

**THE FRONT PAGE**  
KOREA-COLD WAR  
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING  
PO Box 454  
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org/>

**SEND TO:**

**FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE #31**  
**POW-MIA WE REMEMBER!**

## **2011 FAMILY UPDATE LOCATIONS 2011**

City selections are based on past update schedules and demographic mapping of family members' home locations.

### **• 2011 Family Updates and Annual Briefings 2011 •**

**• Feb 26, 2011 Baton Rouge, LA •**

**• Mar 26, 2011 Nashville, TN • Apr 30, 2011 Columbus, OH • May 21, 2011 Green Bay, WI •**

**• Jun 25, 2011 Princeton, NJ • Jul 21-23, 2011 Arlington, VA \* • Sep 1-2, 2011 Vienna, VA \*\* •**

**• Oct 1, 2011 Wichita, KS • Nov 19, 2011 • Savannah, GA •**

**\* The Southeast Asia Annual Government Briefing**

**\*\* The Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefings**

**Treasurer's Corner by Gail Stallone:**  
**We wish to welcome our new members!**

**Debra Welden Carlson**

**John Longo**

**Francis Motta**

**Patricia Whiting**

Contact your Congressional Rep through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 1-202-224-3121 or House Cloak Room at 1-202-225-7350 (R) and 1-202-225-7330 (D).

#### **Congressional Contacts:**

<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>

US Senate : <http://www.senate.gov/>

House : <http://www.house.gov/>

White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

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**Please, send in your membership renewal or this will be your last newsletter. It is because of you, our members, that we can continue our work. Please, take a minute and send your renewal in today.**



**IN MY OPINION**  
**by IRENE L. MANDRA**

Dear Members,

In My Opinion February  
2011

Dear Members:

A meeting took place at DPMO Office on January 12, 2011. This meeting has to do with the future of the US-Russian Commission. I have included statements from the League of Families (Vietnam) and a statement from the National Alliance of Families. There is nothing more that I can add to their statements as I agree with these two organizations. We do not wish the US Commission to go into a by lateral commission. You will understand after reading the enclosed statements. I sincerely hope that we all send letters that we wish the US-Russian Commission to continue with its outstanding work.

**From the League of Families**

**FUTURE OF US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS IN DOUBT:** After sending letters to the President and senior Obama Administration officials, the League, VFW, DAV, JWV and American Legion are awaiting word on the future of the USRJC. If adopted, proposals under consideration at higher levels will dramatically alter the USRJC's structure and undercut or destroy its effectiveness by putting DPMO in a position to control, rather than support, the work of the USRJC.

On December 1st, a meeting was held of all US Commissioners, including US Chairman General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret), Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Representatives Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Tim Walz (D-MN), and those representing the Departments of State and Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency and National Archives. The League and key veteran organizations hoped the unified opposition from all major "stockholders" would be sufficient to derail the misplaced initiative to subsume the issue into the broader US-Russia Bilateral Commission. Thus far, there is little evidence that higher level officials are paying serious attention, and DPMO's policy is to have no consultation BEFORE a decision is made.

DPMO is hosting a now expanded meeting on January 12th where DASD Bob Newberry and National Security Council staff member Leslie Hayden will explain their plan for the work of the USRJC to be moved into a Defense Policy Working Group. They have asserted that "Participation in the Defense Working Group would leverage Russian President Medvedev's call for accountability and progress reports from Russian participants."

The proposal for placing the POW/MIA issue into one of eight sub-groups purportedly remains under discussion, but, it is claimed, the additional venue for dialogue could help enhance and increase Russian responsiveness to the work of the Commission. The invitation did not say how that might happen.

The likely intention is to quiet the furor and dissent. Representatives of Senate and House Commissioners are also expected to attend. No decisions are expected at the meeting, but are anticipated soon. The reason for the setbacks suffered in the last few years can be placed at the feet of earlier DPMO Directors who tried to take over the USRJC and put DoD, instead of the President, in the lead. This latest attempt, initiated by President Obama's National Security Council staff, taps into DPMO Director Newberry's desire to expand his control over the entire accounting community.

The League strongly supported expanding USRJC's role under General Foglesong's leadership, with Executive Secretary Norm Kass, former Director of DPMO's Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD), and his staff of skilled specialists in the JCSD Directorate. The State Department and DIA recently named replacements for their Commission seats. The Russian Federation also recently selected its new Co-Chairman, as well as veteran group and parliament commissioners. Now is not the time to dismantle what could finally be a strengthened, effective, US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs. Major national veteran organizations agreed, but now circumstances have changed again.

Last month, Commission Executive Secretary Norm Kass retired. There is no doubt that his decision was due to continued DPMO leadership efforts to dismantle the Commission's independence and unique support structure. The effort to directly control, rather than support, the Commission's work, including the JCSD Office in Moscow, has been pursued by former DPMO Directors, but never before reached such a crisis point based on DPMO leadership proposals. Whether the Commission will continue to function is an open question, as is the possible resignation of others, including USRJC Chairman, General Foglesong.

Unless there is an immediate, public outcry from POW/MIA families and our nation's veterans, there is little hope of stopping DPMO leadership's move to become operational, instead of the policy control and oversight organization intended when formed. DPMO's proposals also include absorbing some of JPAC's worldwide mission. Speak out NOW to the highest levels, or don't complain when the USRJC is subsumed into the DoD bureaucracy at the bottom of its priority list. In fact, the POW/MIA issue is not mentioned in the official letter of agreement between the US Secretary of Defense and his counterpart, the Russian Minister of Defense.

**Check the League Website:**

**[www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)**

**[www.POWMIALeague.com](http://www.POWMIALeague.com); [www.POWMIALeague.org](http://www.POWMIALeague.org)**

January 17, 2011  
Senator Saxby Chambliss  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

On behalf of our membership, I wish to express our opposition to plans under consideration by lower level officials in DOD and NSC staff that would destroy the U.S. Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. Their proposal would incorporate USRJC's work within the U.S. Russian Bilateral Presidential Commission established in 2009.

If the Defense POW/MIA Office is successful in dismantling the USRJC, the POW/MIA issue will become an issue among many within this new Bilateral Presidential Commission. This is unacceptable to the families of our POW and MIAs.

The USRJC must survive with its independence and that of its Joint Commission Support Directorate intact. Burying the POW/MIA issue in the BPC sends the wrong message to the Russians.

What message is DOD sending to the families? The usual rhetoric, that they know best and couldn't care less about what we the families, believe best to account for our men still missing.

I sincerely hope that you will help to keep the U.S. Russian Commission independent. Their past work has been exceptional, though frustrated by lack of high level reinforcement by US officials, and we believe it crucial to continue.

We need your help, and we need it urgently!

Respectfully,  
Irene L. Mandra

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Dear Members:

I wish to thank our members who have renewed their membership and those who have paid in advance.

If you have not renewed your membership, the February newsletter will be the last publication that you will receive. We ask you to renew your membership, it is very difficult for a volunteer organization to send reminder cards (besides costing money and time that no one has). Please try to make it easy for our group to go on with their work and not have to worry about enough funds coming in to pay for our bills. Thank You  
Irene

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***The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.***

**Thomas Jefferson**

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E-mail Melody Raglin at [raglinmia@yahoo.com](mailto:raglinmia@yahoo.com)



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**COLD WAR :: COLD WAR :: COLD WAR**

**The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy**  
by David E. Hoffman (Aug 3, 2010)

**Bridge of Spies: A True Story of the Cold War**  
by Giles Whittell (Nov 9, 2010)

**The Atlantic and Its Enemies: A History of the Cold War**  
by Norman Stone (May 25, 2010)

**Secrets of the Cold War: US Army Europe's Intelligence and Counterintelligence Activities Against the Soviets During the Cold War** by Leland C McCaslin (Oct 19, 2010)

**Russia's Cold War: From the October Revolution to the Fall of the Wall** by Jonathan Haslam (Jan 25, 2011)

**The Cold War (2-DVD set) Starring Feature-Length Documentary** (DVD - 2009)

**Unwanted Dead or Alive -- Part 3: The Betrayal of American POWs Following World War II, Korea and Vietnam** by Robert W Pelton (Aug 9, 2010)

**Status of POW/MIA negotiations with North Korea: Hearing before the Military Personnel Subcommittee of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, ... second session, hearing held June 20, 1996** by United States (1997)

January 17, 2011

**Congressman Peter King**  
**339 Cannon House Office Building**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

On behalf of our membership, I wish to express our opposition to plans under consideration by lower level officials in DOD and NSC staff that would destroy the U.S. Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. Their proposal would incorporate USRJC's work within the U.S. Russian Bilateral Presidential Commission established in 2009.

If the Defense POW/MIA Office is successful in dismantling the USRJC, the POW/MIA issue will become an issue among many within this new Bilateral Presidential Commission. This is unacceptable to the families of our POW and MIAs.

The USRJC must survive with its independence and that of its Joint Commission Support Directorate intact. Burying the POW/MIA issue in the BPC sends the wrong message to the Russians.

What message is DOD sending to the families? The usual rhetoric, that they know best and couldn't care less about what we the families, believe best to account for our men still missing. I sincerely hope that you will help to keep the U.S. Russian Commission independent. Their past work has been exceptional, though frustrated by lack of high level reinforcement by US officials, and we believe it crucial to continue. We need your help, and we need it urgently!

Respectfully,  
Irene L. Mandra

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January 16, 2011

**Congressman Sam Johnson**  
**1211 Longworth Building**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

On behalf of our membership, I wish to express our opposition to plans under consideration that would destroy the U.S. Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). The proposal under consideration would incorporate the Commissions work within the U.S. Russian Bilateral Presidential Commission established in 2009.

If the Defense POW/Mia Office (DPMO) is successful in dismantling the USRJC, the POW/MIA issue will become an issue among many within the Presidential Commission. This is unacceptable to the families of our POW and MIAs. The U.S. Russian Joint Commission must survive with an independent Joint Commission support Directorate. Burying the POW/MIA issue in the Bi-Lateral Commission sends the wrong message to the Russians.

What message is DOD sending to the families, the usual rhetoric, they couldn't care less for our men that are missing. I sincerely hope that you will help to keep the U.S. Russian Commission independent. There past work has been exceptional and we would like it to continue.

Very truly yours,  
Irene L. Mandra

**Reminder - Reminder - Reminder**

### **Treasurer's Corner by Gail Stallone**

Happy New Year! Another year has passed and much has been accomplished, yet so very much work needs to be done. Please, send in your membership renewal or this will be your last newsletter. It is because of you, our members, that we can continue our work. Please, take a minute and send your renewal in today. (\$25.00)

Thank You!

Korea/Cold War Families  
PO Box 454  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION;**

The VFW magazine June & July 2010 was a special 60 anniversary issue. With out a doubt it was 56 pages of wonderful information pertaining to the Korea War. Many Thanks to the editor. If you can obtain this magazine, it was worth reading.

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### **ON THE WEB :: ON THE WEB :: ON THE WEB**

Harsh images from a harsh war.

The Boston Globe had a recent set of excellent photos to remember the Korean War.

48 images, previously classified. Some quite graphic. Here is the link to the photo exhibit.

[http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/06/remembering\\_the\\_korean\\_war\\_60.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/06/remembering_the_korean_war_60.html)

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### **THE FOUR CHAPLAINS**

On the frigid night of FEBRUARY 3, 1943, the Allied ship Dorchester plowed through the waters near Greenland. At 1:00am, a Nazi submarine fired a torpedo into its flank, killing many in the explosion and trapping others below deck. In the ensuing chaos, four chaplains: a priest, a rabbi and two protestant ministers; distributed life jackets. When there were none left, the four chaplains ripped off their own jackets and put them on four young men. Standing embraced on the slanting deck, the chaplains bowed their heads in prayer as they sank to their icy deaths. Congress honored them by declaring this "Four Chaplains Day." On February 7, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower remarked: "And we remember that, only a decade ago, aboard the transport Dorchester, four chaplains of four faiths together willingly sacrificed their lives so that four others might live. In the three centuries that separate the Pilgrims of the Mayflower from the chaplains of the Dorchester, America's freedom, her courage, her strength, and her progress have had their foundation in faith." Eisenhower concluded: "Today as then, there is need for positive acts of renewed recognition that faith is our surest strength, our greatest resource."

**North Korea willing to resume U.S. missions to recover remains of MIAs**

PYONGYANG

January 18, 2011|By Barbara Starr, CNN Pentagon Correspondent

Rick Downes' mission has brought him here, to the National Archives in suburban Washington, D.C. His goal: to find any records, information -- anything at all -- that would tell him what happened to his father.

"My father is missing in action 59 years ago yesterday. He was Air Force and his plane went down and we don't know what happened to him," Downes said last Friday before he headed into the Archives.

Lt. Harold Downes was a navigator on a B-26 bomber when his plane went down over North Korea on January 13, 1952. Some of the crew ejected and were captured by the North Koreans. Downes was never seen again. He remains to this day one of the more than 8,000 U.S. servicemembers listed as "unaccounted for" from the Korean War, a conflict often referred to as the "forgotten war."

For the families of those unaccounted for, there used to be hope. Over the years, the United States and North Korea -- long-time adversaries -- had cooperated in efforts to look for remains of those missing in action. Beginning in 1996, North Korean and U.S. military teams conducted 33 joint recovery missions looking for remains inside North Korea. There was success, too -- 229 sets of remains were located, and brought out of the very reclusive country.

But all that changed in 2005 when then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld suspended the work, saying that due to rising nuclear tensions at the time, he felt the safety of the U.S. teams could not be guaranteed. At the time it seemed fairly routine.

"It's a question of an uncertain environment in which everybody thought it was prudent that they not be in the country at the moment," said Lawrence DiRita, Pentagon spokesman at the time.

But neither the Bush nor Obama administrations reinstated the effort, and now it's the North Koreans who are trying to get the program restarted.

When Bill Richardson, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and former governor of New Mexico, went to Pyongyang in December, he suddenly found himself in a meeting where the whole issue came up.

"The North Koreans started out by saying, 'You know, if we can better our relationship, we can give you more remains of your soldiers,'" Richardson told CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer, one of only two journalists to accompany Richardson on his trip to North Korea.

**To: President Barack Obama**

**Fax: 1.202.456.2461**

**Date: 01/17/11**

**Subject: The U.S. / Russian Joint Commission**

**Pages Including Cover: 1**

**T**

**President Barack Obama**

**The White House**

**1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW**

**Washington, DC 20500**

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that Mr. Bob Newberry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs has disclosed that he plans to dissolve The U.S. / Russian Joint Commission as a separate entity. According to my sources Mr. Newberry's intention is to place the U.S. / Russian Joint Commission under the direction of The Defense of Prisoner Missing in Action Office (DPMO) as a Bilateral Commission. This will make the Commission and its work less of a priority.

The U.S. / Russian Joint Commission, is a Presidential Commission. As you know a Presidential Commission is a special task force ordained by the President to complete some special research or investigation. As of January 17, 2011 The Commission's work has not been completed. The U.S. / Russian Joint Commission must survive as an "independent" Joint Commission supported as defined by the Directorate.

If the Joint Commission and its work is "pushed to the back of the bus" and combined under the DPMO; our Organization and other Family Organizations believe the Russian's will soon follow suit and take this opportunity to reduce their efforts in finding out the truths of our missing.

Mr. President we believe that you too want answers about our MIA's & POW's. Please forward this letter to Mr. Newberry. We need to know his reasoning and an explanation.

Why has Mr. Newberry taken it upon himself to implement this change in policy? His action and decision to re-assign this task force is opposed by so many family and veteran groups.

As a member of the Board of Directors for Korea/Cold War Family of the Missing our wish is to have Mr. Newberry reconsidered his plans. The U.S. / Russian Joint Commission must stay as an independent and separate Commission as it was meant to be.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We greatly appreciate your commitment towards the truth.

Respectfully

Charlotte Busch Mitnik

Board of Directors

Korea/ Cold War Family of the Missing

**From: John Zimmerlee**  
**Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011**  
**Subject: F-51 Pilot Taken to China**

Sixty years ago, Robert James Lucas' F-51 was hit by ground fire, crashed into a river, and exploded. His family was told that he died in the crash.

In 1993 a special Senate Hearing was held and determined that some of the men still missing from the Korean War might have actually been prisoners after the war. An investigation was ordered. A retired Air Force Colonel was hired to do research at the National Archives and spent years developing the KORWALD (Korean War Air Loss) Report. Released in 2004, the KORWALD report reiterated the above and noted "1Lt Robert J Lucas, USAF, KIA/BNR (killed in action / body not recovered), no egress noted"

What we weren't told is that the researcher left behind some personal notes at the National Archives that indicated exactly where he found his information and the subject lines of the documents he found. Sadly, all of that information remains classified to this day.

Recently we were able to get one of the documents from those 1675 boxes of classified information. In it, the source (redacted) recalled on 19 January 52, that on/about 16 November 51 an F-51 was shot down at Yanghap-dong (BT-880240). The pilot escaped by parachute, but was captured by Chinese after landing safely and was taken to China.

Oddly, that recollection never appeared in the KORWALD report regarding any F-51 downing.

Looking closely at the detailed maps printed in 1951, we see no village or town of Yanghap-Dong on the BT or BU maps. But given the close date and aircraft type, this report appears to closely resemble the incident involving 1Lt Robert James Lucas.

The Air Force argues that a clear and definite match cannot be established, so the family should not be notified. Our belief is that families should be notified of possibilities . . . and kept abreast of new developments. In this case, we know that Lucas is from Albuquerque but we do not have a family contact with whom to share our findings.

If anyone is related to Robert James Lucas, please encourage them to contact John Zimmerlee, Korean War POW/MIA Network, 404-394-6930 or john.zimmerlee@gmail.com

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**"The Miracle of Father Kapaun."** The documentary is a companion to the six-part series that was published in the Wichita Eagle. The film was produced by photojournalist Travis Heying and reporter Roy Wenzl with production assistance from former KPTS producers Stacey Jenkins and Gabe Juhnke.

Father Emil Kapaun of Pilsen, Kan. died a hero in a North Korean POW camp in 1951. His message of hope and perseverance, which rallied other prisoners, still resonates today. This documentary on Father Kapaun features the soldiers he saved during the Korean War and a young Kansas athlete who believes prayers to Kapaun saved his life last year. His recovery could aid the cause to make Kapaun just the third American-born saint.

"This is another great local story and we're very pleased to be the only local television station to offer this film to viewers," said Jesse Huxman, KPTS director of content. The Catholic Family Federal Credit Union is the sole sponsor of the broadcast of this documentary, "The Miracle of Father Kapaun."

## **Arizona News from The Arizona Republic** **Families of missing soldiers hope for closure** **by Philip Haldiman on Jan. 23, 2011**

Master Sgt. Clifford Ryan was killed in the Korean War when his son, Terry, was 4 years old.

His daughter, Deborah, had recently been born. On Nov. 1, 1950, Clifford was guarding a bridge north of Unsan, Korea, when he was killed by Chinese soldiers. His body was never found, and very few details about his death were available.

But last week, Terry Ryan received an early-morning call telling him that his father's remains had been found. "We were elated," he said. "We can finally have closure." Terry and his wife, Pat, gathered with almost 200 family members of fallen soldiers Saturday in Scottsdale in hopes of learning new details about their loved ones.

The meeting is one of eight being held this year by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), whose mission is to recover and account for missing Americans. Its mission will soon be backed by a mandate. Starting in 2015, Congress is requiring that DPMO identify at least 200 service members each year. Last year, the office identified 89 formerly missing servicemen.

Maj. Carie Parker said her office is in the beginning stages of tackling this task and discussing creative ways to deal with the challenge. "With the progress of science, the re-evaluation of our processes and becoming more efficient, the hope is that we will meet this requirement," Parker said. Advances in technology have increased matches in recent years. The office is relying on DNA testing to help link families to fallen soldiers.

The meeting on Saturday provided families the opportunity to give DNA samples, via cheek swab. The samples are later cross-referenced with DNA from recovered remains for identification. James Canik, deputy director of the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, said matches have increased 35 percent since 2005. He attributes the increase to technology, diplomacy efforts and awareness.

"More and more family members are beginning to talk, and the word is getting out," Canik said. The DPMO has been conducting monthly update programs since 1995, reaching almost 15,000 family members in face-to-face meetings. Each month, the office sends a team of 35 specialists – including policy officers, forensic anthropologists and DNA experts – to a metropolitan U.S. city. MIA families living in the area are invited to attend months in advance. Parker said some families can't travel to Washington, D.C., to review their case file, and meetings like the ones in Scottsdale bring details to their home communities.

The last meeting in the Phoenix area was in 2007. "The personalized briefings they receive allow them to place a name to a face and meet with all agencies involved," she said. Clifford Ryan was a member of B Company, 70th Tank Battalion, 1st Cavalry in the Korean War. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. He also fought in World War II. On Saturday, Terry learned more details about his father's death, including where his remains were found. Clifford Ryan will eventually be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Pat Ryan said the new information brings peace to her husband and proves that the government is doing what it says.

"We never had the W's answered. My husband had so many questions," she said. "Now we're bringing (his father) home."

## **Chit Chat News**

**by IRENE L. MANDRA**

Dear Members,

Chit Chat News

Please remember in your prayers member Harriet Duran, who just recently lost her husband and member Vinnie Russo who lost his wife Helen December 1,2010.

Dolores Alfond, President of the National Alliance of families has passed away. Dolores was a great activist; she was founder of the National Alliance and is responsible for building a huge organization.

Get well wishers to our member Pearl Evans with her broken shoulder.

Get well to our member Charlotte Mitnik with her eye surgeries.

It's with great sadness that our member Thomas Bennett, POW/Mia chairperson for the VFW has passed away. Tom was responsible for having a service (mass) said in honor of all our POW/MIA every April. His devotion and thoughtfulness will be sorely missed.

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**JPAC Needs Your Help! Gathering DNA samples from family members of missing service members is vital to the identification process.**

### **Service Casualty Offices**

#### **Department of the Army**

(800) 892-2490 US Army Human Resources Command

Attn: AHRC-PED-F

200 Stovall Street

Alexandria, VA 22332-0482

#### **Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps**

(800) 847-1597 Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRA) Personal and Family Readiness Division 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5103

#### **Department of the Navy**

(800) 443-9298 Navy Personnel Command Casualty Assistance and Retired Activities Branch POW/MIA Section (PERS-P665) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6210

#### **Department of the Air Force**

(800) 531-5803 US Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, 116 Purple Heart Drive, Dover AFB, DE 19902

#### **Department of State**

(202) 647-6769

Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management CA/OCS/ACS/EAP

2201 C Street, Northwest, Room 4811

Washington, DC 20520-4818

## **Korean War MIA Identified**

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Air Force 1st Lt. Robert F. Dees, 23, of Moultrie, Ga.

On Oct. 9, 1952, Dees was piloting an F-84 Thunderjet against enemy railcars near Sinyang, North Korea. All contact was lost with him after an explosion near the target was observed by other flight members.

In 1954, North Korea turned over remains reportedly recovered from Sinyang, but Army mortuary affairs was unable to identify the remains, which were subsequently buried as "unknown" in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

For more information on the recovery and identification process, read the DOD press release at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14224>.

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## **FUTURE OF US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS IN DOUBT:**

After sending letters to the President and senior Obama Administration officials, the League, VFW, DAV, JWV and American Legion were invited, along with other family group representatives to a January 12th meeting, hosted by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs (DPMO) Bob Newberry, with National Security Council staff Director for Russian Affairs Leslie Hayden participating. Proposals raised by Hayden and Newberry were unanimously opposed by all veteran and family representatives, as they would dramatically alter the USRJC's structure and undercut or destroy its effectiveness by putting DPMO in a position to control, rather than support, the USRJC's work. Even maintaining the "status quo" is untenable as DPMO has consistently taken personnel and funding designated for USRJC support.

The January 12th meeting was a disaster on all fronts and, most likely as a direct result, the NSC staff member working this issue has been reassigned. Although no further decisions have yet been announced, it is good to know that all of the major national veteran organizations, the League and all other family representatives from past wars are in full agreement on the need to sustain and reinforce the USRJC's independence.

An immediate, public outcry from POW/MIA families and our nation's veterans can help, but you must act now. DPMO leadership seems intent on becoming operational, instead of the policy control and oversight organization intended when formed. Speak out NOW to the highest levels, or don't complain when the USRJC is subsumed into the DoD bureaucracy at the bottom of its priority list.

You should also know that the POW/MIA issue is not even mentioned in the official letter between the US Secretary of Defense and the Russian Minister of Defense reaching agreement on Defense Working Groups of the Obama Administration's US-Russia Bilateral Commission.



## Faith in action at Hungnam

by J. Robert Lunney

### A retired Navy officer recalls Maryknoll Father's heroic effort to save civilians in midst of battle

During the Korean War, I served as staff officer aboard the S.S. Meredith Victory and participated in the Hungnam Evacuation, in which almost 100,000 Korean civilians, mostly Catholics and other Christians, were rescued from a beach surrounded by overwhelming Chinese and North Korean troops. That evacuation happened in no small part because of the efforts of the late Maryknoll Father Patrick H. Cleary, who was there as chaplain to the U.S. Army X Corps and devoted all his resources to not only minister to troops but also to help rescue the thousands of Korean refugees fleeing the communist attack.

When the Korean War began on June 25, 1950, Father Cleary, who had been a missionary there since 1923, was forced to leave Seoul, the capital, with thousands of fleeing refugees. North Korean communists were advancing down the peninsula at a rapid pace annihilating many in their path. Father Cleary immediately began tending to the wounded and dying, including many American troops resisting the onslaught. In the midst of all this death and destruction Father Cleary was asked to serve as a chaplain for the U.S. Army based on his knowledge of the country, its people and the Korean language. He was soon serving in North Korea with the U.S. Army X Corps in its march to unify the country.

Then, in October 1950, hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers entered the war and by December had driven the X Corps to the sea at the port of Hungnam, North Korea. An estimated 100,000 enemy troops encircled the port. General Douglas MacArthur, in the face of overwhelming enemy forces, had issued orders to evacuate the X Corps by sea to the South. It was then that Father Cleary, in as much danger as the soldiers and civilians fleeing the communists, sought to help rescue the thousands of refugees fleeing the attack. He noted in his diary for Dec. 12 of the need "to obtain means of boat escape to the South for the thousands of Korean civilians who are frantically seeking a means, any means, of fleeing from the on-coming Reds ... Morning to night I am besieged by hundreds of desperate Koreans for whom it is a matter of life and death for them and their families."

Four days later, he wrote, "Our artillery had by now been practically all withdrawn to the port and was keeping up a round-the-clock shelling of the Red forces back in the mountains. Big guns boomed on all sides, heavy artillery drawn up in the fields to the right was firing directly over the road which we followed as we left X Corps Headquarters area and the jeep seemed to leave the road (for) an instant at every firing." His diary also records that the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Hungnam harbor together with the artillery continued a bombardment throughout the night.

With Hungnam now partly aflame from enemy gunfire, and most of the military evacuated, Father Cleary persisted in his brave efforts to save the trapped refugees.

He prevailed upon the military to provide two LSTs (Landing Ship Tank) and other ships as the last avenue of escape for the refugees from the encircling enemy.

Conditions were most severe, the fighting was furious and the weather was freezing cold. It was Father Cleary who, by his courage and resourcefulness, arranged for one of the last ships in the harbor, our S.S. Meredith Victory, to evacuate 14,000 refugees.

On Dec. 22, U.S. Army representatives asked Captain Leonard P. LaRue if he would evacuate the remaining refugees from the beach. With the enemy encircling the city, now partly aflame from enemy gunfire, they said they could not order him to attempt a rescue of the refugees. Without consultation he promptly and quietly volunteered to take his ship into the beach and evacuate as many as we were able

That evening, we began embarking the refugees into our five holds, under the protective fire overhead of the U.S. 7th Fleet, including the heavy guns of the U.S.S. Missouri, while Navy underwater demolition teams were placing explosives throughout the port and the pier adjacent to us..

The constant naval air and gunfire support allowed us to embark 14,000 refugees, including 4,000 infants and children, plus 17 wounded. The refugees were loaded like cargo on pallets into every cargo hold and on the open deck in the bitter cold of winter. We had little food and water for them and the holds were neither heated nor lighted. They brought whatever they could carry—mostly babies, children and whatever food they had saved. We got off everyone who was on the beach at that time. Soon after we departed, the entire port was blown up to deny its use to the enemy.

We departed Hungnam on the afternoon of Dec. 23, the last ship to leave with refugees, and after negotiating enemy minefields, arrived safely at Koje Do, an island about 38 miles southwest of Busan, on Christmas Day. The next day we disembarked the refugees, plus five babies born en route from Hungnam.

After the war, the Captain LaRue joined the Benedictine Order and took the name Brother Marinus. In one of his few writings Brother Marinus wrote, "I think often of that voyage. I think of how such a small vessel was able to hold so many persons and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul. And as I think, the clear unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters off the shores of Korea, God's own hand was at the helm of my ship."

The Guinness Book of World Records certified this as the greatest rescue ever by a single ship, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation awarded to our ship called the rescue a "true example of Christian faith in action." For me, Father Cleary's heroic participation in the Hungnam Evacuation, where a total of 98,000 refugees were saved, was the example of Christian faith in action that led to the other and should never be forgotten.

J. Robert Lunney is a retired naval officer and attorney and lives in Bronxville, New York.



BY DUANE A. VACHON, PH.D. – When the U.S. troops retreated in 1950, the dead Marines and Soldiers who were unable to be recovered were buried near Hungnam, North Korea. Between July and November of 1954 an exchange of dead from each side – called Operation Glory – facilitated the exchange of 4,167 U.S. Soldiers and Marines for 13,528 North Koreans and Chinese.

Implementation of Korean Communications Zone (KCOMZ) Operations Plan 14-54 – better known as "Operation GLORY" – was put into effect on 22 July 1954. United States Engineers furnished by the United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission Support Group, constructed a railhead and reception area. The UN Command also provided a battalion from the 1st Signal Unit to establish signal communications. The Transportation Corps made plans for the evacuation, by rail, of all deceased military personnel on our side. The Quartermaster Corps issued all necessary supplies and materials. And the KCOMZ Quartermaster Graves Registration Division proceeded with the disinterment of all enemy remains of deceased military personnel interred in South Korea.

In the month leading up to the actual exchange of military remains, the Quartermaster Graves Registration Committee held three additional meetings with the Communist side – to discuss the approximate number of deceased involved, examine the signatures of officers who sign receipts for the remains, and to decide how both sides would proceed from the railheads to the reception areas within the demilitarized zone. Also to discuss the means of identification, use of vehicles in the proscribed areas, and ground rules for photographers and news correspondents.

On 30 August 1954, the disinterment of all enemy deceased military personnel was completed, and all remains delivered and stored at "Glory Railhead," near Munsan-Ni, North Korea. At 0930 the next day (September 1st) the Chief of KCOMZ Graves Registration Division met his North Korean counterpart at the reception area within the demilitarized zone and received the first 200 remains of deceased United Nations military personnel.

At 1300 hours these remains were evacuated to "Glory Railhead," where a ceremony was held. In attendance were several major figures from the United Nations Command, U.S. Far East Command, Military Armistice Commission, and representatives from the Republic of Korea Army.

There were 416 American unknowns from the Korean war who were put to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as a result of Operation Glory. Over the following years, the number of American unknowns from North Korea would grow to over 860.

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is unique, it is the only cemetery in the National Cemetery Administration that has unknown Americans from Korea.

At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active case files under investigation from areas throughout the world. Approximately 74 POW/MIAs are identified, on average, per

At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active case files under investigation from areas throughout the world. Approximately 74 POW/MIAs are identified, on average, per year. When a case is completed, the remains of the identified American are transferred to the appropriate service mortuary affairs office. Military members from these offices personally notify next-of-kin family members of the identification.

We're all familiar, now, with the nationally recognized symbol of the exemplary struggle to bring our service members home—the POW/MIA flag—the stark black and white banner symbolizing America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

### **The POW/MIA flag serves:**

(1) as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans who, having been prisoners of war or missing in action, still remain unaccounted for; and

(2) as the symbol of our Nation's commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans who in the future may become prisoners of war, missing in action, or otherwise unaccounted for as a result of hostile action.

When you see the POW/MIA flag please give some thought to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and now are known only to God. I ask you never forget our special comrades, those who were prisoners, and those whose status is still unresolved.

And our nation has not forgotten. Our nation never will. We are unwavering in our commitment to return to American soil any Americans taken prisoner of war or who are missing in action, or unaccounted for.

As our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen continue to serve our nation, we owe it to each and every one of them that we will never give up and never forget.

Author: Duane A. Vachon PhD works at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In addition to his columns for Hawaii Reporter, he also writes a weekly column for the 'Big Island Reporter.'



**Obama Recognizes Men Who Died in the Collapse of a Cold War Radar Tower in 1961**  
By ASHLEY SOUTHALL

WASHINGTON — President Obama on Wednesday recognized 28 men who died when their cold war radar station collapsed into the Atlantic Ocean 50 years ago.

The latest on President Obama, the new Congress and other news from Washington and around the nation. Join the discussion.

A storm snapped the legs of the platform holding the radar station, known as Texas Tower No. 4, which had already been pummeled by bad weather including a hurricane. Fourteen airmen and 14 civilian contractors died when the tower crashed into frigid waters 85 miles southeast of New York City; only two of the bodies were found.

Mr. Obama recognized the men in a letter to an organization of their surviving friends and relatives.

"Our nation is grateful for the dedication, pride, and commitment of all those who have risked their lives to ensure the safety of their fellow Americans," Mr. Obama said.

Next week the families of the victims will receive copies of the president's letter and a personal note from Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, who had lobbied the White House for more than a decade to recognize the men.

The first letter will be given to Donald Abbott, the president of the Texas Tower Association and the son of a civilian welder, David Abbott, who died when the tower fell.

"I'm very, very grateful that this president finally did it," Mr. Abbott said. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about my father. We were pals."

In a statement, Mr. Kerry said: "Time shouldn't be able to wash away the contributions of citizens who served and sacrificed in the name of country. It should've happened a lot earlier. But 50 years later, there's still a hole that can't be filled and there's still a place missing at family gatherings for these families."

The radar tower was one of three built off the Atlantic Coast in the late 1950s to provide an early warning of a Soviet bomber attack. The towers were designed and named after offshore oil drilling platforms used in the Gulf of Mexico. Steel legs stood in the water supporting a half-acre platform with three large checkered domes that housed radar antennas.

In hindsight, there were ominous signs that Tower 4 had problems. Constant vibrations caused by rotating equipment plagued all three towers, but the stability issues of Tower 4 overshadowed the others.

The platform rocked constantly, even in moderate seas, earning the nickname Old Shaky. Two or three support structures had dislodged in the water as the tower was being assembled. And while the other towers stood in water 56 and 80 feet deep, Tower 4 was anchored in sand in 185 feet of water.

Thomas W. Ray, a military historian who wrote an account of the Texas Towers, described the tower as an "engineering nightmare."

Don Slutzky, who contacted Mr. Kerry originally, worked as a civilian computer technician on Tower 4 for a year before leaving in November 1960. At the time, Mr. Slutzky said, everyone considered the tower's rocking to be normal. He said in a recent interview that he was skeptical.

"Bridge builders were building it," he said. "The technology was untried before the need for it was there."

The tower's steel had been badly dented by several winter storms and Hurricane Donna, which crossed directly over the tower in 1960 with winds of 132 miles per hour and waves more than 50 feet high. By December, most of the crew had been evacuated until permanent renovations could begin in February.

But two weeks before the work began, the deadly storm struck. A Congressional panel would later attribute the collapse to the design and construction problems.

A few years after the accident, the Air Force decommissioned and sank the two other towers.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 4, 2011

Texas Tower Association  
208 Bryant Street  
Malden, Massachusetts 02148

Dear Friends:

I was recently contacted by Senator John Kerry regarding the tireless efforts of your organization to honor those who served aboard the United States Air Force Texas Tower #4.

For over two centuries, our Nation's sons and daughters have watched over her shores with unwavering patriotism and quiet courage. As you reflect on the 28 airmen and civilians who lost their lives half a century ago in this tragic event, I hope you take pride in your efforts to remember their service and sacrifice.

Our Nation is grateful for the dedication, pride, and commitment of all those who have risked their lives to ensure the safety of their fellow Americans.

Sincerely,



Jan. 21, 2011  
Release # 11-4

~ NEWS RELEASE ~

## **POW/MIA INVESTIGATION TEAM SEARCHES FOR MISSING AMERICANS**

### **JPAC team searches for missing in action (MIA) Americans from Korean War**

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (Jan. 21, 2011)  
– An investigation team from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) recently deployed to the Republic of Korea searching for MIA's from the Korean War.

A JPAC investigation team consisting of 10 joint U.S. personnel will spend approximately 30 days investigating 12 case sites located throughout the South Kyongsang province. The team will conduct canvas operations to authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research, and gather information throughout the province to determine if team will return to excavate at a later date.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command, the jointly-manned organization of more than 400 military and civilian specialists has investigated and recovered missing Americans since the 1970's. To date, close to 1,700 Americans are still listed as Missing in Action from the Vietnam War, 8,100 from the Korean War, approximately 125 from the Cold War, and 74,190 are missing from World War II.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans lost during the nation's past conflicts.

"Until They Are Home"

-END-

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### **BOOKS :: BOOKS :: BOOKS :: BOOKS :: BOOKS**

The Korean War: A History (Modern Library Chronicles)  
by Bruce Cumings (Jul 27, 2010)

Give Me Tomorrow: The Korean War's Greatest Untold Story--The Epic Stand of the Marines of George Company  
by Patrick K. O'Donnell (Nov 2, 2010)

Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War  
by Eric Hammel (Jun 17, 2009) - Kindle eBook

Valleys of Death: A Memoir of the Korean War  
by Bill Richardson and Kevin Maurer (Dec 7, 2010)

Forgotten Warriors: The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, the Corps Ethos, and the Korean War (Modern War Studies)  
by Thomas X. Hammes (Sep 2010)

## **JPAC Mission Schedule**

During Fiscal Year 2011 (Oct. 1, 2010 through Sep.30, 2011), JPAC will deploy about 75 investigation and recovery teams on 33 missions to 14 countries worldwide. Of those, 43 teams are deploying to support Vietnam War operations, 12 are supporting Korean War operations, and 21 are supporting World War II operations. In South Korea, four Joint Forensic Reviews (in which sets of remains are evaluated to determine their racial affiliation) will be performed in country, while the first two excavations in Vietnam will be done unilaterally with U.S. and Vietnamese recovery personnel.

Out of concern for the safety and security of our teams, we cannot provide a detailed list of dates, specific locations, or team details. However, this quarterly breakdown provides an overview of where JPAC plans to deploy teams during the Fiscal Year.

### **1st Quarter (Oct. - Dec. 2010)**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vietnam War)  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam War)  
Republic of Korea (Korean War)  
Republic of India (World War II)  
Germany/France (World War II)

### **2nd Quarter (Jan. - March 2011)**

Kingdom of Cambodia (Vietnam War)  
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vietnam War)  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam War)  
Republic of Korea (Korean War)  
Independent State of Papua New Guinea (World War II)  
Germany/France (World War II)  
Republic of the Philippines (World War II)

### **3rd Quarter (April - Jun. 2011)**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Vietnam War)  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam War)  
Republic of Korea (Korean War)  
People's Republic of China (Korean War)  
Germany/France (World War II)  
Yap (World War II)

### **4th Quarter (July - Sep. 2011)**

Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam War)  
People's Republic of China (Korean War)  
Republic of Korea (Korean War)  
Republic of India (World War II)  
Germany/France (World War II)  
Independent State of Papua New Guinea (World War II)  
Canada (World War II)  
Republic of Kiribati-Tarawa (World War II)  
Netherlands (World War II)

This report is an operational projection for 2011 missions and may change. To see where team members are located right now, visit our JPAC Around the World page.

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Dear Members, I came across a book that I know you will be interested in. It's the true story of a polish servicemen who escape from Russia prison system in Siberia. "*The Long Walk*" by Slavomir Rawicz.

KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.  
PO Box 454  
Farmingdale, NY 11735 USA

PLEASE JOIN US!

Families United in a Search for Truth, Dignity, Acknowledgment and Closure

Application for Membership - ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AND EMAIL UPDATES ON THE ISSUE.

All projects are funded through contributions. Annual membership dues and newsletter subscriptions will greatly assist us in our endeavors. Membership and contributions are tax deductible.

Annual Membership is \$25.00. From thereon, all membership renewals will be due 1st January at \$25.00 per year.

Family Members and Friends may join/subscribe any time.

We look forward to working with Family Members and Friends as we strive to find truth, answers and closure.

STAR Fields are required. Please print or type.

\*I wish to apply as a Family Member. ☐ I wish to apply as a Contributor. ☐ Select One.

\*YOUR Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: STREET - \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Home Phone with Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone with Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax with Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACTS/EXPERIENCE/Skills that might be useful:

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

FUND RAISING MILITARY/VETERANS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDIA COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGICAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you ARE applying for Family Membership please complete the rest of this form.**

\*Applicant's relationship to POW-MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

\*NAME AND RANK of POW-MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

\*BRANCH of SERVICE/UNIT OR GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

\*DATE AND AREA of loss: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON for joining the  
KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing: \_\_\_\_\_

To join the KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc., please tear out this form,  
fill in all required areas and mail, along with check, to the following address:

KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.  
PO Box 454  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
USA  
ATTN: Membership/Subscription

Please make checks payable to KOREA-Cold War Families of the Missing, Inc.

Please email us at  
info@koreacoldwar.org or imandra@optonline.net

All contributions are tax deductible.

PASS THIS ALONG TO FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, VETERANS AND CARING CITIZENS!