



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES
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www.pow-miafamilies.org

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LEAGUE 51ST ANNUAL MEETING/USG BRIEFINGS RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2021:

On September 6, 2021, the League and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) reached agreement on holding two days of virtual/live-streaming/in-person sessions. This was accomplished with significant effort and much compromise by all involved, and determined by the League Board of Directors and DPAA leadership to be the best possible solution in our current pandemic-restricted environment.

The Opening Session will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon, on Wednesday, September 15th. It will be League-chaired and include guest speakers and reports of specific interest. Presentation of League Distinguished Service Awards will conclude the League's portion of the September 15th program. DPAA will host the second half of Opening Session from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., starting with welcoming remarks from DPAA Director Kelly McKeague. Several specialists will address diverse projects and scientific aspects of the mission that impact achieving Vietnam War accounting results, closing with a moderated Q&A session.

DPAA will also host the General Session on Thursday, September 16th, 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. DPAA Director McKeague will lead off the session, followed by DIA Director Lieutenant General Scott Barrier, USA, then DPAA Deputy Director for Operations (DDO) Rear Admiral Darius Banaji, USN. DPAA Indo-Pacific Regional Director Col Matt Brannen, USMC, and DIA Stony Beach Program Director Brad Taylor will lead into country-specific presentations from six DPAA and Stony Beach specialists working in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. This session will also conclude with a DPAA-moderated Q&A Session.

The closing League General Session will be 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., during which the newly elected 2021-2023 League Board of Directors will be introduced. The virtual audience of family members, veterans and other interested Americans will then have an opportunity to raise questions and issues for later consideration by the 2021-23 Board. On Friday September 17th, at 10:00 a.m., the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony will be held at the Pentagon, COVID restrictions permitting.

SUPPORT THE LEAGUE: You can support the League on Facebook by creating a fundraiser to celebrate meaningful occasions and events. Opportunities are nearly endless, ranging from appeals for donations to the League in lieu of birthday gifts or to honor a missing loved one on the anniversary of his loss and, if returned, his story commemorating his recovery, etc. If you would like to create a fundraiser to benefit the League, visit www.facebook.com/fund/powmiafamilies. **100% of the proceeds** raised from your Facebook fundraiser will benefit the League! (FEIN 233-7071242; CFC 10218; 501 (c) (3) nonprofit)

You and your family, friends and colleagues can also support the League by shopping at **Amazon Smile**. It is simple and automatic, **at no extra cost to you**. Just visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7071242>, and you will find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping to which you may be increasingly accustomed. The added bonus? The **Amazon Smile Foundation** automatically donates 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchases to the League.



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MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED-FOR FROM THE VIETNAM WAR: The number missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is still 1,584. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on March 14th that US Naval Reserve CDR Paul C. Charvet, 26, killed during the Vietnam War, but unrecovered at the time, was accounted for March 1, 2021. On March 21, 1967, his A-1H Skyraider airplane disappeared near Hon Me Island off the coast of North Vietnam. Until this announcement, there had been no US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War since July 2020.

During the April 29th DPAA-hosted Family/VSO Quarterly Call & Update, the DPAA Lab Director affirmed that there are NO Vietnam War-related remains awaiting ID. DPAA laboratories and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) continue to focus efforts on remains buried in US cemeteries as unknowns from WWII and the Korean War, disinterred then subsequently identified, as well as identifying remains previously recovered and those turned over unilaterally by indigenous personnel or foreign countries.

Of the 1,584 still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,244 (VN-442, VS-802); Laos-285; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. Since chartered in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is **999**.

A breakdown by country of these 999 Americans is: Vietnam – 674, Laos – 280, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,062. A total of 288 have been accounted for from Laos, 729 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC. The 63 Americans were accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

DPAA JOINT ACCOUNTING EFFORTS: COVID-19 pandemic and associated quarantine restrictions have been a significant challenge, adversely impacting Vietnam War field operations more deeply than WWII and Korean War field recoveries, but with scant impact on DPAA disinterment efforts at US cemeteries at home and abroad.

Joint Field Activities (JFAs) just concluded in Laos and are scheduled to resume in mid-October.

In Vietnam, pandemic restrictions permitting, a full JFA of 4 Recovery Teams (RTs) and 2 Investigation Teams (ITs) is scheduled to occur for approximately 60 days, October – December.

The single JFA scheduled in Cambodia for Fiscal Year 2022 will be in February-March but, thankfully, Stony Beach Cambodia specialist Eric Phillips is authorized by Cambodian authorities to conduct investigations and interviews around the country pretty much at will.

DPAA continues to conduct **WWII, Korean War and Cold War** field recoveries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region, most recently in Austria, Belgium, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. Investigations were earlier planned to take place from May – September in Germany, Poland, Italy, Belgium and Panama, a later US Navy incident which DPAA was requested to handle.

The most recent large-scale unilateral turnover of remains was the K55 repatriation that followed the Singapore Agreement in 2018 between former President Trump and DPRK President Kim Jong Un. Reportedly, DPAA's Lab has made close to 100 IDs on the comingled remains, estimated to possibly be those of as many as 160-170 US personnel.

“Ambassador visits Laos Joint Field Activity sites: Dr. Peter Haymond, U.S. Ambassador to the Lao people’s Democratic Republic, visited two DPAA Activity sites in Northern Laos on August 23, 2021. The provincial Vice Governor, along with senior representatives from the Lao Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, joined the Ambassador for the visit. Ambassador Haymond thanked the Lao government for its continued support to the DPAA mission and highlighted how DPAA’s activities in Laos are the longest-enduring example of US-Lao cooperation.” (from DPAA Website, www.dpaa.mil)



“Cambodia Virtual Talks: Rear Adm. Darius Banaji DPAA’s Deputy Director for Operations, speaks with His Excellency General Pol Saroeun, head of the Kingdom of Cambodia’ POW/MIA Committee, during a video teleconference at the DPAA facilities on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 25. The consultation included several DPAA directorates, the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia W. Patrick Murphy and the JOC’s POW/MIA Committee. The VTC highlighted future DPAA missions to Cambodia, in addition to strengthening the working relationship between the two countries.” (DPAA Website, www.dpaa.mil/)

