

THE QUEST

Fall 2016



FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

THE ACTING DIRECTOR'S NOTES



This month, as you gather with family and friends, I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season. What an incredible year 2016 has been.

Serving as both the Acting Director and Principal Director over these past few months, it is an honor to serve and a privilege to be part of an incredible team of professionals who continue to give so selflessly to the success of the agency. The strides our agency has made this year -- from returning our greatest number of our nation's heroes to their families; obtaining permission to continue disinterment of unknowns from Tarawa, the USS West Virginia, and from national cemeteries foreign and domestic; to engaging hundreds of family members at our Family Member Updates (FMU), and the Vietnam War and Korean/Cold War government meetings are significant. It is evident by our results that the entire DPAA global force worked tirelessly this year towards our collective goal to account for as many of our missing as possible.

As the new year arrives in January, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to finding and accounting for our nation's missing. We will continue to pursue advances in science and technology, increase our partnerships, and use all available resources to streamline our internal and external processes. We will remain agile in our planning processes, ensuring resources match established priorities.

Many questions have been raised regarding personnel manning within the agency. We still have work to do in filling the 28 vacancies remaining out of the 67 that resulted from our reorganization. Ongoing personnel recruiting efforts continue to accelerate in order to ensure we have the necessary manpower to meet our mission responsibilities.

As an agency, we have put incredible effort into the accounting mission to reach our annual goals; however, we cannot rest on these accomplishments for there is much work to be done. Our collective dedication and willingness to work through the challenges of today will help move us through these uncertain times to increase the number of missing personnel we account for. I am thankful for what we have done and what we will continue to do in the future as we remain committed to providing the fullest possible accounting of our missing to their families and the nation. We are better than we were yesterday and tomorrow we will be even better than we are today.

Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise!



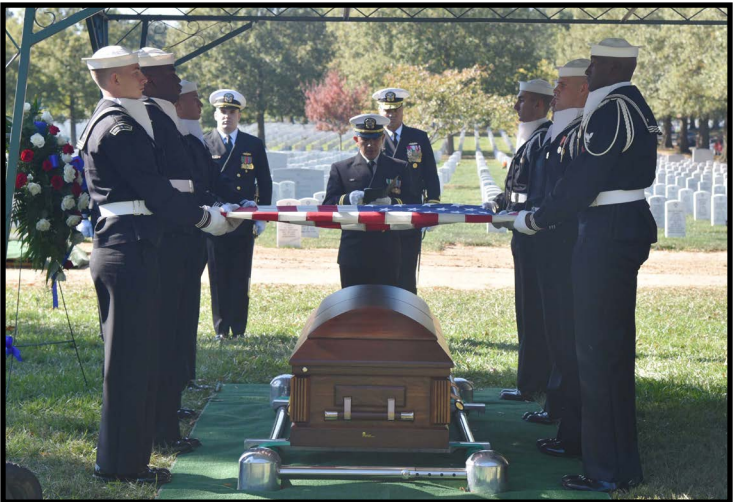
Recently Accounted For

From June 15, 2016 through December 14, 2016

WWII

Pvt. Frank F. Penna, USMC
2nd Lt. Marvin B. Rothman, USAAF
MM1C Earl Melton, USN
ENS Verdi Sederstrom, USN
Sgt. Fae V. Moore, USMC
Pfc. Wilber C. Mattern, USMC
F1C Jim H. Johnston, USN
S1C Murry R. Cargile, USN
WT1C Walter Sollie, USN
Pfc. John W. Mac Donald, USMC
Pfc. Ben H. Gore, USMC
Sgt. James J. Hubert, USMC
Pfc. Nicholas J. Cancilla, USMC
Pfc. James S. Smith, USMC
1st Lt. Ben B. Barnes, USAAF
FM1C Warren G. Nelson, USMCR
1st Lt. Robert E. Moessner, USAAF
Capt. Albert L. Schlegel, USAAF
Yeoman 3rd Class Edmund T. Ryan, USN
Seaman 2nd Class Floyd F. Clifford, USN
Seaman 1st Class Harold W. Roesch, USN
Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Holm, USN

A U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard holds the American Flag over the casket of Navy Fireman 3rd Class John H. Lindsley during his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C., Oct. 25. Lindsley was one of 429 service members killed aboard the USS *Oklahoma* when it was torpedoed in Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, DPAA)



Korea

Chief Warrant Officer Adolphus Nava, USA
Master Sgt. Charles J. Brown, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Smith, USA
Cpl. Charles A. White, USA
Cpl. Larry M. Dunn, USA
Cpl. Curtis J. Wells, USA
Master Sgt. Ira V. Miss, Jr, USA
Sgt. James L. Campbell, USA
Cpl. Ronald M. Sparks, USA
Pvt. Virgil B. Adkins, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Louis M. Baxter, USA
Cpl. David T. Nordin, USA
Cpl. Vernon D. Presswood, USA
Cpl. Wayne Minard, USA
Cpl. Donald R. Hendrickson, USA
Cpl. William H. Smith, USA
Pfc. Kenneth R. Miller, USA
Cpl. Roy C. Fink, USA
Pfc. William V. Giovanniello, USA
Pfc. Everett E. Johnson, USA
Pfc. William W. Cowan, USA
Cpl. Milton T. Bullis, USA
Cpl. Melvin R. Hill, USA
Sgt. James E. Martin, USA
Cpl. Donald E. Matney, USA
Maj. Jack D. Griffiths, USA
Pfc. Lavern C. Ullmer, USA
Pfc. Daniel Hunt, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cummings, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Harold Haugland, USA
Cpl. Lewis A. Damewood, USA
Master Sgt. Joseph Durakovich, USA
Sgt. Stafford L. Morris, USA
Cpl. Edward Pool, USA
Cpl. Gerald I. Shepler, USA
Sgt. Homer R. Abney, USA
Cpl. James T. Mainhart, USA
Cpl. George A. Perreault, USA
Cpl. Jules Hauterman, USA

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony is held the third Friday in September, to remember and honor service members who were prisoners of war or are still considered missing in action. Ceremonies were held at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Sept. 16, 2016. (Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Eric Laclair and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Erik Cardenas, DPAA)



Searching the Solomons

DPAA deploys to Soloman Islands in hopes of recovering remains of WWII pilot

Photos by Sgt. Richard DeWitt, DPAA



Above: Kyle McCormick, DPAA anthropologist, works to straighten a unit wall as part of a DPAA recovery mission in Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands, Nov. 15, 2016.

Top Left: A local village girl bites into fresh-cut sugar cane during a “Chupa Chupa,” ground-breaking ceremony, as part of a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency recovery mission in the Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands, Nov. 5, 2016. DPAA team members deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the remains of a pilot unaccounted for from the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II.

Top Right: U.S. Air Force Capt. Christopher Perez, DPAA, screens soil for possible human remains as part of a DPAA recovery mission in Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands, Nov. 15, 2016.

Bottom Right: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Martinez, an augmentee with DPAA, assigned to the 517th Airlift Squadron, removes soil from an excavation unit as part of a DPAA recovery mission in Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands, Nov. 15, 2016.

The search will continue

Commentary and photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Leah Ferrante, DPAA

QUANG TRI PROVINCE, Vietnam-- The mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is one like no other-- to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. It is a task each team member deployed by DPAA keeps near and dear to their hearts. Even though every operation does not go exactly as planned, that does not stop the search for America's fallen heroes.

Recovery Team Three, a 15-person recovery team comprised of people from multiple career fields, packed their bags and headed to a site in the Quang Tri Province in August 2016, as part of a joint field activity in Vietnam, to search for a U.S. service member who never returned from a photo-reconnaissance mission in 1970. With the site being located on complex terrain, the team faced multiple obstacles from the start.

"I knew when we pulled up to the site that this was going to be a little more challenging, more dangerous even, than I originally thought," said U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Finn West, explosive ordnance technician augmentee.

Seasonal rain had swept through central parts of Vietnam, bringing floods, making it difficult to get supplies across the river leading to the site and causing dangerous work conditions for the team. With rain came other dangers--green pit vipers, leeches feeding on personnel, bees, injuries and illness. These hazards did not stop the team from staying positive and remembering the task at hand.

"We're here to fulfill our nation's promise," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Galmines, DPAA team sergeant. "We'll leave when we've searched until we can't search anymore, despite any obstacle we run into."

Bridges were built, the rain ceased and the search continued. With the help of the local villagers, digging and screening through the muddy terrain became a base for international relationships. Despite the unfavorable conditions, people from both countries came together to complete the mission.

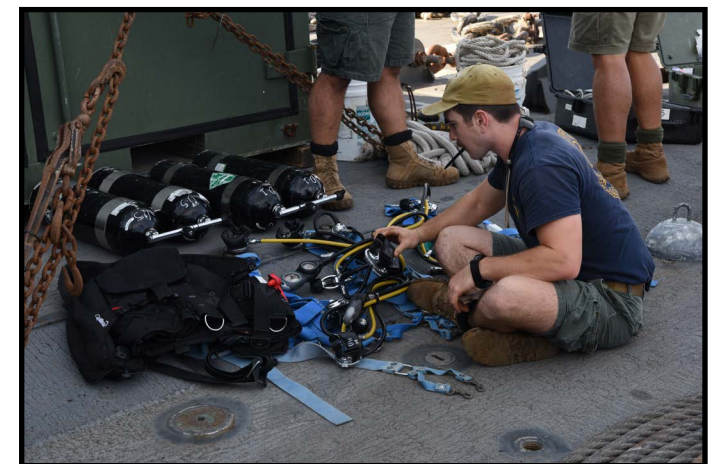
Even when missions do not go exactly how they were planned, the search will always continue until they all come home.



Members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and local villagers conduct excavation operations in the Quang Tri Province, Vietnam, August to September 2016. DPAA traveled to Quang Tri to search for a service member who never returned from a photo reconnaissance mission during the Vietnam War. With the help of local villagers, teams were able to excavate, screen, and collect evidence in hopes of identifying the missing pilot. DPAA's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Leah Ferrante, DPAA)

Diving for B-24 Liberator

Photos by Spc. Lloyd Justine Villanueva, DPAA



Top: U.S. Naval Ship Grasp (T-ARS-51) anchors to conduct an underwater recovery operation in the Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy, Sept. 24, 2016. The Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 works with DPAA to locate U.S. Service members who went missing when a B-24 Liberator crashed during WWII. The mission of DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

Bottom Left: U.S. Army Capt. Troy Davidson, second to the left, team leader, of DPAA steps into the ocean to conduct an underwater recovery operation in the Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy, Sept. 25, 2016.

Bottom Right: U.S. Navy Diver 2nd Class Kevin Kollar, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2, inspects diving equipment for the underwater recovery operation in the Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy, Sept. 23, 2016.

Pearl Harbor commemorates 75th anniversary of attack that brought America into World War II

Photos by Sgt. Jose Rodriguez Guzman
and Staff Sgt. Roy Woo, DPAA



Statistics:

Marines/Sailors killed on the USS Oklahoma: **429**

USS Oklahoma unknowns buried in the Punchbowl: **~394**

Marines/Sailors identified prior to 2015: **6**

Disinterrments in 2015: **61 caskets from 45 graves**

Identifications from 2015 disinterrments: **59 (as of Dec. 14, 2016)**

Identifications to date: **59 from 2015 disinterrment, 65 total**

(For more information and photos on the 75th Anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA/?q=DPAA>).

Upper Left: Raymond Richmond, Pearl Harbor survivor, is escorted through the USS Oklahoma Memorial representing the lost service members, on Ford Island, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 2016. This ceremony commemorated the 429 crew members who lost their lives on the USS *Oklahoma*, the second greatest loss of lives on the ships struck during the attack on Pearl Harbor, 75 years ago. Framed photographs represent the service members who have been accounted for.

Bottom Left: An attendee of the USS Oklahoma memorial ceremony places a flower on a photo of a fallen Sailor, at Ford Island, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 2016.

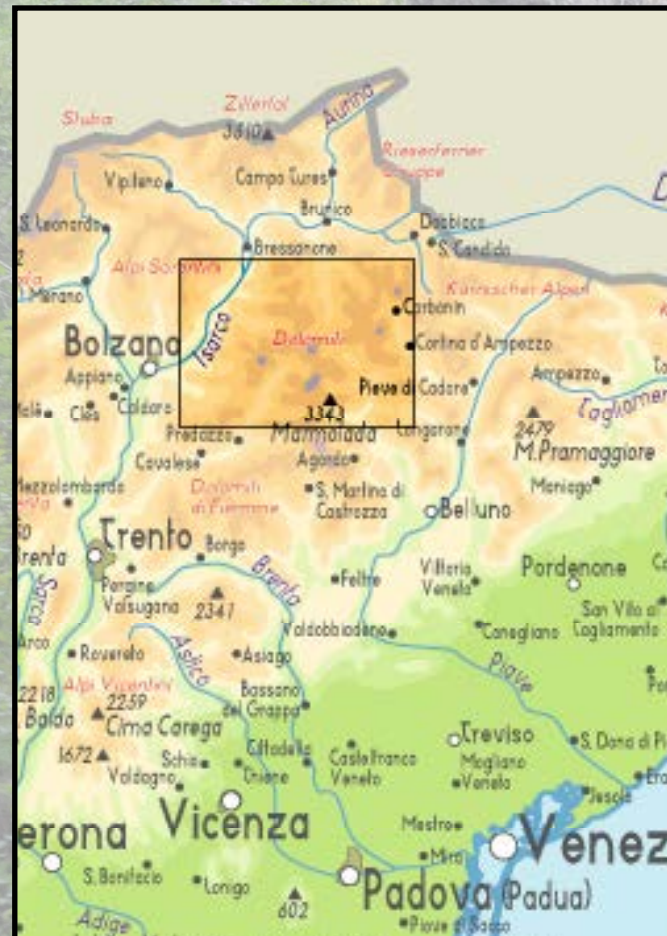
Left: A Pearl Harbor survivor poses for a photograph during the USS *Oklahoma* memorial ceremony at Ford Island, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 2016.

Upper Middle: U.S. Army Brig Gen Mark Spindler speaks at the USS *Oklahoma* memorial ceremony, Ford Island, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 2016.

Upper Right: This wreath commemorates the 429 crew members who lost their lives on the USS *Oklahoma*, during a ceremony on Ford Island, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 2016.

DPAA deploys to Dolomites

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jocelyn Ford, DPAA



Above: A map of the Dolomite region in Italy indicates where DPAA deployed in September.

Top Left: Members of DPAA screen excavated dirt in the South Tyrol Province, Italy, Sept. 23, 2016. Members of the DPAA deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the remains of a P-38 aircraft pilot unaccounted for from the World War II.

Middle Left: Hugh Tuller, an anthropologist with DPAA, calculates the position of the next stake to lay a grid in South Tyrol Province, Italy, Sept 11, 2016.

Bottom Left: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Justin Budd, DPAA operations planner, carries items to be screened from an excavation site to screening stations in the South Tyrol Province, Italy, Sept. 26, 2016.

U.S. - Russia Joint Commission continues to seek information concerning missing service members in Russian archives

Story by Henry Eastman, DPAA Historian

DPAA, through its Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD), and in support of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC), conducts research, analysis and investigations in Russia on U.S. personnel missing from past wars. Much of this work deals with material collected from Russian archives, interviews with Soviet/Russian veterans and field investigations.

The USRJC had met in plenary sessions 19 times between 1992 and 2005. This was followed by a period of 11 years where there were no plenary sessions. This break in meeting ended when JCSD hosted a Russian delegation for the 20th Plenum of the USRJC at the Pentagon Conference Center in May of this year.

During the 20th Plenum, both sides reaffirmed their willingness to assist the other side in obtaining access to information that will help clarify the status of the missing and discussed numerous issues. Over the last 25 years, progress has been made and DPAA looks forward to building relationships and routinely updating families on steps being taken.

In September, Col. Chris Forbes, Director of DPAA's Europe-Mediterranean operations, and his deputy, Heather Harris, traveled to Moscow and met with General Vostrotin, the Chairman of the Russian side of the USRJC. They discussed expanded access in Russia's Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense to Vietnam War related documents, which remain difficult to obtain because they are largely still classified.

In November 2016, Colonel Forbes traveled to Moscow to meet with USRJC Russian Side Deputy Chairman General-Colonel (retired) Alexander Kirilin and Executive Secretary Andrey Taranov to coordinate.

In the first week of December, 2016 Forbes and Svetlana Shevchenko of JCSD visited the former Soviet Republics of Ukraine and Moldova to gain access to

their archives on the Soviet involvement in the Korean War and Vietnam War.

What is next?

For each conflict, JCSD analysts have specific cases on which they have focused USRJC efforts to recover detailed information as well as general, broad requests that are intended to supply background information or new documents for analysis which have the potential to impact a large number of cases.

In addition to the specific research requests, DPAA will continue the momentum achieved with the 2016 plenum by conducting a series of technical talks with the Russian side of the commission. Those talks will support the 21st Plenum of the USRJC which is scheduled to be held in Russia in November 2017.

For more specific information related to efforts to obtain information for Vietnam, Korea, Cold War, and World War II cases, please visit the USRJC section of the DPAA website (<http://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Article-View/Article/569603/us-russia-joint-commission-on-powmias/>).



Col. Chris Forbes, wearing beige, participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Russian National Cemetery in honor of Russia's Great Patriotic War Dead, in September 2016.

Sling load mission provides supplies to DPAA

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Jamarius Fortson and Staff Sgt. Roy Woo, DPAA



Service members with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency partnered with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) on the island of Oahu in August to conduct a recovery mission in a remote area of the island where a U.S. Navy pilot went missing 70 years ago. DPAA team members deployed to the area to search for the pilot, while the 25th CAB supported supply missions.



ABMC remembers WWII pilot

Courtesy of American Battle Monuments Commission

On Dec. 5, 1944, 1st Lt. Ben B. Barnes flew his P-51 aircraft as part of the 361st Fighter Squadron, 356th Fighter Group on an escort mission to Berlin, Germany, to protect U.S. bombers. He had only been in the European theater of operations for less than six months when he took off that day. On the return flight, Barnes, along with other aircraft in his unit, encountered the enemy. His plane was last reported northeast of Berlin over Eberswalde, Germany. At the time, the area where he was last seen was a Russian-occupied zone, making it impossible for an American Graves Registration team to further investigate. Because of this, Barnes was considered missing in action, and later presumptively declared deceased.

The political situation in that area did not change after the war, still prohibiting the American government from searching for Barnes' remains. Unsure that he would ever be recovered, his name was inscribed on the Walls of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, along with more than 5,000 other Americans. American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) World War II cemeteries around the world include the names of those considered missing in action, lost or buried at sea. The cemetery where the name is etched is based on the area where the individual went missing, or near the airfield from which they flew. The U.S. government chose to do this as a permanent way to honor those that rest in unmarked graves. For more than 60 years, Barnes remained one of the many names on the wall—one of more than 82,000 Americans from World War II whose remains have never been recovered. But in 2010 the Department of Defense had a lead they hoped would result in a recovery.

A Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (now a part of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, DPAA) investigation team went to Germany in 2010 to conduct field research and interview an eye witness to the crash. The witness led investigators to the location of the wreckage, which was consistent with records from German investigators in the 1950s. With this evidence in hand, DPAA brought a recovery team to the site in 2015 to excavate. They recovered two .50-caliber machine guns as well as possible human remains, personal equipment and material evidence. The serial number on the machine guns matched those on Barnes' aircraft. With the use of mitochondrial DNA, as well as dental and anthropological analysis and circumstantial evidence, DPAA was able to identify the remains as Barnes'.

His next of kin decided to have his remains returned to Miller, South Dakota, his hometown, for permanent burial. On Oct. 15, 2016, nearly 72 years after he took his last flight, Barnes was buried with full military honors. That same month, staff at Cambridge American Cemetery in Madingley, England, placed a bronze rosette next to his name on the Wall of the Missing to denote that he had been recovered, identified and accounted for. Honoring Barnes did not end there; The Martlesham Heath Aviation Society and Control Tower Museum specifically honored him during their Remembrance Sunday ceremony on Nov. 13, 2016. To this day, the local citizens consider it a duty to honor men such as Barnes, who were based out of Martlesham Airfield during the war.



1st Lt. Ben Barnes' name appears with a bronze rosette on the Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery in Madingley, England. The recently placed rosette denotes that Barnes has been recovered, identified and accounted for. Barnes was a pilot of a P-51 aircraft when he went missing near Eberswalde, Germany during World War II.

DPAA attends American Legion 98th National Convention

Story and Photos by Tech Sgt. Jocelyn Ford, DPAA

CINCINNATI- The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) was invited to be one of 55 exhibitions at the American Legion 98th National Convention, 2016. They displayed artifacts from the Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II, as well as a video showcasing the agency’s mission.

“We welcome your presence here,” said G. Michael Schlee, American Legion National Security Commission chairman. “I know you’ve talked to Legionnaires old young, tall short, male female; and I think to a man and a woman providing the fullest possible accounting is foremost, not merely in their mind but in their hearts.”

With more than 8,000 attendees, representatives from DPAA spoke with many legionnaires during the five days the exhibit was open, hearing their stories and answering their questions.

“We’ve had a long and established relationship with the predecessor and DPAA,” said Schlee. “Keeping our membership throughout the country, albeit the world, advised on progress in the area which you folks [DPAA] do so very, very well is awfully important to us.”

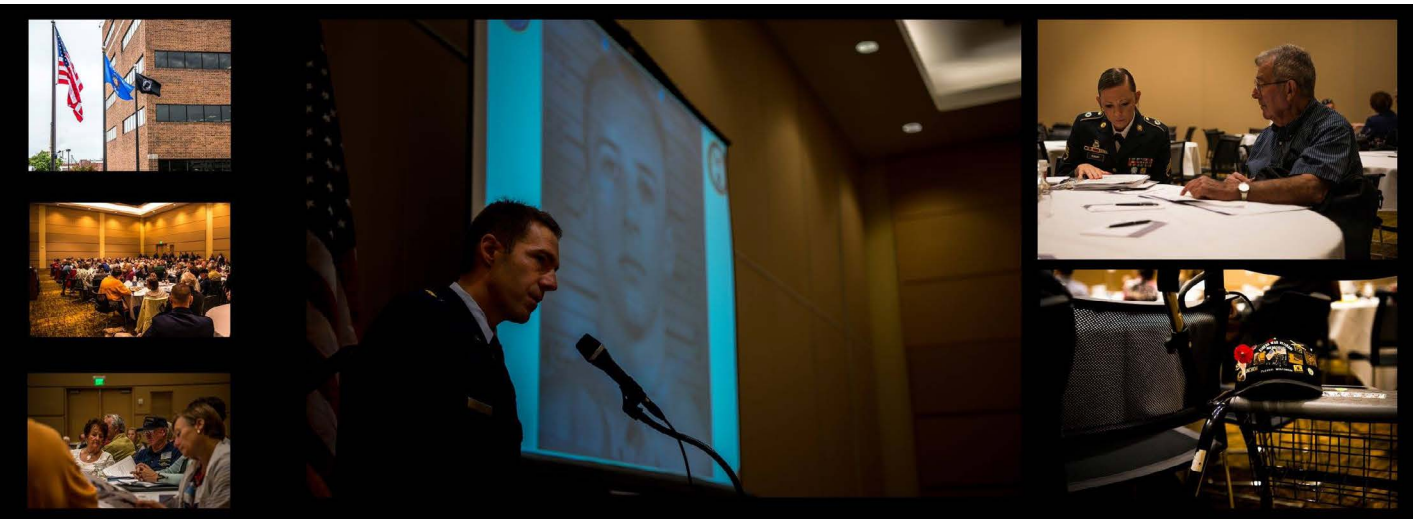
Johnie E. Webb, DPAA deputy for outreach and communications, also provided veterans with a scheduled POW/MIA update and took questions from the floor.



Top: Johnie E. Webb, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) deputy for outreach and communications, answers questions from legionnaires after giving the POW/MIA update Aug. 27, 2016, at the American Legion’s 98th National Convention in Cincinnati. DPAA attended the convention to answer questions and ensure members that DPAA’s mission continues; to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

Bottom: Members of the American Legion explore the exhibit hall Aug. 30, 2016, during the American Legion’s 98th National Convention in Cincinnati. The convention brought together more than 8,000 members to discuss positions, policies, and resolutions for the upcoming year.

Family Member Update Briefings in Green Bay and Reno



Top: Families of servicemen still missing from our nation’s past conflicts meet at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency’s Family Member Update in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Sept. 10, 2016. (Photo essay by U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Eric LaClair, DPAA)

Bottom: Families of servicemen still missing from our nation’s past conflicts meet at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency’s Family Member Update in Reno, Nevada, Nov. 19, 2016. (Photo essay by U.S. Army Sgt. Jose Rodriguez, DPAA)

Upcoming Family Member Updates

January 28, 2017
Phoenix, Arizona

May 20, 2017
Syracuse, New York

February 25, 2017
Charleston, South Carolina

June 21-24, 2017
Vietnam War Annual- Washington, D.C.

March 25, 2017
New Orleans, Louisiana

August 10-11
Korean/Cold War Annual- Washington, D.C.

April 22, 2017
Kansas City, Missouri

September 9, 2017
Detroit, Michigan



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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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Published by DPAA



Cover photo information:

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Virginia — The headstone of Sgt. 1st Class Alan Boyer, missing from the Vietnam War since 1968, and recently identified, sits several rows ahead of the headstone of 1st Lt. Loren “Doug” Hagen, in Arlington National Cemetery, Oct 17. When Boyer was declared missing in action, Hagen, Boyer’s best friend from high school, joined the Army to be assigned to the same unit, and went to Vietnam to find Boyer. Hagen was killed in action, Aug. 7, 1971. Following the identification of Boyer’s remains, he was buried in Arlington in June 2016, resting just feet away from his best friend.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus, DPAA)