



Korean War Research, Recovery, and Identifications



Dan Baughman



Agenda

Korean War Unaccounted-for Servicemen

- Where They Were Lost

Korean War Research

- Korean Peninsula, Northeast China
- Former Soviet Union

Korean War Recoveries and Identifications

Cold War Recovery Operations

How Families Can Help

Disinterments of Korean War Unknowns

Korean War Identification Project



Unaccounted-for by Category and Service

• Killed in Action	1,709	• Army	5,742
• Prisoners of War	1,850	• Air Force	908
• Missing in Action	3,905	• Marines	641
• Non- Battle Deaths	104	• Navy	277
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Total	7,568	Total	7,568



Major Losses North Korea

POW Camp Burial Sites

1,200

- Apex (270)
- Valley #1 Camp (41)
- Camp 5 (321)
- Death Valley Camp (233)
- Suan Camps (179)

Unsan / Chongchon Area

1,495

- Kuryong (170)
- Unsan (255)
- Kujang (265)
- Kunu-ri (380)



Chosin Reservoir Area

1,002

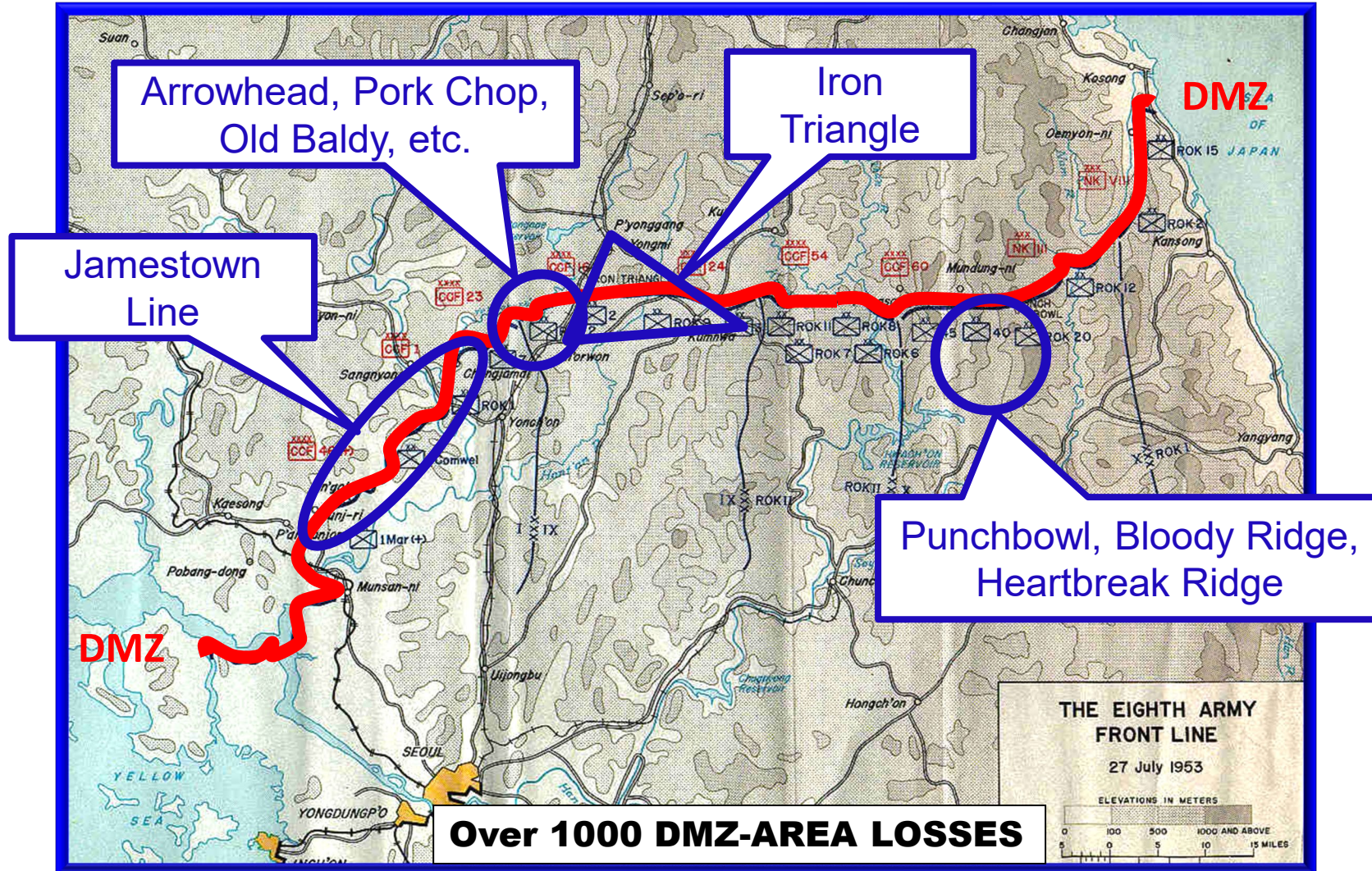
- Yudam-ni (194)
- Sinhung (92)
- Twiggae (223)

DMZ 1000

❖ Estimated numbers of remains are in parenthesis

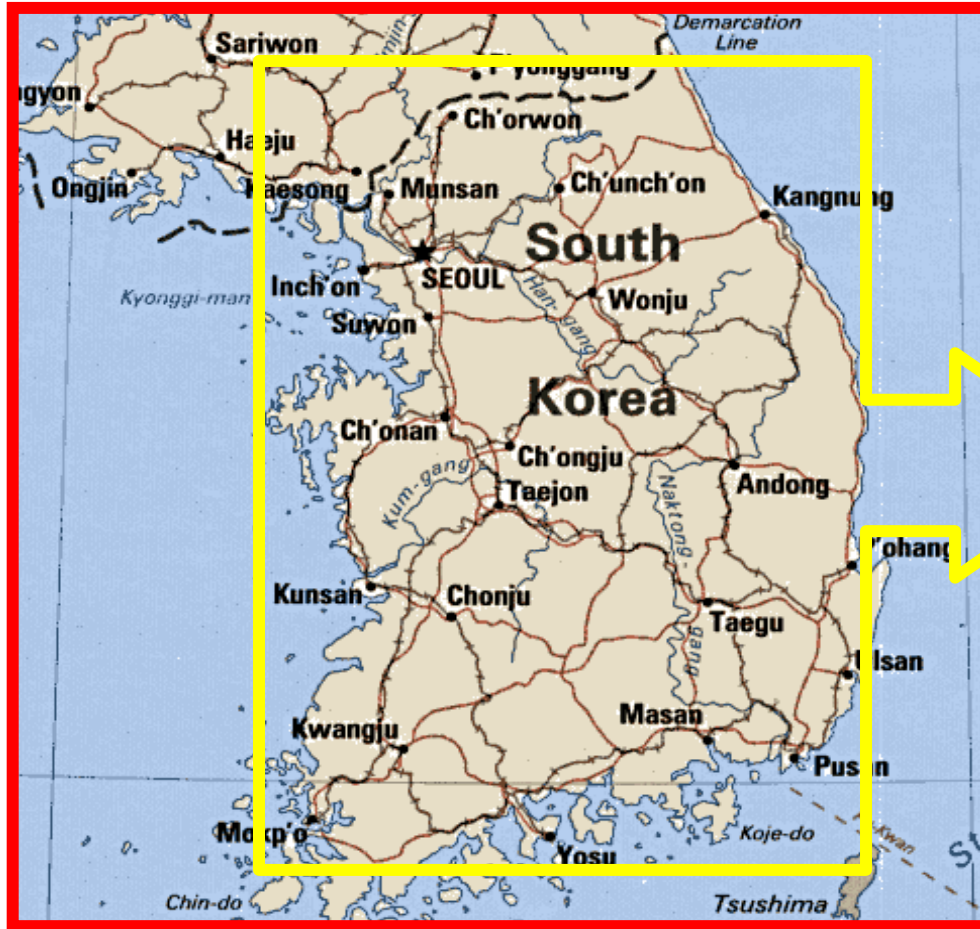


Outpost Battles 1951 - 1953





South Korea 1951 - 1956



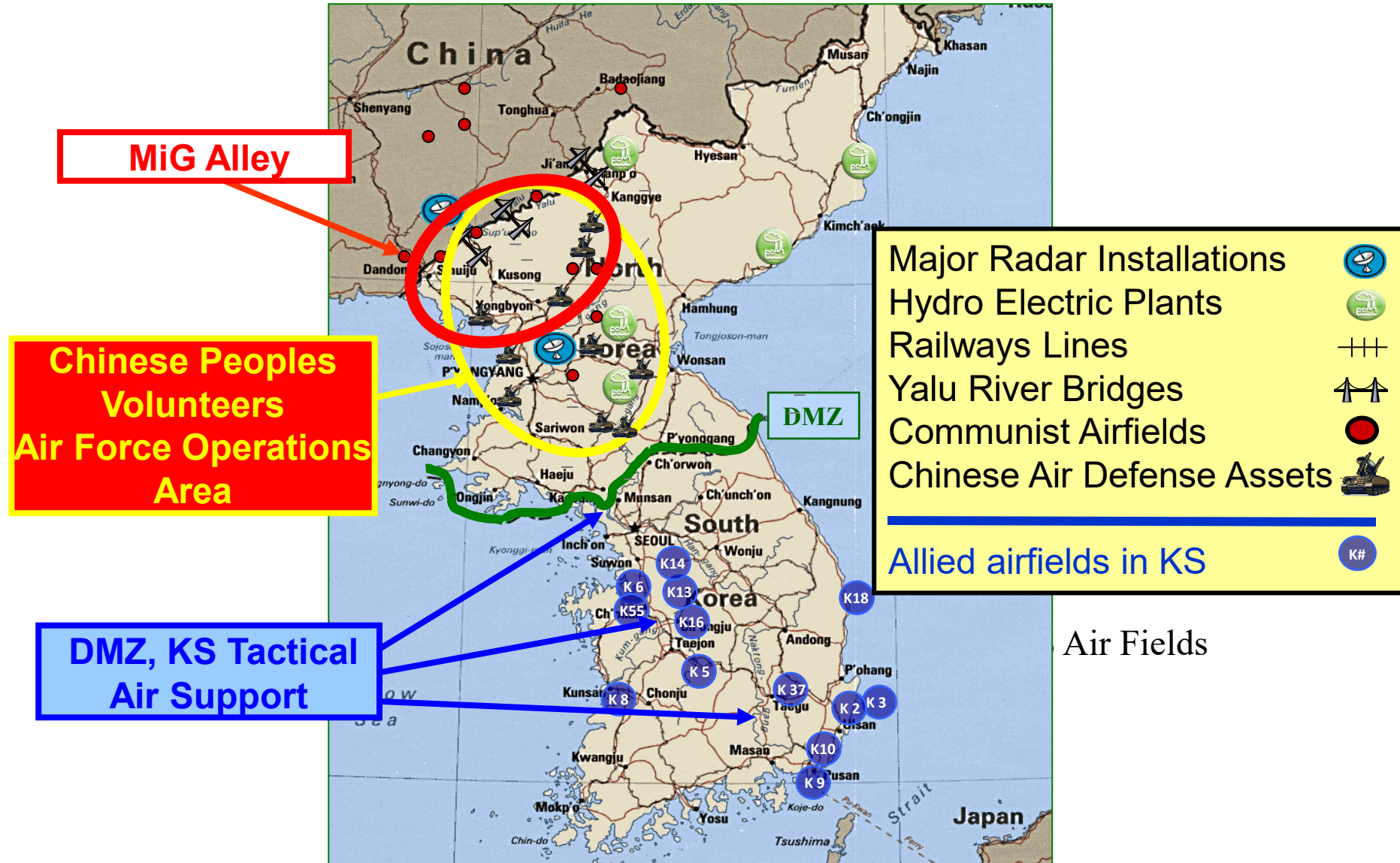
The Punchbowl

- 1951-56 over 25,000 recoveries
- 867 unknowns: 451 from South Korea (another 416 from the North)
- 400 exhumations since 1999, 150 have been accounted for.



Air War Over Korea

Loss areas



MiG Alley

Chinese Peoples
Volunteers
Air Force Operations
Area

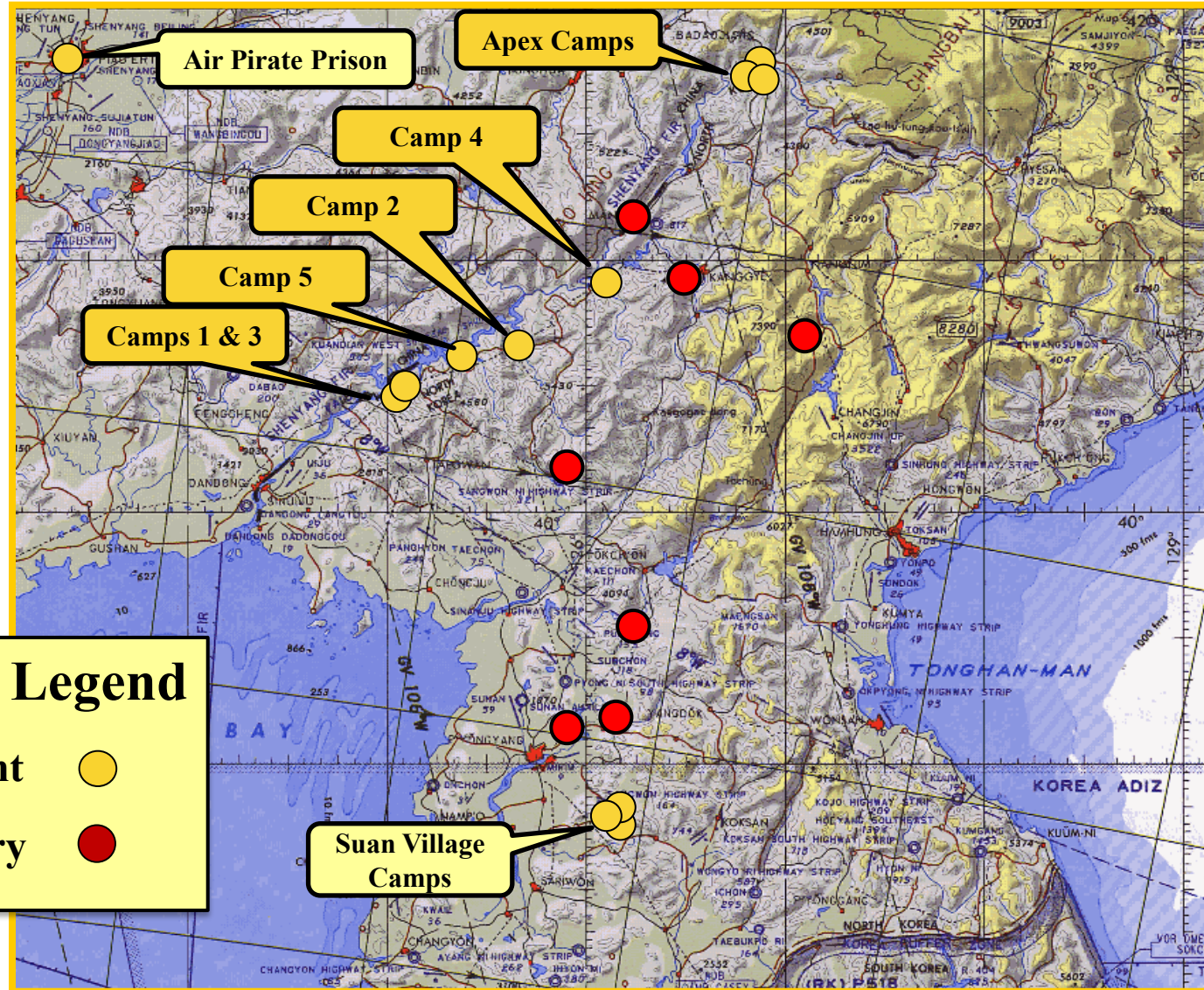
DMZ, KS Tactical
Air Support

Major Radar Installations	
Hydro Electric Plants	
Railways Lines	
Yalu River Bridges	
Communist Airfields	
Chinese Air Defense Assets	
Allied airfields in KS	

Air Fields



POW Camps



Camps Legend

Permanent ●

Temporary ●



Korean War POW / MIA Research

A Multi-Source Collection Process

- Veterans Oral History Program
- National Archives
- Service History Centers & Libraries
- National Personnel Records Center
- Library of Congress
- Foreign Archives





Chinese PLA Archives Information

Korean War shoot-down
or crash site reports on:

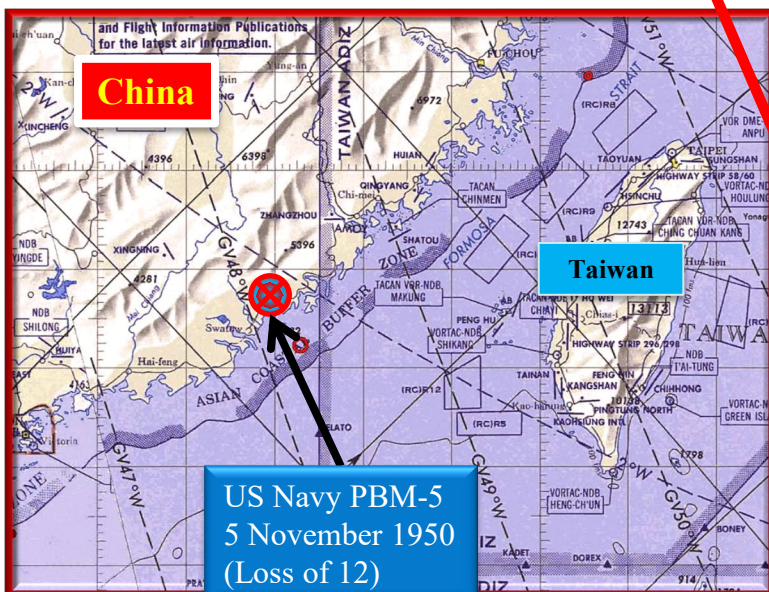
4 F-86 Sabre

2 RB-29 Super-fortress

1 PBM-5 Mariner

1 B-26 Invader

---PLA Recovered Remains
at one site





Veterans Oral History Program

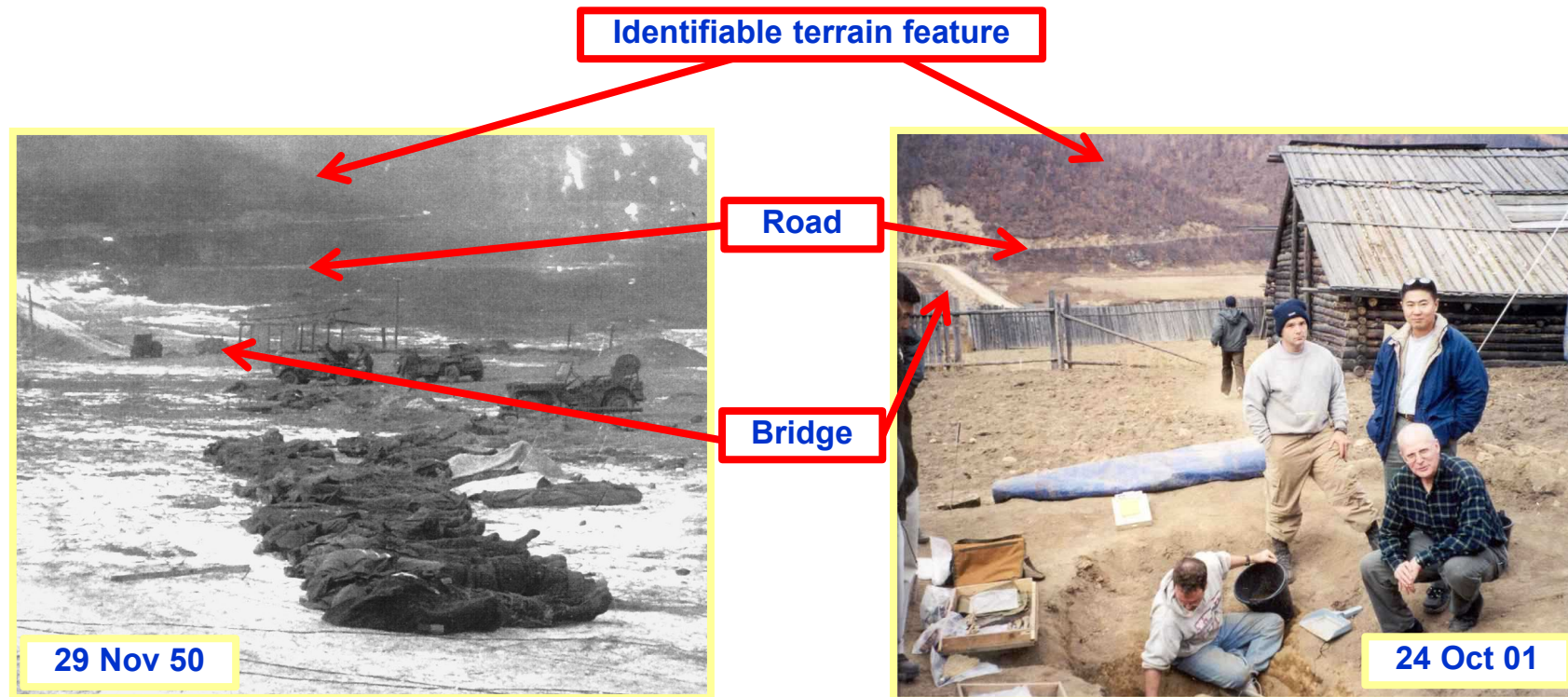
- Active program to collect perishable info
- 193 military reunions since 1996
- Over 2,600 veterans screened
 - All divisions, multi-service events, ex-POW associations
 - Over 1/3 of living POW returnees
- Five to seven reunions annually, plus telephonic, veteran residence visits
- Clarify loss incidents, locate grave sites





Oral History Program Successes

Veterans' info has contributed to recoveries

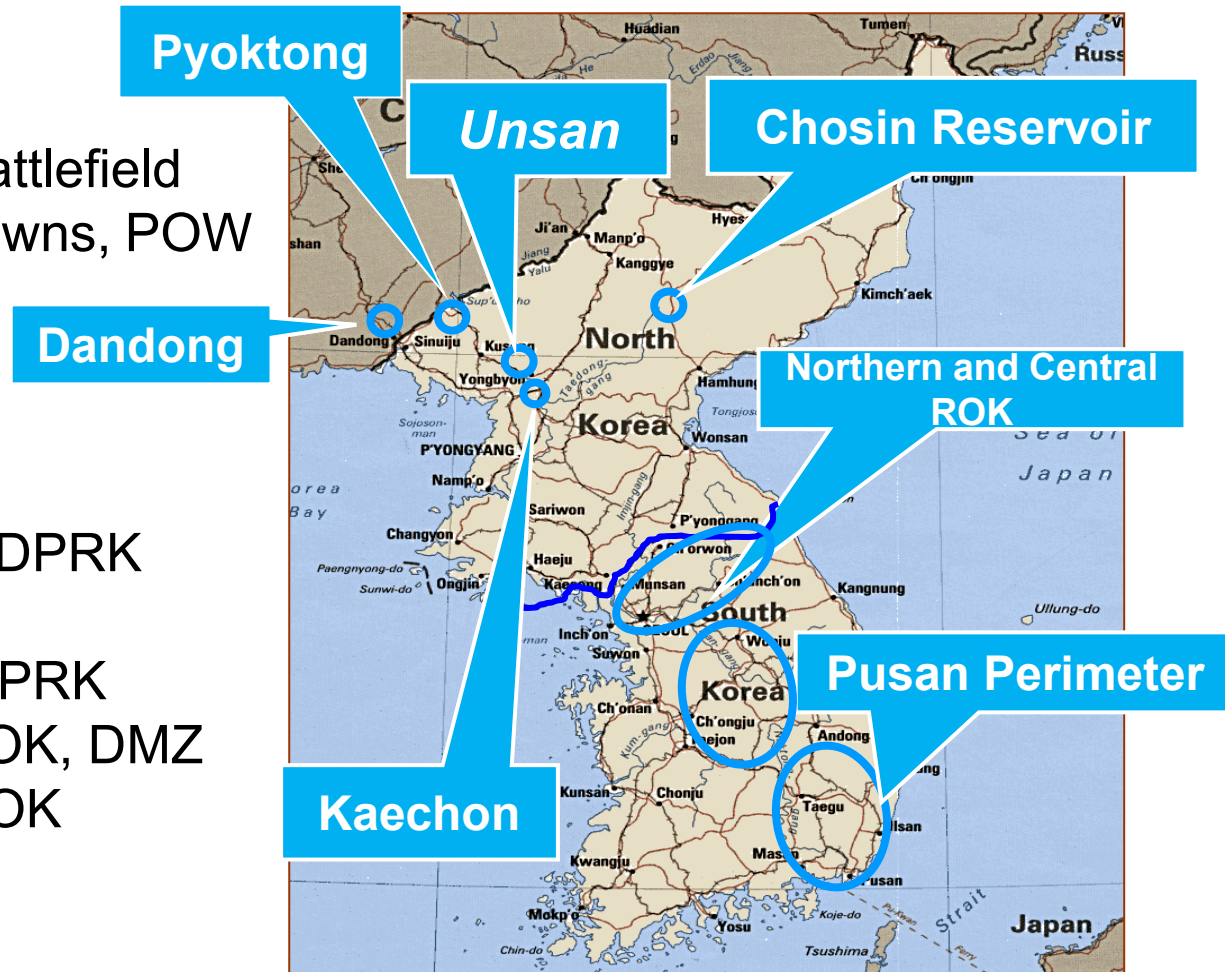


31st Regimental Combat Team, P'yungnyuri Inlet, Chosin Reservoir



Research Efforts

- Determine location of battlefield losses, aircraft shoot-downs, POW camps
- Areas of interest:
 - Dandong, PRC
 - Pyoktong (Camp 5), DPRK
 - Unsan, DPRK
 - Chosin Reservoir, DPRK
 - Northern, Central ROK, DMZ
 - Pusan Perimeter, ROK
 - Kaechon, DPRK



Define loss populations, concentrations, and support of field operations



Battlefield Analysis at Work

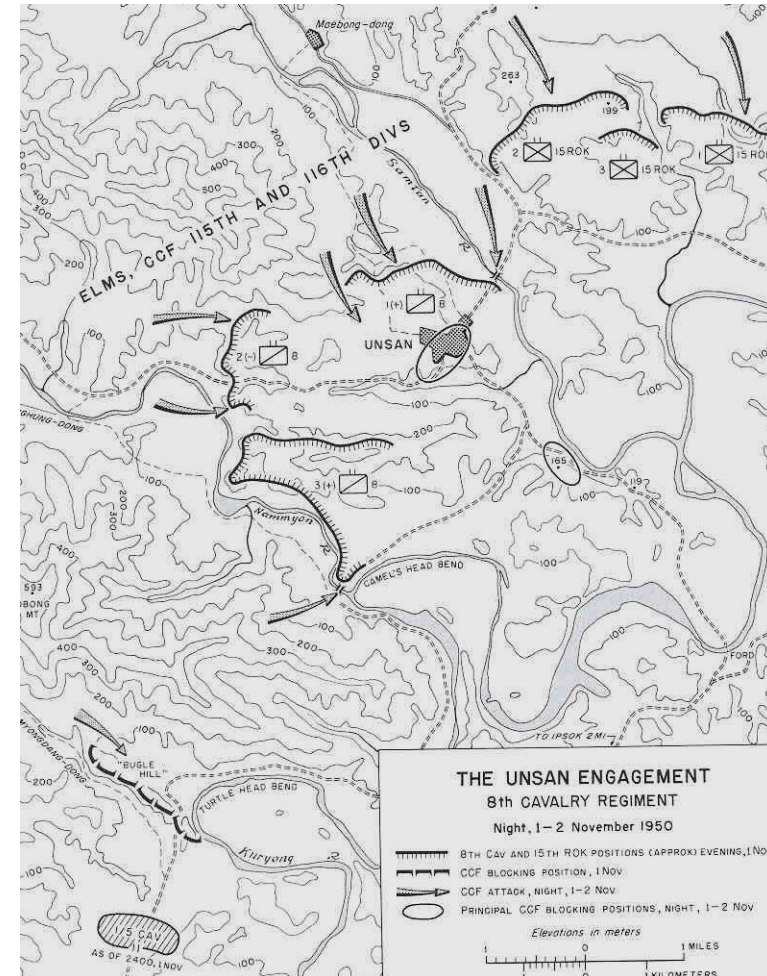


Battle of Unsan

1st Cavalry vs Chinese Communists
293 soldiers missing

Sources:

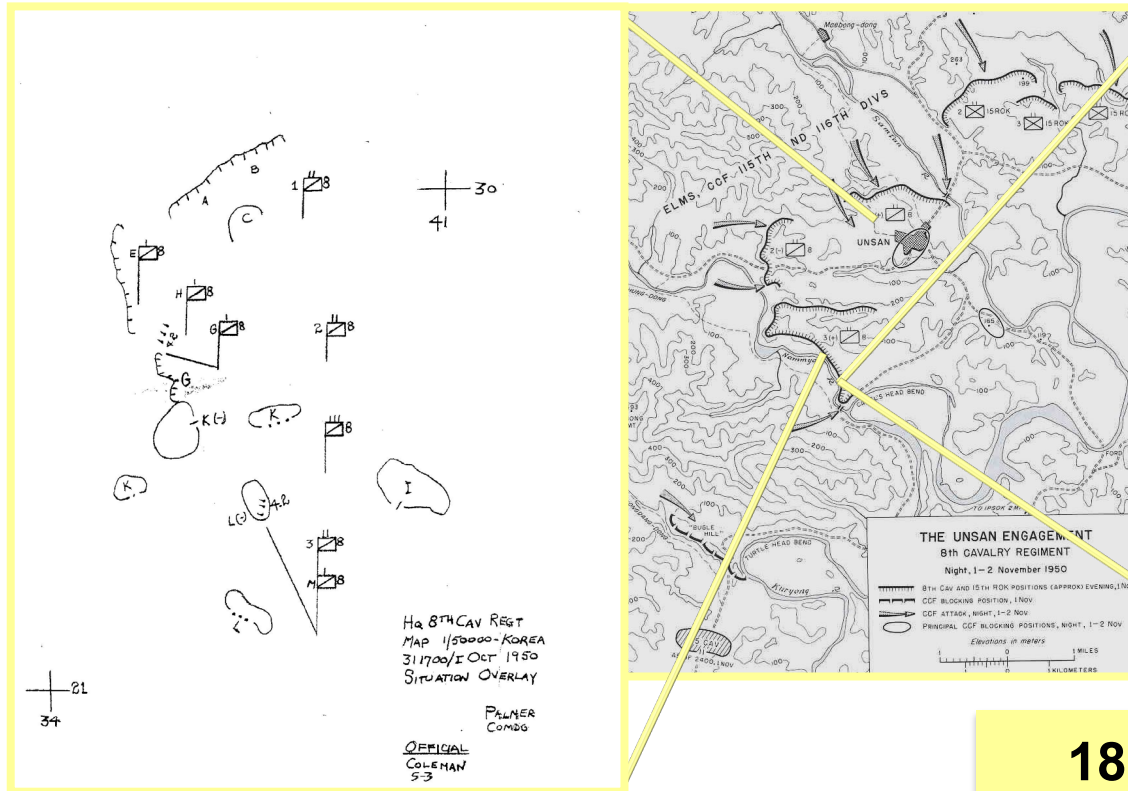
- Oral history interviews
- U.S. Army field search data (Cases 310, 383)
- 5th & 8th Cavalry Regiments' war diaries, November 1950
- Korean War Crime Case 132
- Official Army Histories and supporting documents



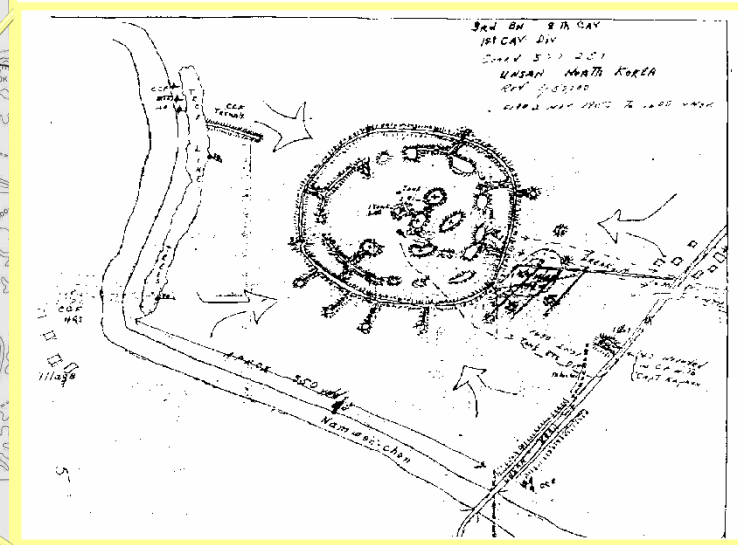


Battlefield Analysis at Work

Unit Disposition Overlay; 8th Cav Bn and Co CPs



Veteran's Diagram; 3/8 final positions



Joint Field Activities
1996, 1997, 2000 – 2005



18 missions, 61 IDs

- 38 from joint field activities
- 23 from DPRK unilateral returns



POW Transfer Research



This intensive and lengthy effort included:

- Hundreds of interviews
- Archival research in former Gulag “capitals”
- Contracted research by local “memorial societies”
- Examination of records of psychiatric hospitals
- Examination of records of Russian prisons which held foreigners
- Examination of documents from 15 major archival systems



FY21 Operations Plan





South Korean Support

Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification (MAKRI)

- Established January 2007
- Assistance:
 - Locating witnesses
 - Accompany and facilitate movement
 - Provide information on possible U.S. losses
- Conducting DMZ demining with DPRK

Interview

Investigate

DNA Samples

Burial

Public/family Outreach

Bring Them Home ...

Korean War KIA Remains Recovery Project

MAKRI
MIND Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification



South Korean Successes



Ensign Robert W. Langwell, USN

- Lost at sea, October 1, 1950
- South Korean fisherman located and buried in 1950
- June 2009 located
- November 2009 identified



Private First Class James J. Leonard, Jr.

- Killed in Action, 25 August 1950
- Located March 2017 in Yongdong, Chungcheong Province
- Remains found by South Korean Telecom company, recovered by MAKRI
- August 2017 identified





North Korea Operations



- **5,300 lost in North Korea**
- **Operations conducted from 1996-2005**
- **229 sets of remains recovered**
- **Forensic analysis to establish identifications on remains recovered from past operations continues**
- **Operations suspended in May 2005 due to heightened tensions on the peninsula**
- **Arrangement to resume operations in 2012 cancelled**





“K - 208”



North Korean Side



Honor Guard on Aircraft



Flag Draping

- 208 boxes turned over by North Korea
- More than 400 individuals contained within
- 187 accounted-for to date



55 Containers of Remains from DPRK



- 27 July 2018 turnover at Wonsan to US Forces Korea
- 1 August 2018 assessed into DPAA in Honolulu
- 55 Containers of remains and military artifacts
- One Dog Tag from U.S. Army 8th Cavalry Regiment MIA at Unsan, November 1950
- Location of discovery included with the remains
- 70 accounted for– from Chosin, Unsan and Kujang





Cold War Cases



- 8 April 1950 USN PB4Y2
- 6 November 1951 USN P2V
- 13 June 1952 USAF RB-29
- 7 October 1952 USAF RB-29
- 29 July 1953 USAF RB-50
- 17 April 1955 USAF RB-47
- 10 September 1956 USAF RB-50
- 2 September 1958* USAF C-130
- 1 July 1960 USAF RB-47
- 14 December 1965 USAF RB-57
- 29 November 1952 Civilian C-47
- 18 January 1953 USN P2V
- 6 May 1954 Civilian C-119
- 23 August 1956 USN P4M
- 15 April 1969 USN EC-121

*Accounted For



Families May Hold Key Information



- DNA reference sample
- Letters from missing
- Photos of missing
- Health information on missing



Korean War Unknowns

How many were interred?



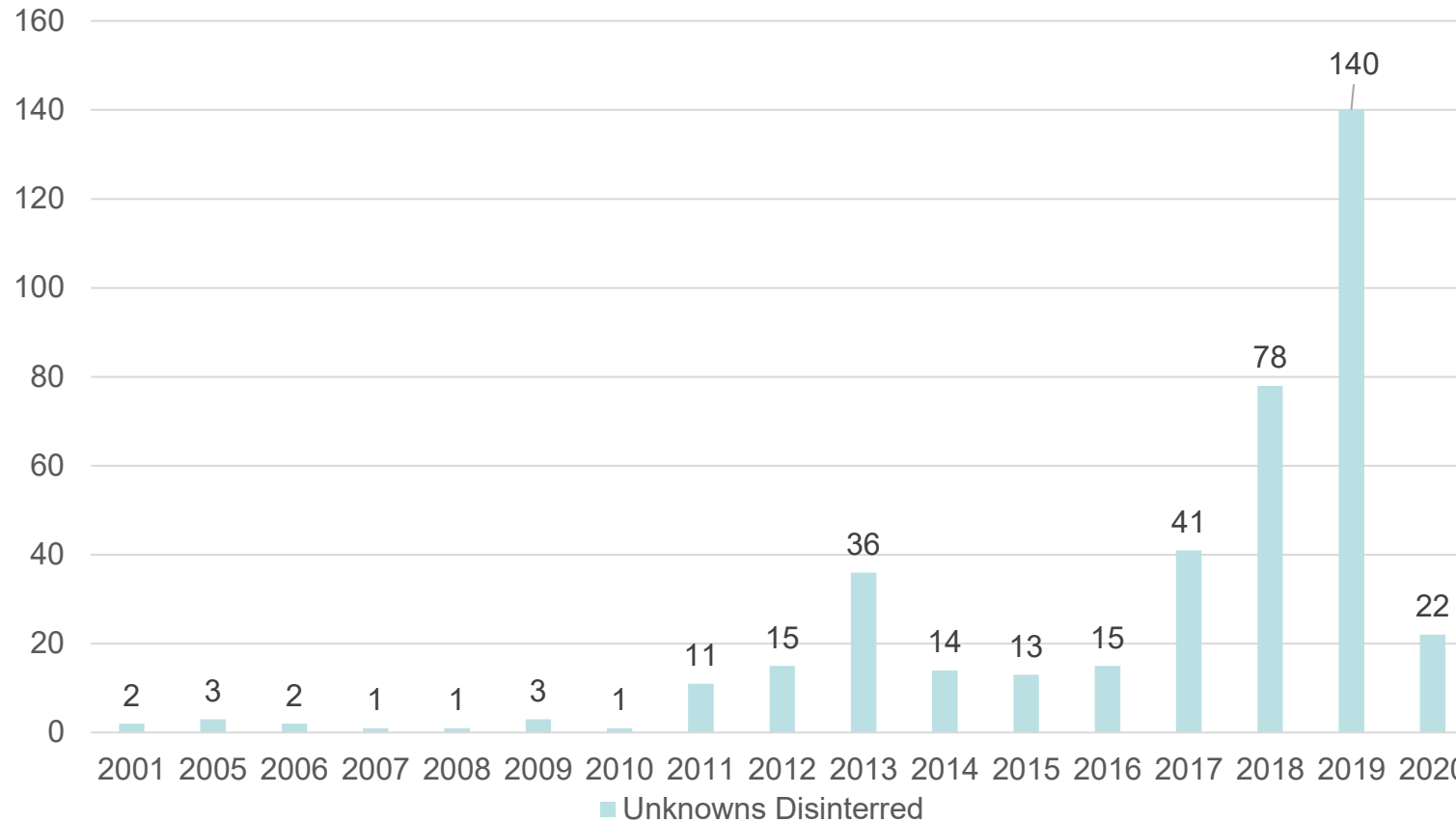
- 867* Unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP)
 - 432 ROK (South Korea)
 - 416 DPRK (North Korea)
 - 19 additional remains recovered in the 1950s and 1960s



*1 Unknown interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



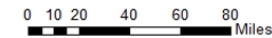
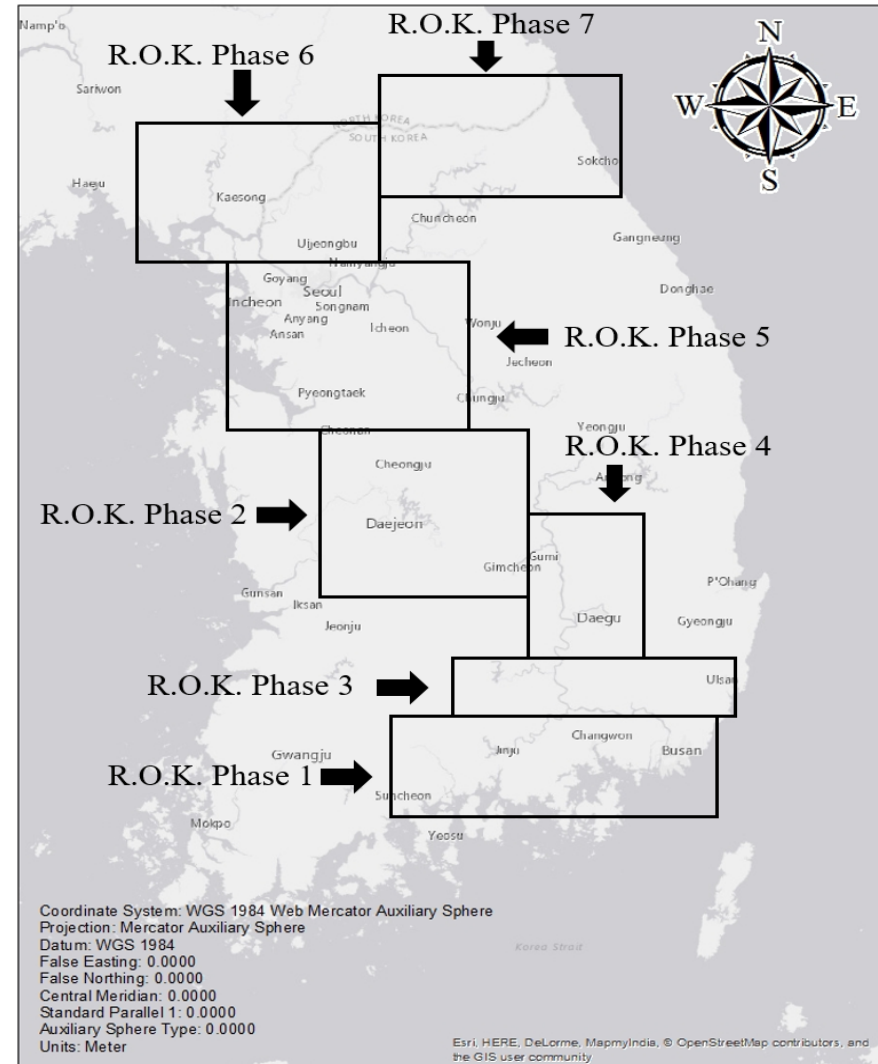
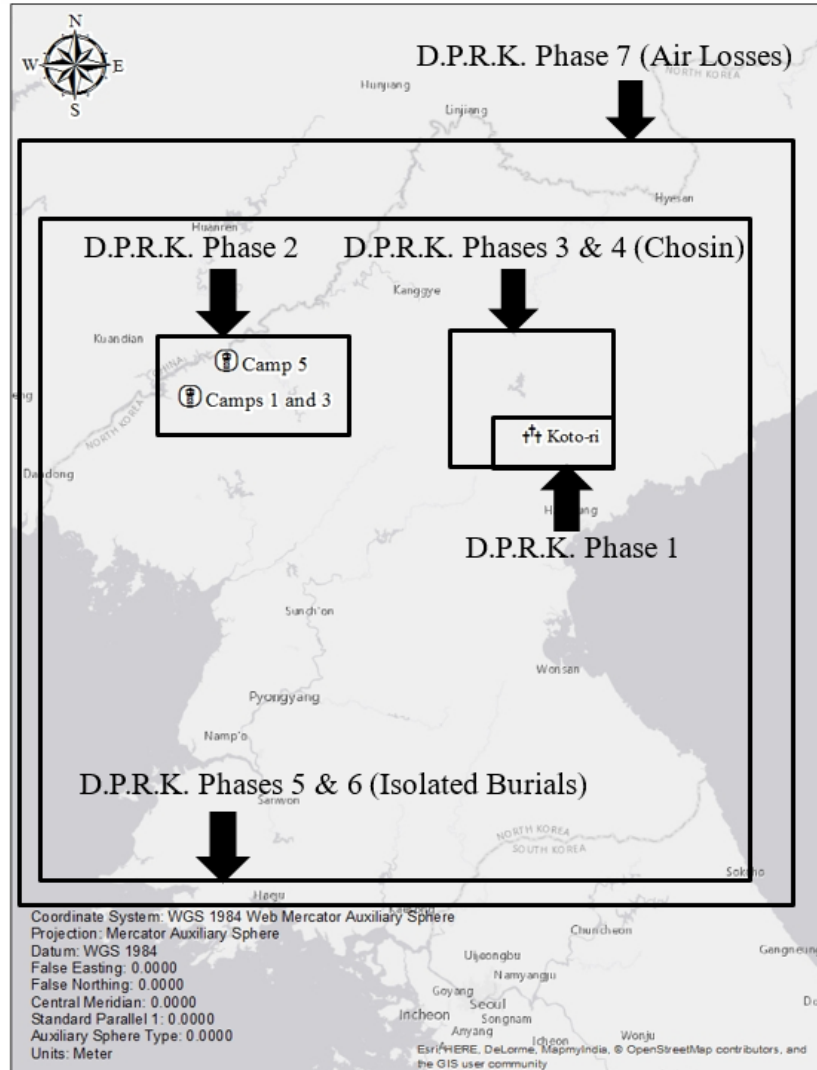
Korean War Disinterment Numbers 1999-Present



- 400 Korean War Unknowns disinterred to date (46%)



Phased Korean War Disinterment Plan

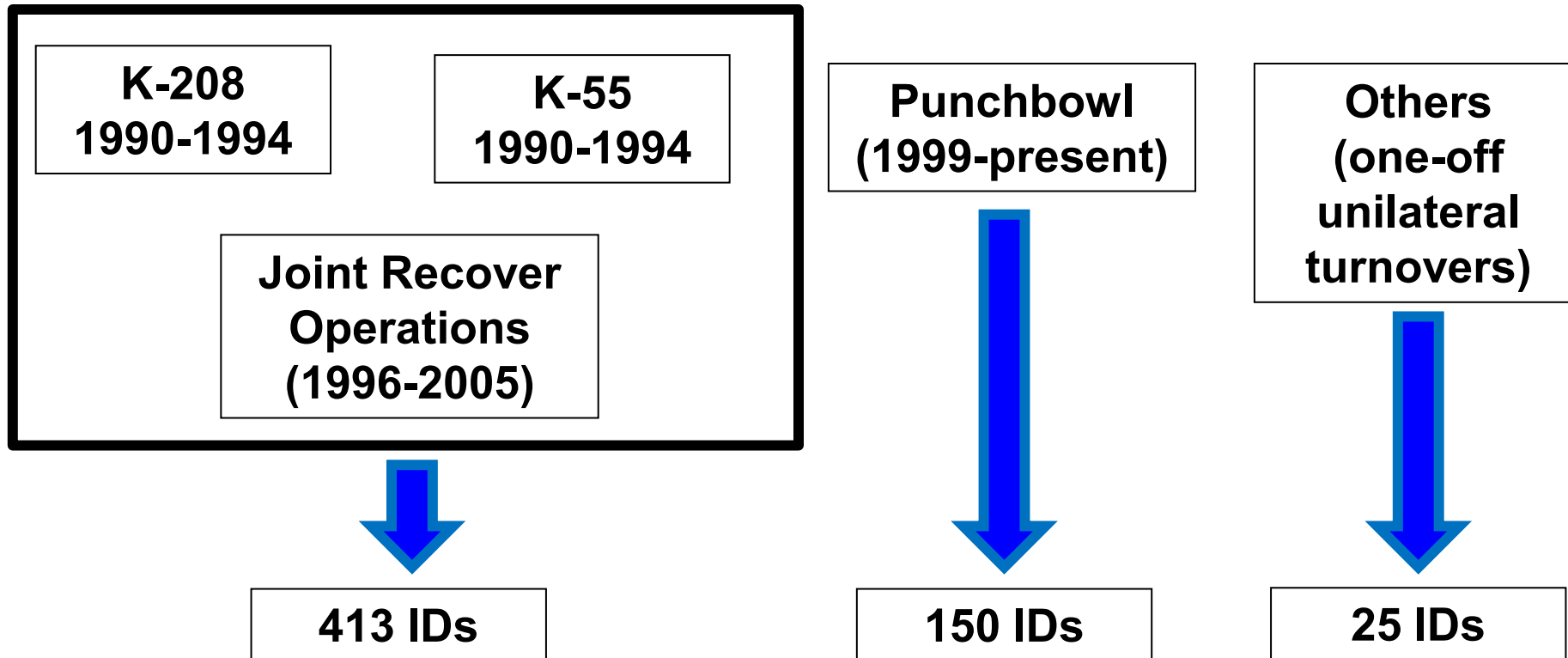




The Korean War Identification Project (KWIP)



KWIP Analyzes Korea Cases in the Lab (since March 2019)



- Total 588 IDs
- 434 IDs (74%) were made since the KWIP launch in FY2011
41 in FY 20



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