



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

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AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: In mid-October DPAA announced change to the list of Vietnam War missing and unaccounted-for US personnel, now numbering **1,626**. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates and sometimes not even made, as was the case with the most recent change, though not a recent ID as it occurred in 2012. Several of those named this year demonstrate how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using scientific technology and processes that weren't available in earlier years. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 957. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,020. Of the 1,626 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,268 (VN-467, VS-801); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITS CAMBODIA, LAOS & VIETNAM: DPAA Director Mike Linnington is now in Southeast Asia on his first-ever trip to any of the most directly engaged Vietnam War countries. He first visited Cambodia, though for just one day, then was due to make calls in Vientiane, Laos; however, nothing is yet known except that he also planned to fly by helicopter to visit DPAA and Lao personnel currently conducting field operations. He plans to return to Vientiane before going to Hanoi to meet with senior officials there and another visit to those conducting joint field operations in Vietnam before flying back to the US in time for a DPAA-hosted Family Update in Portland, Maine, on November 14th.

A BIT OF GOOD NEWS: It now appears that DPAA Director Linnington has decided to invite representatives of responsible national veteran organizations as observers at the DPAA-hosted Updates. The League deeply appreciates this return to including our Veterans in these meetings around the country, knowing that though pretty general in content, the briefings given are firsthand and provided by responsible US officials. Since DPAA is stressing the importance of outreach and transparency, the DPAA-hosted Updates provide an opportunity for both.

ACCOUNTING RESULTS: Although the pace of joint field recoveries and investigations related to the Vietnam War has resumed to a higher level, the Vietnamese, in particular, have repeatedly called for increasing the pace and scope of such operations, in fact since 2009. It is crucial that there be no reduction in DPAA's budget or the number of personnel to enable overdue responsiveness to Vietnam's longstanding request. Now is not the time to pull back on fielding teams to accomplish the Vietnam War accounting. In fact the political climate, regionally and bilaterally with Vietnam, lends itself to expanding cooperation across the board.

It is the League's hope that there will be no further reluctance to moving full speed ahead. The Vietnam War POW/MIA accounting mission is running out of time; that is the reality in terms of eye-witness accounts, immediate family members and preservation of skeletal material under very hostile conditions. **NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ENSURE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MUST BE NO REDUCTION IN BUDGET AND PERSONNEL FOR THE NEW DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA).**