



DPAA

YEAR IN REVIEW
OCTOBER 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2021



142
Accounted For
Oct 1, 2020 - Sept 30, 2021

ARMY

Korean War

Pfc. Don D. Dowler
Cpl. Kenneth R. Foreman
Pfc. Philip T. Hoogacker
Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun
Cpl. Charles E. Lee
Cpl. Paul Mitchem
Pfc. William J. Sharp
Cpl. Walter A. Smead
Pfc. Raymond A. Smith
Cpl. Roy H. Thomas
Sgt. Elwood M. Truslow
Pfc. Michaux Turbeville
Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas J. Valentine
Cpl. Paul W. Wilkins

World War II

(Includes Army Air Forces)

Capt. Nando A. Cavaliere
Tech Sgt. Arthur W. Countryman
Sgt. Albert L. Crette
Staff Sgt. Louis S. Doddo
1st Lt. Myles W. Esmay
Pvt. Archie V. Fleeman
Pfc. William L. Groh
Pfc. Juan F. Gutierrez
Pvt. Alevin A. Hathaway
Staff Sgt. Gerald E. Helms
Pvt. Robert J. Hernyk
1st Lt. Richard W. Horrigan
Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner
Staff Sgt. William R. Linder
Pvt. Stephen C. Mason
Pfc. Berton J. McQueen
2nd Lt. Henry D. Mitchell
Pfc. Bill Morrison
Tech. Sgt. Frank A. Norris
1st Lt. Robert Parker
1st Lt. Alan E. Petersen
Pvt. Lyle W. Reab
Staff Sgt. Richard G. Salsbury
Pvt. Emmet W. Schwartz
2nd Lt. Anel B. Shay
Pvt. Hillary Soileau
Pfc. Morris E. Swackhammer
Sgt. Bernard J. Sweeney
Tech Sgt. Alfred F. Turgeon
2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau
Sgt. Larry S. Wassil
Sgt. Francis W. Wiemerslage
1st Lt. Jack K. Wood
1st Lt. James E. Wright

NAVY

Vietnam War

Cmdr. Paul C. Charvet

World War II

Lt. Cmdr. Hugh R. Alexander
Shipfitter 3rd Class Robert E. Bailey
Seaman 1st Class Gerald J. Bailey
Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Ballance
Fireman 1st Class Leroy K. Barber
Fireman 1st Class Malcolm J. Barber
Fireman 2nd Class Randolph H. Barber
Fireman 1st Class Harold E. Bates
Fireman 2nd Class Ralph C. Battles
Fireman 1st Class Walter S. Belt
Boilermaker 1st Class William E. Blanchard
Seaman 2nd Class John G. Bock
Seaman 2nd Class Raymond D. Boynton
Fireman 2nd Class Carl M. Bradley
Firecontrolman 3rd Class Jack A. Breedlove
Seaman 1st Class William Brooks
Fireman 1st Class Wesley J. Brown
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Charles D. Brown
Water Tender 1st Class Oliver K. Burger
Seaman 1st Class Biacio Casola
Seaman 2nd Class David Clark
Hospital Apprentice 1st Class Keefe R. Connolly
Chief Warrant Officer John G. Connolly
Fireman 1st Class Beoin H. Corzatt
Fireman 1st Class James W. Davenport
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Leslie P. Delles
Machinist's Mate Chief Ralph A. Derrington
Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Leaman R. Dill
Fireman 1st Class Kenneth E. Doernenburg
Patternmaker 1st Class Stanislaw F. Drwall
Seaman 1st Class Buford H. Dyer
Radioman 3rd Class Earl M. Ellis
Musician 2nd Class Charlton H. Ferguson
Carpenter's Mate Chief Tedd M. Furr
Ship's Cook 3rd Class Robert Goodwin
Fireman 1st Class Robert J. Harr
Electrician's Mate 1st Class Harvey C. Herber
Signalman 3rd Class Austin H. Hesler
Fireman 1st Class Denis H. Hiskett
Fireman 1st Class Howard D. Hodges
Fireman 3rd Class Harry R. Holmes
Water Tender 1st Class Charles E. Hudson
Radioman 3rd Class Theodore Q. Jensen
Seaman 1st Class Elmer P. Lawrence
Seaman 2nd Class Harold W. Lindsey
Mess Attendant 1st Class Octavius Mabine
Seaman 2nd Class Howard S. Magers
Seaman 2nd Class Michael Malek
Fireman 1st Class James O. McDonald
Seaman 1st Class Wallace G. Mitchell
Radioman 3rd Class Charles A. Montgomery
Seaman 2nd Class Laverne A. Nigg
Fire Controlman 2nd Class Lawrence J. Overley
Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class George L. Paradis
Seaman 2nd Class Walter R. Pentico
Shipfitter 1st Class Charles F. Perdue
Water Tender 1st Class Milo E. Phillips
Fireman 1st Class George F. Price
Seaman 1st Class Joseph C. Rouse
Seaman 2nd Class Charles L. Saunders

Fireman 1st Class Paul E. Saylor
Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Herman Schmidt
Fireman 2nd Class William K. Shafer
Signalman 1st Class Eugene M. Skaggs
Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Stein
Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Everett R. Stewart
Seaman 1st Class Donald A. Stott
Seaman 1st Class Edward E. Talbert
Seaman 1st Class Houston Temples
Fireman 2nd Class Benjiman Terhune
Seaman 2nd Class Arthur R. Thinnes
Seaman 1st Class David F. Tidball
Fireman 1st Class Everett C. Titterington
Fireman 1st Class Neal K. Todd
Firecontrolman 2nd Class Harold F. Trapp
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class William H. Trapp
Fireman 1st Class William D. Tucker
Seaman 2nd Class Russell O. Ufford
Storekeeper 1st Class Harry E. Walker
Seaman 1st Class James R. Ward
Water Tender Chief Claude White
Musician 2nd Class Lloyd P. Wiegand

MARINE CORPS

World War II

Pfc. Walter L. Collier
Pfc. J.L. Hancock
Pfc. John F. Middleswart
Cpl. Andrew Pellerito
Pfc. Charles R. Taylor
Pfc. Glenn F. White

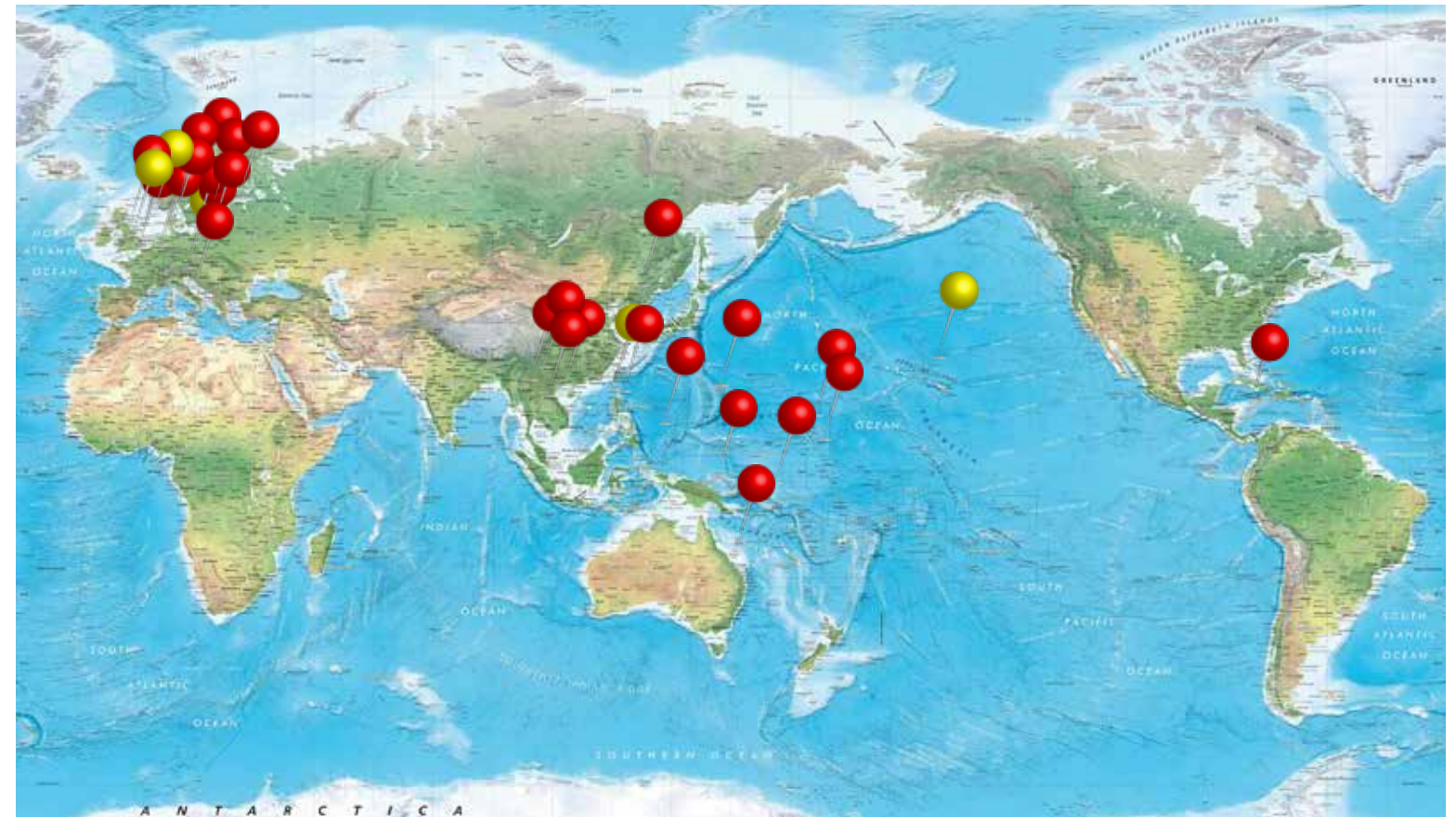
Note: This page contains the names of 137 of the 142 Americans DPAA accounted for in FY 2021. The names of the remaining six are not included as their families are pending notification.

Visit www.dpaa.mil for full profiles of these individuals.

On The Cover

The POW/MIA Flag hangs in a wet screening station at a recovery site in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on Aug. 7, 2021. DPAA personnel and Laotian augmentees conducted excavation operations in an effort to find a U.S. reconnaissance pilot lost during the Vietnam War. *Photo by Cpl. Jack A. E. Rigbsy*

A Year For Milestones



The red pins in the map indicate locations where DPAA conducted investigation or recovery missions. The yellow pins represent disinterments locations.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) came into Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 with full plans to get back out in the field as much as COVID-19 would allow and surpassed several milestones in the process.

Our organic and partner investigation and recovery missions took place in 31 countries, and we accessioned 364 sets of osseous material into our labs. We accounted for 142 Department of Defense personnel. All of this was accomplished while following all appropriate COVID safety protocols. These numbers were increases over FY 2020, but they were not the milestones.

In November, we held our first-ever, all-virtual Family Member Update (FMU), which was streamed live on our website and Facebook page. This was so successful we held three more virtual FMUs and also livestreamed our Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings (K/CW) and our annual Vietnam War Government Briefings. The latter was held in conjunction with the 51st Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families.

A milestone for the National League of POW/MIA Families was the 50th anniversary of their iconic black and white silhouette featured on the POW/MIA Flag, recognized around the world for the sacred mission of finding Americans missing from past conflicts. The 2021 POW/MIA

Recognition Day Poster and on the cover and throughout the pages of this magazine are POW/MIA flag photos with historical facts about the flag.

FY 2021 was a big year for our USS Oklahoma Project, hitting two milestones. First, at the end of January, Marine Pfc. John F. Middleswart was the 300th identification from the ship. Then, at the beginning of August, Seaman 1st Class Buford H. Dyer was the 350th identification. Another significant milestone came in February when Lt. Cmdr. Hugh R. Alexander, a dental officer aboard the USS Oklahoma, became the 1,000th identification made since DPAA was formed in 2015.

In March, we accounted for U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun. For his many selfless acts during the Korean War, Chaplain Kapaun was named a Servant of God by the Catholic Church in 1993, the first step on the path to sainthood. He was also posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2013.

We ended FY 2021 with a final milestone when we conducted the first-ever Joint Repatriation Ceremony with the Republic of Korea in Hawaii. South Korean President Moon Jae-in spoke at the ceremony held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Six sets of remains were given to the U.S. and 68 sets of remains were repatriated to South Korea.



2020

October

Boris Kiefer, an archaeological technician with DPAA partner Underwater Archaeology (UWARC), prepares to set up equipment during an underwater investigation in Brandenburg, Federal Republic of Germany. UWARC divers conducted target investigations in water and muddy conditions Oct. 10-31. With COVID-19 travel restrictions in place, many DPAA investigation and recovery missions were conducted on our behalf by our partnership organizations. *Photo by Johnathan Witte, UWARC*

Fiscal Year 2021 started off strong despite COVID-19 still having a massive effect on agency travel and activities. We launched our first organic mission, an underwater investigation/recovery mission to the Solomon Islands, since recalling our deployed teams in March 2020. We followed all required safety protocols to ensure the health of our personnel. We also leveraged our partnerships, fielding an underwater recovery mission in the Kingdom of Sweden and an underwater investigation mission in the Federal Republic of Germany. The 141st Joint Field Activities (JFA) in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, comprised of three host nation recovery teams (RT), began operations. We disinterred 11 Unknowns from the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in the Italian Republic; and 12 from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Honolulu. We also identified four previously unaccounted-for service members.





**ITALY
DISINTERMENT**

Photo by Melanie Resto, Superintendent of Sicily-Rome American Cemetery

Ovidio Taurelli, Stefano Spirito, Alessandro Retrosi, and Maurizio Sadocco from the American Battle Monuments Commission begin excavation of a grave site for disinterments conducted Oct. 22-29 at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery. Eleven Unknowns from World War II were disinterred, three from the Invasion of Sicily and eight from the Battle of Anzio.



**INDONESIA
PENTAGON TOUR**

Photo courtesy of the Office of the Secretary of Defense

Fern Sumpter Winbush, DPAA's Principal Deputy Director, gives a tour of the POW/MIA corridor in the Pentagon to Prabowo Subianto, the Republic of Indonesia Minister of Defense, Oct. 23. Subianto was at the Pentagon to meet with then-Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper and sign a Memorandum of Intent to advance DPAA's efforts to re-start its work in Indonesia to recover the remains of U.S. personnel lost there during World War II.

The hallways of the DPAA laboratory at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, received a refresh in October. Pictures and infographics telling the history and current operations of our noble mission to account for U.S. personnel missing from our past conflicts now adorn the walls, inspiring those who work and visit there.

**OFFUTT LAB
REFRESH**

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry



The POW/MIA flag flies at the Pentagon the morning of Sept. 15, 2017, which was also POW/MIA Recognition Day. The design of the flag was approved by the National League of Families in January 1972. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brigitte Brantley, Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs



**JOINT SERVICE
ACHIEVEMENT**

Photo by 1st Sgt. Lauren Flores, 111th Quartermaster Company (Mortuary Affairs)

Col. Jon Lust, director of DPAA's Europe-Mediterranean Directorate, presents the Joint Service Achievement Medal to four Soldiers of the 111th Quartermaster Company (Mortuary Affairs) in a ceremony at Fort Lee, Virginia, Oct. 23. The medals were given in recognition of their diligent work conducting 37 disinterments in Europe July-August

2020, which, at the time, were the first European disinterment operations since the COVID-19 pandemic began.



**UNILATERAL
VIETNAMESE
RECOVERY**

Photo by Lt. Col. Adam Points

A Vietnamese RT works at a wet screening station searching for evidence of a missing U.S. service member at a recovery site in Lang Son Province during the 141st JFA, Oct. 30. The U.S. and Vietnam have cooperated closely for over three decades to provide the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing from the Vietnam War; 729 personnel have been accounted to date, with 1,244 still missing in Vietnam.

2020

November

U.S. Navy Diver 2nd Class Mitchell Pataszek and other divers assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1 conduct a tow-behind scouting operation in support of a DPAA recovery operation at Sierra Wharf, Guam, Nov. 25. Tow-behind scouting operations utilize a diver's capability to look below the surface of the water in search for wreckage. *Photo by Sgt. Mitchell Ryan*



In November, DPAA undertook our first organic field activity since COVID-19 travel restrictions began with a recovery mission to the Solomon Islands. While the team was quarantined in Guam, all travel to the Solomon Islands was restricted by the government because of the virus. However, the team pivoted to conduct recovery operations around Guam instead. The 141st JFA continued in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We also held our first-ever virtual Family Member Update (FMU) for families in and around Little Rock, Arkansas. Additionally, our laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, received 11 disinterments from the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy, and we accounted for 11 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.



PARTNERSHIP INSTRUCTION

Photo by Lt. Col. Tamara Fischer-Carter

DPAA's Partnerships and Innovations Directorate hosted the first day of online orientation for new partner organizations Nov. 30. These orientations are designed to introduce partners to DPAA's mission and capabilities, educating them on what the agency does to account for America's missing Department of Defense (DoD) personnel.



FIELD TRAINING

Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford

Sgt. 1st Class Amani Maulolo, a DPAA team sergeant, conducts wet screening training on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Nov. 17. The class was held during field training week, where DPAA members are taught how to use equipment they will be utilizing while on mission in austere environments.



CAMBODIA TECH TALKS

Photo by Maj. Leah Ganoni

Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations, conducted technical talks via video conferencing with representatives from the Kingdom of

Cambodia, including H.E. Sieng Lapresse, First Vice-Chairman POW/MIA Committee, and the Honorable W. Patrick Murphy, the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, Nov. 5. Technical talks like this help maintain strong relationships as well as coordinate missions to search for, recover, and return missing U.S. service members from past conflicts.



A POW/MIA Flag flies alongside a Solomon Islands flag at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, June 25, 2019. Local citizens and officials played an essential role working alongside DPAA personnel during excavation operations in search of missing U.S. Marines lost during the first allied offensive in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

Dr. Franklin Damann, DPAA's Deputy Laboratory Director, gives a presentation on DPAA's scientific capabilities during the virtual Little Rock, Arkansas, FMU Nov. 7. Despite COVID-19, this first-ever virtual FMU was held so we could continue to inform families about our efforts to locate their missing loved ones.

VIRTUAL FAMILY MEMBER UPDATE

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette





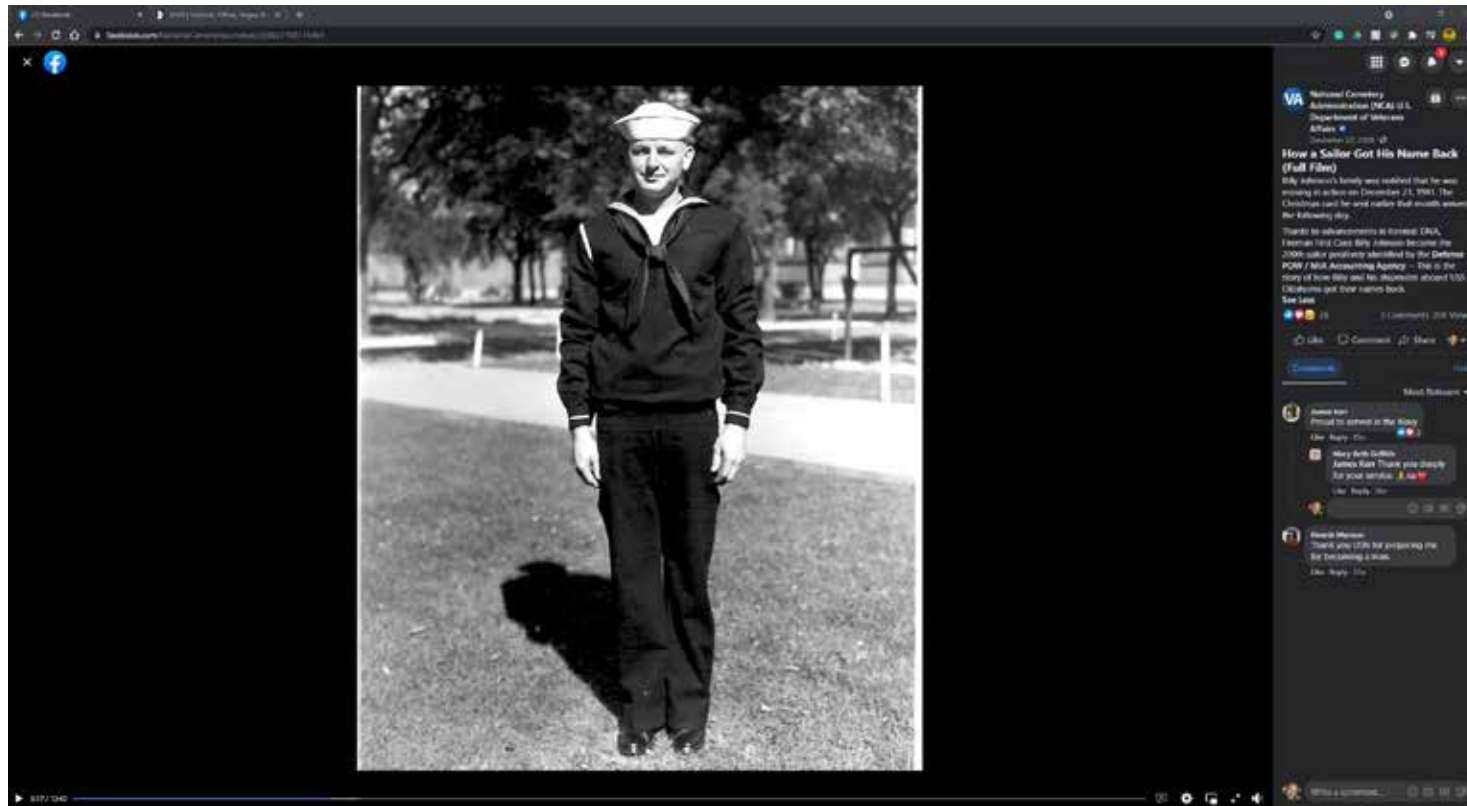
2020

December

DPAA service members conduct an Honorable Carry for the remains of unidentified U.S. service members at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Dec. 21. The remains had been recently disinterred from graves marked Unknown at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) in the Philippines. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry*

The 141st JFA in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam came to an end this month as did the organic mission in Guam. Our Nebraska laboratory received biological and material evidence from a partner underwater RT who operated off the coast of the Republic of Croatia, and our Hawaii laboratory received 41 sets of remains disinterred from the MACM in the Republic of the Philippines. Since COVID-19 prevented us from having in-person holiday gatherings, we hosted our first-ever online Morale Day to bring our geographically dispersed team together virtually. We also accounted for 18 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.





200th USS OKLAHOMA ID FILM
Screenshots by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette

The Department of Veterans Affairs produced a short film honoring Navy Fireman 1st Class Billy J. Johnson of Kentucky, and released the film on Dec. 22. Accounted for in February 2019 by our Offutt lab team, Johnson was the 200th service member to be identified from the USS *Oklahoma*. The film can be seen at: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalCemeteries/videos/299927788115401>



KOREAN WAR DISINTERMENT
Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford

DPAA service members participated in a disinterment ceremony at the NMCP, Honolulu, Hawaii, Dec. 7. The disinterment kicked off Phase 3 of the Korean War Disinterment Project, DPAA's six-year, comprehensive effort to identify the remains of the over 600 service members lost during the Korean War who have been buried as Unknowns at the NMCP.

The POW/MIA flag flies with the USS *Arizona* Memorial in the background during the 79th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii. The flag is not trademarked or copyrighted, which is one of the reasons it can be found in so many different places. *Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jessica Blackwell*



USARPAC CSM VISITS HAWAII FACILITY
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Leah Ferrante

During a Dec. 3 visit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Brzak, U.S.



Army Pacific, met with DPAA Army Soldiers, toured the facility, and received briefings on DPAA's unique mission and capabilities.

GUAM INVESTIGATION
Photo by Sgt. Mitchell Ryan

Army Staff Sgt. Dakota Lee (left), a DPAA team sergeant, and Greg Stratton (right), a DPAA underwater archaeologist, investigate a possible aircraft crash site near U.S. Naval Base Guam Dec. 3. The Guam mission came about because of the flexibility of DPAA's team when their mission to the Solomon Islands was canceled because of COVID travel restrictions in that country.



Europe-Mediterranean

The Europe-Mediterranean (EM) Regional Directorate accomplished a number of field operations and disinterments in FY 2021, learning lessons from operating during the continuing pandemic, and putting processes into place which allowed us to investigate, recover, and disinter remains potentially associated to missing DoD personnel while also minimizing risk to the teams. DPAA conducted two research trips and eight terrestrial investigations in Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Panama, Poland, and the United States, each of which yielded new information for several cases and will result in recoveries of missing personnel in future years.

Our team supporting the U.S. Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs secured access to the Russian Archives and continued employment of Russian researchers despite the tense bi-lateral relationship between the U.S. and Russia. Two DPAA scientists coordinated with a partner to recover remains at the former site of POW Camp Stalag Luft 6

in Lithuania. DPAA RTs excavated three sites associated with World War II aircraft losses in Austria, Belgium, and Germany. The successful recovery mission in Austria was years in the making as efforts by family members, DPAA senior leaders, U.S. Embassy-Vienna, U.S. Members of Congress, and Austrian government officials convinced a reluctant landowner to allow access to the alpine site. That reluctant landowner is now an enthusiastic champion of the DPAA mission.

EM accomplished 88 disinterments of unknown remains at eight American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemeteries, exceeding our FY 2021 goal of 85. The remains recovered potentially represent missing Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines from ground campaigns, aircraft losses, and ship losses across the European Theater.

*Capt. Zachary Trevathan, a DPAA team leader, wet screens aircraft wreckage during a recovery mission in Belgium on May 5.
Photo by Staff Sgt. April Hall*



Indo-Pacific

The Indo-Pacific (IP) Regional Directorate displayed a remarkable ability to adapt, innovate, and improvise in FY 2021, evidenced by completion of seven JFAs, consisting of 15 organic RTs, six Investigation Teams (IT), and 18 disinterment missions.

Recovery efforts in Southeast Asia remained the operational priority for the agency and have been buoyed by the efforts of our forward-staged operating detachments in Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam and by our strong relationships with the Lao POW/MIA Team, Kingdom of Cambodia POW/MIA Committee, and Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP).

Partnership with the Navy's Experimental Dive Unit facilitated underwater IT work around the coast of Guam, and moderate COVID effects permitted IT activities in Thailand and planning for India. Data-sharing with our Republic of Korea (RoK) counterpart, the Ministry of National Defense's Killed in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI), facilitated unilateral research and joint missions throughout the Demilitarized Zone, Central Corridor, and Busan perimeter. Annual World War II and Korean War Case Coordination Conferences, and a research exchange with the Chinese People's Liberation Army Archives resulted in advancement of multiple

cases. IP analysts from Virginia, Hawaii, Detachment 2 (Hanoi), and DPAA's Ohio lab met in Crystal City, Virginia, July 26-30 to conduct the 62nd SEA Case Coordination Conference. They were joined by partners from the Defense Intelligence Agency's Stony Beach program and coordinated the next steps on 379 SEA cases involving 622 missing personnel.

Supporting the agency's outreach and communication efforts, IP researchers authored 597 family member Case Summaries and carried out 198 family Case Summary Review meetings. IP staff were the first researchers permitted back into the National Archives following COVID closures. IP completed 18 disinterment missions between the NMCP and the MACM, repatriating 114 and 102 sets of remains, respectively, exceeding the goal of 215 disinterred Unknowns.

IP found reason to celebrate despite the constraints of operating during the pandemic. These successes would not be possible without the tremendous work of the staff in our Accounting Support Branch, Research Support Division, Operations Support Branch, Sub-Regional Teams, and Detachments.

*Lao workers assisting a DPAA recovery team pull a tarp out of the water in Houaphanh Province, Laos, Sept. 3.
Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary Grooman*



2021

January

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Austin Blocker and Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Walton, service members attached to the DPAA, place a flag on a casket during a disinterment ceremony at the NMCP on Oct. 19, 2020. This photo was chosen in January as one of DoD's top photos of 2020 and was highlighted on Defense.gov and DoD social media. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall*



The new year began with DPAA launching an organic recovery mission to the Kingdom of Cambodia, where our team successfully met all health protection guidelines before moving to the site. The USS Oklahoma Project reached a significant milestone when we accounted for Marine Pfc. John F. Middleswart, the 300th identification from the ship since 2003. We also conducted the first-ever Virtual Archival Exchange with China's People's Liberation Army Archives Department, discussing cases from the Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War, and World War II. Additionally, we disinterred eight Unknowns from the NMCP as part of the Korean War Disinterment Project, and we accounted for nine formerly missing persons from past conflicts.

The POW/MIA flag flies with the U.S. flag outside of the U.S. Post Office in Mount Sidney, Virginia, Jan. 6. The National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law in November 2019 requiring federal properties to fly the POW/MIA flag whenever the U.S. flag is flown. Photo by James Rusmisl, Mount Sidney Postmaster



300th USS OKLAHOMA IDENTIFICATION

Marine Pfc. John F. Middleswart was accounted for on Jan. 28, and was the 300th identification made from the USS *Oklahoma* Project. The project started in 2015 when all Unknowns associated with the USS *Oklahoma* buried at the NMCP in Honolulu were disinterred.



DNA Laboratory Recap

Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System-Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFMES-AFDIL) continued to provide critical support to the DPAA's identification efforts of missing service members in FY 2021.

To maintain DNA testing requirements, AFMES-AFDIL continued running an AM and PM shift that allowed 100% of our staff to be in the laboratory daily, and in June, AFMES went to 100% staffing on a single shift. The pandemic led to critical shortages in common laboratory supplies that both AFDIL and COVID Testing Laboratories used, but due to strategic planning and ordering, these shortages only reduced DNA testing efforts in April and May. Despite this decrease, staff were able to continue to process high priority cases, write DNA Reports, and finish critical trainings to increase the number of staff trained in Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) methods.

The Family Reference Section finished the development

of an automated whole genome mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) NGS method for maternal references that allows for 90 samples to be processed at a time.

The Emerging Technology Section continued working in conjunction with Parabon NanoLabs, Inc., as part of a DoD-funded research project, to complete the development of a nuclear DNA Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) assay and analytical software that will work with both chemically treated and non-chemically treated samples. This assay is similar to what Ancestry.com and 23andMe use, but tailored specifically for the challenging bone samples that DPAA submits for testing.

AFMES-AFDIL's Past Accounting Section increased NGS processing by 30%; reported over 3,000 DNA results (mtDNA, Y-STR, and auSTR DNA); and generated over 1,000 DNA Reports.

OFFUTT LAB OUTREACH

Photo by Dr. Franklin Damann

Dr. Katie East, a DPAA forensic anthropologist, shows skeletal models during an Offutt laboratory tour for Airmen of the 55th Wing Protocol Office and Honor Guard Jan. 20. The Airmen were able to see firsthand how identifications are made through anthropology, odontology, DNA sampling, material evidence, and radiograph comparison. The tour also helped them understand how their participation in Honorable Carry Ceremonies of remains arriving to the Offutt lab supports DPAA's noble mission.



Col. Alice Briones, AFMES director, examines a training model skull during her tour of DPAA's Offutt Laboratory July 21. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette





February

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Gogue, a DPAA recovery noncommissioned officer, chops through bamboo in an effort to clear the site during a recovery mission in the Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia, Feb. 18. This mission was the first organic terrestrial recovery mission sent out since the COVID-19 pandemic caused the recall or cancellation of global missions nearly a year prior. *Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford*

February brought a major milestone when we made the 1,000th identification of previously unaccounted-for DoD personnel since DPAA was established in 2015. Recovery operations in the Kingdom of Cambodia continued. Our organic IT and RTs taking part in the 142nd JFA arrived, our first entry into the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since COVID-19 began. We sent a team to the Republic of the Philippines to disinter 23 Unknowns from World War II buried at the MACM, where 22 others will be disinterred. We held our second virtual FMU, this time for families in and around Los Angeles and Honolulu. We also accounted for 26 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.





**VIRTUAL LA/
HONOLULU FMU**
Photo by Mass Communications
Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter

Dr. Denise To, DPAA's Hawaii laboratory manager, gives a brief and answers questions in DPAA's isotope laboratory during the virtual Los Angeles & Honolulu FMU Feb. 20. This was DPAA's second virtual FMU, livestreamed online so we could continue to inform families about our efforts to locate their missing loved ones despite COVID-19. The virtual briefing also gave families a chance to ask questions via a chat window that were answered during a live Q&A session.

Underwater archaeologists from DPAA partner Lund University present the POW/MIA Flag at the wreck of the B-24 Liberator bomber, the Tulsamerican, off the coast of Vis Island, Croatia, the summer of 2017. The flag is the most widely known symbol of POWs and MIAs, both accounted-for and unaccounted-for, from our past conflicts.



Army Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Director, and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg, the DHA Senior Enlisted Leader, visited our Hawaii facility Feb. 25. DPAA has a decades-long partnership with DHA's AFMES-AFDIL.

**DHA LEADERSHIP VISIT
HAWAII FACILITY**
Photo by Sgt. Mitchell Ryan



**142nd VIETNAM
JFA ARRIVAL**

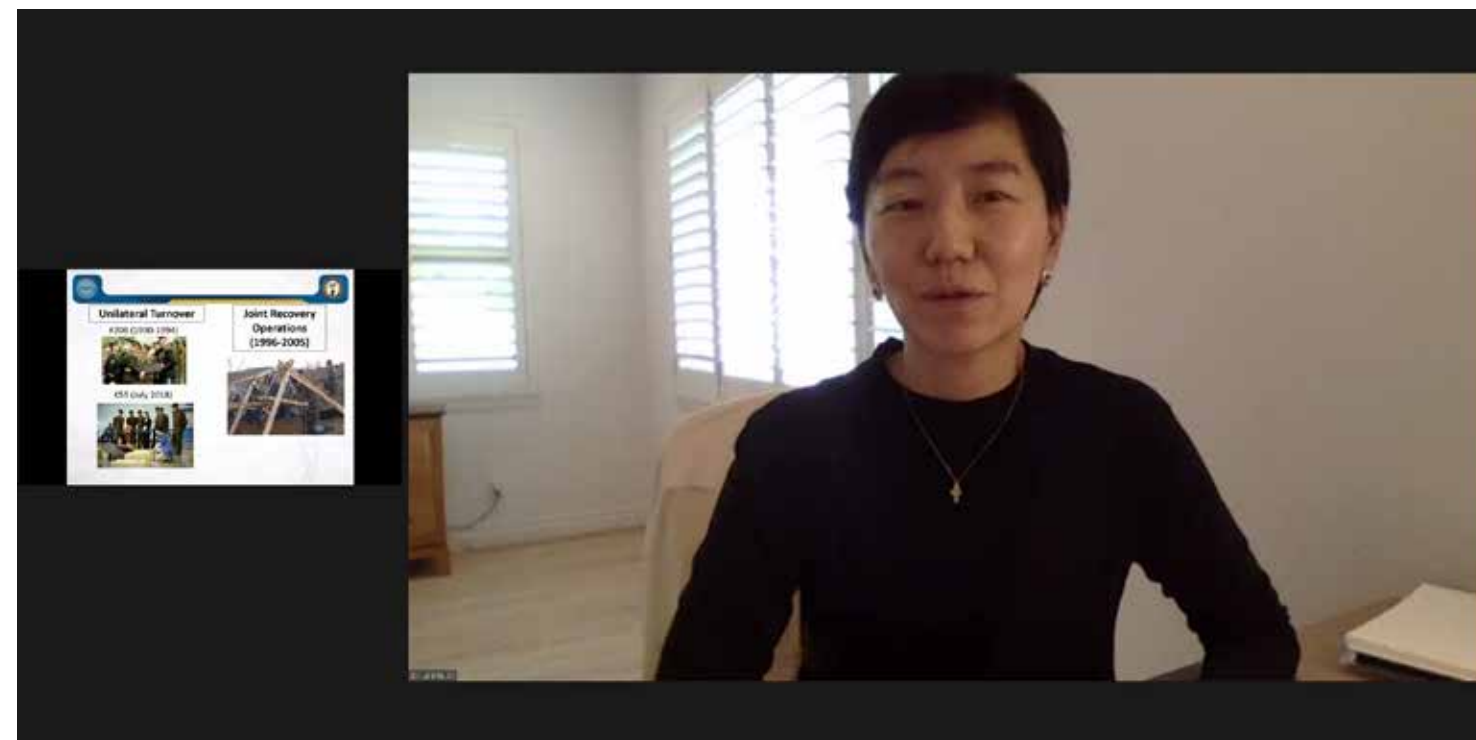
Photo by Lt. Col. Adam Points

More than 50 DPAA specialists arrived in Danang, Vietnam, on Feb. 21. This was the first time DPAA personnel deployed to Vietnam since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This JFA was planned in close coordination with the Government of Vietnam as a part of three decades of sustained bilateral cooperation. The team operated in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua-Thien Hue, and Quang Nam Provinces.

**NORTH KOREA
WEBINAR**

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everett

Dr. Jennie Jin (pictured), DPAA's Korean War Identification Project lead, and Kelly McKeague, DPAA's Director, provided updates on efforts to account for U.S. service members missing from the Korean War during a webinar hosted by The National Committee on North Korea, a U.S. non-governmental organization, on Feb. 17. The two gave a history of activities with North Korea, highlighting unilateral turnovers such as the K55 in 2018 and the challenges of resuming joint field missions in North Korea.



Directorate Recap

Partnerships & Innovations

The Partnerships and Innovations (PI) Directorate managed existing partners or conducted discussions with a total of 178 institutions in FY 2021. These efforts led to the finalization of 13 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 2021, DPAA planned to conduct 55 partner missions; however, because of safety concerns and host nation travel restrictions brought on by COVID-19, only 26 of those missions were executed. It was encouraging that partner teams nevertheless were in the field every quarter of the FY with a notable surge in the fourth quarter. Additionally, PI was able to reschedule the FY 2021 postponed missions and anticipates a large surge effort in FY 2022.

Some highlights from the field include the University of Illinois at Chicago's field mission in Cambodia; multiple missions in Europe with American Veteran's Archaeological Recovery; and projects with first-time partners Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Wyoming, Geoscope, Western Australia Museum, Colorado State University, and RPM Nautical Foundation. PI also amplified and expanded the "Hub & Spoke" History Program that incorporates the research and networking potential of individuals embedded in 14 academic and research institutions across the U.S. These and other partners are currently working on nearly 50 research requests from directorates across DPAA.

Finally, DPAA launched innovation initiatives in FY 2021 aimed at finding creative new ways to identify technology, equipment, and procedures that offer the potential to expand DPAA's capacity and capabilities. These include endeavors related to future underwater investigations and recovery efforts and wetlands

excavation, among other areas.

A hard hat diver from Legion Undersea Services performs underwater dredge operations with Project Recover during a partner mission in Palau in August. Photo by Chris Perez, Legion Undersea Services



Directorate Recap

DPAA Laboratory

The DPAA Laboratory continued to identify missing DoD personnel during FY 2021 by leveraging a balance between telework posture and in-laboratory work challenges. We accounted for 142 missing Americans in FY 2021 and identified 211 additional remains of previously accounted-for service members.

The USS Oklahoma Identification Project continued to reach many milestones. It commenced in the summer of 2015 with the disinterment of nearly 13,000 highly commingled bones. Remarkably, 361 Sailors and Marines have been individually identified, which is over 90% of all missing from this ship. In June, the USS Oklahoma group remains were transferred from the Nebraska laboratory to the Hawaii laboratory for turnover to the U.S. Navy and interment at the NMCP on the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Accessions of remains from disinterments continued in FY 2021, including all 101 Unknowns from Phase 3 of the Korean War Disinterment Project, 102 accessions from the MACM, and 88 accessions from various cemeteries in Europe. In addition, exhumations commenced on the 47 Unknowns from the Battle of Myitkina, Burma, who are buried at the NMCP.

A new addition to the lab's thirteen Special Projects is the Southeast Asia Project that reviews and analyzes all existing and new evidence from Vietnam War accessions. A dedicated project that will add more efficiency to the identification

Star Lavin, a forensic radiographer in DPAA's Hawaii laboratory, shows off the lab's CT scanner in the Laboratory Tour Video produced in FY 2021.



process.

Despite COVID's continued impacts on field operations, there were localized improving trends which permitted laboratory forensic scientists to successfully complete site survey and recovery operations in 15 countries, including first-time scientific efforts in Guam and Lithuania. Continued efforts by the VNOSMP kept unilateral host-nation recovery operations going throughout the year. These and organic DPAA teams comprised a total of 85 sites scientifically processed throughout the world.

In December, the DPAA Laboratory's scope of accreditation was officially extended to fully encompass Geographical Profile (via Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry). The laboratory was the originator of the Geographical Profile component/parameter for isotope testing under the Anthropology discipline and is thus unique within the U.S. In May, the DPAA Laboratory, in conjunction with the DPAA Academy, hosted the first Virtual Scientific Summit. Originally to be held in person, this event was a huge success with participation from nine countries.

The laboratory supported the first U.S.-Republic of Korea Joint Repatriation Ceremony in Hawaii by reviewing, selecting, and sampling over one hundred sets of possible Korean remains. The year-long preparation process involved extensive collaboration with the scientists at MAKRI, which led to the successful repatriation of 68 Korean soldiers, and return of 6 potential U.S. remains.

2021

March

A Vietnamese Unilateral RT excavates a site in western Quang Nam Province, Vietnam, during the 142nd JFA in March, searching for a U.S. service member still missing from the Vietnam War. Vietnam and the U.S. have partnered for more than three decades to account for Americans missing from the war. *Photo by Lt. Col. Adam Points*



March was a busy month for DPAA, starting with the accounting of Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2013 and is being considered for sainthood by the Catholic Church for his actions during the Korean War. Our three RTs and one IT taking part in the 142nd JFA in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam began work after their two-week quarantine. Our organic RT continued operations in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and we launched partner missions to the Republic of Austria and the Kingdom of Belgium. Additionally, we disinterred 48 Unknowns -- 16 from the NMCP and 32 from the MACM. We also accounted for 20 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.



**AMBASSADOR VISITS
CAMBODIA RECOVERY**
Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford

Air Force Master Sgt. Reginald Cromier, a DPAA life support investigator, speaks to Ambassador W. Patrick Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, about evidence recently found during a recovery mission in the Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia, March 9.



AUSTRIA RECOVERY
Photo by Sgt. Melanye Martinez

Rengert-Jan Elburg, a DPAA casualty resolution officer, moves buckets during a recovery mission in Austria March 30. This mission was the first organic DPAA mission to Europe since the COVID-19 pandemic caused the recall or cancellation of global missions a year prior.

EXHIBIT UNVEILING
Photo by Mass Communications Specialist
2nd Class Seth Coulter

Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji (right), DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations, and Scott Burch, Pearl Harbor National Memorial Superintendent, untie a maile lei to commemorate a new DPAA exhibit at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial March 5. The display will be seen by the millions who visit the memorial each year.



**REMEMBERING
FALLEN HEROES**
Photo by Laura Herzog, Executive
Director, Honoring Our Fallen

Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Jacob Cruz, unaccounted for from the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943 during World War II, was honored by his family with a billboard along the I-105 freeway in Los Angeles on March 23 when he he was laid to rest there. Cruz was recovered on Betio Island by DPAA partner History Flight, Inc. in 2019, and identified by our Hawaii laboratory on April 14, 2020.



This is one of the first POW/MIA flags from 1970, kept by Carol Hickerson, whose first husband, Maj. Steve Hanson, was lost in Vietnam and was the inspiration for the silhouette still used on the flag today. Hanson's remains were found, and he was identified by the Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii, a DPAA predecessor organization, on June 12, 2000. Photo by Carol Hickerson

VIETNAM SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP
Photo by Maj. Eric Richards

Le Chi Dung (center), the VNOSMP Director; Nguyen Hong Quang (right), the VNOSMP Deputy Director; and Ritu Tariyal (left), from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), listen as Dr. Gregory Berg, DPAA's Lab DNA Manager, delivers remarks on the role of the DPAA laboratory in identifying American MIAs. Berg's presentation was part of the Scientific Workshop on DNA Identification of Human Remains from War, organized by the VNOSMP and USAID to improve Vietnam's internal capabilities for identifying their missing war dead.





Dr. Denise To (right) briefs Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, DPAA Deputy Director for Operations, during a tour of the DPAA laboratory on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, April 30. “The care and commitment that you exhibit in each and every mission that you go on is just extraordinary,” Austin said. “It’s not lost on me that in years past we’ve lost members of our team while out on missions. It’s dangerous, it’s hard, it’s tedious, but the fact that we have people like you who are committed to do what you’re doing is just absolutely terrific, and it sets us apart and it makes us different, so I want to thank you for what you do.” *Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford*

2021

April

DPAA began the month by remembering the seven U.S. service members and nine Vietnamese personnel lost in a 2001 MI-17 helicopter crash in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam during a mission planning flight; ceremonies were held at the Pentagon, our Hawaii facility, and the crash site in Vietnam. Our investigation and recovery efforts continued in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Field operations began in the Republic of Korea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic of Panama. We disinterred 16 Korean War Unknowns from the NMCP as part of Phase 3 of the Korean War Disinterment Project. We also held a virtual FMU for families in and around Albuquerque, New Mexico, and accounted for five formerly missing persons from past conflicts.





**MI-17
REMEMBRANCE**
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette

Gen. Mark A Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks at the April 7 DPAA Remembrance Ceremony at the Pentagon for 16 American and Vietnamese personnel who were killed when their Mi-17 helicopter crashed in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, in 2001, while on mission for a DPAA predecessor organization.

A 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Soldier marches with the POW/MIA flag behind the caisson carrying the remains of Army Sgt. James E. Smith, Jr., who died during the Korean War, during Smith's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery April 12. Photo by Kelly McKeague



SOIL SCREENING
Photo by Sgt. Melanye Martinez

Navy Builder 3rd Class Amanda Hartjes, a DPAA RT noncommissioned officer, screens soil for possible remains and material evidence while snow is falling during a recovery mission in Austria April 6. During the mission, potential osseous material was recovered and accessioned into the DPAA laboratory at Offutt AFB, Nebraska.



**WORLD WAR II
BRIEFING VIDEOS**

Screenshot by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette

Dr. Ian Spurgeon, a DPAA EM Directorate historian, gives a presentation on DPAA's World War II research efforts. DPAA launched a series of World War II briefing videos on our website in April in order to better keep families informed of the various projects we have on-going. These videos can be watched at: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Briefing-Videos/>.

The screenshot shows a video player with a title "World War II Briefing Videos". The text on the screen reads: "DPAA World War II Briefing videos describe the overall historic perspective of various battles/operations, address the number of unresolved losses, and provide a progress update. They can be found at: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Briefing-Videos/>". Below the video, a nameplate identifies "DR. IAN SPURGEON, DPAA HISTORIAN" and "WORLD WAR II EUROPE-MEDITERRANEAN DIRECTORATE".

**KOREAN DMZ
INVESTIGATION**
Photo by Cpl. Jack A.E. Rigby

Lt. Col. Kim Jin Ho, operations chief at the MAKRI, speaks to DPAA IT members as part of an investigation mission in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea on April 15. DPAA personnel were surveying possible locations of U.S. service members lost during the Korean War within the DMZ.



2021
May

Air Force Master Sgt. Jacqueline Risley, a DPAA EOD technician, excavates a unit during a recovery mission in Belgium on May 26. Throughout the 72-day mission, the DPAA team was able to excavate and screen an estimated 1,013 tons of soil in a 422 square-meter area while searching for 1st Lt. Eugene Chauvin, lost in a C-47 crash in 1944. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall*



In May, we held our fourth virtual FMU, this time for families in and around Oklahoma City. In addition to our continuing investigation and recovery missions to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Korea, and the Kingdom of Thailand. We also launched the 143rd JFA in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and partner missions to the Republic of Austria and the French Republic. Additionally, we disinterred 16 Unknowns from the NMCP and accounted for four formerly missing persons from past conflicts.



An Air Force Honor Guard member holds the POW/MIA flag at attention during the funeral for Col. William E. Campbell at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, May 18, 2017. Campbell was lost on a mission over southern Laos in 1969. His remains were recovered in 2014. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Duus*



VIETNAM UNDERWATER RECOVERY

Photo by Sgt. Mitchell Ryan

U.S. Coast Guard Diver 2nd Class Corey Smith, a mission augmentee from Coast Guard Regional Dive Locker Pacific, jumps into the water from a barge during an underwater recovery mission in Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam,

May 27. Smith was one of four Coast Guard divers who joined DPAA's underwater recovery team to search for unaccounted-for U.S. service members as part of the 143rd Joint Field Activity. DPAA is grateful to the Vietnamese government for their sustained cooperation and partnership in our on-going mission to recover our unaccounted-for service members from the Vietnam War.

LAOS RECOVERY MISSION

Photo by Lt. Col. Daniel Oh

After completing a 14-day quarantine, DPAA RT members board a Lao Airlines charter flight from Vientiane, Laos, on May 18 for onward movement to recovery sites in Khammouan Province. This recovery mission excavated four sites in an effort to bring missing service members home from the Vietnam War.



ARMY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS VISIT

Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Thomas L. Solhjem, the Army's 25th Chief of Chaplains, gives a prayer during a tour at the DPAA facility on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam May 12. The Hawaii facility receives many visits from distinguished guests every year. These visits provide valuable outreach opportunities for DPAA personnel to educate visitors from across the DoD, U.S. Government, and many partner nations on our noble mission and its complexities.

VIRTUAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

Screenshot by Sabrina Taala

Maj. Gen. Dato' Dr. Mohd Ilham Haron (top right) of the Malaysian Forensic Odontology Team gives a briefing during the DPAA Virtual Scientific Symposium May 24. Representatives from organizations in Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam met with DPAA forensic scientists to discuss topics of joint interest in anticipation of an eventual in-person Scientific Summit, which continues to be postponed due to pandemic restrictions.

MAF Forensic Odontology Team





U.S. service members participate in an Honorable Carry Ceremony for unidentified remains of USS Oklahoma service members held on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, June 24. DPAA hosted a similar ceremony earlier that day in Lincoln, Nebraska. Both were held to pay tribute to the Sailors and Marines lost aboard the USS *Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. These unidentified remains were returned from the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, to Hawaii to be reinterred by the Navy at the NMCP on the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor as DPAA's USS *Oklahoma* Disinterment Project concludes. The highly successful project is a testament to the collaboration among DPAA, AFMES-AFDIL, the Navy and Marine Corps, and NMCP. *Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rusty Frank*

2021

June

The high operational tempo continued with investigation and recovery efforts, both organic and partnered, in the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the French Republic, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. New field operations commenced in Hungary, the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Federal Republic of Germany. We disinterred 31 World War II Unknowns from the ABMC's Ardennes, Lorraine, and Normandy American Cemeteries, and 16 Korean War Unknowns from the NMCP. We also accounted for 14 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.





CHAIR OF HONOR DEDICATION
Photo by Ashley Wright

Colleen Shine, daughter of Air Force Col. Anthony Shine (accounted for from the Vietnam War in 1996) and representative of the National League of POW/MIA Families; and Air Force Capt. Ralph Galati, a former Vietnam War POW, unveil the POW/MIA Chair of Honor during a ceremony in the lobby of DPAA's Arlington, Virginia, office June 14. These chairs are found across the United States, in state capitols, town halls, and sports arenas and stadiums. The chairs are meant to represent those service members who are unable to fill them because of their sacrifices. A Chair of Honor was unveiled at DPAA's Hawaii facility in February 2020.

The POW/MIA Flag flies atop the White House in Washington, D.C. on National Former POW Recognition Day April 9, 2021. The flag moved back atop the White House after flying on the South Lawn since June 2020.



TRAPP BROTHERS RECEIVE ROSETTES
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rusty Frank



Carol Sowar, niece of Harold and William Trapp, brothers who died on the USS *Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor and were successfully identified as part of the USS *Oklahoma* Project, places rosettes signifying her uncles have been accounted for on a memorial wall in the Courts of the Missing at the NMCP in Honolulu June 15.



HUNGARY INVESTIGATION MISSION

Photo by Joshua Frank

Air Force Capt. Attila Zsigmond, a DPAA augmentee from the 336th Fighter Squadron out of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, takes part in the survey of a possible crash location of an American bomber in Győr-Moson-Sopron County, Hungary, June 14. Zsigmond is an F-15 Eagle fighter pilot who served as a linguist for the mission. He came to DPAA as part of the Air Force's Language Enabled Airmen Program, a volunteer program designed to strengthen partnerships and interoperability across the DoD.

VIETNAM RECOVERY MISSION

Photo by Lance Cpl. Timothy Fowler

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Draft Criss, a DPAA RT member, does an initial sweep of an excavation site during a recovery mission in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, June 15. During the recovery mission, which was part of the 143rd JFA, DPAA personnel, augmentees, and local nationals spent their days digging and screening in hopes of finding a missing U.S. service member lost during the Vietnam War.



2021

July

Ben Thompson, a volunteer with the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) group, searches for remains of fallen service members during a B-24 Liberator bomber excavation at Park Farm in Arundel, England, July 8. AVAR and the University of York in England partnered with DPAA to excavate the site. The bomber crashed June 22, 1944, after being severely damaged while completing its bombing mission in France during World War II. Three of the crew members died in the crash and were never recovered. The site had never been excavated with remains recovery in mind until this partnership mission. *Photo by Senior Airman Koby I. Saunders, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*



This month, we unveiled the 2021 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster in a ceremony at the Pentagon. We also continued both organic and partner investigations and recoveries to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Austria, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Italian Republic, the French Republic, the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Federal Republic of Germany. New operations began in Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Poland, and the Republic of Croatia. We also disinterred 20 World War II Unknowns from the Ardennes, Luxembourg, and Netherlands American Cemeteries, and 16 Korean War Unknowns from the NMCP. We accounted for 16 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.



OFFUTT DOCUMENTARY

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette

Dr. Lara McCormick, a DPAA forensic anthropologist at the Offutt AFB lab, prepares histology samples for the camera July 15. The Nebraska Public Television series “What If,” a series about innovation and creativity in Nebraska, filmed at the lab for three days to highlight the DPAA mission and the work done by our scientists.

FRANCE PARTNER MISSION

Photo by Tabitha Wadford

Dr. Adam Fracchia (left), lead archaeologist, and Dr. Tiffany Saul (middle), principal investigator, discuss excavations with Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché to France Air Force Col. Alan Pepper on a recovery mission run by DPAA partner Middle Tennessee State University near Néron, France, July 8. Many DPAA recovery missions are made possible because of the network of partners established by our Partnerships and Innovations Directorate.



POSTER UNVEILING

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack Sanders, Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

The 2021 POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster was unveiled in a ceremony in the POW/MIA Corridor of the Pentagon July 27. Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen H. Hicks (left of poster) joined DPAA Director, Kelly McKeague, and representatives from several MIA Family Groups and Veteran Service Organizations to reveal this year’s poster.

STORMS FUNERAL

Photo by Ashley Wright

The four sons of Army Maj. Harvey Storms attended their father’s funeral at Arlington National Cemetery July 16. Storms was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was returned to the U.S. among the 55 boxes of remains turned over by the DPRK in 2018.



A DPAA RT poses for a group photo with the POW/MIA Flag during a recovery mission in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam, July 3. All DPAA RTs take a moment for a picture with the flag while on mission. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElderry





Ray Kapaun, nephew of Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun, a Korean War Medal of Honor recipient accounted for by DPAA in March; along with Joyce Dalton and Verlie Quinan, sisters of Korean War missing service member, Ensign Ronald D. Eaton; and DPAA Director Kelly McKeague participated in a public Wreath-Laying Ceremony and viewed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, Aug. 5. The wreath-laying was held in conjunction with the Aug. 5-6 Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings. *Photo by Elizabeth Fraser, Arlington National Cemetery*

2021

August

We virtually connected with families during our Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings (K/CW). We also conducted organic and partner investigation and recovery missions to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Croatia, the Italian Republic, the French Republic, and the Republic of Austria. We commenced field work in the Republic of Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Lithuania, and the Kingdom of Denmark. We also disinterred 12 World War II Unknowns from the Brittany, Normandy, Netherlands, and Henri-Chappelle American Cemeteries, and four Korean War Unknowns from the NMCP, finishing Phase 3 of the Korean War Disinterment Project. We accounted for eight formerly missing persons from past conflicts.





DANISH NAVY RECOGNITION

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

On behalf of the DPAA, U.S. Embassy-Copenhagen officials recognized members of the Royal Danish Navy in a ceremony on Her Danish Majesty's Ship Søløven Aug. 24. DPAA awards and certificates of appreciation were presented to the captain and crew of the ship and divers with the Danish Navy Fleet Diving Unit for their efforts to support the underwater survey of a U.S. B-24 Liberator bomber wreckage, which might help to account for missing World War II Airmen and provide information to their families.



K/CW ANNUAL BRIEFINGS

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Corey Idleburg

The Honorable Hwang Ki-chul, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Republic of Korea, addresses viewers during DPAA's K/CW in Arlington, Virginia, Aug. 6. The briefings were held virtually after being canceled in 2020 due to COVID. These briefings are designed to keep family members informed of the DoD's worldwide mission to account for those still missing from the Korean and Cold Wars and provides them the latest information available concerning their individual losses.



GERMANY RECOVERY

Photo by Staff Sgt. James Thompson

Air Force Capt. Jenavee Viernes (left), a DPAA team leader, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Catherine Deacon (right), a DPAA medic, assist with site excavation during a recovery mission in Brandenburg, Germany, Aug. 16. This mission was investigating the potential crash site of a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber that did not return from a mission to bomb Berlin in World War II.



Members of the Offutt AFB Honor Guard raise the POW/MIA flag over the base parade grounds. On Aug. 10, 1990, Congress passed a law designating the POW/MIA flag "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation." Photo by Kristen Allen

PALAU PRESIDENT VISITS RECOVERY SITE

Photo by Harry Parker, Project Recover

Nick Zaborski (left) and John Marsack (right), of DPAA partner, Project Recover, brief His Excellency Surangel Whipps, Jr. (seated), the President of Palau, on the surface supply dive system before diving with him at a recovery site Aug. 30. Whipps and the Honorable John Hennessey-Niland, U.S. Ambassador to Palau, visited the Project Recover team to get a better understanding of what goes into an underwater recovery mission.



2021

September

His Excellency Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea and First Lady Kim Jung-sook render honors during the first-ever Korean War Joint Repatriation Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Sept. 22. The ceremony included the transfer of remains and commemoration of the service of 68 fallen South Korean and 6 U.S. service members who fought in the Korean War. The remains were analyzed jointly by scientists from DPAA and South Korea's MAKRI. *Photo by Staff Sgt. James Thompson*



It was a busy end to FY 2021. The President of the Republic of Korea was the principal official at the Joint Repatriation Ceremony in Hawaii. We also held our Annual Vietnam War Government Briefings in conjunction with the 51st Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families in Virginia; conducted a Chain of Custody ceremony for Chaplain Emil Kapaun; and held ceremonies for POW/MIA Recognition Day across the globe. Organic and partner investigation and recovery missions continued in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Palau, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Marshall Islands, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Korea, the French Republic, the Republic of Austria, and the Republic of Croatia, with new missions beginning in the Commonwealth of Australia, the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. We disinterred 21 World War II from multiple ABMC cemeteries in Europe and accounted for seven formerly missing persons from past conflicts.



U.S. service members participate in a 24-hour memorial run as part of events to recognize National POW/MIA Day at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor-Hickam Sept. 16, 2021. Observances of the day are held across the country on military installations, aboard ships, in state capitols, schools, and veterans' facilities. *Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rusty Frank*

VIETNAM WAR GOVERNMENT BRIEFINGS

Photo by Lt. Col. Tamara Fischer-Carter

Concurrent with the 51st Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families, DPAA conducted Annual Government Briefings virtually for families whose loved ones are unaccounted from the Vietnam War Sept. 15-16. U.S. government officials updated family members on current and future accounting efforts through various briefings that provide strategic, operational, and scientific overviews as well as fielded questions from those viewing.



LAOS RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Photo by Cpl. Jack A.E. Riggsby

Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael O'Hanlon (center), a DPAA team sergeant, dances with local workers during a recovery mission in the Lao People's Democratic Republic Sept. 4. DPAA personnel arrived to conduct excavation operations in an effort to find a U.S. reconnaissance pilot lost during the Vietnam War.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brittany Chase, Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III gives remarks during a ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day held at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Sept. 17. First established in 1979 through a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is an observance to honor and recognize the sacrifices of those Americans who have been a POW, and to remind the nation of those who are still MIA.



KAPAUN CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall

DPAA members render honors during a Chain of Custody Ceremony for the remains of Medal of Honor-recipient U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sept. 21. In May 2021, DPAA announced that Chaplain Kapaun's remains had been positively identified. His remains had previously been interred in a grave marked "Unknown" at the NMCP in Honolulu in 1956 and had been disinterred in 2019 as part of DPAA's Korean War Disinterment Project.



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
(866) 210-3421, Opt. 1



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

DPAA Outreach and Communications/Public Affairs

Johnie Webb - Acting Outreach and Communications Director
U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Tamara Fischer-Carter - Public Affairs Division Chief
Ashley Wright - Strategic Communications Chief
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean Everette - Public Affairs NCO

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DVIDS: www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA
YouTube: <https://youtu.be/FcSwcb57OGg>

2022 Family Update Schedule*

Date	Location
January 22	Miami, FL
February 26	Dallas, TX
February 28	Honolulu, HI
March 26	Spokane, WA
April 23	Minneapolis, MN
May 21	Boston, MA
June 22-25	Arlington, VA**
July 26-27	Arlington, VA***
September 10	Colorado Springs, CO

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

