



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

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

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AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is still **1,618**, unchanged since June 9th. Most recently accounted for was **Colonel Patrick H. Wood, USAF**, listed as MIA on 2/6/67, North Vietnam, remains returned on 12/14/15, and identified 2/29/16. Just prior to this was **LCDR Frederick P. Crosby, USN**, listed as KIA/BNR, North Vietnam, on 6/1/65, remains returned 12/14/15, and identified on 2/17/16, but not announced by DPAA until 5/25/16. Also recently confirmed as accounted for was **Major Dean A. Klenda, USAF**, listed as MIA, North Vietnam, on 9/17/65, recovered 12/8/14 and identified 12/30/14, but also only recently announced by DPAA. Prior to that release, the most recent was **SFC Alan L. Boyer, USA/SF**, listed as MIA 3/28/68, Laos, recovered 6/16/98, identified 3/16/16.

The total accounted since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is **965**. 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 **1,028**. Of the 1,618 still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR), 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,261 (VN-463, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. 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.

PRESIDENT RAISES COMMITMENT TO POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AT DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION: Speaking at the recent Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 95th National Convention, President Obama stated, *"We've stood together at the Wall and remembered the lessons of Vietnam – that even when Americans may disagree about a war, we have to stand united in support of our troops. And that for mothers like Sara [Frances] Shay, who honored her missing son for more than 40 years, we will never stop working to bring home our prisoners of war and our missing in action. We leave nobody behind. No one."* The League appreciates the President's reference to America's longstanding commitment to achieve the accounting, though we also know that all will not be recovered, identified and returned to their families for burial here in the US. That is precisely why the League has always sought the fullest possible accounting, not full or complete, an impossible goal.

PRESIDENT TO VISIT LAOS FOR ASEAN LEADERS CONFERENCE: In early September, the President will travel to Vientiane, Laos, for the ASEAN and East Asia Summits. Laos is the 2016 Chair of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations); therefore a series of meetings were held in preparation with senior US officials, including **Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications** and **Secretary of State John Kerry**. Assisted by US Ambassador to Laos Dan Clune, the need for positive Lao Government responses to specific requests to facilitate Joint Field Activities (JFAs) was raised. The points relate to 1) approval for US teams to base-camp at incident sites to reduce costs for helicopter support (primarily blade hours) and travel time, thus maximizing time available for recovery efforts; and 2) an increase in the number of personnel allowed in-country simultaneously from 53 to 65, on an as-needed basis. These valid requests, when approved, will help meet current the budget requirements to do more with less in terms of funding and effectiveness, meaning results.

US-LAO POW/MIA CONSULTATIONS RECENTLY HELD: A Lao Delegation was in Hawaii August 3rd for discussions with DPAA and DIA officials related to future operations, resulting in positive responses on the above requests. DPAA Deputy Director BG Mark S. Spindler, USA, led the US Delegation and H. E. Khoanta Phalivong, Director General of Europe & Americas Department, Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Lao Delegation. The flexible increase in personnel was agreed to, as was on-site base-camping, though to be considered on a case by case basis. Leading into the President's visit later this week, the League is hopeful that the Lao Government will be fully responsive. It is fundamental to expanding accounting results.

DPAA FIELD OPERATIONS: There are over 200 DPAA personnel currently deployed on operations, about 100 of them in Vietnam, 5-Recovery Teams (RTs), 2 Vietnamese RTs, and 1 Research Investigation Team (RIT), soon to conclude a Joint Field Activity (JFA). JFAs will resume in Laos in late October, after the beginning of FY17, and in Cambodia after the first of next year. There are about 100 deployed on WWII accounting operations in PNG, France, Germany, Kwajalein (just concluded) and Hawaii, most of them recovery teams of roughly 6-7 weeks each. In addition, History Flight is continuing recoveries in Tarawa, and universities are engaged in the Philippines and France.