

# RELENTLESS PURSUIT A DETERMINED NATION



**DPAA** YEAR IN  
REVIEW  
OCTOBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2020





120

Accounted For

Oct 1, 2019 - Sept 30, 2020

ARMY

Korean War

Pfc. Robert C. Agard, Jr.  
Cpl. Lloyd A. Alumbaugh  
Pfc. Benjamin R. Bazzell  
Cpl. Eldert J. Beek  
Pfc. Jackey D. Blosser  
Pfc. Ralph S. Boughman  
Pfc. William L. Brown  
Cpl. William E. Cavender  
Pfc. R.B. Cherry  
Pvt. Glenn E. Collins  
Pfc. Pete Conley  
Pfc. Louis N. Crosby  
Pvt. Bobbie Ray Daniels  
Cpl. Stanley L. DeWitt  
Sgt. 1st Class Harold F. Drews  
Pvt. Donald A. Fabrize  
Sgt. 1st Class James Hart  
Pfc. Billie Joe Hash  
Pfc. Henry L. Helms  
Pfc. Richard L. Henderson  
Cpl. Jesse D. Hill  
Pfc. Charles E. Hiltibran  
Pfc. Bill F. Hobbs  
Pfc. Clifford S. Johnson  
2nd Lt. Anthony R. Mazzulla  
Pfc. David B. Milano  
Pfc. Burl Mullins  
Master Sgt. James L. Quong  
1st Lt. Thomas J. Redgate  
Pfc. Francis J. Rochon  
Cpl. Billy V. Rodgers  
Cpl. James N. Stryker  
Sgt. 1st Class Frank G. Vejar  
Cpl. Kenneth E. Walker  
Pfc. Dale W. Wright

World War II

(Includes Army Air Forces)

Pvt. Charles Andrews  
Pvt. Pearl F. Barrow  
Staff Sgt. Raymond C. Blanton  
Pfc. Clarence W. Brotherton  
Pvt. James J. Cansler  
Pvt. Warren G.H. DeVault  
1st Lt. Gabriel J. Eggud  
Pvt. Wayne M. Evans  
Pvt. William D. Hedtke

Sgt. John E. Hurlburt  
Pfc. Oliver Jeffers  
2nd Lt. George M. Johnson  
Tech. Sgt. Max W. Lower  
Staff Sgt. Charles G. McMackin  
2nd Lt. William H. Melville  
Pfc. Anthony F. Mendonca  
Pvt. Horace Middleton  
Sgt. John V. Phillips  
1st Lt. Ernest L. Roth  
Pfc. John J. Sitarz  
2nd Lt. Earl W. Smith  
2nd Lt. Lowell S. Twedt  
Pfc. James W. White

NAVY

World War II

F3c Welborn L. Ashby  
Coxwain Layton T. Banks  
F3c William L. Barnett  
Coxswain Paul L. Boemer  
Ship's Cook 1st Class Rodger C. Butts  
Shipfitter 3rd Class Patrick L. Chess  
S1c James M. Flanagan  
Firecontrolman 2nd Class George Gilbert  
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class George M. Gooch  
S1c Wesley E. Graham  
Radioman 3rd Class Thomas E. Griffith  
S2c Floyd D. Helton  
Musician 1st Class Joseph W. Hoffman  
F3c Herbert B. Jacobson  
F1c Edward D. Johnson  
S2c Charles A. Jones  
F2c William P. Kubinec  
Hospital Apprentice 1st Class John M. Mulick  
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Alphard S. Owsley  
Mess Attendant 3rd Class Isaac Parker  
Shipfitter 1st Class Charles F. Perdue  
Radioman 3rd Class Irvin F. Rice  
S1c Russell C. Roach  
Metalsmith 1st Class Leonard F. Smith  
S1c Maurice V. Spangler  
F1c Samuel C. Steiner  
Firecontrolman 3rd Class Robert T. Stout  
Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Shelby Treadway  
F1c Louis J. Tushla

Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Alton W. Whitson  
S1c James C. Williams  
S2c Bernard R. Wimmer  
S2c Everett G. Windle  
F1c Rex E. Wise

MARINE CORPS

Korean War

Pfc. Henry E. Ellis

World War II

Pfc. Frank L. Athon  
Pfc. Elden R. Baumbach  
Pvt. Jacob Cruz  
Cpl. Elmer E. Drefahl  
Pfc. John M. Fahy  
Sgt. Fred Farris  
1st Lt. Hugh D. Fricks  
Pfc. Mervin D. Galland  
Pfc. John E. Gillen  
Pfc. Harold W. Hayden  
Pfc. John W. Hoffman  
Pfc. Robert D. Jenks  
Pfc. Thomas F. Johnson  
Pfc. John P. Langan  
Pfc. Charles D. Miller  
Pvt. Howard E. Miller  
Sgt. George R. Reeser  
Pvt. Jack R. Stambaugh  
Sgt. Donald D. Stoddard  
Gunnery Sgt. Arthur B. Summers  
Cpl. Raymond J. Tuhey

AIR FORCE

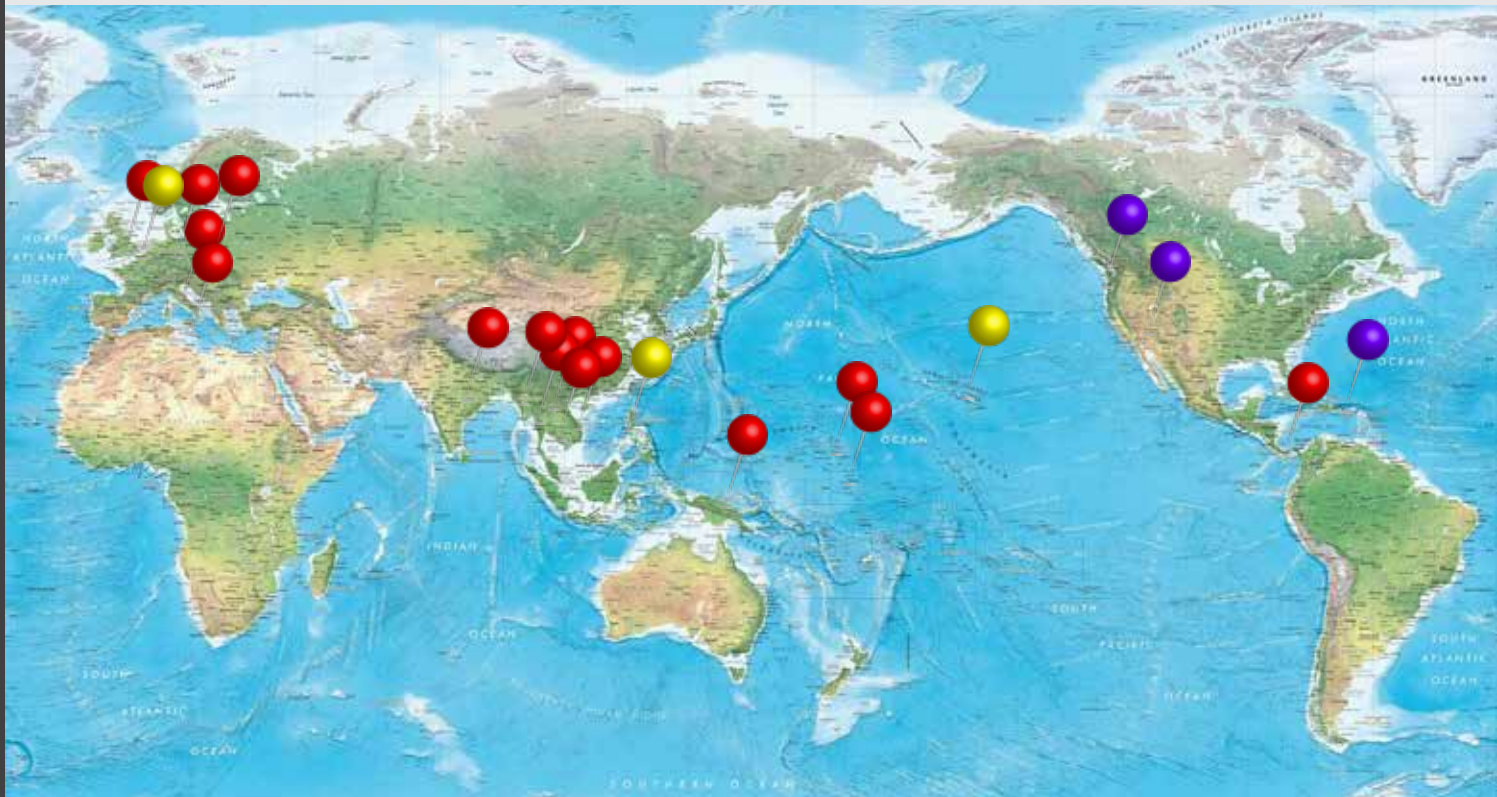
Vietnam War

Maj. Paul A. Avolese  
1st Lt. Alva R. Krogman

Note: This page contains the names of 116 of the 120 Americans DPAA accounted for in FY 2020. The names of the remaining 4 are not included as their families are pending notification.

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

## Overcoming Adversity to Find Success



The red pins in the map indicate locations where DPAA conducted investigation or recovery missions. The yellow pins represent disinterments locations, and the purple pins highlight the locations of Family Member Updates.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) barreled into Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 at break-neck speed, coming off of a strong year in FY 2019, in which we accounted for 217 Department of Defense personnel missing from our past conflicts.

We were conducting investigation and recovery missions all over the world. We were partnering with more organizations than ever before in order to accomplish our noble mission. Our goal was to increase the pace we achieved the previous year, and we were well on our way to achieving this.

Then, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) struck the world. By the middle of March, most of the U.S. and our partner countries had begun to restrict travel and entry. With our people's safety at the top of our mind, we recalled all of our investigation and recovery teams to their home stations, future missions were postponed or canceled as were Family Member Updates (FMUs), and we went to maximum telework.

Despite not being in our offices, we kept working. Our laboratories devised a way to continue their forensic analyses while maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols. Our historians and analysts kept researching

cases to present them for investigation or recovery, and we continued to stay connected to our families seeking answers. The rest of the agency kept the wheels turning in their respective areas so we would remain ready to deploy and conduct field activities once COVID-19 eased its grip.

We were also able to host or participate in some significant events with proper COVID-19 safety protocols followed. We repatriated the remains of 147 South Korean service members to the Republic of Korea during a ceremony in Hawaii in June. We honored all POWs and missing DoD personnel in several POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies, one at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and one at our facility in Hawaii, both of which were streamed online, as well as at our three Southeast Asia detachments. We were able to repatriate the remains of more than 50 Unknowns disinterred from American cemeteries or recovered by partner organizations in Europe.

By the end of FY 2020, we overcame our curtailed operations and were still able to account for 120 unaccounted-for DoD personnel, in spite of the extraordinary circumstances that has profoundly affected the world.

# October

FY 2020 launched with investigation and recovery operations in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Kiribati, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Italian Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of India, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Agency had as many as 164 personnel deployed in support of organic missions, as well as partner missions. Additionally, the agency conducted 16 disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Opposite page: East Carolina University (ECU) conducted an underwater recovery mission associated with a World War II aircraft loss in the Republic of the Marshall Islands Sept. 24 - Oct. 14. The mission took place at a depth of 118 feet and warranted the use of three different types of diving technologies. Surface supplied diving rigs allowed divers to safely conduct heavy tasks while maximizing time on the seabed; closed circuit rebreathers provided extended bottom times for photographic documentation of the site; and open circuit SCUBA was employed by archaeologists to complete site inspections and mapping. The use of each of these technologies combined with the competency and technical knowledge of all diving supervisors and divers created a safe and productive workplace. The ECU Program in Maritime Studies, the ECU Office of Diving and Water Safety, Professional Diving Services, and the Marshall Islands' Bureau of Ocean Energy Management provided critical support for this important mission.

*Photo by John McCord, ECU Coastal Studies Institute*





## KOREAN WAR DISINTERMENT PROJECT

Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante

U.S. service members assigned to DPAA participate in a disinterment ceremony held at NMCP, Honolulu, Hawaii, Oct. 21. Eight caskets were exhumed during DPAA's second disinterment of the FY, continuing efforts to identify remains of unknown service members lost during the Korean War as part of Phase 2 of the agency's Korean War Disinterment Project. Since almost 20 percent of the missing who are estimated to be recoverable are buried as Unknowns in U.S.-controlled cemeteries at home and abroad, DPAA executes a rigorous and successful program to disinter remains for the purpose of identification.



## HOST NATION SUPPORT

Photo by Lt. Col. Trevor Gersten, U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark

Danish Navy divers investigate a possible American World War II bomber aircraft off the coast of Denmark, Oct. 10. Danish Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams dived on the wreck site to remove and detonate aircraft's ordnance. The dive teams also searched for correlating data to support DPAA's research efforts. The Danish Navy team was accompanied by members of the U.S. Embassy-Copenhagen. DPAA partners with 46 nations to search for missing Americans from past conflicts.



## VIETNAM RECOVERY

Photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Aliah Reyes, a DPAA recovery team (RT) NCO, sifts through soil looking for evidence during a recovery mission in Lang Son Province, Vietnam, Oct. 29. The DPAA team was one of eight teams operating in Laos and Vietnam, totaling 130 personnel, conducting recovery and investigation missions in search of service members who went missing in action during the Vietnam War.



## ABMC DEDICATION

Photo by ABMC Public Affairs

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) officially opened a new interpretive visitor center at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) Oct. 19. (From left to right) Chargé d'Affaires John Law, ABMC Commissioner Robert Wefald, Superintendent of the Pacific Larry Adkison, and DPAA Director Kelly McKeague conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility. The ABMC manages and maintains 26 cemeteries and 30 federal memorials, monuments, and commemorative plaques throughout the world, and is a key DPAA partner.







2019

# November

This month, DPAA held a FMU in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and conducted investigation and recovery operations in the Republic of Kiribati, the Italian Republic, the Republic of India, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Kingdom of Thailand. The Agency deployed 163 personnel supporting organic and partner missions, and conducted 16 disinterments from the NMCP in Honolulu and 40 from the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) in the Republic of the Philippines.

Opposite page: Phillipe Ritter, son of recently accounted for George Ritter, puts a C-123 aircraft pin on his father's remains box during a Chain of Custody at the DPAA facility on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Nov. 19, 2019. Ritter was an Air America pilot flying a C-123 on Dec. 27, 1971, when the aircraft went down for unknown reasons in Laos. Ritter, two other two Americans, and one Lao national were killed in the crash. All three U.S. crewmen were identified and accounted for by DPAA in 2018.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall*







### SAN JUAN FMU

Photo by Sgt. Jaqueline Clifford

Fern Sumpter-Winbush, DPAA's Principle Deputy Director, and U.S. Army Capt. Fabiola Castro, a DPAA recovery team leader, speak to family members of missing Americans during the FMU in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Nov. 2. Nearly 40 family members attended the FMU to stay informed on current DPAA operations as well as to share their own stories of loved ones still missing from past conflicts. While in Puerto Rico, DPAA also met with strategic partners, local government leaders, and DoD personnel. This is the first time since 2012 DPAA has held an FMU in San Juan.



### ITALY PARTNERSHIP RECOVERY

Photo by Janine Scianna

Naval Air Station Sigonella Sailors and University of Illinois at Chicago archaeology students screen soil for osseous material and artifacts during a DPAA recovery excavation in Sicily, Nov. 16. Sailors from the Public Works department volunteered to assist the efforts of the university research team to find missing Americans unaccounted for from World War II.



### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Khang Tran, a DPAA recovery team NCO, teaches children to play a board game during a recovery mission in Lang Son Province, Vietnam, Nov. 19. Developing relationships with the locals in countries where investigation and recovery teams work is one of the important keys to being able to locate our missing Department of Defense personnel.



### LAOS RECOVERY

Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Crul

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Laura Olague carries buckets during a recovery mission in Sekong Province, Laos, Nov. 6. A DPAA team deployed to the area in hopes of recovering the remains of two missing U.S. service members unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. DPAA teams would not be able to successfully operate in Laos without the cooperation of the Lao government officials and villagers who assist the teams.



2019

# December

DPAA executed investigation and recovery operations in the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of India, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Panama, and the Republic of Poland. The Agency deployed 143 personnel supporting organic and partner missions. Additionally, the Agency conducted eight disinterments from the NMCP in Honolulu.

Opposite page: The *USS William P. Lawrence* (DDG 110) renders honors during the 78th Commemoration of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 2019. The ship is named for Vice Admiral Lawrence (1930-2005), Naval Aviator, Mercury Astronaut finalist, and Vietnam War prisoner of war. Lawrence received the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Medal, the nation's third highest military award, for his inspirational leadership while in captivity. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet in support of security and stability operations in the Indo-Pacific Region. Cmdr. Dawn Allen is the commanding officer aboard the *William P. Lawrence*.

*Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy*







### USRJC IN MOSCOW

Photo by Senior Chief Petty Officer Ariana Ramirez

The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) on POW/MIAs met in Moscow on Dec. 12, to conduct Technical Talks regarding POW/MIA cases from the Cold War and Korean War. The U.S. delegation was led by Timothy Shea, Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe and Eurasia; and U.S. Army Col. Frank Tank, Director, DPAA Europe-Mediterranean Directorate. DPAA supports the USRJC through the Joint Commission Support Division, which provides administrative and analytic support and collaborates with its Russian counterparts on POW/MIA cases from America's past conflicts.

### FINAL HOMECOMING

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Claire Farin

(From left to right) Kelly McKeague, DPAA's Director, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations, and other DPAA members render honors during an Honorable Carry at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Dec. 4. The case containing possible remains of U.S. service members lost during the Vietnam War were recovered from sites in Southeast Asia and will be examined by scientists at DPAA's skeletal identification laboratory.



### ARLINGTON FUNERAL

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everett

U.S. Army Cpl. Earl H. Markle, killed during the Korean War, was buried Dec. 10, at Arlington National Cemetery. Markle was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, and he was not reported as a prisoner of war. Following the 2018 Summit between President Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim, North Korea turned over 55 boxes purported to contain the remains of U.S. service members killed during the Korean War. Markle was identified from among these boxes. As of Sept. 30, 2020, 69 Americans have been identified from the 55 boxes.



### BAY OF SZCZECIN, POLAND

Photo by Matthew DeFelice

DPAA underwater archaeologists, Dr. Piotr Bojakowski and Kara Davis, view EOD clearing operations conducted by the Dutch company, BODAC, in the Bay of Szczecin, Poland, in December 2019. Representatives from multiple DPAA directorates conducted a joint investigation mission with the Polish Maritime Office and Poland's Institute of National Remembrance to assess potential cases for recovery.





# Europe-Mediterranean

Field operations in the Europe-Mediterranean (EM) region were significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which began to spread at the same time DPAA typically increases operations in Europe as we move from winter into spring. Prior to the onset of pandemic related travel restrictions, DPAA conducted six terrestrial investigations in Italy, Panama, Poland, and the United Kingdom. The Panama mission involved a 1985 A-6E loss, which the U.S. Navy requested DPAA lead. EM's other recovery missions planned for FY 2020 are now planned for future execution.

In a hopeful sign that we will be able to resume full operations soon, in July and August, we were able

to resume disinterment operations, completing 40 of an originally planned 85 disinterments of Unknowns from American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemeteries. This resumption of disinterment operations allowed DPAA to conclude exhumations of all unknown remains associated with losses from our 1943 U.S. Army Air Forces campaign against German-controlled oil refineries in Ploesti, Romania.

EM personnel have made the most of this unplanned pause in field operations, refining and improving our capabilities to work together remotely, brushing up our language and planning skills, and focusing our efforts on case progression through in-depth research.

Research Investigation in England, Photo by Christine Cohn



# Indo-Pacific

In FY 2020, the Indo-Pacific (IP) Regional Directorate planned 33 Joint Field Activities (JFAs) consisting of 34 organic Recovery Teams (RT), 21 Investigation Teams (IT), and 23 disinterment missions. Due to COVID-19, the IP team was only able to execute 10 JFAs comprised of 18 RTs (53%), 8 ITs (38%), and 11 disinterment missions (48%). IP completed 9 disinterment missions at the NMCP and two at the MACM, repatriating 72 and 55 sets of remains, respectively, totaling 127 sets of remains for FY 2020.

In Southeast Asia, the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) mitigated the lack of U.S. teams by increasing the number of unilateral recoveries from one to three in both May and July. This was the first time the Government of Vietnam deployed more than one RT during a JFA and was made possible by

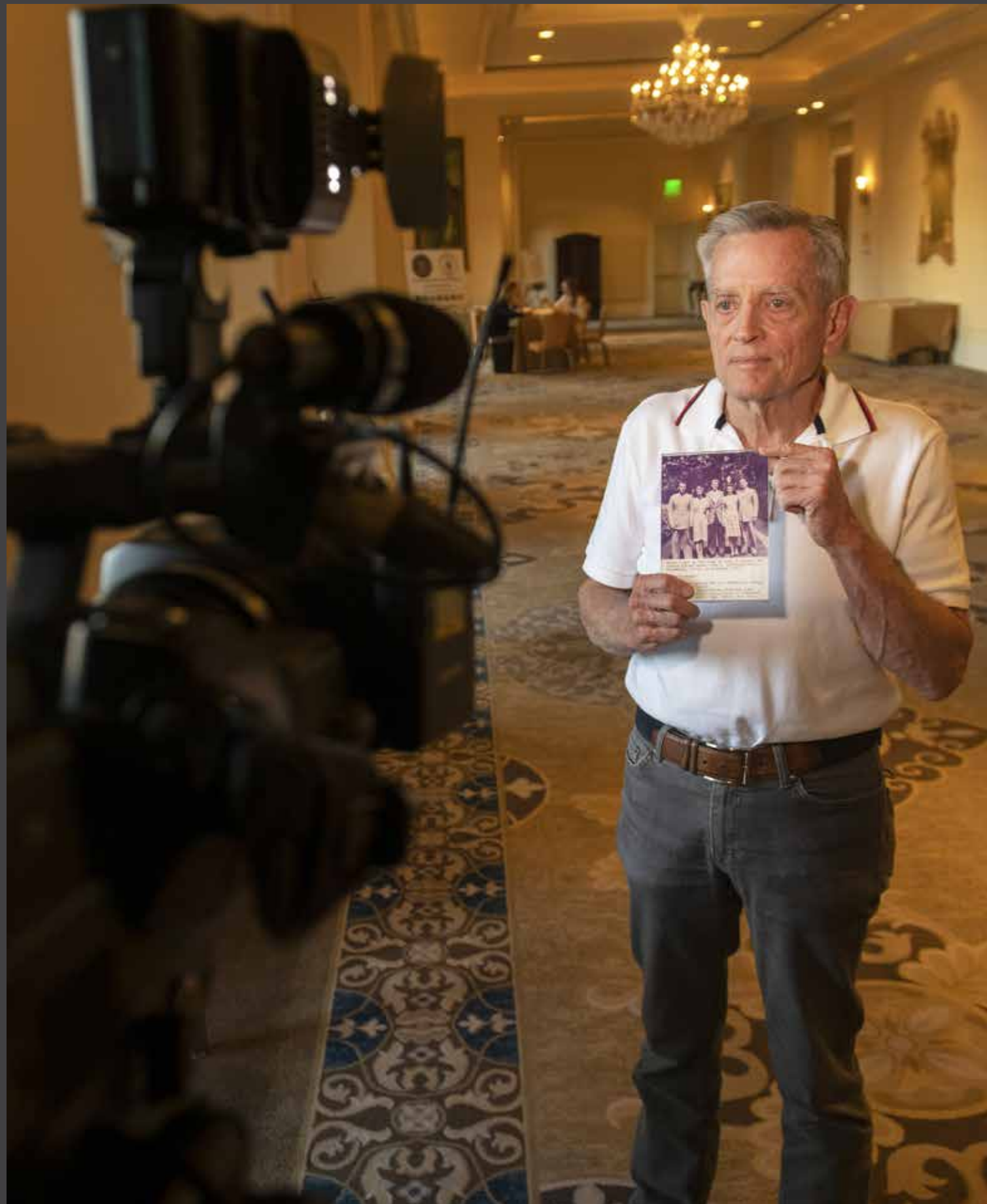
training DPAA provided them last year.

IP also conducted one organic recovery mission in Myanmar (Burma). The Korea team developed a process of sharing information with DPAA's strategic partner and Republic of Korea counterpart, the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI), to identify areas where Americans were lost fighting in the Korean War and to initiate planning for joint work in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Building on research lessons learned, the IP team added bi-annual World War II Case Coordination Conferences this year in addition to the existing Korean War and Southeast Asia Conferences. IP further developed internal research projects for Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

Myanmar Recovery  
Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter







2020

# January

As the New Year kicked off, the Agency held a FMU just outside of Las Vegas in Henderson, Nevada. Also conducted were investigation and recovery operations in the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Philippines, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Panama, and the Italian Republic. The agency deployed 120 personnel supporting organic and partner missions, as well as conducted 14 disinterments from the MACM in the Philippines and 8 from the NMCP in Honolulu.

Opposite page: U.S. Army Lt. Col. (Retired) Rex Lucas holds a photograph picturing his uncle, who is still unaccounted for from World War II, while being interviewed by a local news station during the Henderson, Nevada FMU, Jan. 25. More than 200 family members gathered for a one-day event presented by the DPAA, along with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) and Service Casualty Offices (SCOs), to communicate with families of loved ones who are missing from America's past conflicts dating back to World War II.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal*







**FUNERAL PROCESSION**  
Photo by Elizabeth Fraser, Arlington  
National Cemetery Public Affairs

U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Michael Kocopy, lost in the Battle of Tarawa and recovered by DPAA partner History Flight, Inc., is given a funeral escort by the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon; "The President's Own" Marine Band; and Marines Corps Honor Guard from the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. at Arlington National Cemetery on Jan. 30.



**LABORATORY TOUR**  
Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class  
Alexander Kubitzka

Dr. Laurel Freas (left), a DPAA forensic anthropologist, provides a tour of the DPAA laboratory to Robyn Modly, wife of the Honorable Thomas Modly, Acting Secretary of the Navy, during her visit to the facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 16. Mrs. Modly visited the lab to further understand the DPAA mission of providing the fullest possible accounting of missing personnel to their families and the nation.



**PHILIPPINE RECOVERY**  
Photo by Mass Communications  
Specialist 1st Class Claire Farin

DPAA team members excavate a unit during a recovery mission in Bataan Province, Republic of the Philippines, Jan. 21. The DPAA team was in the area in search of an alleged secondary burial site possibly associated with missing personnel lost during the Bataan Peninsula conflict of World War II.



**JAPANESE DIGNITARY HONORS FALLEN**  
Photo by Sgt. Angelica Vasquez

The Honorable Katsunobu Kato (center), Japanese Minister of Health, Labor, and Welfare, pays his respects during a wreath laying in honor of the missing as part of a ceremony at the NMCP, Honolulu, Jan. 10. He was accompanied by U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations (left), and Jim Horton, Director of the NMCP (right). The ceremony honored the losses of U.S. service members incurred in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



2020

# February

The year's shortest month didn't fall short in the work DPAA accomplished. The Agency conducted investigation and recovery missions in the Republic of Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. DPAA deployed 142 personnel supporting organic and partner operations. DPAA also held a FMU in Portland, Oregon, and conducted 16 disinterments from the NMCP in Honolulu.

Opposite page: U.S. Army Capt. Michael Watson, a DPAA recovery team leader, greets the Honorable Patrick Murphy, the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, during an agency recovery mission in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia, Feb. 1. During his visit, the ambassador spoke with DPAA recovery team members and local nationals, and witnessed the recovery efforts for a missing U.S. service member lost during the Vietnam War. The Agency's work in here is aided by decades of cooperation from the government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank*







## PORTLAND ROTC VISIT

Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante

DPAA and AFMES members pose for a group photo with Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets from the University of Portland and Portland State University Feb. 20. The cadets received briefs on the missions and capabilities of DPAA and AFMES, and learned about the world wide mission to account for the DoD personnel still missing from our past conflicts.

## DNA COLLECTION

Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante

Lalana Taylor, an AFMES DNA analyst, collects DNA with a cheek swab from a family member of a missing service member during the Portland, Oregon, FMU Feb. 22. More than 250 family members, representing 137 losses, attended the FMU to find out what DPAA and its partners, like AFMES, are doing to find their loved ones. They also received one-on-one briefings from DPAA analysts and historians, and Service Casualty Officers on their specific cases.



## LAOS RECOVERY

Photo by Staff Sgt. James Thompson

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Timothy McSheehy, a DPAA recovery NCO, breaks up the earth of an excavation site during a joint field activity (JFA) in Khammaouan Province, Laos, Feb. 10. A recovery team operated here in search of the remains of missing U.S. service members lost during the Vietnam War. As of the end of February, there were still 1,587 service members and civilians missing in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War.



## PUNCHBOWL DISINTERMENT

Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations, participates in a disinterment held at the NMCP Feb. 10. This was DPAA's eighth disinterment of the FY, part of Phase 2 of the Korean War Disinterment Project, which concluded on Feb. 24. The 7-phased project's goal is to disinter the remains of all the Korean War Unknowns for the purpose of identification.





# Partnerships & Innovations

The Partnerships and Innovations (PI) Directorate managed existing partners or conducted negotiations with a total of 152 institutions in FY 2020. These efforts led to the finalization of 15 new partnership arrangements with external entities. PI also expanded the geographic basis of its pool of partners by focusing on organizations based abroad, with the aim of facilitating local access and reducing mission costs.

In FY 2020, DPAA planned to conduct 43 partner missions; however, because of safety concerns and host-nation travel restrictions brought on by COVID-19, only 15 of those missions were able to be executed. It was encouraging that partner investigations in Germany and Papua New Guinea as well as an underwater recovery off Croatia were able to be conducted in the last quarter. Additionally, PI was able to reschedule the FY 2020 postponed missions and anticipates a large surge effort in FY 2021.

Some highlights from the field include the History Flight Group’s on-going activities in Tarawa; the University of Illinois at Chicago’s (UIC) multiple field missions in the Philippines and Laos (DPAA and UIC also established the basis for a multi-year initiative in the Philippines that will allow for a more comprehensive approach to future missions there); Scripps Institute of Oceanography’s productive investigation off the coast of Vietnam; and Deep Sea Productions and the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command collaboration on a no-cost-to-DPAA underwater investigation off Latvia.

PI also reinvigorated the “Hub & Spoke” military history program that incorporates the research and networking potential of individuals embedded in 12 academic and research institutions across the U.S. These partners currently are working on nearly 30 research requests from directorates across DPAA.

Papua New Guinea village where a DPAA partner conducted an investigation mission.  
Photo by Dr. Matthew Leavesley, University of PNG



# DPAA Laboratory

The DPAA Laboratory continued to identify missing DoD personnel during FY 2020, despite a near total telework posture for more than half the year. Yet, in accounting for 120 missing Americans, DPAA exceeded half of last year’s total. The in-progress integration of the new laboratory information systems, a critical component of the Agency’s Case Management System, allowed for work to continue across our geographically distributed workforce and enabled laboratory personnel to sustain forensic operations throughout the FY. DPAA scientists continued to advance isotope analysis, which provides expedient and cost effective methods that aid the analytical processes.

The DPAA Laboratory maintained its high standards

by successfully passing another surveillance visit and external audit in November 2019 by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB). The visit contained three scope expansions as well as a new building location in Hawaii. The Nebraska facility added Odontology and Chest Radiographic Comparison as areas of expertise, and, in Hawaii, a “geographic profile” category, Isotope Analysis (for preparation and interpretation), was added to their scope of work. DPAA became the first DoD laboratory to achieve accreditation under ANAB for Isotope Analysis, and joins only one other laboratory, the Drug Enforcement Agency, to achieve this.

Isotope Analysis, Photo by Staff Sgt. James Thompson







2020

# March

March is usually the beginning of DPAA's high operational tempo season, but COVID-19 put most of those plans on hold by the middle of the month, including cancellation of the FMU in Miami, Florida. Before operations had to be curtailed, however, it was business as usual. DPAA leaders held key engagements in the Indo-Pacific Region, and the Agency completed investigation and recovery operations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Panama, and the Republic of Poland. DPAA deployed 153 personnel supporting organic and partner missions.

DPAA also conducted 8 disinterments from the NMCP in Honolulu.

Opposite page: Howard Mariteragi, a DPAA life support investigator, looks at possible material evidence during a unilateral turn-over in Kon Tum Province, Vietnam, March 8. Items, such as this spoon from a mess kit or parts from an aircraft, aid DPAA scientists in their forensic analyses of an excavation site, the association with a service member, and the subsequent identification.

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class*

*Claire Farin*







**MYANMAR REPATRIATION**  
 Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class  
 Seth Coulter

DPAA members conduct a repatriation ceremony in Mandalay, Myanmar, Mar. 12, while local media take photos. The recovered remains are believed to be of unaccounted-for Americans lost during World War II, and were transported by U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster to the DPAA lab at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for analysis and potential identification.

**PUNCHBOWL FUNERAL**  
 Photo by Staff Sgt. Jamarius Fortson

The spouse of William Hall, nephew of U.S. Navy Seaman Apprentice Hubert P. Hall, puts flowers on Hubert's casket during his funeral at the NMCP on March 17. Hubert was assigned to the *USS Oklahoma*, which sustained fire and multiple torpedo hits from Japanese aircraft, causing the ship to capsize, and resulting in the deaths of over 400 crew members on Dec. 7, 1941. He was accounted for on Aug. 14, 2018.



**VIETNAM RECOVERY**  
 Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class  
 Tyler Thompson

U.S. Navy EOD Technician 2nd Class George Barney, a DPAA diver, searches for unexploded ordnance March 2 during an underwater recovery operation searching for personnel who went missing off the coast of Ha Long Bay, Quảng Ninh Province, Vietnam, during the Vietnam War.



**RESEARCH AWARD**  
 Photo by Staff Sgt. James Thompson

Dr. Gregory E. Berg, DPAA's Scientific Analysis Directorate lab manager, weighs a portion of a test specimen in DPAA's Isotope Lab on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, March 9. Berg received this year's prestigious Ellis R. Kerley Research Award for research in intraperson variation in isotopic values, which is directly linked with the establishment of the first DoD ANAB-accredited isotope laboratory, which is housed in DPAA's facility.

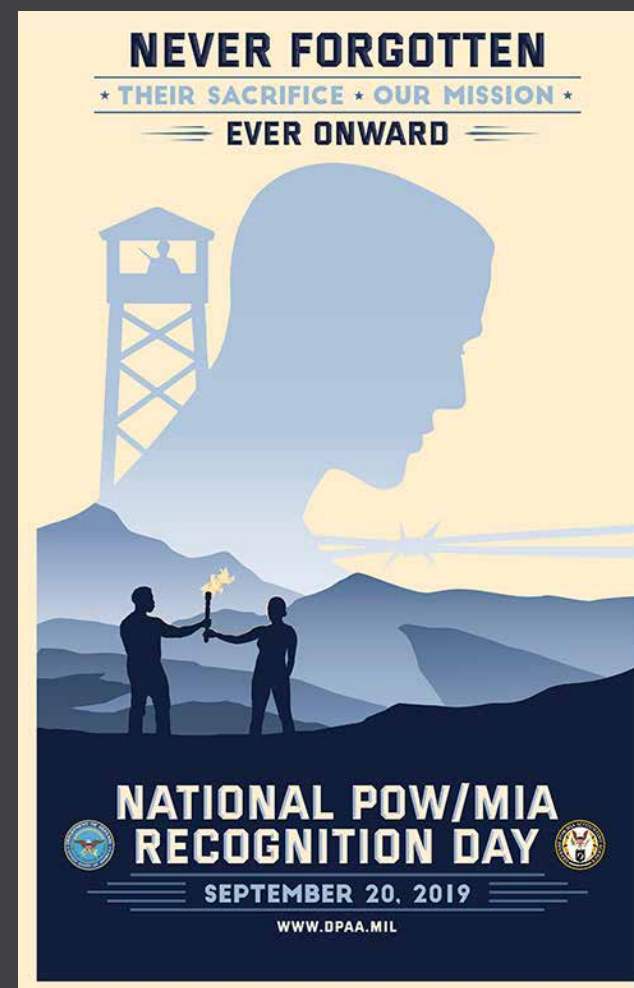


2020

# April

This month, COVID-19 significantly impacted daily operations agency-wide. We canceled the Little Rock, Arkansas, FMU, as well as missions to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Philippines, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Italian Republic, the French Republic, and the Republic of Poland. While the majority of our personnel were teleworking from their homes, some of our medics assisted local military hospitals and clinics with the COVID-19 response, and our laboratories developed a schedule so our scientists could still work in shifts while practicing safe distancing.

Opposite page: Three DPAA service members were named winners in their respective Services' yearly media awards in April. (Top) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall won 1st in the News Photo Category of the Air Force's Command Master Sgt. Douglas W. Morrell Media Awards with her photo of an Airman walking on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, after a rainfall and framed by a C-17 Globemaster after it returned from Papua New Guinea. (Bottom Left) U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tyler Thompson placed 2nd in the Graphic Design - Digital Art Category of the 2019 Russell Egor Navy Media Awards for the 2019 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster he created. (Bottom Right) U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter won 1st in the Photo - Feature Category of the Navy awards for his photo of DPAA service members conducting a disinterment ceremony at the NMCP in Honolulu.





## DPAA Working From Home

Because of COVID-19, much of the agency's work force had to begin teleworking during the month, but still making the mission happen from the safety of their homes. (Top) Gabe Zinni works in Policy and Plans, and is making sure both he and his son, Gabriel III, get their work done from their lanai at their Hawaii home. (Bottom left) Laretta Anastasia Edamivoh is DPAA's Front Office Executive Assistant, making sure everything is running smoothly for agency leadership in Washington, D.C. (Bottom right) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sharonda Jones, part of the Joint Military Manpower/Personnel Actions Section, ensures DPAA's human resources needs are met while her son, Kameron, works on his school tablet.



## SUPPORTING THE FORCE

Photo by Maj. Christine Harris, Director of Nursing, Family Medicine Clinic, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii

U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Westley Gorman, assigned to DPAA, conducts a patient assessment in the Respiratory Triage Tent at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), Hawaii, April 6, 2020. Fourteen DPAA medics assisted TAMC during the COVID-19 response, working directly in the tent TAMC set up to process and treat possible victims of the virus.



## DPAA SPOTLIGHT - Historians and Research Analysts

Every loss of an American from one of our past conflicts begins with one question: where are they? DPAA's historians and analysts are the cold case investigators who answer that question. They are the researchers who find all of the information possible regarding a specific loss, summarize that information, and then use it to determine if it will be possible to find the person in question.

"Historians and analysts start the process that can lead to investigations, excavations, disinterments, and, ultimately, identifications," said Dr. Andrew Speelhoffer, a DPAA IP historian. "If I don't do my job, my colleagues in IP, Expeditionary Support, the lab, and Outreach and Communications can't do theirs."

Their job isn't just poring over archival documents and books, however. Some of these researchers also go into the field to lead or take part in investigations.

"We interview witnesses, conduct local archival research in city archives, churches, and cemeteries, and we assist the investigation team's assigned Scientific Recovery Expert (SRE) during a survey of any possible crash or burial sites," said Joshua Frank, a DPAA Europe-Mediterranean (EM) Directorate analyst.

"If the information we gained leads us to believe that we can find a missing service member by excavating the surveyed site, we work with our SRE to propose the site to DPAA leadership for excavation," said Frank.

All of their work doesn't just go to excavation and recovery teams. It also goes to the families.

"Researchers create the written summaries that are provided to family members that explain their loved ones' circumstances of loss, the history of DPAA and its predecessor organizations' work to find their loved ones, and the agency's next steps to provide resolution to their loved ones' losses," said Frank.

In short, everything DPAA does to recover the missing starts with historians and analysts.

"We are history detectives using historical information gathered from all over the world to determine what happened to a missing American service member, why they were not recovered, and what we can do to find them now," said Dr. Ian Spurgeon, an EM historian.





2020

# May

COVID-19 continued to impact our daily operations. We canceled the Chicago FMU and scheduled disinterments, as well as missions to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Kiribati, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Republic of Austria. The majority of the Agency continued to work from home, and our medics kept up their assistance to local military hospitals.

Opposite page: One of the ways DPAA honors those who are or were unaccounted for from our past conflicts is by posting Personnel Profiles for these service members on the Agency website. These profiles depend on family members and the public for photographs, all of which can be uploaded through the site at [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil). These are 30 of the 80 service member photographs submitted in May.





## DPAA SPOTLIGHT - The USS Oklahoma Project

The *USS Oklahoma* Project, while slowed by COVID-19, spotlighted a DPAA first and hit a major milestone.

On May 27, Dr. Carrie Brown, the DPAA Laboratory Manager at Offutt Air Force Base (AFB), Nebraska, became the first DPAA member to participate in a live, public webinar when she was the guest speaker on an episode of Pacific Historic Park's History Talks web series, which was entitled "Until They All Come Home." She spoke about DPAA's mission and how that mission is accomplished before diving into specifics about the project. More than 120 people virtually attended the presentation that was made up of a lecture and question-and-answer session.

Brown said she was very happy with how the event turned out.

"I was really appreciative of the ability to answer questions at the end of the lecture, because you don't get the interaction during the lecture that you would if it were in a room full of people," said Brown.

During the presentation, Brown revealed the *USS Oklahoma* Project recently hit the major milestone of completing the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequencing of the more than 5,000 DNA samples given to the AFMES Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory for processing.

"This is huge for us because it allows us to complete our analyses of all of the *USS Oklahoma* remains, and therefore, identify as many service members as possible," said Carrie LeGarde, the current project manager.

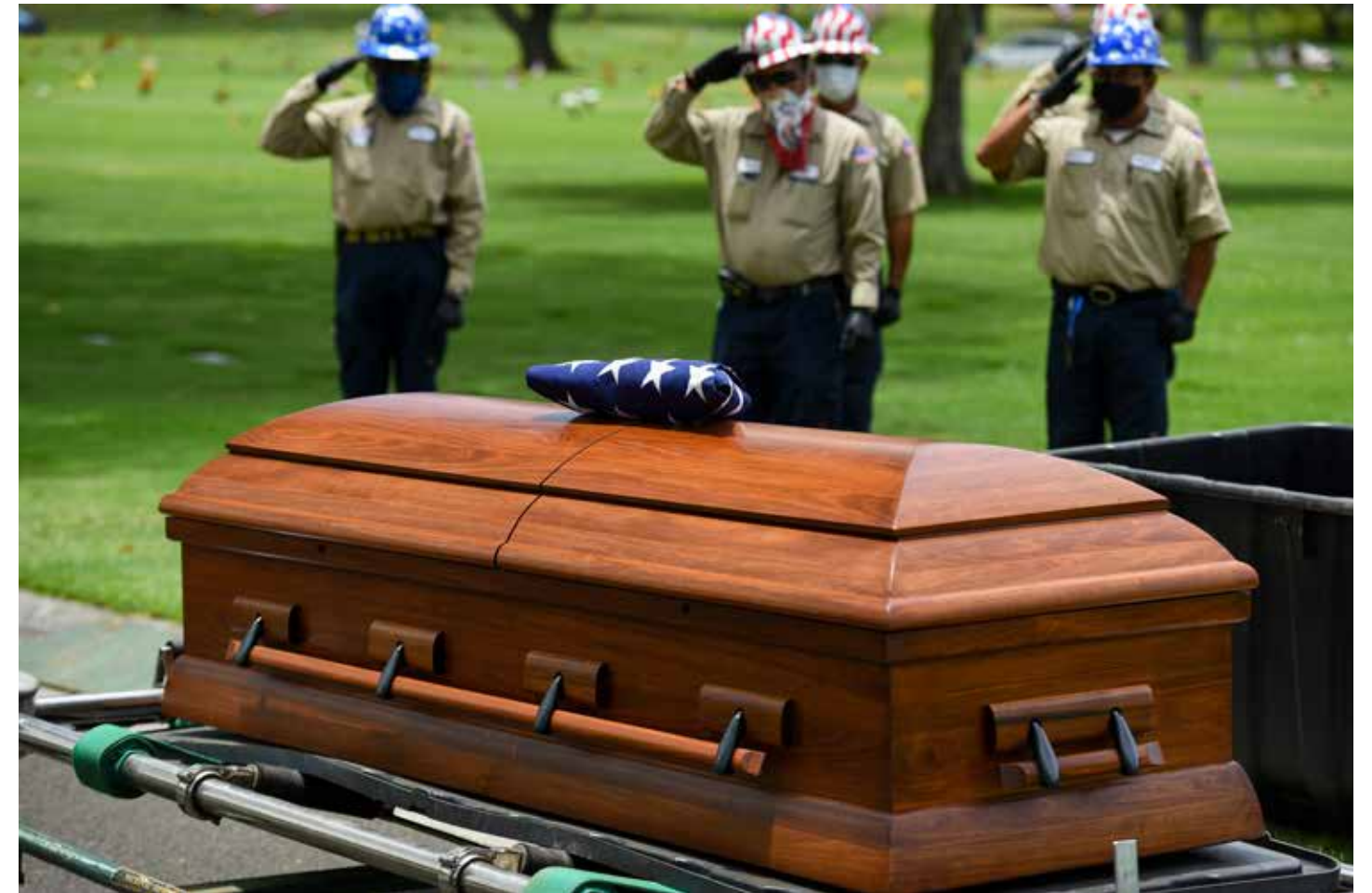
According to LeGarde, the project's roots go back to 2003 when a single casket of *USS Oklahoma* Unknowns was disinterred from the NMCP in Honolulu. Five service members were identified, but DNA testing determined remains of 89 others were present. Another single casket was disinterred in 2007, and the 60 remaining caskets were disinterred in 2015, which is when the project began in earnest.

After World War II, 394 Sailors and Marines were unaccounted for from the *USS Oklahoma*. At the end of FY 2020, 267 of those Americans have been accounted for since that first disinterment in 2003.



### DPAA Working From Home

(Left) Carrie LeGarde is an anthropologist at DPAA's laboratory at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and is the current *USS Oklahoma* Project manager. Her work helper, Scout, makes sure she stays on task. (Right) U.S. Navy Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Tyler Thompson is one of DPAA's photographers and graphic designers and is working on this year's POW/MIA Recognition Day poster.



### INTERMENT CEREMONY

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank

Workers from the NMCP, many of whom are themselves military veterans, render honors for U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Everett G. Windle, of Kansas City, Missouri, who was laid to rest during a ceremony at the cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 26. On Dec. 7, 1941, Windle was assigned to the battleship *USS Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. Until DPAA scientists identified Windle, his remains were buried at the NMCP as an Unknown for more than 65 years.



2020

# June

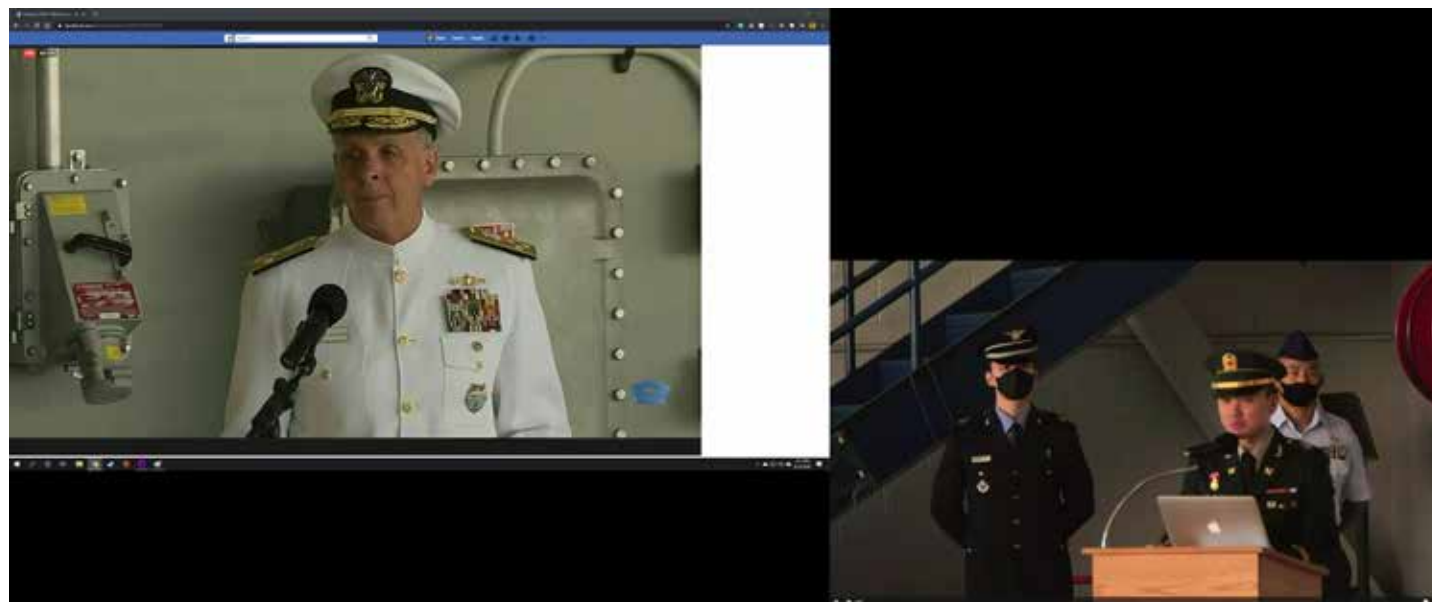
In June, DPAA hosted a ceremony with the Republic of Korea (RoK) to repatriate 147 fallen South Korean soldiers who fought alongside U.S. and United Nations forces during the Korean War, and adjusted plans due to the coronavirus pandemic. The National League of POW/MIA Families cancelled its Washington, D.C. Annual Meeting, which cancelled DPAA's accompanying family briefings. The Agency also canceled investigation and recovery missions to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Kiribati, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Italian Republic, and the Republic of Austria. At the same time, DPAA personnel continued to actively explore and plan for how teams could safely get to and operate in the field to resume its operations.

Opposite page: Wook Gu Heo, the ROK's MAKRI Director, renders honors during a repatriation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, June 23. The ceremony was held to repatriate the largest number of remains turned over to the DPAA's ROK partners, which included 77 from the 55 boxes that had been turned over by North Korea in August 2018 and 70 from turnovers in the early 1990s and joint field operations in the mid-2000s. The remains were analyzed by DPAA and MAKRI scientists, who jointly concluded the 147 remains were of South Korean origin. Although the remains had yet to be individually identified, MAKRI had associated 7 of them to DNA family reference samples they had collected.

*Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank*







## REPATRIATIONS

Screenshot by Sgt. First Class Sean Everette (top)  
Photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank (middle) and Army Sgt. Mitchell Ryan (bottom)

DPAA hosted a repatriation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, June 23, during which 147 remains were transferred and the service of 147 fallen South Korean servicemen were commemorated. Resulting from the collaboration between DPAA and MAKRI, this turnover was the largest transfer of remains between the two countries since DPAA returned 64 remains to the ROK in 2018.

(Top) Most of the 31,183 people who viewed the ceremony watched through livestreams on the DPAA Facebook page and the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service. U.S. Navy Adm. Philip Davidson, commander of Indo-Pacific Command, was the senior U.S. official and keynote speaker at the ceremony.

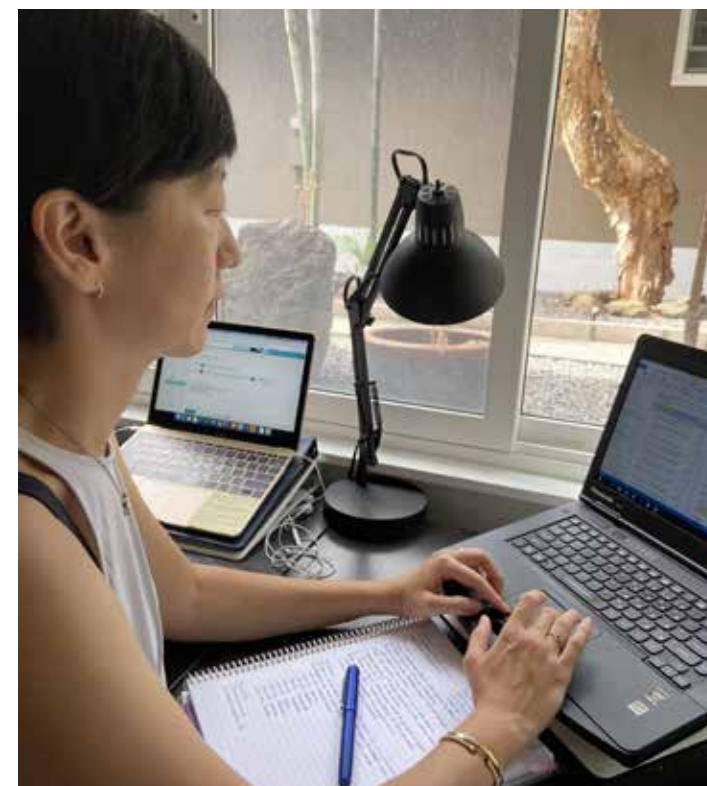
(Middle) U.S. Army Gen. Robert Abrams, commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea, renders a salute during a repatriation ceremony at Seoul Air Base, ROK, June 25, which coincided with the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

(Bottom) DPAA service members salute the flag-draped transfer cases of possible remains of U.S. service members from the Korean War as they arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on June 26. The ROK repatriated the remains, which had been recovered by MAKRI teams, to the United Nations Command following the return of the 147 South Korean remains.



## DPAA Working From Home

(Left) Dr. Jennie Jin is an anthropologist at DPAA's laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and leads the Korean War Identification Project (KWIP). (Right) Dan Baughman of the IP Directorate's Research Support Division reviews a Korean DMZ site for possible future investigation.



## DPAA SPOTLIGHT - The Korean War Identification Project

The KWIP was the first of its kind at DPAA, a project focused comprehensively on one conflict. Dr. John Byrd, DPAA's Laboratory Director, created the project in 2011 with the thought that having a dedicated team of scientists and analysts to compile in-depth knowledge on the nature of the remains being analyzed and the historical background of the conflict from which they came. He was prescient.

"The implementation of a project turned out to be very successful," said Dr. Jennie Jin, the KWIP Director. "Of all the Korean War IDs made since the 1980s, 74 percent (435 out of 589) were made since the launch of the project in FY 2011. We are currently the largest project in the lab with most analysts and the largest number of remains."

With more than 7,500 service members still unaccounted for from the Korean War, Jin said the KWIP would last for a while, especially because the project includes the remaining disinterment of more than 600 sets of remains of Unknowns from the NMCP in Honolulu.

For Jin, a naturalized U.S. citizen, the project has a personal element too. Her grandparents safely escaped from North to South Korea on a U.S. Navy ship during the Korean War.

"It feels surreal for me to analyze and identify the U.S. servicemen who lost their lives near my grandparents' hometown, when my grandparents ended up building a good life in the south," said Jin. "It is also very personal. It is my way to say thank you to all the U.S. servicemen and their families for saving my family and my native country."





2020

# July

After 106 days of maximum telework, DPAA began Phase 1 of its “Return to Work” Plan in early July. This enabled those whose duties could be better performed in the office to return, and they did so after the Agency implemented extensive health and safety protocols to keep everyone safe. Disinterment operations, the first since March, resumed with 16 Unknowns killed during Operation TIDAL WAVE, who were repatriated from Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. The Republic of Malta also turned over remains recovered by a DPAA partner, the University of Malta, in an underwater mission. With DPAA teams unable to enter Vietnam due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam unilaterally conducted three recovery missions. At the same time, investigation and recovery missions were canceled in Hungary, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Austria.

Opposite page: A team of military and civilian specialists from DPAA’s partner, the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons, work together on a recovery site in the mountains of Quang Binh Province during the 139th Joint Field Activity (JFA) in search of the remains of a U.S. service member lost during the Vietnam War. This JFA was the first time in three decades of close cooperation that three Vietnamese Recovery Teams deployed simultaneously in support of this humanitarian endeavor. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relations, which was preceded by 10 years of JFAs that were accomplished only with the help of the government and people of Vietnam.

*Photo courtesy of the Vietnam Office For Seeking Missing Persons*







### TRAINING WITH 25TH ID

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry, a DPAA forensic photographer, took this photo of Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, defending against opposing forces during training exercise Lightning Forge 20 on Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, July 15. McElderry took part in the training to develop crucial skills in the field in order to remain ready to carry out his DPAA role once COVID-19 allowed for organic missions.

U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 55th Wing, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, conduct an Honorable Carry for 28 possible missing Americans July 21. The remains consisted of 18 Unknowns disinterred from two American cemeteries in Europe, nine from previous DPAA organic and partner missions, and one set of remains from a unilateral transfer from the Royal Netherlands Army Recovery and Identification. This mission marked the first accession of remains to the Offutt lab since COVID-19 restricted worldwide operations.

### HONORABLE CARRY

Photo by Zachary Hada, 55th Wing Public Affairs



### 153rd REPATRIATION CEREMONY IN HANOI

Photo courtesy of the Vietnam Office For Seeking Missing Persons

The VNOSMP and DPAA held the 153rd Repatriation Ceremony in Hanoi, Vietnam, July 16. The Honorable Daniel Kritenbrink, U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Le Chi Dzung, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Americas Department, witnessed the signing over the one set of remains unilaterally recovered by a VNOSMP team and believed to be associated with a missing U.S. service member from the Vietnam War. Since 1985, 727 Americans have been accounted for in Vietnam.



### DPAA Working From Home

David Kalis, DPAA's comptroller, keeps the money flowing from his home work station.



### DPAA SPOTLIGHT - Comptroller

Just as a plane can't fly without fuel, an agency like DPAA can't operate without resources. People and equipment are what first comes to mind, but they're like the pilot and engines of the plane. The fuel is money, and at DPAA, the manager of that money is the Comptroller Office.

"The Comptroller is the agency Chief Financial Officer and responsible for all aspects of the [DoD] resource and financial management process as it applies to DPAA," said David Kalis, DPAA's Comptroller. "The Department uses a process called PPBE - short for Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution. I lead a team of dedicated financial management analysts and accountants to manage all financial resources from planning to appropriation, execution to accounting."

Kalis and his team are the link between the agency and the DoD resources, processes, and systems.

"Success within complex Department processes results in the personnel and financial resources necessary for DPAA to account for the missing and communicate with families and other stakeholders," said Kalis. "And we don't do it alone. Comptroller requires close coordination from directorates throughout DPAA to support the entire agency."

Like a plane where the fuel works with the engine and pilot to make it fly, the Comptroller team fuels the agency and its global mission.

"We perform a very different form of accounting, but one vital for the business functions for the agency," said Kalis. "Being good stewards is our responsibility to support our very important mission."



2020

# August

As COVID-19 prevented large gatherings of people, DPAA was forced to cancel the Korean War and Cold War Annual Government Briefings in Washington, D.C., which in recent years had been attended by over 500 family members. Arlington National Cemetery funerals for our recently identified service members resumed this month with three funerals with full military honors. We partnered with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine and Geoscope Archaeological Services to conduct field recovery work in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Agency also conducted 21 disinterments from Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium.

Opposite page: A Soldier from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) holds the POW/MIA Flag at “Present Arms” while an Old Guard bugler plays Taps at the Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, funeral of Army Cpl. Henry L. Phillips, who was captured and died as a POW during the Korean War, Aug. 7. Phillips had originally been buried as an Unknown at the NMCP in Honolulu, after his remains were recovered, but were unable to be identified, in 1954 during Operation GLORY. Phillips was identified in September 2019 as part of the Korean War Disinterment Project.

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everett*







## VIETNAM TELECONFERENCE

Photo by Maj. Leah Ganoni

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations, hosts a video teleconference with U.S. Ambassador Kritenbrink and his staff on Aug. 26 to prepare for the subsequent Annual Technical Talks with the VNOSMP. Undeterred by COVID-19 impacts, DPAA conducted these talks virtually to advance DPAA's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting to families of DoD personnel missing from the Vietnam War.



Archaeologists with DPAA partners GEOSCOPE, Inc. and WWII Aviation Research record the dimensions of the possible impact crater of a World War II crash site in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. DPAA partners with more than 150 organizations worldwide in an effort to fulfill our mission of accounting for the missing from the U.S.'s past conflicts.

## GERMANY PARTNERSHIP MISSION

Photo courtesy of GEOSCOPE, Inc.



Funerals for service members identified by DPAA resumed at Arlington National Cemetery in August. (Above) The casket for Army Pfc. Karl L. Dye, killed during the Korean War and identified as part of the KWIP, is loaded onto the caisson by Soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), Aug. 20. (Below) Sisters Constance Gadd (left) and Judy Cottrell (right) say a final good-bye to their brother, Army Cpl. Ralph L. Cale, killed during the Korean War during his memorial ceremony, Aug. 14. Cpl. Phillips was identified from the remains turned over in the 55 boxes by North Korea in 2018.

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY FUNERALS

Photos by Lee Tucker (above) and Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everett (below)





2020

# September

DPAA ended FY 2020 on a high note despite the wide-ranging and adverse impacts of COVID-19. The Agency hosted National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies in Hawaii, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and helped to facilitate the ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The D.C. and Hawaii events were livestreamed online and viewed by more than 110,000 people. With support from the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Defence Force and PNG National Museum, the University of PNG, one of our partner organizations, conducted investigation missions in two northern provinces. DPAA institutionalized our cooperation with the Defense Intelligence Agency by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Opposite page: A formation of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 12th Aviation Battalion out of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, conducted a Missing Man flyover during the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Sept. 18. Held on the third Friday of each September, the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day was in 1979, and has been observed every year since. This year's Pentagon ceremony was hosted by the Honorable David Norquist, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, with U.S. Air Force Gen. John Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the keynote speaker.

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette*







## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY IN HAWAII

Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford

The ceremony in Hawaii was at the DPAA facility on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Sept. 18. Allen Hoe, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and a Gold Star father, whose oldest son, Nainoa, was killed in action in Iraq in 2005, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Hoe, a longtime DPAA supporter, helped recover two of his lost Vietnam War comrades by accompanying a field investigation mission in 2006.

## DPAA-DIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Photo by Myles Scrinopskie,  
DIA Public Affairs

Kelly McKeague, DPAA's Director, and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), sign a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the cooperation between the two agencies at DIA headquarters in Washington, D.C. Sept. 17. DIA has been an invaluable resource in DPAA's mission over the years.



## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY IN LAOS

Photo by Phonesavanh Sangsomboun, U.S. Embassy

The Honorable Peter Hammond, U.S. Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, spoke at ceremony hosted by DPAA Detachment 3 at the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, Sept. 18. U.S. Embassy personnel and family members as well as Lao government officials attended the ceremony.

## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY VIRTUALLY

Photo by Erin Haslinger

Russell Meadows, an Information Security/Network Operations Engineer in DPAA's D.C. office, watches the Hawaii ceremony live from his home in Virginia. Both the Hawaii and D.C. ceremonies were livestreamed online since to compensate for the extremely limited physical attendance because of COVID-19 safety precautions.





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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



U.S. Army  
(800) 892-2490



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



U.S. Navy  
(800) 443-9298



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



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



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



Central Intelligence Agency  
(703) 874-4270

## DPAA Leadership

Kelly McKeague - Director  
Fern Sumpter Winbush - Principal Deputy Director  
U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji - Deputy Director for Operations  
U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Kerrick Loyd - Senior Enlisted Leader

## Year in Review Editorial and Design Staff

Todd Livick - Outreach and Communications Director  
U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Tamara Fischer-Carter - Public Affairs Division Chief  
Lee Tucker - Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette - Public Affairs NCO

Web: [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dodpaa](https://www.facebook.com/dodpaa)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/dodpaa](https://twitter.com/dodpaa)  
DVIDS: [www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA](https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA)  
YouTube: <https://youtu.be/FcSwcb57OGg>

## 2021 Family Update Schedule\*

Date	Location
November 7	Little Rock, AR**
January 23	Miami, FL
February 20	Albuquerque, NM
March 20	Los Angeles, CA
March 22	Honolulu, HI
April 17	Boston, MA
May 22	Oklahoma City, OK
June 23-26	Arlington, VA***
August 5-6	Arlington, VA****
September 25	Chicago, IL

\* Family Member Updates are tentative and subject to change.  
\*\* This will be a virtual Family Member Update.  
\*\*\*The Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings held in conjunction with the National League of POW/MIA Families Annual Meeting  
\*\*\*\* The Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefings

