



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

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NEWSLETTER: April 25, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is now **1,621**. DPAA recently released the following names as accounted for:

SFC Alan L. Boyer, USA/SF, MIA, 3/28/68, LA, RR 6/16/98, ID 3/16/16
1LT Donald W. Bruch, USAF, KIA/BNR 4/29/66, NVN, RR 12/14/11, ID 9/4/15
MAJ Donald G. Carr, USA/SF, MIA 7/6/71, SVN, RR 8/29/14, ID 8/10/15

Word is circulating that remains of 1Lt Daniel W. Thomas, USAF, the other officer missing from the Carr incident, have been recovered. All hope that these remains will be identified as 1Lt Thomas and returned to his family; however, in reality, the osseous material recovered will undergo thorough analysis at the DPAA Laboratory in Hawaii before any conclusions can be reached. A Total of **962 Americans have been accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975**. Another 63 US personnel were recovered and identified before the end of the war raising the total accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,025**. Of the 1,621 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam - 1,264 (VN - 466, VS - 798); Laos - 301; Cambodia - 49; PRC territorial waters - 7. These country-specific numbers fluctuate when investigations and analyses result in changes to loss locations. Since formed 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 of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITS PRC & SOUTH KOREA: Director Michael Linnington, accompanied by three DPAA staff members, is now en route to the People's Republic of China (PRC) for accounting-specific talks aimed at increasing PRC cooperation. In addition to advocating joint field operations, Mr. Linnington likely will seek greater access to archives relevant to Vietnam War losses that would predictably have been known to PRC personnel then serving in North Vietnam and Laos, and archives related to known POW camps run by PRC personnel during the Korean War. The team will then travel to South Korea. Following a tour of MAKRI (Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification facility), the team will participate in a repatriation ceremony honoring two US personnel who served during the Korean War, remains of whom, if verified through DPAA Lab identification, were recently recovered by South Korean recovery specialists. MAKRI was established in 2007 with support and assistance of Johnnie E. Webb and CILHI.

US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS (USRJC) TO MEET IN MAY: Following a preliminary discussion in Moscow last November by US Co-Chairman of the USRJC General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret), DPAA Director Mike Linnington traveled to Moscow February 8th to meet with Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Vostrotin. There he proposed the date and agenda for a USRJC Plenary Session in May. This past week, an advance Russian Delegation came to Washington and met with General Foglesong and Mr. Linnington to work out final details. The first Plenary Session since 2005 is now scheduled for May 23-24, in Washington, DC. There is great hope of renewing and restoring the work of the USRJC, especially since the Russian Federation named its new Chairman and opened its USRJC office in their Embassy here in Washington, DC. Recognizing it was past time to get beyond the endless delays that have plagued the USRJC's work, the League welcomes and appreciates these new initiatives by leaders in both countries and looks forward to increased efforts and accounting results.

FIELD OPERATIONS: Most recently, the 122nd JFA in Vietnam, Feb. 25 – April 12th, excavated sites in Kontum, Binh Dinh and Dac Lac, Khanh Hoa and Binh Phuoc Provinces. The 140th JTF in Laos, Feb. 29 – April 6th, excavated sites in Houaphan, Xieng Khouang and Khammouane Provinces. The 51st JFA in Cambodia, Jan. 10 – March 1st, excavated sites in Prey Veng and Strung Treng Provinces; however, a border dispute with Laos continues to adversely impact recovery efforts.

47th ANNUAL MEETING: June 22-25, 2016, Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia: Visit the League's web site, www.pow-miafamilies.org, to get additional details and if prefer registering on line. This is a crucial year, the first opportunity to listen to and assess the work of DPAA. Join us!

As a keepsake, a **Commemorative Program** is designed and published each year. You can honor your missing loved one, colleague or friend, convey congratulations to the League on the occasion of our 47th Annual Meeting, or advertise your business service. If the latter, the donation is not tax-deductible, as you benefit in return. See details to place your Tribute on page 6 of this Newsletter.

Arrival & Departure: It is highly recommended that you plan to arrive on Wednesday, June 22nd, before 5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. if first time attendee) to allow time to check into the Hilton and board buses for historic Ft. Myer and the Twilight Tattoo to be held that evening.

It is also recommended that you plan to depart on Sunday, June 26th, to enable you to participate fully throughout the meeting and maximize your time in the Washington, DC, area with access to US officials directly responsible for the accounting mission, and to the historic sites in our nation's capital.

Registration/Credentials Pick-up: All registration is done in advance, and a Registration Form appears on pages 7-8 of this Newsletter. Credentials pick-up will be on Wednesday June 22nd, between 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and, for late arrivals, on Thursday, June 23rd, 7:15 – 8:45 a.m., after which all materials and credentials will be secured by the Sergeants-at-Arms.

Badges: All attendees, except uniformed military officials, must wear visible, color-coded badge on the lanyard provided at registration for entrance into all League-hosted and Service-hosted events, including off-site events. ANY alteration to a badge will result in revocation and denial of admittance.

White –	League (voting) Family Members	Tan –	League Associate Members
Blue –	Non-League Family Members	Grey –	Concerned Citizens
Green –	US Officials	Red –	Media
Yellow –	Family Members attending <u>only DoD briefings</u>		

Information & Press: Located in the **Virginia Ballroom Foyer, Plaza Level**. Direct inquiries to Communications Chairman Lacy Rourke (lrourke@gmail.com) or call Hilton Crystal City (703) 418-6800 and ask for the League Office.

DoD Offices: Investigators and analysts will again be available in the Service Casualty Offices to support individual Case File Reviews with families. All are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to share information with these specialists, preferably NOT in conflict with critical government briefings, the legal justification for DoD-provided transportation. Hopefully, US officials will be present by noon on Wednesday, June 22nd. All Service Casualty Offices are located on the 1st floor: USA – Blue Ridge Room; USN/USMC/Civilian – Shenandoah Room; USAF – Skyline Room; and DPAA – Luray Room.

If DPAA and the Services agree, **Individual Case File Reviews** will be held in these locations from noon to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please try to schedule reviews at times outside of sessions during which critical information is presented. Instead, ask for early morning, lunch or dinner breaks.

Newcomer Orientation: Important information will be shared in the Patrick Henry Board Room, First Floor, on Wednesday, June 22nd, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. First-time attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Twilight Tattoo: Thanks to the Vietnam War Commemoration for again arranging transportation to the Ft. Myer Twilight Tattoo. Buses will board at 5:30 p.m. for those credentialed.

The **47th Annual Meeting Dinner & Candlelight Commemorative Ceremony** will be preceded by a no-host reception in the Virginia Ballroom Foyer on Thursday, June 23rd, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., with dinner beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Virginia Ballroom and concluding at 9:00 p.m. Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley, USA, has agreed to be the speaker and, in addition to the missing loved ones of family members present, representing all Vietnam War personnel still missing and unaccounted-for, this year's Commemorative Ceremony will recognize and honor American and Vietnamese servicemen who lost their lives on April 7, 2001, seeking answers on our missing, as well as CAPT Richard Rees, USA, and SGT Nguyen Van Hai, ARVN, who were killed during an unarmed recovery mission in South Vietnam on December 15, 1973.

Workshops: Two specialized workshops will be held in the Richmond and Roanoke Rooms, Lobby Level, on Friday, June 24th, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., prior to the Service-Hosted Luncheons. Following the luncheons, another important workshop will be held in the same location, focused on maximizing use of the DPAA website.

Service-Hosted Luncheons will be held Friday, June 24th, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Virginia Ballroom, Plaza Level: USA – Washington Room; USN/USMC/Civilian – Adams Room; USAF – Madison Room.

USMC Evening Parade: Participation is limited to the first 100 attendees with authorized badges. The performance at the historic USMC Barracks at 8th and I Streets, Washington, DC, is Friday, June 24th; buses will board at 6:30 p.m. (This event is tentative, pending final USMC approval.)

Well received last year, there will again be a **League-Hosted Farewell Reception** on Saturday, June 25th, in the Crystal Room, Plaza Level, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

The **League Boutique** will open in the Old Dominion Board Room, Plaza Level, on Wednesday, June 22nd, at 3:00 p.m. and during posted hours throughout the meeting. A Silent Auction will be held prior to the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner.

Displays: DPAA, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) and Vietnam War Commemoration displays will again be located in the Virginia Ballroom Foyer, Plaza Level, hopefully available for public review by noon on Wednesday, June 22nd.

League Business Session/Policy Resolutions: To ensure availability for the League Business Session, Saturday, June 25th, 2:00 p.m., resolutions must be submitted in writing to Resolutions Chairman Mark Stephensen by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24th. Resolutions may also be introduced on the floor. The League Business Session is open to all credentialed 47th Annual Meeting attendees; however, only dues-current League Family Members (white badges) are eligible to vote.

DNA Testing: Family members who have not provided a sample for DNA comparison are encouraged to do so. Check on eligibility with your Service Casualty Office on the First Floor.

Cell phones must be silenced during all sessions, including the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner.

Dress Code: Dress for meeting sessions is business casual or Military Class B; for the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner, dress for ladies is cocktail attire and, for men, suit and tie or Military Class A.

Smoking, vapor cigarettes and alcohol are strictly prohibited in meeting rooms during sessions; smoking areas outside the Hilton Crystal City Hotel are posted.

Reminder: The deadline for postmarking Registration by US Postal Service is Friday, June 1st, the same deadline as for submitting Tributes for inclusion in the Commemorative Program. Registration fees can be paid on line through Pay Pal, for a small additional fee.

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

3:00 - 5:00 PM **REGISTRATION/CREDENTIALS PICK-UP**
4:00 - 5:00 PM **ORIENTATION FOR NEW ATTENDEES**
5:30 PM Board Buses to Fort Myer
6:00 – 8:30 PM **TWILIGHT TATTOO – FT MYER**
8:45 PM Board Buses for Hilton

Thursday, June 23, 2016

7:15 – 8:45 AM **REGISTRATION/CREDENTIALS PICK-UP**

9:00 – 11:30 AM **OPENING SESSION**
Call to Order & Official Ceremonies
Keynote Remarks: *The Honorable Robert O. Work, Dep. Secretary of Defense*
Unveiling of National POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster – 2016
The President's Visit to Vietnam
Historical Perspective: 1975 – 2016: Long Road to Today
A Glimpse into the Future
Assessing 2016's Reorganization

1:00 – 3:00 PM **GENERAL SESSION – NATIONAL POLICY***

Today's Mission, Priority & Objectives
US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs
Operational Perspective Worldwide
Maximizing Family & Veteran Engagement
Strategic Partnerships – Update

3:00 – 4:00 PM **FROM THE VETERANS' PERSPECTIVE**

6:00 PM **NO-HOST RECEPTION**

7:00 – 9:00 PM **47TH ANNUAL DINNER & COMMEMORATIVE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY**

Friday, June 24, 2016

8:30 – 11:30 AM **GENERAL SESSION***

Options for Applying Advanced Underwater Technologies
DIA's Role in the POW/MIA Accounting Mission
Augmenting DPAA's Investigation Process
Archival Research & Investigation Initiative & Potential

11:45 AM **WORKSHOPS: Your Role in Case Mgmt. & Dealing with Ambiguous Loss**

1:00 – 2:30 PM **SERVICE HOSTED LUNCHEONS**

USA	Washington Room
USN/USMC/Civilian	Adams Room
USAF	Madison Room

- 2:45 – 3:45 PM **WORKSHOP:** Maximizing Your Benefit from DPAA's Web Site
- 4:00 – 6:00 PM **GENERAL SESSION***
- Asia & Pacific Regional Approach
Today's Vietnam War Accounting Process
Macro Analyses in Support of Policy & Operations
Case by Case Analyses in Support of Field Operations
Understanding the Identification Processes
- 6:30 PM Board Buses to 8th & I
Space is limited to the first 100 attendees with badges.
- 8:30 PM **USMC EVENING PARADE (TENTATIVE)** **USMC Barracks**
- 10:00 PM Buses return to Hilton Crystal City Hotel

Saturday, June 25, 2016

- 9:00 AM – Noon **GENERAL SESSION: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Q & A PANEL**

Moderated by the League Chairman of the Board, presenters will respond to questions from family members and, time permitting, veterans and others, covering any and all subjects raised in prior sessions.

- 2:00 – 5:00 PM **LEAGUE BUSINESS SESSION**

League Office Report
Treasurer's Report/Annual Audit
Resolutions for Consideration/Voting by League Family Members
Open Discussion

DEFIANT: The POWs Who Endured Vietnam's Most Infamous Prison, the Women who Fought for Them, and the One Who Never Returned

(Best-selling author Alvin Townley has traveled the world capturing stories of adventure, purpose, and inspiration. His travels have taken him from Wall Street and the halls of Congress to Middle East combat zones, the infamous Hanoi Hilton, and five aircraft carriers in three oceans. His most recent book, DEFIANT, reveals the story of the eleven diehard officers who led the American POWs in North Vietnam – and of their extraordinary wives who founded the National League. The book arrived to praise from The New York Times, Jim Lovell, John McCain, Jimmy Carter, and many others. At venues from The Coca-Cola Company and The Home Depot to the University of Virginia and the USS STOCKDALE, Mr. Townley has reminded Americans of all generations never to forget the servicemen and families who have sacrificed for our freedom.)

- 6:30 – 8:00 PM **LEAGUE-HOSTED FAREWELL RECEPTION**

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016 – RECOMMENDED DEPARTURE DATE

***US Government Briefings are presented during these sessions; families who travel by COIN Assist are obligated, legally, to attend all scheduled briefings.**

As a keepsake, a Commemorative Program is designed and published each year. You can honor your missing loved one, colleague or friend, convey congratulations to the League on the occasion of our 47th Annual Meeting, or simply advertise your business service. If the latter, the donation is not tax-deductible, as you benefit in return. See below for donation rates for inclusion of tributes in the Commemorative Program.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES 47th ANNUAL MEETING

COMMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM TRIBUTES

INSIDE FRONT OR BACK COVER - \$1,000*

FULL PAGE (8 ½" x 11") - \$500*

½ PAGE (8 ½" x 5 ½") - \$250*

¼ PAGE (4 ¼" x 5 ½") - \$125**

BUSINESS CARD - \$50
(as submitted)

"IN HONOR OF" - \$25
(Submit name to be honored, with your name and relationship)

**Send camera-ready tributes by email to MIA101925@aol.com, if possible.
Mail hard-copy, with payment, to:**

National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

Deadline: June 1, 2016

*Donors at this level receive League Membership, Newsletters, Updates
& Registration for the 47th Annual Meeting.

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The League is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization; Federal Tax ID #23-7071242