the Allied invasion of Sicily, code named Operation Husky during WWII. The successful operation allowed the Allies to set up a stronghold for the next move; a northern push into the boot of Italy.

Among those lost on the first day of the siege, July 10, 1943, were several U.S.

Army Air Corps pilots of Lockheed P-38 Lightning aircraft assigned on bombing runs and escort missions to take out logistical targets across the island.

Farmlands and towns have now covered up all signs of the conflict, making it hard to pinpoint the location of crash sites by sight alone. Harder still is the dwindling pool of witnesses who remain to direct the investigation team where to go.

“In a lot of cases, we can’t find witnesses that are still alive,” said Josh Frank, DPAA research analyst and team investigation leader. “What we have left are either people who were very young during the conflict and with memory being as best as it could be as a child or people who have second hand information.”



"We do get lucky in Europe that the records in the local towns that we go to, like priest diaries, cemetery records, other church records, school records and police records are sometimes are very specific about what farm an aircraft crashed on," Frank said.

After canvassing the area for local witnesses with the help of officials and independent researchers, a team can be led to an area where the field work begins.

"We start with a systematic archeological pedestrian survey," said Dr. Kimberley Maeyama, DPAA forensic archeologist. "We've had to coordinate with the landowner because everything we have to do has to take into consideration any potential effect we would have on that property and that tells us the parameters of what we can do in the field."

On every investigation team is an explosive ordnance disposal



technician that will sweep the area for metal hits in hopes of locating aircraft wreckage, personal effects and munitions. For this set of cases in Sicily, finding munitions could prove to be valuable. The P-38 aircraft was the only fighter plane the U.S. that was armed with 20mm canon rounds and .50-caliber rounds. But depending on the land owner, sometimes metal hits cannot be dug up for inspection.

Other indicators that the team looks for are deformities in the landscape. According to Maeyama, a noticeable depression in the land that does not match or conform to the natural topography may be an anomaly. One can suspect that perhaps that anomaly was an impact location.

As the team follows cases across Sicily, they will work to collect information and evidence to help DPAA come back to the island for recovery operations knowing they are on the right track.



Operation Husky

Story by
Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante

HONOLULU—The mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is to provide the fullest possible accounting of missing personnel to their families and the nation. A mission that takes members all over the world in search of service members lost during past conflicts.



From Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, to France, Germany and Korea the search continues for the missing all over the world. With so many areas to be searched, DPAA's missions are no easy task. Years of research and planning is completed before excavation operations can even take place. This includes vast knowledge on the battles that brought our Service members to these foreign grounds so many years ago.

Recently, a DPAA Investigation team made their way to the country side of Sicily to track down sites of men lost during the Allied invasion of Sicily, code named Operation Husky, during WWII.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British leaders joined together to discuss strategies to collapse Benito Mussolini's government and gain Turkish allies in the process. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed overall commander of the American forces, accompanied by British General Sir Harold Alexander.

The battle started early the morning of July 10, 1943. Using air and sea landings, the battle involved more than 150,000 troops, 3,000 ships, and 4,000 aircraft. The U.S. 7th Army, under Lieutenant General George S. Patton and the British Eighth Army, under General Sir Bernard Montgomery, combined forces. Mussolini was captured and arrested on July 24, driving Italian and German forces out of Sicily.

With great battles, comes great loss. Over Operation Husky's 38 days a total of 8,781 men of the U.S. 7th Army were lost--2,237 killed or missing, 5,946 wounded, and 598 captured.

DPAA continues to make its way through Sicily, researching and excavating, until we have achieved the fullest possible for the missing Service members who have been waiting to return home 75 years later.



January 28, 2017, more than 300 family members attended government briefings at the Marriott Mesa, Arizona, in an effort to gain more information on the cases of their missing service members. In addition to gaining new information regarding their respective cases, the families were also able to connect with one another and share their personal stories. (DPAA photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jocelyn Ford)

Connecting With Family Members

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jocelyn Ford

The first quarter of the calendar year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has crossed the nation from Phoenix to Charleston with a third stop in New Orleans, providing families with answers.

Members of DPAA have met with more than 500 family members this year, and 267 were first time attendees to a Family Member Update (FMU).

Two such individuals were James "Jim" Amromin and Barbara "Barb" Miles, nephew and niece to U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Jerome Amromin, unaccounted for from World War II.

One night Jim typed his name into a search engine and found a site that showed him as having died in a plane crash in Papua New Guinea. He recognized the fact that the name was meant to be that of his uncle, and he reached out to correct the error. In doing so he became even more interested in knowing more about this man he had never met.

When he received an invite to the Phoenix FMU he called his sister Barbara. "I couldn't do it without her," said Jim.

Barb flew in from Missouri to accompany her brother to the event.

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When he received an invite to the Phoenix FMU he called his sister Barbara. "I couldn't do it without her," said Jim.

Barb flew in from Missouri to accompany her brother to the event. Together they attended briefings presented by senior officials, experts, and scientists who work in various areas pertaining to the POW/MIA mission. They also had a scheduled one-on-one to get detailed information

about the case of their uncle.

"The people that are involved in our case are really here, and we really got to meet them," said Barb.

Though there was little new information provided to Jim and Barb in regards to the case, they left knowing they had someone to talk to as the information becomes available.

"It's absolutely fantastic," said Jim. "Meeting people and now we have a caseworker and we know who to go to."

"I'm so glad that the Department of Defense cares and really implements and doesn't pay lip service to 'no man left behind,'" said Barb. "There is a branch within our government structure that does what they say they're going to do no matter how long it takes, no matter how difficult it is."

It wasn't just DPAA that made this event so meaningful to this family. "It's meeting all these people that are here, not just the military, but the families," said Jim. "You feel a kinship inside the room because you have the same basic story, you got a loved one that hasn't been recovered."

"The knowledge that you are not alone in your search makes you feel like you are part of something bigger than yourself," said Barb.

WWII pilot sacrifices self to save crew

The search for a hero in Bulgaria

Story by Dr. Stephen Johnson, DPAA

It is like the plot to some 1940's Hollywood movie, made while WWII was still being fought. The B-24 is heading back to its home field after a successful mission against marshalling yards and an oil refinery outside Bucharest, Romania, when German fighter planes attack.

Crippled by 20mm cannon fire, the aircraft is losing fuel and altitude, engines two and three are on fire, and the auto-pilot is not working. The pilot is struggling to get the bomber to the Adriatic coast. It's not going to happen. The crew will have to bail out. The pilot gives the order, and the crew members, singly or in pairs, begin parachuting to safety.

"You coming?" asks the co-pilot, the next to last man aboard.

"Yes," replies the pilot, still at the controls. "Get the hell out!"

The co-pilot bails out, but the pilot, 1st Lt. John D. Crouchley, Jr., doesn't have time to follow, and the B-24 slams into a mountainside in southern Bulgaria.

It was 11:30 AM, Wednesday, June 28, 1944. The crew members who bailed out survive the war; the other air crews on the mission return to their base in Italy not knowing the fate of Crouchley.



Nearly 73 years later, Dr. Denise To, an anthropologist, stands beside two men screening dirt from a test pit. Even though it is mid-afternoon it is still cold. The five-person team has been on the site since the morning, as they have been all week. Their days start and end with a 40-minute ride over frozen, rutted, mud-packed logging roads, in the open bed of a Soviet-era Gaz-66 truck from the small village of Churen to the crash site in the Rodopi Mountains, Bulgaria.



Three members of the team, Army Lt. Col. Justin Budd, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Gustafson, from Plans and Partnership, Europe/Mediterranean Directorate, and Air Force 2nd Lt. Zhecho Radevski, the augmentee interpreter, arrived more than a week earlier to coordinate the recovery mission with a projected multi-national training exercise planned for this summer. Drs. To and Stephen Johnson, the team historian, joined the mission for the last week to complete a final, pre-recovery site survey, and run down leads concerning vague and ultimately unsubstantiated rumors about a burial or a memorial, or a marker at, or near, the crash site.

After clearing enough loose brush from the steep hillside to conduct a site survey, and document and assess the metal detector hits, the team dug a set of test pits to gauge the density and type of debris at various locations around the site. Each pit produced material evidence, but on the final day at

the site, in the pit dug in the general area of the cockpit, the yield was particularly encouraging. Aside from pieces of cloth and leather, fasteners and clips, and spent .50 caliber rounds, the final screening produced a shard of plexiglass windshield.

Although scratched, and in one corner slightly charred and melted, after a quick buffing the shard was remarkably clear. The team members took turns holding the shard to the dappled sunlight streaming through the pine boughs. It was sobering to realize that the last person to look through the windshield was a young man from Rhode Island whose courage gave his crewmembers the chance to survive the war and go home to their families.

Disinterment at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific



A detail of DPAA personnel unfurl the American Flag during a disinterment ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 13, 2017. The disinterred remains were transferred to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification. (DPAA photos by Marine Corps Sgt. Lauren Falk)

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



Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency 2300
Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-2300
Phone: 703-699-1420

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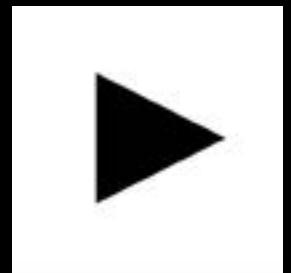
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OUR QUEST....



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

