

U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

22nd Plenum

November 28, 2018

Washington D.C., USA

Compendium of Summarized Minutes

**Compendium of Summarized Minutes
Table of Contents**

Opening Session	Page 3
World War II Working Group	Page 8
Korean War Working Group	Page 15
Cold War Working Group	Page 23
Vietnam War Working Group	Page 28
Closing Session	Page 32

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
22nd Plenum
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
Opening Session
November 28, 2018
Washington D.C., USA

U.S. Side Participants:

- General Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, USAF (ret.)
U.S. Chairman, USRJC
- Congressman Brad Wenstrup, Ohio, 2nd Congressional District
- Senator Joe Manchin, West Virginia
- Mr. Kelly K. McKeague
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Department of Defense
U.S. Chairman, USRJC Vietnam War Working Group
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Mr. Timothy C. Shea
U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Defense Intelligence Agency
U.S. Chairman, USRJC Cold War Working Group
Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe/Eurasia
- Dr. Timothy K. Nenninger
USRJC Commissioner to the USRJC representing the U.S. National Archives and
Records Administration
U.S. Chairman, USRJC World War II Working Group
- Colonel Brian Pearl, USA
Acting U.S. Chairman, USRJC Korean War Working Group
Director, Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of the USRJC
Senior Researcher, Joint Commission Support Division
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Russian Side Participants:

- General Major Aleksandr Valentinovich Kirilin (ret.)
Russian Deputy Chairman, USRJC
Assistant Deputy Minister of Defense

- Colonel Andrey Leonidovich Taranov (ret.)
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC
Deputy Director, Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Those Fallen in Defense of the Motherland, Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- Colonel Igor Albertovich Permyakov (ret.)
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Deputy Russian Chairman, USRJC Korean War Working Group
Chief, Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- Ms. Iolanta Vitol'dovna Mikhailova
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Director, Nongovernmental Organization "Search and Information Center" of the Public Organization "Russian Red Cross" (NGO)
- Dr. Yelena Moiseevna Tsunaeva
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Executive Secretary, All-Russian Public Organization "Search and Recovery Movement of Russia" (NPO)
- Acting Chief, Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC
- Researcher, Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC
- Korean War Subject Matter Expert
Department Chief, Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- WWII Subject Matter Expert
Senior Researcher, Research Institute of Military History
Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces
- Subject Matter Expert, Cold War and the War in Afghanistan
Chief, International Department, Warriors-Internationalists Committee, Council of Heads of States, Commonwealth of Independent States
- Deputy Director, Department of North America,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- Advisor, Department of History and Records
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

General Foglesong, as the Host and Chairman of the U.S. Side of the USRJC (aka "the Commission"), welcomed all the participants to the Opening Session of the USRJC's 22nd Plenum

and introduced the U.S. participants. Among his opening comments, General Foglesong commented on:

- The long-term effort of the Commission's work; no end date at this time, but we will continue as long as it takes;
- The fact that the USRJC has continued to transcend politics between the two countries and continue its mission that is humanitarian for over two decades;
- How the members of the Commission work to bring closure to the families.

General Foglesong then introduced and thanked Senator Joe Manchin and Congressman Brad Wenstrup for taking the time from their important duties to attend the Opening Session of the 22nd Plenum. The Congressman and Senator each expressed their strong personal commitment to the humanitarian mission of the USRJC, its overall importance to both countries, and the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation for our shared mission to account for missing service personnel.

General Foglesong expressed his gratitude to Mr. Christopher Eck, the Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, for arranging the meeting to take place at the National Archives. Mr. Eck made welcoming remarks on behalf of the National Archives, after which General Kirilin presented a gift: a map of the U.S. printed in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1918.

General Foglesong turned the floor over to General Kirilin.

General Kirilin welcomed and thanked everyone for the warm welcome and for organizing the Plenary Session. He commented on the beauty of the National Archives building and was appreciative of the tour they had received the previous day, during which they had a rare opportunity to see U.S. historical documents.

General Kirilin pointed out that the Plenum was transpiring on a notable day. Exactly 75 years prior on November 28, 1943, began a conference in Tehran among Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill. It was the first of its kind since the war had begun. Very important decisions were made during the conference: first, to open the second front in Western Europe; second, that the Soviet Union would declare war on Japan after Germany was defeated.

General Kirilin explained that the conference was almost cut short on the first day. Stalin was perturbed that the Second Front was not occurring. The very first question Stalin asked the other two leaders was, "Who has been appointed the Commander-in-Chief of Operation Overlord?" Roosevelt answered that the decision had not yet been made. Stalin said that he would pose an unexpected and pointed question. He asked Churchill, "Is England serious about conducting the operation or are they just trying to appease us?" Churchill was silent. Stalin stood up, and said to his Prime Minister, "Vyachislav, there is nothing else for us to do here. Let's go."

He stated that the whole conference was rescued that day (as was everything that followed the conference) by the U.S. President. Roosevelt stood and said to Stalin, "I think you're right. Let me go with you to grab a bite to eat." They had some tea, Stalin had a moment to calm down,

and the pair returned to continue the conference. As a result, Operation Overlord was carried out, as scheduled, in June, 1944. General Kirilin mention how much Roosevelt's actions are appreciated by all. He added that the war claimed tens of millions of lives and that our countries were allies and defeated the enemy together.

General Kirilin then emphasized that the Commission's joint work today is also permeated with mutual understanding and a desire to support each other; that the same is true for every conference. He reflected on the good working relationship that both Sides of the Commission had cultivated over the years. He mentioned that the Sides had met regularly and would continue to do so.

He further commented on the fact that the Plenary Session was occurring in a difficult political environment, but that the Commission still continues to search for answers. He added that both Sides are prepared to work hard to find lost loved ones.

General Kirilin also stated that the Russian Side is working under tough conditions. Many members have moved on and, given the reduced strength, it is very difficult to continue the work.

After General Kirilin introduced the members of the Russian Side, he thanked his local team for their work in the archives and thanked that Commission for its time.

General Foglesong then introduced the members of the U.S. Side, after which the floor was turned over to Mr. Kelly McKeague.

Mr. McKeague introduced himself and stated that Secretary Mattis was well aware of the session and expressed an interest in attending. Unfortunately, his schedule did not permit it.

Mr. McKeague went on to say that Southeast Asian countries with which the Agency works are making great progress and would like the Agency to accelerate its work there. They are open to new initiatives so that our work is better and faster. Their cooperation has never been stronger, but we are dependent on the assistance from the Russian Side for archival access. He added that General Kirilin mentioned at dinner having never met an American family of the missing. He said there is no difference; both Sides feel the same anguish when talking to them.

Mr. McKeague stated that it is important for the U.S. Side to have the sister of a Navy pilot missing in Vietnam as well as the son of an Air Force pilot from the Korean War here as part this Commission. They are representative of thousands of American families who not only have to deal with loss of a loved one, but also the uncertainty of not knowing where their loved one is. He said that is why we work for them and are very appreciative of the cooperation and partnership we have with the Russian Side.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. McKeague's remarks, General Foglesong announced the commencement of the break-out sessions.

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
22nd Plenum
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
World War II Working Group (WW2WG) Talks
November 28, 2018
Washington D.C., USA

U.S. Side Participants:

- Dr. Timothy K. Nenninger
U.S. Commissioner representing the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
U.S. Chairman, USRJC World War II Working Group
- Expert on Immigration and Naturalization Records
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
- Senior Research Analyst
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Historian
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Note Taker, World War II Working Group
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Russian Side Participants:

- Major General Aleksander Valentinovich Kirilin
Russian Deputy Chairman, USRJC
Assistant Deputy Minister of Defense
Acting Russian Chairman, USRJC World War II Working Group
- Colonel Andrej Leonidovich Taranov
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC
Deputy Director, Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Those Fallen in Defense of the Motherland, Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- Ms. Iolanta Vitoldovna Mikhailova
Russian Commissioner, USRJC
Director, Nongovernmental Organization “Search and Information Center” of the Public Organization “Russian Red Cross”

- Acting Chief, Washington Office
Russian Side of the USRJC
- Note taker, Washington Office
Russian Side of the USRJC

Following introductions, the issues below were discussed:

1. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) records of Soviet citizens who immigrated to the U.S. in the immediate period following World War II.

Background: Ms. Mikhailova of the Russian Red Cross Tracing and Information Center and a Russian Commissioner on the USRJC brought this issue up at both the 20th and 21st Plenums. She is seeking avenues to identify Russian citizens who immigrated to the United States at the end of World War II. In particular, she is interested in identifying Russian citizens who are listed on their roles as missing.

The Tracing and Information Center of the Russian Red Cross was created in March 1945 by a government decree. It is part of the Central Bureau on Displaced Persons. It was tasked to reunite families, mark the graves of Soviet personnel, find information on the fates of Soviet personnel, and to find the fates of Soviet citizens who were taken and made forced laborers and prisoners.

Prior to 1992, the Center served all of the Soviet Union. Currently, it only services Russia and other former Soviet states have their own tracing services. Approximately 15 million documents are in the Center's archives. These are non-digitized documents on displaced persons, evacuees, orphans (including those that were orphaned by Stalin's purges and vast imprisonments), and card files. Digitization of the displaced persons archives is being discussed, because the cards also hold information on relocated POWs.

Most of the tracing questions it currently researches are related to WWII losses and disappearances. The other large part of what it does is related to the care of and information about War Graves. The discussion was on how the U.S. Side can assist while observing established restrictions on releasing immigration records of persons still living.

Discussion: NARA's INS records expert explained how the records are organized. NARA has no master name index for all immigrants. NARA does have passenger arrival lists for ships and aircraft, and these are arranged by port of entry. In 1944, INS began creating "A-Files" for immigrants applying for citizenship. The A-File records are in the custody of U.S. Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS). A-File records can be accessed individually through a request to USCIS under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

After the war, some organized refugee lists were created by refugee-focused groups, such as Catholic Charities, who brought refugees to the U.S. in groups. These lists are not part of the INS records; however, INS would have created an A-File for each individual. In addition, NARA

does have INS policy records, and these records may contain names of individuals who had appealed a decision.

Though there is no publicly available name index, USCIS does maintain a name index in its Central Library. A search of this index for a specific name can be requested at cishistory.library@uscis.dhs.gov. If the search results in a hit, USCIS will return an A-File number that can be cross-referenced with the INS records at NARA. Also, Ancestry.com has digitized the pre-1957 passenger lists, which can be searched on-line.

The last source for individual names are post-1906 federal court records. These are maintained by the NARA regional branches in the state where the court reviewed the case. The records they have would be primarily applications for citizenship.

Ms. Mikhailova explained that each year the Search and Information Center of the Russian Red Cross receives over 600 requests to trace persons missing from World War II, as well as an equal number of requests to locate grave sites. If her organization could answer a dozen of these requests each year they would be happy. She emphasized that they are not looking for addresses, but just names of individuals that are currently considered missing, when in reality they were alive and immigrated to the U.S. She was hoping for a name list, but the U.S. Side explained that it is not possible to provide this. The search must be done by individual name.

Gen. Kirilin inquired whether or not a [Soviet] name list had already been compiled for the Russian Side. Previously, the USRJC touted as an accomplishment clarification of the fates of approximately 450,000 persons. Gen. Kirilin believes these persons were listed by name, and the list was presented sometime around 2001 to General Zolotarev, a previous Chairman of the Russian Side of the USRJC. Gen. Kirilin stated that he understood the reasons why some of them would have wanted to avoid forced repatriation to the Soviet Union. He is concerned that if some of these persons were military members, former POWs, then they are still being counted among the missing.

The U.S. Side agreed to review its records in an attempt to find the source of the 450,000 and confirm whether or not it was a by-name list. Gen. Kirilin stated that this was the Russian Side's biggest issue [for this working group].

2. Uncorrelated B-24 Bomber at Vestnik Bay on the Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia.

Background: Paramushir and Shumshu Islands were heavily garrisoned by the Japanese during World War II. The U.S. Army Air Force and U.S. Navy would fly bombing raids to these islands from the Aleutians. In many cases, if these planes were damaged or malfunctioning, the pilots would head for Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, where the main airfield on the Kamchatka Peninsula was located.

Between 1942 and 1945, 37 U.S. Navy and Army aircraft are known to have made it to Soviet territory. The air crews of these 37 aircraft consisted of 291 men, who were interned, and subsequently "allowed" to escape through Tashkent to Iran and back to U.S. control. The U.S. Army's 11th Air Force, 404th Bomb Squadron flew Consolidated B-24s

(Liberators) against the Japanese on Shumshu and Paramushir. On November 17, 1944, a B-24, No. 42-40993, crashed near the north end of Vestnik Bay around Cape Zheltyj. The crew was recovered by the Soviets, and all members of the crew returned to the U.S.

In August 2004, based on a lead from a Russian citizen, the U.S. Side visited Vestnik Bay and found the wreckage of what is believed to be a B-24. There was a large portion of the landing gear, a super-charger, and a 13.4 meter portion of a wing. From photos taken at the site, historians at the National Air and Space Museum identified these parts as belonging to a B-24.

Because the visit to the crash site was done without an archeologist or an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist, none of the wreckage was moved and no identifying markings were found. Therefore, it could not be conclusively ruled out that the B-24 found in 2004 is not the same B-24, No. 42-40993, that crash landed on November 17, 1944. However, there is good reason to believe the aircraft are distinct. The accounted-for B-24 landed intact, while the uncorrelated B-24's wreckage was scattered over a 300 meter distance as if it broke apart while attempting to land. In addition, the uncorrelated B-24 was found at approximately 17 kilometers distance from where it is believed the known B-24 landed (near Cape Zheltyj).

Mounting a return expedition to this remote crash location will require transportation via helicopter and setting up a base camp to function for a number of days. Because of the cost, archival research as a necessary prerequisite takes on greater significance. At the Technical Talks in Moscow, Russia, in February 2018, the U.S. Side requested the Russian Side review their records concerning the November 17, 1944 crash, and conduct a search for any other U.S. aircraft that crashed or landed on Kamchatka near Vestnik Bay.

Discussion: The Russian Side began this discussion by detailing the results of their archival research on U.S. aircraft crashes or forced landings on Kamchatka. Gen. Kirilin presented a letter from Col. Nikiforov, Russian Co-Chairman of the World War II Working Group, concerning B-24 No. 42-40309 that violated the Soviet border and force landed on August 12, 1943 on Kamchatka. The Russian Side proposed that this B-24 could be the uncorrelated B-24 at Vestnik Bay.

The U.S. Side presented some photos from the 2004 site visit. One of the photos contained the coordinates of the uncorrelated B-24 as N 51'25.014, E 157'28.777. The letter from Col. Nikiforov states that the B-24 from August 12, 1943 (42-40309) landed at N 52'54, E 159'22. Col. Taranov noted this discrepancy and stated that they cannot be the same aircraft. Attached to Col. Nikiforov's letter was a photo of the B-24 from August 12, 1943. It shows that the aircraft landed intact.

The coordinates and photo of an intact plane indicate that it is unlikely to be the uncorrelated B-24 on Vestnik Bay.

The U.S. Side again summarized the incident of the forced landing on November 17, 1944 of B-24 No. 42-40993 that crashed near the north end of Vestnik Bay around Cape Zheltyj and the

discrepancies with the uncorrelated B-24 found in 2004. The U.S. Side showed a photo of the known B-24 aircraft from November 17, 1944 (42-40993) intact on the ground in 1944 and compared this photo to photos of the 2004 uncorrelated B-24 wreckage scattered over 300 meters. Gen. Kirilin understood the issue and stated they would go back to the archives for more research.

As far as a new site investigation is concerned, Gen. Kirilin stated that the Russian Side's calendar was already set for 2019; however, if the U.S. Side has already budgeted for this expedition, the Russian Side could send a couple of people along and perhaps help with the preparation. Both Sides agreed to table this for discussion at the next Technical Talks for early 2019.

As a post script to the meeting, the U.S. Side reviewed its records and notes that the incident in Col. Nikiforov's letter concerning B-24 No. 42-40309, was reported under Missing Aircrew Report (MACR) 13041. The crew suffered one fatality. The waist gunner perished from wounds received in combat. He died after landing in Russia, was buried at a cemetery in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and his remains were returned to the U.S. in 1947. The rest of the crew of B-24 No. 42-40309 were returned to the U.S. in 1944.

3. Soviet Servicemen Missing in Norway: Captain-Lieutenant S.I. Kovalenko, Senior Lieutenant E.I. Frantsev, and Lieutenant Colonel B.P. Syromyatnikov.

Background: During the March 2017 Technical Talks held in Washington, D.C., the Russian Side made a request for assistance in researching the fates of three Soviet officers from World War II who went missing in Norway. They are Captain-Lieutenant S.I. Kovalenko, and two pilots, Senior Lieutenant E.I. Frantsev and Lieutenant Colonel B.P. Syromyatnikov. The two pilots went missing off the coast of Northern Norway in 1944. Kovalenko was a submariner captured in 1942 and taken by the Germans to a POW camp in Norway. The U.S. Side agreed to conduct a search of U.S. archives for information on these officers.

At the February 2018 Technical Talks, Colonel Nikiforov requested an update on this issue. The U.S. Side reported that the search to date has not yielded any information and agreed to continue its search for information.

Discussion: There was not a lot of U.S. military activity in Norway during the war, in comparison with other parts of Europe. There were U.S. Army Air Force bombing raids to take out heavy water production facilities in southern Norway. Perhaps, there were some OSS [Office of Strategic Services] flights to support the Norwegian resistance, which may have been shot down. But, overall there were few crash sites for the U.S. to investigate after the war.

Dr. Nenninger stated that there are some records that mention Soviet repatriation from Norway after the war. They are mostly brief descriptions with little detail, but it is possibly something that Russian researchers here in Washington have not looked at, yet. They are in Record Group (RG) 331. Dr. Nenninger then passed copies of finding aids of RG 331 to Gen. Kirilin.

4. Personnel Files of Soviet POWs at the Dora Mittelbau Camp.

Background: In advance of the Technical Talks in February 2018, the Russian Side requested that we search for personnel files of Soviet POWs from the Dora Mittelbau camp, located near Nordhausen in Central Germany.

Dora was the code name for the concentration camp and its underground rocket factory called Mittelwerk. It was used from August 1943 until April 1945 to manufacture and test the V1 rockets and V2 missiles. Until October 1944, Dora was a sub-camp of Buchenwald; after that, it became an independent camp under the name Mittelbau-Dora, a complex of nearly 40 sub-camps. The factory used slave labor of inmates, many of whom were Soviet POWs. Mittelbau-Dora was liberated by the American forces on April 11, 1945. It is believed that among documents transferred from Dora to the U.S. there may have been personal files of Soviet POWs who worked at the factory.

The Russian Side's researchers who work in NARA have found the lists and death certificates of Dora prisoners, including those of Soviet POWs, but they did not find any personnel files of Soviet POWs.

Discussion: Dr. Nenninger explained that there are no personnel files for the Soviet POWs who worked at Dora Mittelbau. There are some lists and some information cards, but they mostly pertain to U.S. POWs. Dr. Nenninger pointed out that there are some files listed in the RG 331 finding aid just passed to the Russian Side that may be of interest to the Russian researchers in Washington.

5. TSgt Marino and TSgt Sunberg.

Background: Technical Sergeants Marino and Sunberg were members of the crew of B-17G nicknamed "Cubby." They were assigned to the 8th Army Air Force (AF), 487th Bombardment Group (BG), 837th Bombardment Squadron (BSq), based in Lavenham, England. TSgt Marino served as the engineer and TSgt Sunberg served as the radio operator.

Both men were killed when their aircraft was shot down on March 18, 1945, while on a bombing mission targeting railroad marshalling yards in Berlin. Their remains have not been recovered. The rest of the aircrew survived the shoot-down and returned to duty.

Their B-17 was hit by flak over the target. They jettisoned their bombs and headed for Poltava, where a U.S. air base was established on the territory of the Soviet Union. After crossing the Oder River (now part of the Poland-Germany border) the aircraft was strafed by four Russian YAK-11 fighters. The pilot reported that the entire crew bailed out starting about one-half mile east of the Oder River.

TSgts Marino and Sunberg were both uninjured when they jumped, and both parachutes were seen to open. The surviving crewmembers reported that they were strafed by YAKs as they were descending.

After landing, the surviving crewmen were detained by the Russian ground forces, and taken to the town of Masin, Germany (now Mosina, Poland). The pilot was given TSgt Marino's wallet and identification tags and TSgt Sunberg's Bible. The Russian soldiers reported both men were dead and would be buried near where their plane crashed. None of the survivors were allowed to witness the burial nor were they taken to the crash site.

Crewmembers reported seeing the bodies from a distance, but they were not allowed to approach them. At the 21st Plenum in November 2017, the U.S. Side asked the Russian Side to review their security services' archives for information on this case. Since that time, JCSD contract researchers worked in both the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense (TsAMO) and the Russian State Military Archives (RGVA) seeking information on this case.

Discussion: Gen. Kirilin began by stating that the U.S. Side had asked a question about a B-17 shot down on March 18, 1945. He then handed the U.S. Side a packet of 50 documents with various reports and tables of U.S. forced landings and aircraft crashes on Soviet-controlled territory from February-March 1945.

The U.S. Side thanked him for the documents, then explained that, in their archival research since the Technical Talks in February, the U.S. Side's contract researchers found instructions dated from early October 1944 going down the chain of command - from front and army level to company level - ordering subordinate units to take steps to identify deceased allied servicemen. Subordinate units were further instructed to collect identifying documents, and to report back up the chain. So far, the U.S. Side's researchers have only found several negative reports going back up the chain. However, it is known there were some instances where Soviet forces had allied servicemen's bodies and buried them. TSgts Sunberg and Marino serve as examples of such cases. In addition, the U.S. Side has not found the final recipient of these reports, where it is assumed the reports would have been compiled.

Col. Taranov stated that there are some of these reports in the batch of documents just handed to the U.S. Side.

The U.S. Side thanked him and proposed a more in-depth discussion concerning reporting on burials of allied servicemen during the next Technical Talks in 2019. The Russian Side agreed.

6. Russian Side Agreement on Scanning.

Discussion: In general, records at NARA that are works of the U.S. Government are in the public domain and may be reproduced without permission. The Russian Side is negotiating to have its contractor digitize certain records containing information on Soviet citizens from the World War II-era. Because the Russian Side is a foreign governmental agency, the contract will require State Department review, which Dr. Nenner agreed to help facilitate.

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
22nd Plenum
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
Korean War Working Group (KWWG) Talks
November 28, 2018
Washington D.C., United States of America

U.S. Side Participants:

- Colonel Brian L. Pearl, USA
Acting U.S. Chairman, USRJC World War II Working Group
Director, Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- Senior Research Analyst
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- Research Analyst
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- Research Analyst
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- Note Taker, Korean War Working Group
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Russian Side Participants:

- Igor Albertovich Permyakov
Russian Chairman, USRJC Korean War Working Group

- Note taker, Washington Office
Russian Side of the USRJC

Following introductions, the issues below were discussed:

1. Finding Guides¹ for Anti-aircraft Artillery and Anti-aircraft Searchlight Units

¹ Each Soviet unit at the regimental and above level is assigned a *Fond*, or records group in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense (TsAMO). As documents were retired by the units they were sent to TsAMO in a box with an inventory sheet, or *opis* attached. The *opis*, or what is commonly referred to as a finding guide, listed the names of the files in the box sent to TsAMO. Having a list of documents is invaluable in directing research in TsAMO.

Background: One of the first things U.S. researchers looked at when they started working in TsAMO were the collections of inventory sheets for the various units assigned to the 64th Fighter Aviation Corps. They wanted an understanding of the scope of work required to review these documents at TsAMO.

U.S. researchers were able to view almost all of the inventory collections until they came to the very end. With only a few collections remaining the researchers were abruptly told that the inventory collections they would like to see were still classified and access was denied.

The collections they were unable to view were the subordinate regiments of the 28th and 92nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Divisions, and one regiment, the 1777th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment, of the 87th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Division. They were also denied permission to review the inventory sheets of the 10th and 20th Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Regiments.

The U.S. Side sent an official request for access to these inventory sheets.

Discussion: The Russian Side confirmed that it had received the request to declassify these finding guides. Colonel Permyakov stated that this work was carried out and that 11 collections of documents were identified. He said that all classified documents related to this search were submitted to a declassification board for review. He stated that he hopes to receive an answer by the end of the year. This includes 11 *Fonds* with 291 finding aids *Opisi*, totaling 862 files. Colonel Permyakov explains that the declassification review board is known as the Central Expert Commission of the MOD of Russia. They include specialists from all branches of service. The finding guides will be declassified first and then the U.S. side will be permitted to review and indicate which files specifically it would like to be reviewed further for declassification. Colonel Permyakov expects that U.S. researchers will have access to these finding guides in December 2018.

2. Staff Sergeant Joseph Stephen Dougherty, USAF

Background: A document discovered in the Russian archives deals with a reprimand of a Soviet officer who came in contact with, and interrogated an American Prisoner of War. The reprimand states that the officer violated standing orders against contact with POWs and spells out the egregious particulars of his disobedience. Further, the reprimand provides clues as to the identity of this POW.

The unnamed POW was identified in the reprimand as a radio operator of a B-29 Superfortress with whom the Soviet officer had contact during October 23-25, 1951. There were three B-29 aircraft shot down on October 23, 1951, and none for the entire month of October prior to the 23rd.

Of the three radio operators assigned to these aircraft, one perished during the shoot down of his aircraft and his remains were found at the crash site. The second radio

operator was captured and repatriated after the armistice. DPAA analysts were able to contact this man, who upon hearing this story, denied that he was the individual described in the reprimand. The third radio operator was Sergeant Dougherty, who was listed as MIA until he was presumptively declared dead in 1953.

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov reported that their teams had searched through the classified and unclassified records of the following units: the 64th, 32nd, 133rd, 306th Fighter Aviation Divisions, the 17th, 535th and 726th Fighter Aviation Regiments, the 147th and 415th Guard Fighter Aviation Regiments. However no additional information was found on SSgt Dougherty or any of the other 12 cases² that were submitted. This was the first time that the Russian Side had looked at the classified records of these units, following a specific request by the U.S. Side. The Russian Side said that they are continuing work on the larger group of 500 aviators that they received previously.

3. Captain Harry Cecil Moore, USAF

Background: In 1997, DPAA analysts travelled to Taganrog, Russia, and interviewed a 74-year-old Soviet veteran of the Korean War. During the interview, the veteran stated that he heard Colonel Ivan Nikitovich Kozhedub, the commander of the Soviet 324th Fighter Aviation Division had interrogated an American pilot. The veteran said the pilot's name was Captain Harry or Gary Moore, who had been shot down in the summer of 1951. The DPAA interviewers, seasoned by hundreds of such interviews, had never heard this level of detail.

A combat report found in the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (TsAMO) chronicled an aerial engagement on June 1, 1951, in which the time, location, and the type of aircraft shot down all matched Captain Moore's loss. This document reports that Captain Kalyuzhnyj followed the enemy aircraft to where it crashed into the Korean Gulf.

On May 17, 2002, DPAA interviewed Aleksey Alekseevich Kalyuzhnyj in Odessa, Ukraine. According to Kalyuzhnyj, he was credited with shooting down an F-51 Mustang on June 1, 1951, under circumstances that correlate with the loss of Captain Moore's aircraft. Kalyuzhnyj told the interviewers that he followed the F-51 as it headed towards the Korean Bay where it landed in the water 20-30 meters from the shore. He said the F-51 pilot appeared to be in complete control of the aircraft as it gently set down on the sea. He did not see the pilot leave the aircraft but believes that he should have survived the incident.

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov reported that their teams had searched through the classified and unclassified records of the following units: the 64th, 32nd, 133rd, 306th Fighter Aviation Divisions, the 17th, 535th and 726th Fighter Aviation Regiments, the 147th and 415th Guard Fighter Aviation Regiments. However no additional information was found on Captain Moore or any of the other 12 cases that were submitted. This was the first time that

² This is a reference to a request presented earlier to the Russian Side to help pinpoint crash locations of U.S aircraft on contemporary maps of North Korea.

the Russian Side had looked at the classified records of these units, following a specific request by the U.S. Side. The Russian Side said that they are continuing work on the US side's request for information about the larger group of 500 Aviators that they received previously.

4. Captain Albert Tenney

Background: According to U.S. documents, Capt Tenney, flying an F-86 (Sabre) tail number 50-652, was the number two (Spare 2) pilot in a flight of two F-86s which departed Suwon Air Base (K-13) on the afternoon of May 3, 1952. The briefed mission was a fighter sweep operation in an area commonly known as "MiG Alley" near the Yalu River.

Documents acquired from the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense in 2000 and later by DPMO's Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSJ) indicate that a U.S. F-86 was shot down around 1630 Beijing Time (1730I – 1800I) by Soviet piloted MiG-15s. Several documents show an F-86 aircraft crashed in the Province of Antun (Antung, now Dandong) near Myaogou Airfield. However, Russian documents also show that two MiG-15 pilots claim to have shot down the U.S. F-86 Sabre, a Soviet Lieutenant (Lt) Mazikin from the 821st Fighter Aviation Regiment and Lt Krasulin of the 256th Fighter Aviation Regiment. Additional Russian documents acquired at a later date show that a search commission verified Krasulin's claim and provided supporting documents including photographs of the wreckage and Capt Tenney's ID card. The Soviets claim that the wreckage and all other material evidence were handed over to Chinese authorities. A hand written diagram indicates that the engagement between Capt Tenney and Lt Krasulin occurred near Myaogou Airfield and that Capt Tenney crashed near the village of Kolushan'tszyu³, China.

Discussion: During the Korea War Technical Talks held on August 8, 2018, the Russian Side stated that as a result of archival research, classified materials related to the fate of Captain Albert Tenney were found which confirm that his aircraft was shot down on May 3, 1952, over China. The Russian Side read a portion of the pilot's report of the dogfight during the session which described the incident. They offered to submit these files for further declassification. Captain Tenney's remains are still missing and his case has been a priority issue with the USRJC since 1992. The USRJC continues to look for additional information as to his burial location.

5. First Lieutenant (1Lt) Robert Niemann

Background: 1Lt Robert F. Niemann served as a pilot assigned to 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (FIS), 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. He was listed as Missing in Action (MIA) on April 12, 1953.

³ Kolushan'tszyu is a small village located on the coast of Antung Province, China, nr WE 8806 (3949n 12401e).

1Lt Niemann departed Kimpo (K-14) Air Base (AB) at 11:14-I (Korea time) on April 12, 1953 piloting an F-86E Sabre jet (tail number 52-2891). He was flying as the number four pilot in a flight of four aircraft, using the call sign “Charlie 4.” The briefed mission was a fighter escort operation for a reconnaissance flight targeting an area southwest of Kanggye. Due to bad weather at the target area, the reconnaissance aircraft scheduled to be escorted by the F-86s returned to base and Charlie flight’s mission was changed to fighter sweep operation over the Sui-Ho Reservoir.

While patrolling the reservoir area, 1Lt Niemann’s flight encountered a flight of enemy MiG-15s and was forced to separate into two elements. After several minutes of evasive maneuvers, one of the MiG-15 was able to close on Charlie 4. As the two F-86s rolled out heading south in a shallow dive, the enemy aircraft moved into firing position. During the last seconds of the ensuing action 1Lt Niemann was heard to say, “Here he comes again.” Then both Charlie 4 and the MiG-15 slid from the wingman’s view. No further transmissions were received from 1Lt Niemann. His F-86 was last seen at an altitude of 15,000 feet.

Repeated attempts to contact 1Lt Niemann by radio were unsuccessful. Aircraft from the 334th FIS conducted aerial searches of the area until 17:33-I, which did not reveal any trace of 1Lt Niemann or his aircraft. The location of the loss was believed to be in the mountains south of the Yalu River, about midway between Sinuiju and the Suiho Dam.

Discussion: The Russian Side stated that as a result of archival research, classified materials related to the fate of 1Lt Robert Niemann were found which confirm that his aircraft was shot down on April 12, 1953. He was killed as a result. The U.S. Side requested that these new materials undergo declassification review for release. Lieutenant Niemann’s remains are still missing and his case has been a priority issue with the USRJC since 1992. The USRJC continues to look for additional information as to his burial location.

6. Files of the Main Staff of the Air Forces of the Soviet Army

Background: In November 1951 the relationship between the Soviet 64th Fighter Aviation Corps (FAC) and the Air Force Operation Group (AFOG) changed and the 64th FAC began to report directly to Moscow. Correspondence was routinely exchanged between the 64th FAC and the General Staff of the Soviet Army, the Main Headquarters of the Air Forces of the Soviet Army, and the Main Headquarters of the Air Defense Forces of the Soviet Army.⁴

The U.S. Side presented Soviet Korean War-era documents collected during its normal research activities at the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense that proved an

⁴ All branches of the Soviet military fell under the overall command of the Soviet Army. Since the 64th FAC included forces normally subordinated to both the Air Force and the Air Defense forces (*PVO Strany* – included anti-aircraft artillery units and air defense aircraft units) correspondence was sent both to and from the headquarters of these branches.

abundance of information pertaining to U.S. servicemen, some of whom were never recovered, was sent to the Main Staff of the Air Force.

Among this information are combat reports, intelligence reports produced by the 64th Corps, the North Koreans, and the Chinese; interrogation protocols, personal possessions such as photographs, documents and equipment; search group reports, photographs of aircraft wreckage, photographs of human remains, aircraft parts and wreckage.

At the 21st Plenum, Colonel Permyakov reported that he would have his team of experts review these files for such information, and if found, would take steps to have pertinent materials declassified and provided to the U.S. Side.

Discussion: The Russian Side stated that they submitted a request to the declassification board regarding files from the 64th FAC, however they received a negative response. Colonel Permyakov stated that after reviewing some of these records, 26 files were put on to a CD and made available to U.S. Staff in Moscow to review at TsAMO. The U.S. Side agrees to readdress these at a later date.

7. Declassification Review of the Remainder of Two 64th FAC Files TFR 544 and 545

Background: During the KWWG Technical Talks in August 2017, the U.S. Side presented information on two files, entitled “Material from the Interrogations of Prisoners of War” (*Фонд 64ИАК, опись 174045, дело 142 и 143*) that remain partially classified to this day. Among the declassified portion of these files are copies of letters of transmittal forwarding captured items to Moscow that were discussed in the previous section on files of the Main Staff of the Soviet Air Force. Among these items are identification cards, vaccination records, drivers’ licenses, and other personal items belonging to crew members of downed U.S. aircraft, some of whom were never recovered. However, dozens of pages of both these files remain classified. By the very titles of the files, DPAA researchers are certain the classified materials contain information on U.S. servicemen and requested Colonel Permyakov review the classified portions of these files.

Colonel Permyakov reported that he would have his team of experts review these files, and if information is found, would take steps to have the pertinent materials declassified and provided to the U.S. Side.

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov stated that the declassification review panel has decided the classified portions of these files would remain as such.

8. Request for Access to Primorskiy Military District Files for 1950-1953

Background: According to the *Soviet Military Encyclopedic Dictionary*: The Primorskiy Kray Military District was formed on September 10, 1945 and includes the territory of the Primorskiy Kray, excluding the area to the north of the Samarga

River. Its composition included those forces located in North Korea and on the Kwantoon Peninsula. Headquarters for the Military District was located at Voroshilov (Ussuriysk). The Military District was disbanded on April 23, 1953, and its territory and forces were incorporated into the Far East Military District.

We have seen documents routed to and from the Primorskiy Military District and the Korean Theater of Operations, suggesting that information on operations in the Korean Theater was shared with the Primorskiy Military District Headquarters.

As such, the U.S. Side requested to have access to these files as part of the routine research access in TsAMO.

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov stated that there are no records from the Air Forces located in the Primorskiy District files. The inventory lists of the Primorskiy Military District are available to U.S. Researchers.

9. Demographic Questionnaires and Soviet Involvement with U.S. POWs during the Korean War

Background: Although we have seen documents in the records of the 64th Fighter Aviation Corps at the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense which verify that it was forbidden to have any contact with U.S. POWs, we have also seen documents which lead us to believe that the Soviet Union had an active program to contact, interrogate, and collect information by other means.

One such document is 182 pages that was found in Polish archives and appears to be predominantly demographic questionnaires of U.S. POWs of Polish ethnicity. All of the POWs named in this document were repatriated. This document is in Cyrillic, Korean, and Chinese and it is impossible to tell which country, or countries conducted the interrogations. Most certainly the Koreans and Chinese were involved, but many former Soviet servicemen who have been interviewed state they were involved in formulating and translating this sort of questionnaire.

At the 21st Plenum, the U.S. Side requested that the Russian Side search for the repository of these materials and check the names from the PMKOR to see if such a questionnaire exists for them.

Discussion: The Russian Side stated that there is no material in any MOD archive that has information on POWs or interrogations. Colonel Permyakov said that it is possible that there may be some information on debriefings, but nothing after that. The Russian Side stated that the men were often handed over to other agencies. The U.S. Side offered to produce records of such materials and the Russian Side agreed that this could be a future topic of discussion. Colonel Permyakov insisted that any material that might be found regarding U.S. service members will be processed and passed to the U.S. Side.

10. New Issue: Access to the Files of the Military Hospitals and Quarantine Stations in Irkutsk, Chita, Otpor, and Grodekovo Areas from October 1951 through July 1953

Background: The USRJC was formed in 1992 on the wake of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reference that some U.S. servicemen may have been taken to the territory of the former Soviet Union against their will. This issue is still open, and even though the Commission has concluded that there are no living U.S. servicemen in Russia against their wills, it continues to investigate the transfer issue whenever possible.

A document found in the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense in *Fond 303IAD, opis' 152694, delo 2*, pages 215-216. Disease in the Korean Theater of Operations was rampant. To combat these epidemics, the Council of Ministers of the USSR issued Order No. 110 dated October 16, 1951. This order states:

“that on the basis of a decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 3 Sep 51, with the goal of preventing the spread of the plague from the Chinese Peoples Republic to the Soviet Union, a 9-day quarantine has been established by the Military Minister at the Otpor and Grodekovo rail stations and at the airfields in Chita and Irkutsk. All servicemen and civilians going from China to the USSR, regardless of immunizations against the plague, will be quarantined at the appropriate place for nine days.”

Discussion: The U.S. Side requested any information on U.S. servicemen who may have been in these locations, based on the premise that U.S. servicemen, if transferred to the Soviet Union during the Korean War, would have been subject to the same quarantine rules. Colonel Permyakov stated that since there were no frontline hospitals located in these locations, there would be no records in the Military Medical Museum and Archives in St. Petersburg that fall under his control.

Colonel Permyakov had no research solution to this issue. However he had no objection to the U.S. Side requesting General Vostrotrin's intercession with the Ministry of Health as a possible solution. JCSD will pen a letter for General Foglesong to send to General Vostrotrin.

11. Russian Side Request: WWII Documents regarding the Lend-Lease Program

The Russian Side requested assistance from the U.S. Side in locating any U.S. materials on the Lend-Lease program from WWII. The U.S. Side agreed to contact the Archives and assist in any way possible.

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
22nd Plenum
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
Cold War Working Group (CWWG) Talks
November 28, 2018
Washington D.C., United States of America

U.S. Side Participants:

- Mr. Timothy Shea
U.S. Chairman, USRJC Cold War Working Group
Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe and Asia
Defense Intelligence Agency
- Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of the USRJC
Senior Research Analyst, Cold War Working Group
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Note Taker, Cold War Working Group
Europe Mediterranean Regional Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Russian Side Participants:

- General-Major (ret.) Aleksandr Valentinovich Kirilin
Deputy Chairman, Russian Side of the USRJC
Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation
Deputy Chairman of the Russian Interagency Commission on Prisoners of War,
Internees, and Missing in Action
- Colonel (ret.) Andrey Leonidovich Taranov
Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC
Deputy Director, Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Fallen Defenders of the
Fatherland, Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- Chairman, Interregional Department of the Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the
Army, Aviation, and the Navy, in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast, Russia
- Acting Chief, Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC
- Researcher, Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC

Following introductions, the issues below were discussed:

- 1. Soviet MIAs from the War in Afghanistan, 1979-89, Northern Caucasus conflicts,**

and international “local conflicts”.

Background: Since 1992, the Russian Side has requested assistance in the identification and recovery of the 264 Soviet MIAs from the 1979-89 war in Afghanistan; more recently, of the approximately 300 missing from the various conflicts in the Northern Caucasus; and of individuals who went missing in “local conflicts” involving the Soviet Union.

Discussion: The U.S. Side inquired about any new information concerning the list of 264 Soviet MIAs. The Russian Side reported that there have been no updates since the list was handed over to the U.S. Side. However, they are working on one case. Mr. Taranov stated that regarding the list, they are unsure where the family members live now. He stated that Mr. Khristiforov might have some additional information.

The Russian Side requested support in their research of Soviet MIAs in Afghanistan, specifically in areas where U.S. troops are currently working. The U.S. Side agreed to help once the Russian Side identifies more specific information.

Mr. Taranov stated that they are still working this issue and expressed the hope to have new information before the next Technical Talks.

2. Update on on-going search in the Baltic Sea by the Swedish company, Deep Sea Productions, for the U.S. Navy PB4-Y2 shot down 8 April 1950.

Background: On 13 June 1952, a Swedish DC-3 was shot down by the Soviet Union over the Baltic Sea. Fifty years later, in June 2003, the DC-3 was found by the Swedish salvage company, “Deep Sea Productions,” headed by Carl Douglas. Since at least 2009, the company has been on the alert for the wreckage of the USN PB4-Y2 shot down 8 April 1950, about 35 miles west of Liepaja, Latvia. In 2018, DPAA contracted with Deep Sea Productions to do a focused search in October and November 2018 in the area where best information available indicates the location of the wreckage.

Discussion: Mr. Shea provided an update regarding the work of Deep Sea Productions. The company is continuing to search for the PB4-Y2 in the Baltic Sea. He added that the current contract expires on November 30, 2018 and that if nothing is found, further actions will be evaluated.

Mr. Taranov reported that the archival research performed on this case had yielded no additional information. He stated that they would continue to search for information.

The Russian Side reiterated the idea of the U.S. Side identifying and appointing a trusted agent who would be granted access to other archives where this information might be held. Both Sides agreed to continue working this issue.

3. Last known position of U.S. Navy P2V shot down November 6, 1951.

Background: During the 21st Plenum of the USRJC a request was made by the U.S. Side for the Russian Side to perform an analysis of Anti-Air Defense (PVO) logs to try to

triangulate the last known position of the P2V-3W aircraft shot down on November 6, 1951. It is the U.S. Side's belief that it was being tracked by no less than three PVO (air defense) ground-based radar sites. Five Soviet aircraft were involved. Additionally, a Soviet submarine was reported to be in the area. Therefore, the U.S. Side requested that a search be conducted for PVO reports, air-to-air shoot-down static photos, and deck logs, not only from the submarine, but also from the mother ship for the coastal patrol vessels that also were in the area.

Discussion: The U.S. Side inquired about an analysis of PVO logs to help establish the last known position of the P2V. The Russian Side stated that no new information was found, but that they had enlisted the help of the director of the PVO Museum. The director will attempt to establish where these logs are being stored. Mr. Taranov added that they had spoken to the archivists about the request and that they are continuing their work. The U.S. Side will be notified of any new information.

4. May 2018 Joint Expedition to Primorsky Kray crash sites and Hospital 404 Cemetery.

Background: The U.S. Side requested a joint expedition to the Hospital 404 cemetery in Novosysoyevka and to three crash sites in Primorsky Kray. This expedition was carried out in May 2018 over the course of two weeks by U.S. and Russian specialists.

The late Vladimir Aleksandrovich Trotsenko was a patient in military hospital 404 in 1951 where he believed he encountered four U.S. servicemen recuperating from injuries, including burns. Because of the confluence of times with the November 6, 1951 shoot down, the U.S. Side thoroughly investigated Trotsenko's claims, including a videotaped interview and having him testify before the 12th Plenum of the USRJC in 1995. His conviction that these men were Americans and his belief that one died and was buried near Hospital 404 near Novosysoyevka led to a number of investigative trips to Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Arsenyev, and Novosysoyevka. The U.S. Side interviewed a number of witnesses in the area and checked Ministry of Internal Affairs records, where the prisoner records (Gulag) are kept, in Vladivostok.

Prior to the recent joint expedition, the USRJC carried out two joint forensic excavations to the cemetery at Novosysoyevka. The first was October 23-26, 1995, and was led by then Colonel Kevin Ryan (later Brigadier General and the U.S. Defense Attache at Embassy Moscow) and the late General-Major Anatoly Aleksandrovich Volkov, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Side of the USRJC. Forensic experts from the Russian Central Identification Laboratory in Moscow and the Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii (CIL-HI) participated as well as the local Federal Security Service Colonel. One grave was excavated, but no remains believed to be those of an American were recovered.

The second joint excavation was conducted March 17-April 3, 1996, once again led by Colonel Ryan and General-Major Volkov. The commanding officer of CIL-HI was present as well as a Russian scientist from Vladivostok, formerly of the Trans-Caucasian Forensic Laboratory in Rostov on the Don. Incidentally, this same scientist had taken part in

forensic training at CIL-HI nine years later in 2005 and again in Hawaii last April. Two graves were excavated, one with Asian remains and one with Caucasian remains. A portion of the Caucasian remains were sent to CIL-HI for analysis, but could not be identified.

In addition to the matter of possible remains in Novosyoyevka, there are three uncorrelated crash sites in the Maritime Territory. The first site is the so-called Lazurnaya Bay site which is believed by the Russians to be the crash site of a Catalina aircraft. The second site, referred to as the Mount Lysaya site, was visited by a Marshall Center intern, on March 17, 1995. None of the wreckage could be correlated to a U.S. aircraft. The third crash site was on Mount Zametnaya near the settlement of Veselyj. To our knowledge, this site was never surveyed by a Russian-American team before the May 2018 expedition.

Discussion: Mr. Shea informed the Russian Side that the reports regarding the May 2018 joint expedition were complete and would be handed over to the Russian Side before the closing session. He expressed a hope to return to Novosyoyevka to complete the work.

5. U.S. Air Force RB-47 shot down July 1, 1960 over the Barents Sea.

Background: This incident took place on July 1, 1960 incident in which a USAF RB-47 was shot down over the Barents Sea. This is the only incident in which air crewmen were recovered alive after the crash of the aircraft. Three of the six crew members are still unaccounted for.

In June 2005, during the 19th Plenum of the USRJC in Moscow, the U.S. Side's Cold War Working Group turned over a list of all U.S. Cold War losses to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which promised to perform a complete search of its archives for any information on Americans in camps run by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. After performing the search, the Ministry replied that no names of Cold War losses were found. In 2006 and 2007, the late Rear Admiral Novyy, a retired Russian naval officer and Trusted Agent, along with two U.S. Side colleagues visited the Murmansk/Severomorsk area to continue the investigation. They checked burials in several local cemeteries, but found no information on the missing crew members. Russian forensic medical officials said that, if burial records exist, they would "be held by the former KGB." Admiral Novyy unsuccessfully attempted to gain access to such records.

Discussion: After sharing the details with this case with the Russian Side, Mr. Shea expressed his hope that the discussion would lead to more progress.

6. U.S. Air Force C-124 Loss on 23 March 1951.

Background: On 22 March 1951 after refueling at Loring Air Force Base (AFB) in Maine, a USAF C-124, tail number 49-0244, took off for Mildenhall Royal AFB in England. Early on March 23, about 700 miles southwest of Ireland, the C-124 issued a Mayday call. The C-124 ditched in one piece, and its location was reported by a U.S. B-29 in the area. One of

the largest search and rescue operations in U.S. history was mounted and nothing of the airplane or its passengers was ever found. There were reports that Soviet submarines and surface ships were active in the area of the crash. The U.S. Side requested any assistance from the Russian Side in researching this incident.

Discussion: The Russian Side indicated that while the request for this information had been made, there is no additional information at this time. Mr. Taranov added that because there does not exist a system for organizing such information, it is difficult to locate.

7. Other Matters Discussed at the CWWG Technical Talks.

U.S. Side Participation in Norway Visit

Background: The Russian Side stated that it is planning a visit to Norway to place a memorial plaque. Mr. Taranov suggested that it would be advisable for the U.S. Side to take part in the subsequent trips to Norway in order to assist with working out the details of the plaque placement.

Discussion: Mr. Taranov inquired about whether not a U.S. Side representative would be joining them on upcoming trips to Norway and added that it was an issue to be worked out between Executive Secretaries.

Amplifying Information Regarding Opis' (Sub-collection) 1 of Fond 31

Background: The U.S. Side requested a document located in Fond 31, Opis' (sub-collection) 1 of the Central Archives of the Border Guards in Pushkino. The document pertains to alleged sightings by fishermen of various water survival equipment made by the American firm "Aluminum Goods".

Discussion: The Russian Side requested more specific information regarding the location of the document, pointing out that sub-collections are rather large sets of documents. The U.S. Side agreed to look into it and send more specific information regarding the requested document through the appropriate channels.

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
22nd Plenum
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
Vietnam War Working Group (VWWG) Talks
November 28, 2018
Washington D.C., United States of America

U.S. Side Participants:

- Mr. McKeague, USRJC Commissioner, U.S. Side Chairman, VWWG, Director DPAA
- Lead, Vietnam War Working Group, Sr. Research Analyst, Joint Commission Support Division-Washington, Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate, DPAA
- Subject-Matter Expert, Sr. Case Analyst, Research Support Division, Indo-Pacific Regional Directorate, DPAA
- Advisor, Chairman of the Board/CEO, National League of POW/MIA Families
- Note Taker, Analyst, Research Support Division, Indo-Pacific Regional Directorate, DPAA
- Interpreter, Sr. Analyst, Joint Commission Support Division-Washington, Europe/Mediterranean Regional Directorate, DPAA

Russian Side Participants:

- Colonel (ret.) Igor A. Permyakov, USRJC Commissioner, Russian Side; VWWG Russian Side Acting Chairman, Chief, Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (TsAMO)

Following introductions, the issues below were discussed:

1. Archival Information Found in Russian Archives Pertaining to U.S. Losses

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov stated that Colonel Paderin relayed information that a number of archival records regarding missing U.S. service members, possibly pilots, was found in Russian defense archives. Colonel Permyakov stated that these records will have to be carefully studied further. If these records are classified, they will be reviewed for possible declassification, after which the records will be made available for representatives of the Commission for study.

2. Statement by the sister of Lieutenant James Mills

Background: Navy Lieutenant James Mills was lost when his plane was shot down over water in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1966. His remains were found and identified in 2018.

Discussion: The sister of Lieutenant Mills stated that when her brother disappeared from radar in 1966, it was not known that he was an under-water loss. It was thanks to the work of the Commission and a Vietnamese fisherman's net that the crash site was found in 2011. Knowing what happened to Lieutenant Mills gave the Mills family closure 52 years after the loss. She stated that great success – like finding her brother's remains – can be achieved if both Sides work toward accomplishing the Commission's stated humanitarian goals.

3. Structuring Information Exchange for Optimal Archival Search

Background: In previous years, the U.S. Side provided relevant analytical background information and detailed descriptions of specific loss incidents to assist the Russian Side in archival search. During the May 2016 Plenum Colonel Paderin requested that the U.S. Side provide him with more detailed information on U.S. losses in Vietnam. Specifically, information on all U.S. missing from the Vietnam War in an overall dataset in chronological order: type of airplane, its crew, etc. In response, the U.S. Side provided a number of relevant datasets.

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov provided his opinion as an archivist as to the most productive way of conducting an archival records search. He outlined the kind of information about missing service members that would be most helpful in locating pertinent records in the Russian Ministry of Defense Archives. Colonel Permyakov suggested that to conduct as comprehensive an archival search as possible, the U.S. Side should provide the missing service member's full name, branch of service, duty title, and the date and general location of the service member's disappearance. Mr. McKeague stated that such information had been transferred to Colonel Paderin in the past.

The U.S. Side handed over various datasets of information on missing U.S. service members.

This issue was revisited at the closing of the working group. Colonel Permyakov reiterated that in order to determine which records held in the Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation might have information pertinent to the search for missing U.S. service members, the U.S. Side should provide the missing service members' date of loss, branch of service and the general area of loss. This information would help identify the Vietnamese military unit responsible for that AOR at that time, and pertinent records may then be identified in the archives.

4. Access to FSB and GRU Archival Records

Background. At the April 2018 Technical Talks, the Russian Side stated that it started archival research in the Federal Security Service Archives (FSB) but had not been granted access to the Archives of the Main Intelligence Directorate of Russia (GRU).

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov stated that the issue of access to other restricted archives is a difficult one. He suggested widening the search through the Ministry of Defense Archives (TsAMO), rather than attempting to gain access to records from other restricted archives.

Colonel Permyakov stated that one of the issues with accomplishing the given scope of work is limited personnel. Archival workers have assigned duties as permanent employees and it is not possible for them to devote themselves solely to doing USRJC archival work, which is additional to their work

5. Trusted Agent

Discussion: Mr. McKeague stated that General Foglesong approached General-Major Kirilin with the question of helping find a Russian archival professional who would be dedicated to doing archival research on behalf of the USRJC U.S. Side, as it was in the past. Mr. McKeague asked Colonel Permyakov's opinion on looking for a retired archival worker who would have access and clearance to archival records. Colonel Permyakov stated that identifying a dedicated professional could be the correct thing to do and he will give this issue further consideration.

6. F-111 Capsule

Background: In 1992 a crew capsule from a U.S. aircraft was found in the Moscow Aviation Institute (now National Research University). The Russian Side provided access for U.S. analysts and experts to the relatively intact crew capsule. Following the Institute's lead, U.S. researchers interviewed two special design bureaus in an attempt to track the route of the capsule and find any accompanying documentation; this effort was unsuccessful.

Discussion: Mr. McKeague stated that the U.S. Side requests information on the provenance of the F-111 capsule displayed in the Moscow Aviation Institute. Mr. McKeague further stated that the U.S. Side is interested in determining how any U.S. military equipment used in Vietnam during the war came to be in Russia. Colonel Permyakov theorized that military equipment from any country has ways of making its way to other countries. He theorized that upon discovery on the ground, Vietnamese military forces handed the capsule over to Soviet military advisors. Colonel Permyakov stated that it is unclear how knowing such information could aid in the search for missing service members.

7. *Spetsgrupp* Reports

Background: Soviet experts (called the *Spetsgrupp*) subordinate to Soviet intelligence structures were present in Vietnam during the War. Pertinent information may be contained in the reports of the *Spetsgrupp*. Soviet advisors may have had knowledge of U.S. crash locations and fates of the U.S. personnel.

Discussion: Colonel Permyakov stated that records from any *Spetsgruppya* that were operating in Vietnam are not held at TsAMO. Colonel Permyakov opined that most likely this is because the *Spetsgruppya* units that operated in Vietnam were subordinate to the kinds of units that did not turn their reports over to defense archive. Colonel Permyakov does not know to which archives such reports would have been turned over because the system of handing over documents is very convoluted and confusing.

8. 10th Main Directorate of the Soviet General Staff

Discussion: Mr. McKeague asked who would be the authority for declassifying and/or redacting records in the 10th Main Directorate of the Soviet General Staff. Colonel Permyakov stated that it is within his authority.

Colonel Permyakov suggested that a request for access to records held in the 10th Main Directorate Archives be written right away, and he will take it with him to Moscow to speed up the processing matters, so that the Russian Side would be able to review the records in question without any delay and provide interim results by the time the U.S. and Russian VWWG Co-Chairmen meet in January 2019.

Areas Requiring Further Discussion/Coordination

The possibility of a working-level engagement in Moscow at the beginning of 2019 providing an opportunity for the U.S. and Russian Side VWWG Leads to discuss pertinent issues

Outcome

Necessary paperwork for the meeting by the USRJC VWWG Co-Chairmen is being prepared and will be forwarded to the Russian Side as soon as possible.

Break-Out Session Adjourned.

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
22nd Plenum
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
Closing Session
November 28, 2018
Washington D.C., United States of America

Participants: Same as Opening Session

General Foglesong convenes the Closing Session

Statements from Each Working Group Lead

Vietnam War Working Group

- The Russian Side accepted all the materials presented by the U.S. Side. The Russian Side stated that future tasks have been identified and we are ready to get started. Director McKeague thanked Col Permyakov for filling in for Col Paderin, and said that his insight as an archivist were very useful. Director McKeague stated that he will submit a letter to Col Paderin requesting a meeting in Moscow in January. The U.S. stated that it would submit a letter to Col Permyakov requesting access and support in studying materials from the 10th Main Directorate. The Russian Side agreed to use its resources to study these materials and identify any information pertaining to U.S. losses.
- Mr. McKeague shared one final point with General Kirilin, stating that last year DPAA accounted for 10 missing from the Vietnam War. One of whom was the brother of the Advisor, Chairman of the Board/CEO, National League of POW/MIA Families. His funeral is planned for next June.

Korean War Working Group

- Colonel Permyakov, Chief of TsAMO, stated that this working group was able to get a lot of work done. He said that one of the main focuses was a request from the U.S. Side to review the records of anti-air units that were active during the War. 291 file groups will be presented to Russian specialists to see if they are able to identify any information on U.S. servicemen. He reiterated that the Russian Side will continue its research into missing U.S. Airmen in its Main Archives.
- Colonel Pearl, the acting Chair of the KWWG, states that with regards to the declassification of the 291 file groups, a decision will be made by December. This will provide good traction moving into the next round of Technical Talks. Col Pearl stated that the Russian Side is continuing to move through their MOD records to identify any relevant information to missing U.S. service members. Col Pearl thanked Col Permyakov for his support.

Cold War Working Group

- Colonel Taranov stated that the group was able to review the issues that were brought up during the Tech Talks in Vladivostok earlier this year, in spite of Col Nikiforov's absence. They discussed air losses during the time period from 1950-1957.
- Col Taranov said that the Working Group discussed several new issues that were presented by the American Side and identified what the next steps should be. Col Taranov guaranteed that the work will be continued and that any and all data that the Russian Side may have will be presented to the U.S. Side.
- Mr. Shea added to Colonel Taranov's summary. The Russian Side made requests for information on Russian missing from the Afghanistan, Chechen, and Georgian conflicts. Mr. Shea stated that the U.S. Side will take back this information for review. Mr. Shea mentioned that the Russian Side requested information on the Russian submarine that was discovered. Mr. Shea also stated that there was a lengthy discussion on the idea of identifying a "trusted agent" to aid in the recovery of classified documents.

World War II Working Group

- Colonel Taranov said that the two Sides were able to exchange information on both U.S. and Soviet losses. Col Taranov thanked the U.S. Side for their hard work in recovering information on Mr. Kavalenko, Galkin, Seremenkov and Frantsov. Col Taranov said that the Russian Side was able to provide information on a downed B-24 (tail number 42-40309) from August 12, 1943. As noted as a postscript in the World War II working group session, all crew members of the B-24 are accounted for.
- Dr. Nenninger thanked the Russian Side and noted that although this was a short meeting he believed it was one of the most productive. Dr. Nenninger addressed the documents that the Russian Side handed over during the meeting regarding individuals that were lost in areas that were under Soviet control during the War. He said that these documents contained lists of names and dates and looked very promising in terms of yielding information that will greatly aid in research efforts. Dr. Nenninger mentioned that the U.S. Side has received requests for information on immigration records that could shed light on the fates of Soviet missing. In regards to this the U.S. Side invited an expert on Immigration and Naturalization Records from NARA to brief the Working Group on what information is contained in these records and how these records are organized. Dr. Nenniger said that through a partnership with Ancestry there is an online database of INS records that could be helpful in the future.

Closing Discussion

Following the working group reports, General Foglesong proposed a few goals going forward:

- Get all members of all Working Groups together for the next meeting. This will allow for more productive work for both Sides.
- Conduct the next Plenum in Russia next year at around the same time.

General Kirilin addresses the group. He brings up the military conflict between Russia and Georgia in 2008. He stated that 72 peacekeepers were lost during this conflict. He says he lead the efforts to exchange POWs after the combat had ended. He said that despite their best efforts there are still 2 people that are still missing today. The Russian Side requests assistance from the U.S. Side in working with the Georgian government to locate these two men due to the current tensions between Russia and Georgia. Their names are Lt. Col Koventsov and Sgt Ledzhilev. He believes that the Georgian Side may have information regarding their fate.

Mr. Tim Shea said that he works closely with the Georgians and that he is going to Georgia in January. He requested additional details regarding Sg. Ledzhilev and promised to readdress this issue during his visit.

General Kirilin thanked the expert from NARA for his presentation and said that it clarified quite a few questions that the Russian Side had regarding immigration records.

General Kirilin agrees that the next meeting should bring together the entire group and that it will be a good opportunity to introduce the new members of the organization. General Kirilin says that this time frame works well for the Russian Side and that it will give us time to carry out Technical Talks and expeditions as well as any results from the archival research.

General Foglesong says that late November is a good time for the U.S. Side due to Congress' schedule. General Kirilin agreed to the time as well because by then both Sides will have something to discuss.

General Foglesong declared the closing of the 22nd Plenum of the USRJC.