



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

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**AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR:** In mid-October and again more recently, DPAA posted changes to the list of Vietnam War missing and unaccounted-for US personnel, now numbering **1,624**. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates and sometimes not even made. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 961. 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 **1,024**. Of the 1,624 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,266 (VN-467, VS-799); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to 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.

**REPATRIATION OF REMAINS:** On December 12<sup>th</sup>, remains believed to be those of four US personnel missing and unaccounted-for since the Vietnam War were honored in a repatriation ceremony at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. Turned in unilaterally by civilian Vietnamese and recovered during the 121<sup>st</sup> period of Joint Field Activities in Vietnam, the four remains were reviewed by Vietnamese and American forensic specialists who determined the potential for being identified as US personnel. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius was joined by specialists from DPAA's Detachment 2 and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) in honoring those repatriated. In remarks, Ambassador Osius reportedly expressed gratitude for the goodwill and increasingly efficient and effective cooperation being afforded by the Government of Vietnam. The League extends sincere appreciation to all – American and Vietnamese – whose authorization, policy and operational support and/or participation contributed to this repatriation and looks forward to further expanding the level of effort that can lead to increased accounting results.

**DPAA DIRECTOR VISITS CAMBODIA, LAOS & VIETNAM:** DPAA Director Mike Linnington recently returned from his first trip to the three most directly engaged Vietnam War countries. He first briefly visited Cambodia, then made official calls in Vientiane, Laos, and flew by helicopter to visit DPAA and Lao personnel conducting field operations. He returned to Vientiane before going on to Hanoi to meet with senior officials there. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Linnington briefed the Board of Directors on this important, introductory visit that came at a time of ever-increasing bilateral political, economic and military-to-military cooperation. He also visited DPAA and Vietnamese teams conducting field operations in Vietnam before flying back to the US, arriving in time for a DPAA-hosted Family Update in Portland, ME, on November 14<sup>th</sup>. More will be provided when available.

**MORE GOOD NEWS:** DPAA Director Linnington has now invited representatives of responsible national Veteran organizations to attend and observe briefings at DPAA-hosted POW/MIA Family Updates around the country. The League deeply appreciates this return to including our Veterans in these meetings. Though often general in content, the briefings given are firsthand and provided by responsible US officials. Since DPAA is stressing the importance of outreach and transparency, DPAA-hosted Updates provide an opportunity for both.

**GENERAL FOGLESONG VISITS MOSCOW:** US Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret) traveled to Moscow to meet on November 9<sup>th</sup> with the Russian Co-Chairman, General Colonel Valery Aleksandrovich Vostrotin. The two Co-Chairs outlined their hope for renewing and restoring the work of the USRJC and noted the importance of the new Russian Office of the USRJC located in the Embassy of the Russian Federation. This important office was opened in July of this year and is headed by Maxim N. Alekseev, an impressive Russian official with a diverse background and record of experience. The League welcomes this new initiative and looks forward to working with Mr. Alekseev and senior Russian officials in Moscow. It is past time to press forward and end the seemingly endless delays.

**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. In fact the political climate, regionally and bilaterally with Vietnam, lends itself to expanding cooperation across the board. Contact your elected officials and ensure they understand that there must be full funding, with increases as needed, including qualified personnel, for the new Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).