

# NEVER FORGOTTEN

★ THEIR SACRIFICE ★ OUR MISSION ★

EVER ONWARD



**DPAA** YEAR IN  
REVIEW  
OCTOBER 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2019



### Vietnam War

Journalist 3rd Class Raul A. Guerra, USNR  
 Col. Roy A Knight, USAF  
 Mr. Roy F. Townley, CIV  
 Maj. Neal C. Ward, USAF  
 Mr. Edward J. Weissenback, CIV

### KOREAN WAR

Cpl. Donald E. Angle, USA  
 Pfc. Joe T. Avant, USA  
 Pfc. Autrey J. Betar, USA  
 Cpl. Robert L. Bray, USA  
 Cpl. Norvin D. Brockett, USA  
 Sgt. 1st Class Riley Burchfield, USA  
 Cpl. Billy J. Butler, USA  
 Cpl. Ralph L. Cale, USA  
 Master Sgt. James G. Cates, USA  
 Pfc. Leon E. Clevenger, USA  
 Cpl. Frederick E. Coons, USA  
 Pfc. Grady J. Crawford, USMCR  
 1st Lt. George S. Crisp, USA  
 Pfc. Karl L. Dye, USA  
 Pfc. Junior C. Evans, USA  
 Pfc. Ray P. Fairchild, USMC  
 Cpl. Carlos E. Ferguson, USA  
 Sgt. David A. Feriend, USA  
 Sgt. Willie V. Galvan, USA  
 Cpl. Jerry M. Garrison, USA  
 Pfc. Sterling Geary, USA  
 Cpl. Charles H. Grubb, USA  
 Sgt. William C. Holmes, USA  
 Pfc. Jerome V. Hummel, USA  
 Pfc. Wilfred K. Hussey, USA  
 Capt. Rufus J. Hyman, USA  
 Cpl. Gerald G. Krebs, USA  
 Pfc. Billy E. Johnson, USMC  
 Sgt. Vernon R. Judd, USA  
 Sgt. 1st Class Elden C. Justus, USA  
 Cpl. Gudmund C. Johnson, Jr., USA  
 Pfc. Harold K. Knight, USA  
 Cpl. Charles L. Lawler, USA  
 Master Sgt. Charlie J. Mares, USA  
 Cpl. Earl H. Markle, USA  
 Pfc. Jasper V. Marquez, USA  
 Sgt. Billy J. Maxwell, USA  
 Pfc. William J. McCollum, USA  
 Sgt. 1st Class Phillip C. Mendoza, USA  
 Pvt. Edward M. Morrison, USA  
 Sgt. Donald L. Murphy, USA  
 Pfc. Lloyd B. Odom, USA  
 Cpl. Ysabel A. Ortiz, USA  
 Cpl. Harold Pearce, USA  
 Pfc. Henry L. Phillips, USA  
 Cpl. Herman R. Phy, USA  
 Sgt. Gerald B. Raemacker, USA  
 Pfc. Arthur C. Ramirez, USA  
 Pvt. Winferd L. Reynolds, USA  
 Pfc. Herschel M. Riggs, USA  
 Cpl. James C. Rix, USA  
 Sgt. George R. Schipani, USA  
 Sgt. David C. Sewell, USA  
 Pvt. John A. Shelemba, USA  
 Pvt. Robert J. Sipes, USA  
 Cpl. Benjamin W. Scott, USA  
 Sgt. James E. Smith, USA  
 Cpl. William S. Smith, USA  
 Maj. Harvey H. Storms, USA  
 1st Lt. Robert Charles Stylsinger, USA  
 Sgt. Frank J. Suliman, USA  
 Pfc. Wilber T. Tackett, USA  
 Sgt. Walter H. Tobin, USA  
 Pfc. Asa E. Vance, USA  
 Pfc. David C. Wilkes, USA

**217**  
**Accounted For**  
**Oct 1, 2018 - Sept 30, 2019**

Pfc. James C. Williams, USA  
 Cpl. Gerald N. Wilson, USA  
 Pvt. William J. Winchester, USA  
 Pfc. Roger L. Woods, USA

### WWII

Quartermaster 2nd Class Daryle E. Artley, USN  
 Pfc. Marley R. Arthurholtz, USMC  
 Seaman 2nd Class John C. Auld, USN  
 Tech. 5 John E. Bainbridge, USA  
 Pfc. John R. Bayens, USMC  
 Cpl. Ralph L. Bennett, USA  
 Pvt. Edwin F. Benson, USMC  
 Staff Sgt. Willard R. Best, USAAF  
 Pfc. Waldean Black, USMC  
 Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Leo Blitz, USN  
 Pvt. Joseph F. Boschetti, USMCR  
 Fireman 1st Class Rudolph Blitz, USN  
 Seaman 1st Class Oris V. Brandt, USN  
 Pvt. Roy Brown, USA  
 Pfc. Norman A. Buan, USMCR  
 Pfc. John T. Burke, USMCR  
 Pvt. Connie Cagle, USA  
 Cpl. Thomas H. Cooper, USMCR  
 Fire Controlman 1st Class Robert L. Corn, USN  
 Fireman 3rd Class Harold K. Costill, USN  
 Lt. Thomas J.E. Crotty, USCG  
 1st Lt. Burleigh E. Curtis, USAAF  
 Staff Sgt. Paul Cybowski, USAAF  
 Chief Water Tender Francis D. Day, USN  
 Pfc. William F. Delaney, USA  
 Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Harold L. Dick, USN  
 Pvt. Laurel W. Ebert, USA  
 Pfc. Alfred Edwards, USMCR  
 Pfc. Vincent J. Ferrara, USA  
 1st Lt. Joseph E. Finneran, USAAF  
 Pvt. Penn Franks, USA  
 Pvt. Floyd A. Fulmer, USA  
 Pvt. Jacob W. Givens, USA  
 Sgt. Howard F. Gotts, USAAF  
 2nd Lt. Lynn W. Hadfield, USAAF  
 Seaman 2nd Class Hubert P. Hall, USN  
 (Identified in FY18, family recently notified)  
 Pvt. Ted Hall, USMCR  
 Sgt. Vernon L. Hamilton, USAAF  
 Machinist's Mate 1st Class George Hanson, USN  
 Pfc. Dewey H. Harris, USA  
 Pfc. Robert J. Hatch, USMC  
 Pfc. John W. Hayes USA  
 Seaman 1st Class Frank A. Hryniewicz, USN  
 Fireman 1st Class Billy J. Johnson, USN  
 Seaman 1st Class Stewart Jordan, USN  
 Sgt. John Kalausich, USAAF  
 Seaman 1st Class Ralph H. Keil, USN  
 Cpl. Walter J. Kellett, USAAF  
 Baker 2nd Class David L. Kesler, USN  
 Electrician's Mate 3rd Class William A. Klasing, USN  
 Pfc. Michael Kocopy, USMCR  
 Staff Sgt. Wesley L. Kroenung, USMC  
 Seaman 2nd Class D.T. Kyser, USN  
 Mess Attendant 1st Class Johnnie C. Laurie, USN  
 Pfc. Kenneth W. Likens, USMCR  
 Pfc. Joseph R. Livermore, USMC  
 Pfc. Eugene E. Lochowicz, USA  
 Firecontrolman 3rd Class Adolph J. Loebach, USN  
 1st Lt. Howard T. Lurcott, USAAF

2nd Lt. William J. McGowan, USAAF  
 2nd Lt. John F. McTigue, USAAF  
 Pfc. Raymond H. Middlekauff, USA  
 Pfc. Clifford M. Mills, USA  
 1st Lt. Justin G. Mills, USMCR  
 Sgt. Jerome B. Morris, USMC  
 Seaman 2nd Class Ray H. Myers, USN  
 1st Lt. Steve Nagy, USAAF  
 Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Arnold M. Nielsen, USN  
 Seaman 2nd Class Calvin H. Palmer, USN  
 Seaman 2nd Class Wilferd D. Palmer, USN  
 Fireman 3rd Class Jasper L. Pue, USN  
 Seaman 2nd Class Brady O. Prewitt, USN  
 Pvt. William E. Rambo, USMCR  
 Fireman 2nd Class Albert Renner, USN  
 Staff Sgt. Vincent J. Rogers, USAAF  
 Pfc. Dale W. Ross, USA  
 Tech Sgt. Charles G. Ruble, USAAF  
 Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Roman W. Sadlowski, USN  
 Seaman 1st Class Kenneth H. Sampson, USN  
 Tech Sgt. Alfred R. Sandini, USAAF  
 Seaman 1st Class Lylal J. Savage, USN  
 Staff Sgt. Carl M. Shaffer, USAAF  
 Signalman 3rd Class William J. Shanahan, USN  
 Sgt. Cread E. Shuey, USA  
 Machinist's Mate 1st Class Ulis C. Steely, USN  
 2nd Lt. Walter B. Stone, USAAF  
 Seaman 2nd Class George A. Thompson, USN  
 Pfc. Hulett A. Thompson, USA  
 Seaman 2nd Class Richard J. Thomson, USN  
 Pvt. James I. Trick, USA  
 Plt. Sgt. George E. Trotter, USMC  
 Fire Controlman 3rd Class Victor P. Tumlinson, USN  
 Sgt. R.L. Tyler, USAAF  
 PFC. Jack B. Van Zandt, USMC  
 Pvt. Charlie M. Waid, USA  
 Pfc. Raymond Warren, USMCR  
 Seaman 1st Class Edward Wasielewski, USN  
 Fireman 1st Class James C. Webb, USN  
 Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells, USN  
 Seaman 1st Class Ernest R. West, USN  
 Pfc. Louis Wiesehan, USMC  
 Pvt. Harry W. Wilder, USA  
 Radioman 3rd Class Starring B. Winfield, USNR  
 Pfc. Lawrence E. Worthen, USA

Note: This page contains the names of 186 of the 217 Americans DPAA accounted for in FY19. The names of the remaining 32 are not included as their families are pending notification.

Full profiles of these individuals can be seen at [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)



## Partnerships Critical to Mission Success

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, bolstered by the strengthening and expansion of partnerships, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) accounted for 217 formerly missing persons from past conflicts, the highest yearly total reached by the agency or its predecessor organizations. Of the 217 newly accounted for, 140 were from World War II, 72 from the Korean War, and five from the Vietnam War, including two civilians who flew for Air America.

“The noble mission of accounting for Americans missing from past conflicts continues to succeed because of the myriad partners DPAA is fortunate to work with,” said DPAA Director Kelly McKeague. “Foreign governments, Department of Defense and other U.S. agency partners, and private organizations all contribute to providing more answers to families.”

Besides the more than 35 partner nations whose cooperation in FY 2019 contributed to this success, DPAA’s mission also benefited from stronger collaboration with the casualty offices from the Military Departments and Department of State; the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory; the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. European Command; the Defense Intelligence Agency - Stony Beach; the Department of Veterans Affairs; and the American Battle Monuments Commission.

By increasing its capability and capacity to reach this accounted-for milestone, DPAA also benefited from its strong relationships with groups representing families of missing Americans and to veterans service organizations.

“As we continue to increase the roster of private partners in both depth and breadth, we are able to leverage the talents they bring to the table to make the most of the agency’s organic resources,” said Dr. Thomas Holland, DPAA’s Director of Partnerships and Innovations. DPAA currently has 57 active partners with another 34 potential arrangements in development, in addition to the 15 Federal Entities with which they routinely work.

These larger public-private partnerships have

significantly enhanced DPAA’s accounting efforts by expanding capacity and capability. Some of the core areas of assistance include field investigatory and excavation work (36 field missions in FY 2019, alone); historical research and analysis projects; database and systems development; data collection, such as with water samples collected worldwide to assist with isotopic analyses and historical record digitization activities; technology application testing and assessment; and public outreach and education efforts.



Underwater recovery site in Marsaxlokk, Republic of Malta. Photo courtesy of University of Malta

Central to the agency’s success is a strong communication program to stay connected to the family members of Americans still unaccounted for from past conflicts. During FY 2019, DPAA briefed 2,347 family members at seven Family Member Updates throughout the United States, and at the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia Annual Meeting and Government Briefings, and the Korean War/Cold War Annual Government Briefings, both held in Arlington, Virginia.

DPAA and its many partners remain committed to the research, investigation, recovery, and identification of nearly 39,000 unaccounted-for Americans who are assessed to be possibly recoverable from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and other designated past conflicts.



2018

# October

DPAA had key leader engagements in the European and Middle Eastern regions and conducted several important activities in October 2018, including recovery operations in the Republic of Kiribati, disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), and joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Opposite page: Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Shaffer participates in a disinterment ceremony held at NMCP, Honolulu, Hawaii, on Oct. 22, 2018. The Korean War Disinterment Plan was approved in August 2018, has seven phases, and is expected to take five to seven years to complete, depending on DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner laboratories capacity and the operational schedule agreed to by the NMCP. Each phase is grouped by its reported geographical recovery location, and the temporary cemeteries in those geographic areas, and then by remains recovery circumstances (including loss location, timing of loss, and/or circumstances of remains return). The phasing and order of disinterment was carefully considered to ensure efficient use of agency analytical resources, and to provide answers to the greatest number of families in the most expeditious manner possible. A Korean War Disinterment Plan update can be found at: [www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Article-View/Article/1973863/korean-war-disinterment-plan-phases/](http://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Article-View/Article/1973863/korean-war-disinterment-plan-phases/) (Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante)





### LAOS RECOVERY

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class Amara Timberlake

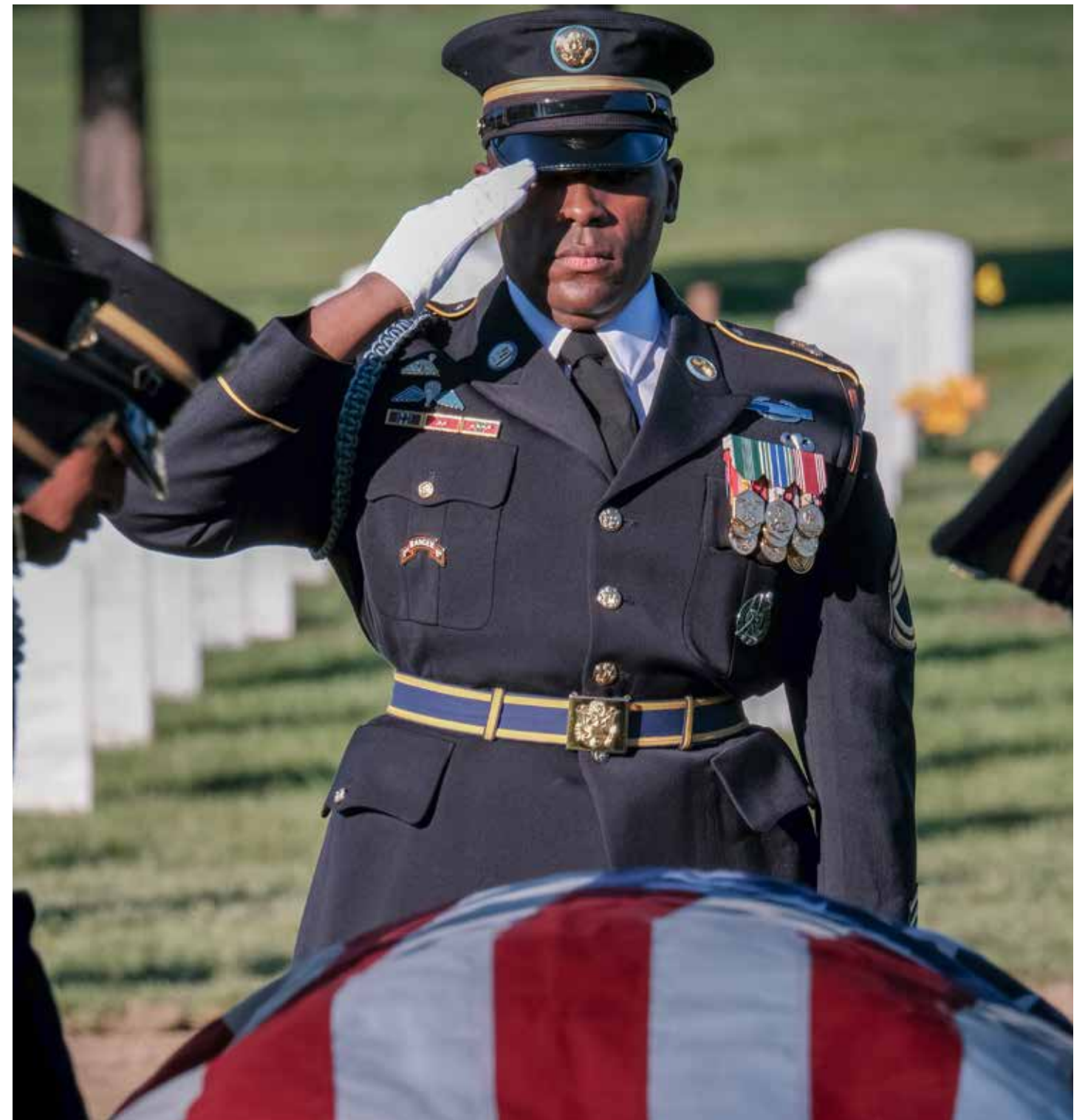
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Chad Niebels and U.S. Army Capt. Spencer Roberts, both assigned to DPAA, set up a grid marker for an excavation site in the Xieng Khouang Province, Laos, Oct. 27, 2018. The DPAA team was one of three in the region, totaling 62 personnel, conducting recovery operations in search of service members who went missing in action during the Vietnam War.



### CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Seth Coulter

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Justin Kent, cousin-in-law of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina, holds Kipina's remains during a chain of custody ceremony at the DPAA Hawaii facility, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, October 15th, 2018. Kipina went missing July 1966 when his aircraft disappeared during a night surveillance mission from Phu Bai Airfield over Attapu Province, Laos. Kent served as the military escort as Kipina's remains were later transported to Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, where he was buried with full military honors on October 18, 2018.



### RENDERED HONORS

Photo by Mr. Lee O. Tucker

A Soldier with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) salutes during a funeral service held at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 18, 2018, for Army Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina, 21, of Calumet, Michigan. On July 13, 1966, Kipina was assigned to the 131st Aviation Company, serving as an observer aboard an OV-1C aircraft, on a night surveillance mission. Visibility was poor due to heavy thunderstorms. Radar and radio contact were lost with the aircraft, which was not uncommon due to the mountainous terrain in that part of Laos. When the aircraft did not return as scheduled, search efforts were initiated, but no crash site was found.





2018

# November

In November, DPAA key leader engagements in the European region and conducted mission support activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) and Republic of Kiribati; joint field activities in the LPDR, SRV, Kiribati, Republic of India and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea; continued disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) and the Manila American Cemetery; an underwater mission in Italy; and a Family Member Update in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Opposite page: Local citizens working with a DPAA recovery team move buckets of soil during an excavation in the LPDR November 3, 2018. At the end of the Vietnam War, 573 Americans were unaccounted for in Laos. Today, 287 have been repatriated and identified. For more than 30 years, the U.S. and LPDR have actively cooperated to pursue the fullest possible accounting for missing Americans lost during the Vietnam War. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Bruch)*







**PROVIDING AID**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Bruch*

Lao citizens wait to be seen by a U.S. Army physician, Col. Ronald Wells, U.S. Army Medical Command, during a humanitarian medical outreach clinic conducted in Laos in conjunction with DPAA recovery operations in the region.

**U.S. - RUSSIA WREATH LAYING**

*Photo by Mr. Lee O. Tucker*

General Major (Ret.) Aleksandr Valentinovich Kirilin, Russian Side Deputy Chairman of the U.S. Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) and Air Force General (Ret.) Robert Fogelsong, U.S. Side Chairman of the USRJC, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Nov. 27, 2018. The ceremony was part of the 22nd Plenum of the USRJC where participants discussed continued U.S.-Russia work as both sides continue to account for their respective nation's missing personnel from past conflicts.



**DOCUMENTARY PANEL**

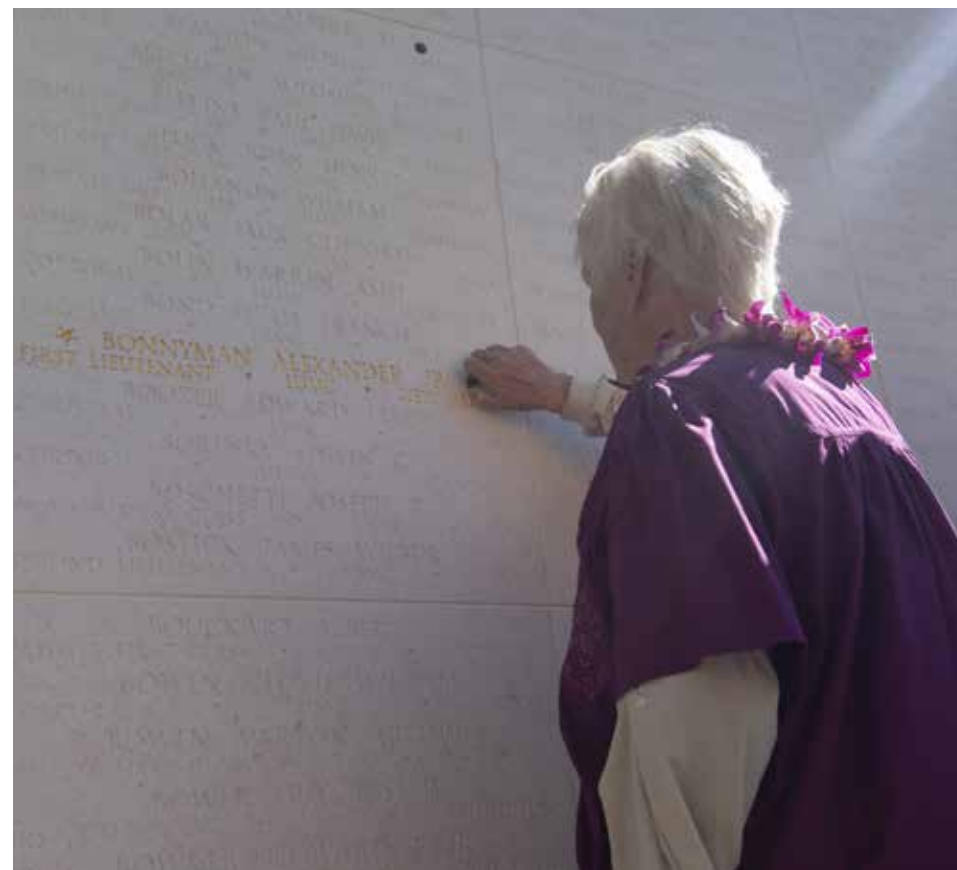
*Photo by Mr. Lee O. Tucker*



Dr. Franklin Damann (third from left with mic), Laboratory Deputy Director, DPAA Offutt Laboratory; Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) Director U.S. Army Col. Louis Finelli (second from the left); and Suzanne Barritt-Ross, AFMES DNA Operations Technical Leader, participate in a panel discussion about the PBS Nova documentary "Last B-24" at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. The documentary focuses on the search for the Tulsamerican, a B-24 bomber that crashed off the coast of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea during World War II. The documentary, which premiered Nov. 7, 2018, can be seen at: [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/last-b-24/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/last-b-24/)

**BATTLE OF TARAWA - 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter*



Alexandra Bonnyman, daughter of Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr., places an American Battle Monuments Commission rosette next to her father's name during a ceremony at NMCP, Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 19, 2018. The ceremony was in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa, that was fought on 20-23 November 1943. It took place at the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands, and was part of Operation GALVANIC, the U.S. invasion of the Gilberts. Nearly 6,400 Japanese, Koreans, and Americans died in the fighting, mostly on and around the small island of Betio, in the far southwest of the Tarawa Atoll.



2018

# December

While some federal agencies closed as a result of the government shutdown in December, DPAA remained fully funded and continued to conduct operations. Activities included joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of India and Republic of the Philippines; disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the Manila American Cemetery; and mission support activities in several countries including India, the Solomon Islands, and the Republic of Korea.

Opposite page: U.S. Navy Capt. (Ret.) James Hickerson and his wife, Carole, hold the ceremonial maile lei at Building 220 on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, during a re-dedication ceremony held Dec. 14, 2018. The building is now home to the newly-established DPAA Academy, and hosts a curriculum designed to train and prepare partners and augmentees to support DPAA. As of Oct. 31, 2019, 51 individuals attended the Academy. Hickerson was a Vietnam War POW after his A-7 was shot down December 22, 1967, in North Vietnam. After five years in POW camps, he returned in Operation HOMECOMING in 1973. Carole's first husband, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Steve Hansen, was lost June 3, 1967, when his CH-47 was shot down in Laos. Capt. Hansen's remains were recovered and identified in 1999. *(Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter)*







**JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Jamarius Fortson*

U.S. military and DoD personnel dig through soil during a Joint Field Activity in Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam, in search of unaccounted for personnel from the Vietnam War. The province is known as an area of heavy fighting during the Vietnam War, as it was the second-most northerly province of South Vietnam, close to the border with North Vietnam at the 17th parallel.

**30 YEARS OF SUSTAINED OPS WITH VIETNAM**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Jamarius Fortson*

Members of DPAA, the Defense Intelligence Agency - Stony Beach and three Vietnamese Ministries celebrate the 30th Anniversary of sustained operations in Hanoi, Vietnam, Dec. 12, 2018. The 30th Anniversary event was held to commemorate and recognize joint U.S. and Vietnam efforts to return Americans missing from the Vietnam War. The 30-year relationship, marked by increasing cooperation, grew out of high-level discussions between the two governments from 1975 through the mid 1980s.



**HONORABLE CARRY**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Mikaley Kline*

DPAA members and U.S. Air Force C-17 aircrew conduct an honorable carry for the remains of recovered Americans at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Dec. 13, 2018. The possible remains were recovered in Laos as well as Vietnam and accessioned into DPAA's laboratory to be examined by forensic anthropologists and odontologists as part of the efforts to make an identification.



**UNDERWATER OPS**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tyler Thompson*

U.S. Navy Diver 1st Class James Mostek, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Company ONE-EIGHT, embarked aboard USNS Salvor (T-ARS 52), waits on a diving stage during a two-hour decompression stop after diving to 240 feet off the coast of Madang, Papua New Guinea, Dec. 7, 2018. The sailor was completing a DPAA underwater recovery mission in search of personnel missing from World War II.







# All In a Day's Work

Nghe An Province, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal, a photographer and member of a DPAA recovery team, took photos of his teammates at the beginning and at the end of a work day on an excavation site, Dec. 4, 2018, in Nghe An Province, Vietnam.





2019

# January

The calendar year began with key leader engagements in the Indo-Pacific and European regions; disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) and the Manila American Cemetery; joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Philippines and Republic of the Union of Myanmar; underwater operations in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea; and a Family Member Update (FMU) in Birmingham, Alabama.

Opposite page: Dr. Kim Maeyama (left), a DPAA scientific recovery expert, and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy O'Shields (right), a DPAA senior mountaineer, conduct a site survey during an investigation mission in Houaphan Province, LPDR, Jan. 30, 2019. The investigation mission lasted 30 days and resulted in the successful gathering of information from several sites for possible future recovery operations. *(Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd class Claire Farin)*







**WELCOME HOME**  
 Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall

DPAA service members conduct an honorable carry for the remains of U.S. service members at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 30, 2019. The remains were disinterred from graves at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.



**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
 Photo by Sgt. Kelly L. Timney

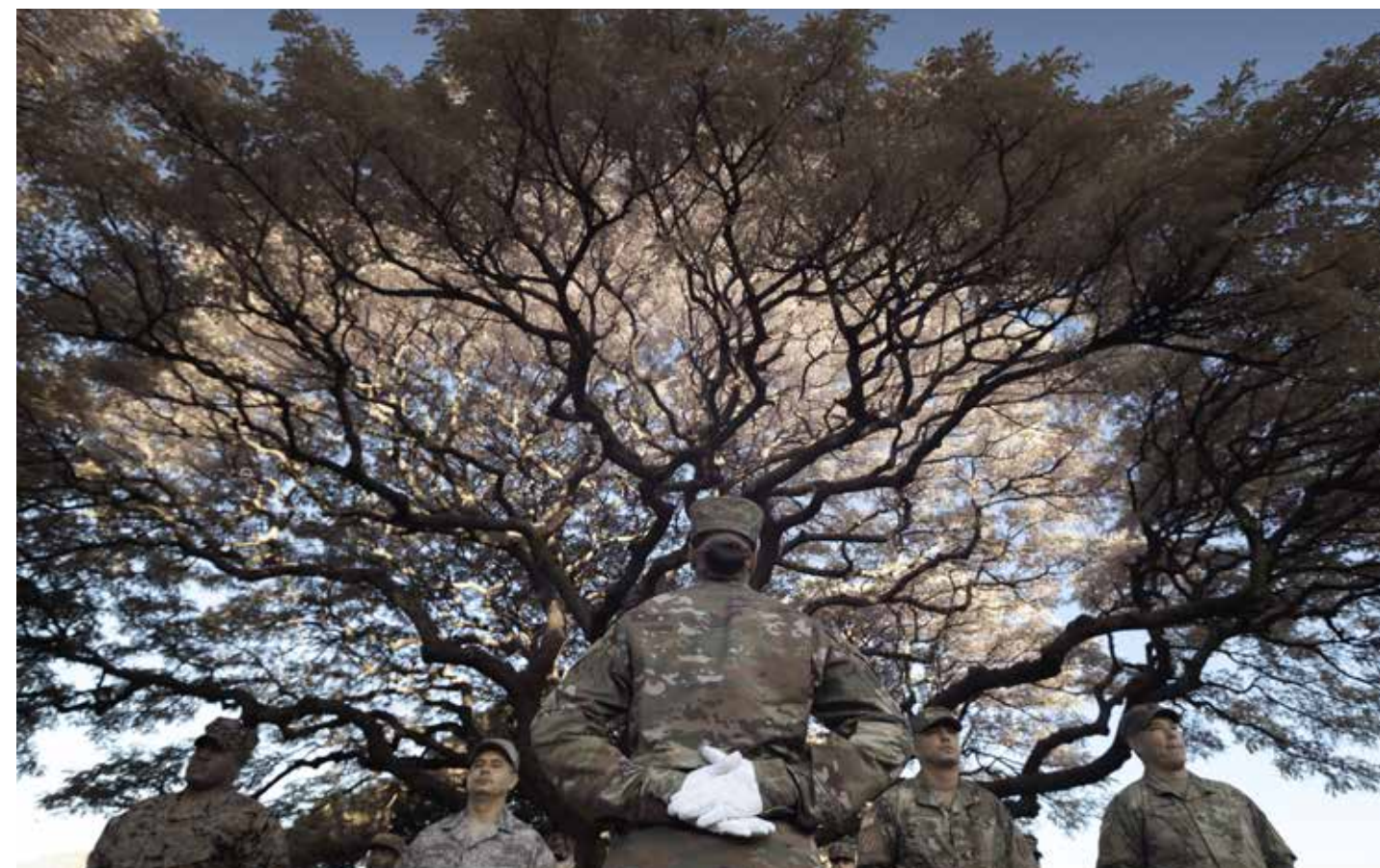
DPAA personnel often find ways to serve outside of the agency's assigned mission. On Jan. 11, 2019, a dozen DPAA teammates volunteered to help with a restoration project at the USS Battleship Missouri Memorial located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The volunteers put in a full day of hard work that involved prying up sections of the ship's teak wood deck so it could be replaced.



**FAMILY MEMBER UPDATE**

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jamarius Fortson

Laurence Holt shares his reflection of his uncle, U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. James Holt, missing in World War II from a mission over what is now West Papua, Indonesia, during a remembrance ceremony at a DPAA FMU in Birmingham, Alabama, Jan. 26, 2019. Each year, DPAA holds seven regional meetings and two annual government briefings to provide information to the families of DoD personnel still unaccounted for from past conflicts.



**KOREAN WAR DISINTERMENT PLAN**  
 Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter

U.S. service members assigned to DPAA participate in a disinterment ceremony held at NMCP, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 8, 2019, as part of Phase I of the Korean War Disinterment Plan. This phase includes disinterring the Unknowns recovered from United Nations Memorial Cemetery (UNMC) Masan, along with the UNMC Tangkok recoveries and includes Unknowns from the UN temporary cemetery at Koto-ri and the single Unknown from the UN temporary cemetery at Sukchon.

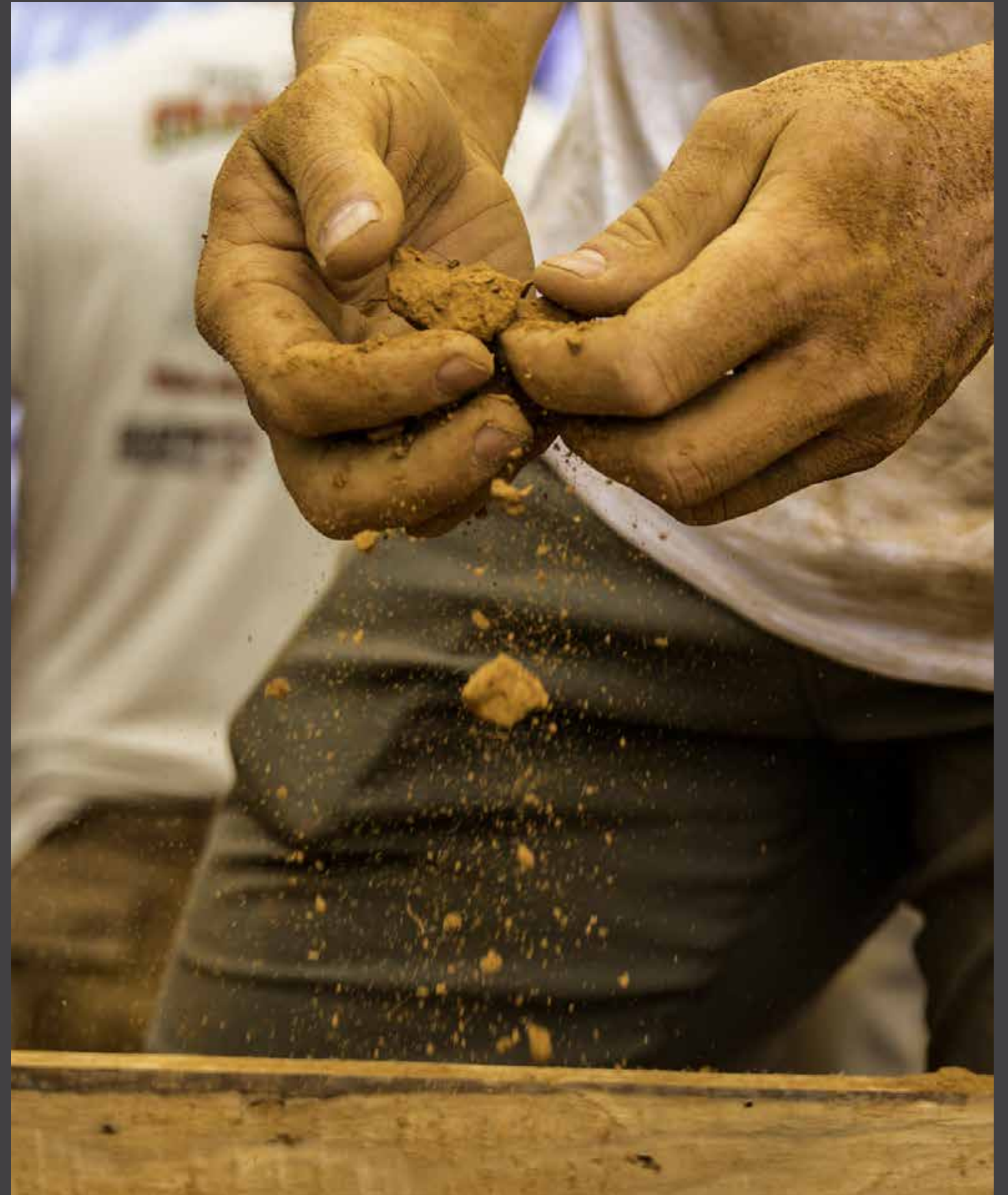


2019

# February

The year's shortest month was not short on work for DPAA as agency personnel began or continued several activities across the globe. Those actions included a Family Member Update in San Jose, California; mission support activities in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands; underwater operations in Papua New Guinea; key leader engagements in the Indo-Pacific region; and field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV).

Opposite page: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan Swope, a mountaineer assigned to DPAA, screens dirt in Hong Van Village, SRV, Feb. 24, 2019. The recovery team traveled to the area as part of efforts to locate three U.S. service members lost during the Vietnam War. The mission was part of the largest joint field activity ever held with a total of 135 DPAA members and Department of Defense augmentees. *(Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford)*







**VETERANS ENGAGEMENT**

*Photo by Mr. Chuck Prichard*

DPAA Director Kelly McKeague addresses attendees of the 59th American Legion Washington Conference on Feb. 26, 2019. DPAA proactively communicates with veterans service organizations to sustain transparency and provide current updates on the agency's efforts to research, recover, identify and account for those still missing from past conflicts.

**RATANAKIRI PROVINCE, CAMBODIA**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Martin*

DPAA personnel and augmentees attached to a mission in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia, during the period of Jan. 28th to Mar. 13th, 2019, spend their days digging and screening alongside local villagers in hopes of finding two missing U.S. service members lost during the Vietnam War.



**USS OKLAHOMA FUNERAL**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Caulter*

An honor guard detail, comprised of U.S. Sailors assigned to Navy Region Hawaii, prepares to fold the American flag over the casket of U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Charles Harris during a funeral at the National Military Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii, Feb. 4, 2019. Harris was assigned to the USS *Oklahoma*, which sustained fire from Japanese aircraft and multiple torpedo hits during the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, resulting in the deaths of more than 429 crew members. Harris was accounted for on April 30, 2018, as part of an ongoing DPAA effort to identify Unknowns from the USS *Oklahoma*. To date, 227 of the 388 unaccounted for have been identified.

**HONG VAN VILLAGE, VIETNAM**

*Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford*

U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Paul Bellanca, an explosive ordnance disposal technician augmented to DPAA, chops a tree in Hong Van Village in Vietnam's Thua Thien-Hue Province. During the mission, a total of 68 U.S. personnel and their Vietnamese counterparts conducted recovery operations at seven sites believed to be associated with unaccounted-for American servicemen. This mission was the 134th joint field activity conducted in Vietnam since joint operations began on a regular basis in 1988. Additionally, three investigation teams conducted interviews and both ground and underwater site surveys. U.S. personnel also conducted a trilateral investigation in Laos with Vietnamese witnesses.





## Indo-Pacific Directorate

DPAA's Indo-Pacific (IP) Directorate maintained operations throughout the region while working diligently to expand access into previously limited areas. IP conducted a total of 28 investigation missions and 49 recovery missions. These efforts spanned the expansive Pacific region, sending DPAA military and DoD civilian personnel and partner organizations to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, South Korea, Kiribati, Philippines, Palau, Papua New Guinea, India, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia, Guam, and China.



Laos Recovery, Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Bruch

Further, IP conducted a mission in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Marshall Islands. The directorate's historical research during FY19 also led to the disinterment of 221 caskets of Unknowns from Manila American Cemetery and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

## Partnership & Innovation Directorate

Partnership & Innovation (PI) continues to expand the number and variety of DPAA's external partners, and has entered into discussions with more than 138 potential partner institutions, which led to the signing of 16 more formal Memorandum of Understanding agreements.

Additionally, in FY19, DPAA collaborated with

partners by conducting 36 field missions worldwide. Partners included:

- Terrestrial Investigation and Recovery: U. of Wisconsin, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, U. of Maryland, Cranfield U., U. of Illinois at Chicago, SEARCH, Florida Gulf Coast U., U. of Vienna, Western Carolina U., U. of New Orleans, U. of Innsbruck, Chico State U., U. of Papua New Guinea, U. of Queensland, Ohio Valley Archeology, Breaking Ground Heritage, American Veterans Archaeological Recovery, and History Flight.

- Underwater Investigation and Recovery: East Carolina U., U. of Malta, U. of Delaware, Institute of Maritime Heritage, Deep Sea Productions, Scripps Oceanographic Institute, Project Recover, Kiel U., Florida Public Archeology Network, Ships of Discovery, Historic England.

- Surveys and Mission Support: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Army Geospatial Center, U. of New Orleans, and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.



DPAA Academy presentation, Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante

Of note, PI also updated agency procedures for the cooperative agreements and grants program and expanded the agency's volunteer program. They also developed curriculum supporting the DPAA Field Academy and hosted four separate sessions for 35 individuals representing more than 30 institutions.

- Research: PI developed curriculum supporting the inaugural DPAA Academy Research session which saw 14 individuals representing 10 institutions

attend. Throughout FY19, DPAA collaborated with the following research institutions: The Ohio State U., U. of Wisconsin, U. of New Orleans, the National World War II Museum, Texas A&M U., East Carolina U., Temple U., Southern Mississippi U., Brigham Young U., U. of Nebraska, Technology Heritage and Investigation in Archaeology, Missing Air Crew Project, and multiple individual volunteers.

## European-Mediterranean Directorate

In FY19, DPAA's European-Mediterranean (EM) Directorate conducted 15 organic investigations, nine partnered investigations, four organic recoveries, 11 partnered recoveries, and nine contracted missions (six recovery and three investigatory missions) for a total of 48 executed field missions. These terrestrial and underwater missions were in: Austria, Germany, Poland, France, Belgium, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Malta, Lithuania, Kuwait, and Panama.

Disinterments from the European-Mediterranean region significantly enhanced DPAA's overall mission; the DPAA Offutt Lab accessioned 77 remains of Unknowns from disinterments conducted in American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries throughout Europe in FY19.

The European-Mediterranean Joint Commission



Recovery in Germany, Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David J. Marshall

Support Division (JCSD) planned and participated in a U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs Plenary session in Washington in November 2018. JCSD also planned and executed two technical talks on World War II and the Vietnam War.

## DPAA Laboratory

Results from DPAA's Laboratory hit a high-water mark in FY19 with a total of 217 previously missing individuals being accounted for. The resolved losses included five from the Vietnam War, 72 from the Korean War and 140 from World War II.



Forensic analysis in Hawaii Lab, Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford

The Agency conducted significant work at all three laboratory locations in FY19. Accessions into the lab totaled 449, which included 297 from disinterments, 54 from unilateral turnovers, 75 from field operations and 29 from agency partners. The DPAA labs continued to innovate, instituting new methods of data analysis to contribute to expansive projects undergoing analysis.

On Jan. 1, 2019, they began using a new Laboratory Information Management System in support of agency efforts to become a digital workforce. Simultaneously, the scientific staff established its first stable isotope testing laboratory. Over 400 samples have undergone stable isotope testing in FY19 in support of DPAA casework. During FY19, the lab maintained its good standing with international forensic accreditation by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board.





2019

## March

March was a robust month for DPAA as the agency's teams entered the beginning of the high operational tempo season. Activities included key engagements by DPAA leaders in the Indo-Pacific region; joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kingdom of Cambodia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Philippines, the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United Kingdom; underwater operations in Papua New Guinea; disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the Manila American Cemetery; consular talks with officials from several countries including the People's Republic of China; and a Family Member Update (FMU) in San Antonio, Texas.

Opposite page: Diane Nichols (left) and Suzie Hall (right) share a moment with the profile of their father, Roy Townley, prior to a chain of custody ceremony held at DPAA's Hawaii facility on March 18, 2019. Townley, an Air-America co-pilot, and his crew were on a routine resupply mission when their aircraft went down over Laos Dec. 27, 1971. After decades of investigative efforts involving predecessor agencies and foreign government counterparts, DPAA-led joint missions recovered remains in 2017 and 2018 that led to the identification of Townley and George Ritter in September 2018 and Edward Weissenback in December, 2018. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante)







**LARGEST FAMILY UPDATE**

*Photo by Tech Sgt. Sarah Guthrie*

DPAA Director Kelly McKeague talks with Sherry Scheurich during an FMU in San Antonio, Texas, on March 23, 2019. Scheurich is the sister of U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Scheurich who went missing during the Vietnam War when his A-6

Intruder jet failed to return from a mission. The FMU was attended by 350 family members, representing 175 losses, and was the largest attendance in the program's 25-year history. Each year, DPAA hosts seven regional FMUs for family members of unaccounted for personnel who live within a 350-mile radius of major metropolitan areas around the country. These updates address the individual cases of the family members, enable a two-way conversation, and bring information to their communities about DPAA's mission.

**VIETNAM INVESTIGATIONS**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall*

David White, an analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency - Stony Beach, talks to a witness during a mission with Research and Investigation Team Bravo in Vietnam, March 14, 2019. During the 35-day mission, the team investigated several sites correlated with missing service members in hopes of recommending future recovery operations.



**DUTY - HONOR - COUNTRY**

*Photo by Elizabeth Frazier*

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon helps conduct military funeral honors with funeral escort for U.S. Army Air Forces Capt. Lawrence Dickson at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, March 22, 2019. Dickson was a Tuskegee Airman (a member of the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group) who went missing in December 1944 when his plane crashed during his return from an aerial reconnaissance mission. His P-51D aircraft suffered engine failure and was seen crashing near the borders of Italy and Austria. In support of this mission, DPAA partnered with the University of New Orleans, which implemented the field school that conducted the recovery effort; the University of Innsbruck, which greatly assisted with the field school; and the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, which provided key support to the field school. Dickson is the first Tuskegee Airman to be accounted for from the 27 who are missing.



2019

# April

DPAA activities in April included disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the Manila American Cemetery; mission support activities in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea; joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, SRV, Republic of Korea, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Philippines, the Northern Mariana Islands, Federal Republic of Germany, and Republic of Palau; and a Family Member Update (FMU) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Opposite page: DPAA recovery team members sift through soil during recovery operations in Reken, Germany, April 29, 2019. The team excavated the site for 30 days to gather evidence related to a service member lost during World War II. Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are more than 72,000 service members still unaccounted for from World War II.

*(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David J. Marshall)*







**LAOS REPATRIATION**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter*

U.S. service members assigned to DPAA participate in a repatriation ceremony in Pakse, Laos, April 10, 2019, following a DPAA recovery mission where the team recovered possible human remains believed to be from four individuals lost during the Vietnam War. After the repatriation ceremony, the remains were transported to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and were accessioned into the DPAA Laboratory where they will be examined by forensic anthropologists and odontologists.



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter*

Todd Livick, DPAA's Director of Outreach and Communications (OC), provides a mission overview to Airmen attending the Airman Leadership Course at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, on April 25, 2019. Livick, along with Johnnie Webb, Deputy Director of OC, and Jennifer Vallee, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System Chief of Public and Congressional Affairs, spent time in the Salt Lake City area meeting with strategic partners, congressional staffers, service members and DoD civilians before hosting the Salt Lake City FMU. Nearly 100 family members representing 50 losses attended the meeting to stay informed on current DPAA operations as well as to share their own stories of loved ones that are still missing from past conflicts.

**SOUTH KOREA MISSION**

*Photo by Benjamin Fransen*

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Zachary Wales (left), a DPAA linguist/analyst, and Kyle Bracken (right), a DPAA historian, investigate a witness-reported remains location near Yangju City, Gyeonggi Province, Republic of Korea. The mission included eight DPAA team members, three augmentees, and two South Korean Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) representatives. The mission focused on finding new leads via village canvassing and battlefield survey activities during a 30-day mission from March 30 to May 2, 2019.







2019

## May

DCAA highlights for May included mission support activities in the Republic of Palau, Republic of Kiribati, Kingdom of Thailand, Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), Kingdom of Cambodia and Republic of the Union of Myanmar; joint field activities in the LPDR, SRV, Kiribati, Palau, the Northern Mariana Islands, the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Federal Republic of Germany, and Independent State of Papua New Guinea; an underwater operation in the Hellenic Republic of Greece; and a Family Member Update (FMU) in Omaha, Nebraska.

Opposite page: Dr. Brittany Walter, a forensic anthropologist, briefs 41 family members during a visit to DCAA's laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, May 17, 2019. Family members were able to see firsthand how identifications are made through anthropology, odontology, DNA sampling, material evidence, radiograph comparison and more. The DCAA lab visit was held in conjunction with an FMU conducted the following day in Omaha for 111 family members representing 61 losses. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Bruch)*







**LASTING BONDS**  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante*

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Justin Harty, DPAA team leader, makes a promise of trust with a village chief in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, May 7, 2019. An investigation team traveled to the village to collect the remains of a service member lost in World War II. In 1942, Japan invaded the province and built a military base there. The battles for control of that base and the surrounding area were fierce and resulted in heavy losses.



**SCREENING IN GERMANY**  
*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Claire Farin*

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Theresa Blackmon (left) and U.S. Army Sgt. Colton Battin (right), sift soil using a low pressure water hose during recovery operations in Münster, Germany, on May 6, 2019. DPAA team members excavated the site in hopes of recovering the remains of a missing service member lost during World War II.

**DNA COLLECTION**  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Bruch*

Molly Hildenbrand, an Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) DNA analyst, collects a DNA family reference sample during a DPAA Family Member Update in Omaha, Nebraska, May 18, 2019. DNA is utilized to support more than 90 percent of DPAA identifications. The DoD DNA Operations, a division of AFMES, is DoD's sole DNA laboratory tasked with current and past conflicts human identification efforts.



**SCIENTIFIC RECOVERY EXPERT**  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall*

Dr. Megan Ingvaldstad, a DPAA scientific recovery expert, shovels dirt during a recovery mission in Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam, May 23, 2019. Ingvaldstad, a Diplomate-American Board of Forensic Anthropology-certified forensic anthropologist, has been on 15 recovery and investigation missions, including five missions to Vietnam and four to Laos, during her seven years at the agency.



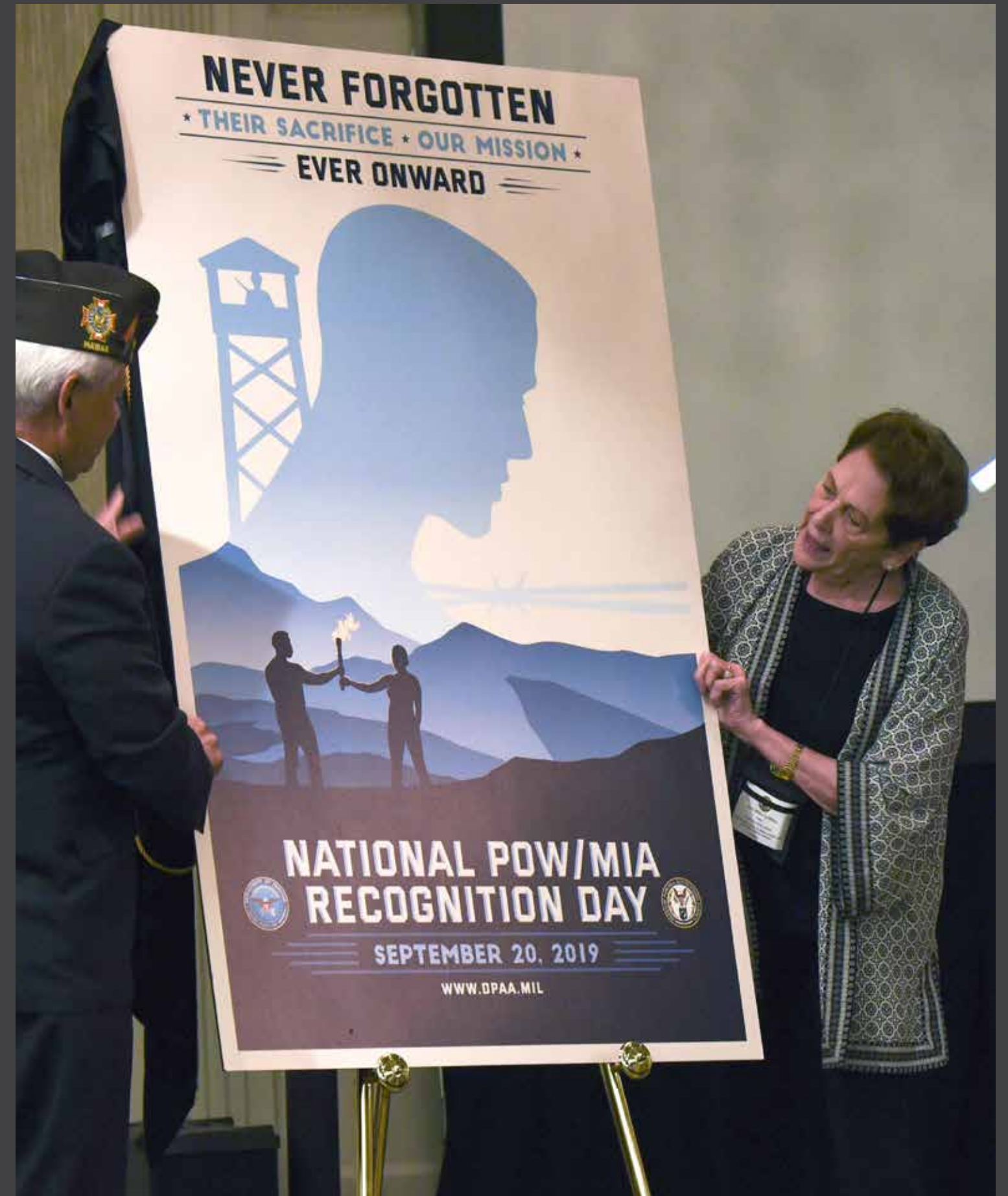


2019

# June

June saw a marked uptick in DPAA activity that included mission support activities in the Kingdom of Thailand, Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), Kingdom of Cambodia and Republic of Korea (ROK); joint field activities in LPDR, SRV, Republic of Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, ROK, Guam, State of Kuwait, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Poland, Romania, and Republic of Croatia; disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; and an update to family members with loved ones missing from the Vietnam War who attended the annual meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families held in Arlington, Virginia.

Opposite page: Joe Davis (left), Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Washington office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Ann Mills-Griffiths (right), Chairman of the Board and CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families, unveil the 2019 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster during the League's 50th anniversary meeting June 19, 2019. This year's annual meeting marked five decades of the League's efforts to account as fully as possible for America's Vietnam War POW/MIAs and other unreturned veterans. Highlights included briefings from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy); the Defense Intelligence Agency Director; the Assistant Secretary of State; veteran service organizations; the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission; a special 50 Years of History, Commitment & Legacy panel; and the League's Archival Research Committee. Additionally, the 50th anniversary dinner and candlelight ceremony was attended by over 400 guests. DPAA also hosted a Friday, June 21 Pentagon Courtyard reception and a tour of the POW/MIA Corridor. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. Leah Ferrante)*







### VIETNAM INVESTIGATION

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Amara Timberlake

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Chris Varner, a DPAA recovery/investigation team sergeant, leads his team through a river to the site of a possible helicopter crash in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam, June 18, 2019. DPAA conducted investigations in the region in search of service members who went missing during the Vietnam War.

### SOLOMON ISLANDS RECOVERY

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Cardenas

Dr. Laurel Freas, a forensic anthropologist, tosses a sandbag during a recovery mission in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, June 19, 2019. DPAA team members deployed to the area in hopes of recovering Marines unaccounted for from the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II.



### FORGING FUTURE LEADERSHIP

Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall

Cadet Joshua Smoak, Class of 2020, U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York, excavates soil in the search for remains or material evidence of missing service members during a DPAA recovery mission in Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam, June 7, 2019. The mission included a pilot program for USMA personnel to work with DPAA to support future missions as well as give cadets a leadership development experience they might not otherwise get in the U.S. After returning home from the mission, Smoak commented, "My grandfather actually served in Vietnam, and I felt so humbled that I was able to go honor his fallen brothers. I'll be able to converse with him about something my generation otherwise wouldn't be able to connect with."



### UNDERWATER OPS

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter

U.S. Army Spec. Julio Melendez, assigned to the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment, 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, dredges the seabed during underwater recovery operations off the coast of Halong Bay, Vietnam, June 14, 2019. The recovery efforts, led by DPAA to locate evidence possibly related to service members who went missing during the Vietnam War, are painstaking, especially in the murky waters off the coast of Vietnam.





2019

# July

DPAA activities in July included joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR), Republic of Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, State of Kuwait, Federal Republic of Germany, Kingdom of Belgium, Republic of Austria and Republic of Malta; mission support activities in the People's Republic of China, Republic of the Philippines and Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Opposite page: DPAA recovery personnel, DoD augmentees, and Laotian workers excavate a unit as part of a recovery mission conducted in Xam Neua, Houaphanh Province, LPDR, July 24, 2019. The mission was the 155th joint field activity in Laos. Two recovery teams comprising 42 U.S. personnel conducted excavation operations at two sites in Houaphanh Province, working from July 19 to Aug. 26, 2019, to recover the remains of service members missing from the Vietnam War. *(Photo by Cpl. Harrison Rakhshani)*







**RECOGNIZING PARTNERS**

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Amara Timberlake*

Bob Wallace, Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), receives a Distinguished Public Service Medal from DPAA Director Kelly McKeague at the 120th VFW National Convention in Orlando, Florida, July 21. Wallace recently retired as the Executive Director of the VFW Washington, D.C. Office, where he was the longest tenured Executive Director in the history of this major veteran service organization.



**PRECISION FIELD WORK**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal*

Alex Garcia-Putnam (left) and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Chad Niebels (right) measure an excavation unit during a recovery mission in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, July 16, 2019. During the recovery mission, DPAA personnel and augmentees spent their days digging and screening soil to gather evidence related to missing U.S. Marines lost during the first Allied offensive in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

**PARTNERS AT WORK**  
*Photo by Sgt. Melanye Martinez*

Jessica Gadis, an osteologist with History Flight Inc., studies remains found from the Battle of Tarawa, Kiribati, July 11, 2019. History Flight, a DPAA partner, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding and recovering missing U.S. service members. DPAA repatriated the remains of at least 22 service members killed during the battle of Tarawa in World War II on July 17, 2019, and 13 more on Sept. 27, 2019.



**PARTNER NATIONS**  
*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter*

Lee Byoung Goo, Vice Minister of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (left), and Lee Namwoo, Deputy Minister of the Republic of Korea's Office of Personnel and Welfare (right), render honors after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, July 31, 2019. The visit was held in conjunction with the DPAA's Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefings. The Republic of Korea government and the Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) have been staunch supporters of DPAA and the U.S. Government in the investigation and recovery of those lost during the Korean War.





2019

# August

DPAA's hosting of family members in Washington, D.C. for the agency's Korean War and Cold War Annual Government Briefings was the highlight of activities in August. Others included mission support activities in the Solomon Islands, Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Republic of Kiribati; joint field activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Poland, Republic of Austria, the Italian Republic, and Hungary; and disinterments from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Opposite page: Elizabeth Jones-Ohree lays a hand on the casket of her younger brother, U.S. Army Pfc. William "Hoover" Jones, Aug. 22, 2019, at Arlington National Cemetery. On Nov. 26, 1950, after his unit, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, made a fighting withdrawal from an engagement with Chinese forces in North Korea, Jones was reported missing in action. The U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953, and his remains were reported as non-recoverable. On July 27, 2018, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members killed during the Korean War. Jones was the second to be identified from those remains. The funeral, which was attended by 56 family and friends, was also covered by HBO's Vice News Tonight as part of a story on the agency and its operations which aired September 6, 2019.

The story can be found on the Vice News YouTube Channel at:

[https://youtu.be/Zh4BMoDN\\_AA](https://youtu.be/Zh4BMoDN_AA) (Photo by Mr. Lee O. Tucker)







**FAMILY GATHERING**  
 Photo by Mass Communications  
 Specialist 2nd Class Seth Coulter

More than 500 family members representing 234 service members attended the 2019 Korean War and Cold War Annual Government Briefings held Aug. 1-2, 2019, in Arlington, Virginia. The annual briefings included attendance at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Twilight Tattoo performance; formal presentations to the families; individual one-on-one discussions with family members; and a Republic of Korea Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs-hosted dinner for the families. Unique this year was a media panel where journalists from local and national media outlets discussed the accounting mission from a media perspective.



**UNITED KINGDOM**  
 Photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall

A U.S. service member attached to DPAA uses a water screen to wash soil away from other matter that may provide evidence during a recovery mission in the United Kingdom Aug. 5, 2019. This was DPAA's first-ever recovery mission in the United Kingdom. Screening methods are a relevant component of excavation methodology and are included in most recovery missions. Wet screening is a particularly effective way of dealing with heavy clay or bulk soil samples.

**ITALIAN RECOVERY**  
 Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford

U.S. Army Cpl. Christen Wise, a recovery non-commissioned officer attached to DPAA, tosses buckets to a teammate during a recovery mission in Sarentino, Italy, Aug. 16, 2019. A team of 24 U.S. service members and civilian employees were part of a recovery team deployed to the area in hopes of recovering U.S. service members missing from World War II.



**TEAMWORK**  
 Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

Members of a DPAA recovery team shovel backsoil while working alongside local workers on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Aug. 3, 2019. During the recovery mission, DPAA personnel and augmentees spent their days digging and screening in hopes of finding missing U.S. Marines lost during the first allied offensive in the Pacific Theater of World War II.







2019

# September

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DPAA marked a significant milestone in September when the number of unaccounted-for dipped below 82,000. DPAA activities conducted during September included missions in the Federal Republic of Germany, French Republic, Italian Republic, the United Kingdom, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Malaysia, Republic of Kiribati, and Independent State of Papua New Guinea; a Family Member Update in Dayton, Ohio; and ceremonies across the globe for National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Opposite page: U.S. Army Master Sgt. Chris Malone, a member of the Black Daggers, the official U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration Team, comes in for a landing during the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony held on Sept. 20, 2019 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. The Black Dagger demonstration jump kicked off the ceremony by delivering the POW/MIA flag in dramatic fashion. The ceremony was hosted by the Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist. The Pentagon ceremony was one of several events held around the globe on Sept. 20 to honor those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain unaccounted for from past conflicts. (Photo by Mr. Richard Wagner)





**NATIONAL POW/MIA  
RECOGNITION DAY IN  
VIETNAM**

*Photo by Sgt. Melanye Martinez*

Representatives of the U.S. Embassy Hanoi and DPAA held a ceremony in Hanoi to recognize National POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 20, 2019, in honor of those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing from past conflicts. U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink delivered remarks at the ceremony, stating, "We as a nation are committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for our missing and that effort is in full evidence here in Vietnam and around the world."



**Papua New Guinea**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Kenney*

Emily Snider, DPAA scientific recovery expert, briefs Australian forces on a DPAA recovery mission in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea, Sept. 7, 2019. In September 1943, Australian and American forces launched a major offensive against the occupying Japanese. The recovery team visited the area in hopes of recovering a missing pilot whose aircraft was lost during World War II.



**NATIONAL POW/MIA  
RECOGNITION DAY AT  
THE PENTAGON**

*Photo by Mr. Lee O. Tucker*

Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist delivers the keynote address during the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony held at the Pentagon, Sept. 20, 2019. Norquist's remarks expressed gratitude to DPAA, veteran service organizations, and family advocates for their commitment to the mission of accounting for those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing from past conflicts.



**NATIONAL POW/MIA  
RECOGNITION DAY IN  
HAWAII**

*Photo by Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford*

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Melanye Martinez, a photographer with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, rings America's Bell of Freedom with assistance from U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Andujar, senior enlisted leader, DPAA, during a National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 20, 2019. Administered by the Spirit of Liberty Foundation, the bell has been rung at major ceremonies all over the world. This was the first at a National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony.





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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



U.S. Army  
(800) 892-2490



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



U.S. Navy  
(800) 443-9298



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



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



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



Central Intelligence Agency  
(703) 874-4270

## DPAA Leadership

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

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DVIDS: [www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/DPAA)

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/FcSwcb57OGg>

## 2020 Family Update Schedule\*

Date	Location
November 2	San Juan, PR
January 25	Las Vegas, NV
February 22	Portland, OR
March 21	Miami, FL
April 18	Little Rock, AR
May 16	Chicago, IL
June 24-27	Arlington, VA**
August 6-7	Arlington, VA***
September 12	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 and Cold War Annual Government Briefings

