



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

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**AMERICANS RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR:** The most recent change in DPAA's Statistics on 9/11/17 cited the accounting for **CAPT James. R. Bauder, USN**, of CA, listed as MIA 9/21/66 in North Vietnam, recovered 6/11/17, and ID'd 8-28-17. DPAA previously announced the accounting for **CMSgt Donald J. Hall, USAF**, listed as MIA 2/6/67 in North Vietnam, recovered 4/3/17, and ID'd 8/18/17. Previously, DPAA's 8/15/17 Statistics cited **Col Martin R. Scott, USAF**, of OK, listed as MIA 3/15/66 in North Vietnam, recovered 12/12/15 and ID'd 6/15/17, and **1<sup>st</sup> Lt David T. Dinan, III, USAF**, of NJ, listed as KIA/BNR in Laos on 3/17/69, recovered 4/8/14, and ID'd 8/7/17. On July 12, 2017, DPAA listed **Major James B. White, USAF**, of FL, listed MIA in Laos on 11/24/69, remains recovered 4/4/14, and ID'd 6/16/17. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, DPAA announced the ID of **Capt Robert E. Holton, USAF**, of MT, listed as MIA in Laos on 1/29/69, recovered 2/16/17 and ID'd 6/8/17. The prior week, DPAA released the name of **Col Roosevelt Hestle, USAFR**, of FL, listed as MIA in North Vietnam on 7/16/66, remains recovered 12/12/16, and ID'd 6/8/17. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, DPAA announced the ID of **Capt Joseph S. Smith, USAFR**, of IL, listed MIA in Cambodia on 4/4/71, recovered 1/27/93, and ID'd 5/4/17, and **LT Charles B. Goodwin, USN**, of TX, listed MIA in North Vietnam on 9/8/65, recovered 12/12/16 and ID'd 5/18/17.

The number still missing and otherwise unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is 1,602. Hopefully, there will yet be many accounted for during the rest of 2017. Of the **1,602 still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR)**, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,253 (VN-458, VS-795); Laos-294; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. (Country-specific numbers 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 the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is **981**. Following is a breakdown by country of the 981 Americans accounted for since the April 30, 1975 end of the Vietnam War: Vietnam – 665, Laos – 271, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, for a grand total of 1,044. These 63 Americans were accounted for by unilateral US efforts in areas where access was possible, not due to cooperation with the post-war governments of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Added together, a total of 279 have been recovered and identified from Laos, 720 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

**DPAA DIRECTOR SELECTED:** The Department of Defense (DoD) announced September 5<sup>th</sup> the long-overdue, welcome selection of Major General **Kelly K. McKeague, USAF (Ret)**, as **Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)**. This critical position had been vacant for over a year. Mr. McKeague was the last Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, (JPAC) and the first DPAA Deputy Director, a brief assignment immediately before his military retirement. During his last year on active duty, he was honored with the League Award and received the Special Operations Association (SOA) President's Award. His selection as DPAA Director had been endorsed by the League, the SOA, the Special Forces Association (SFA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and others.

**Comment:** DoD could not have selected a finer, more qualified man for the job. The League looks forward to again working closely with him, pleased that Secretary of Defense Mattis ensured serious consideration of the need to select a person with experience, character, commitment and dedication to the mission and who had earned the trust and respect of affected families and veterans, as well as foreign officials whose willingness to authorize necessary cooperation is critical to success. We wish Kelly McKeague the very best as he assumes responsibility to truly lead DPAA in accomplishing accounting objectives we all share. He brings to DPAA the integrity and respect necessary to regain credibility and overcome three fractious years during which leadership failures destroyed agency morale and confidence of the families and our nation's veterans.

**US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS MEETING FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> PLENUM:**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, the 21<sup>st</sup> Plenum of the USRJC will meet in Moscow, led by US Co-Chairman General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret), and Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Valery Vostrotin. This will be the first Plenum in which newly selected DPAA Director Major General Kelly K. McKeague, USAF (Ret), will participate as a US Commissioner. He will be joined on this occasion by two other US Commissioners, Mr. Tim Shea, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and Dr. Tim Nenner, National Archives & Records Administration (NARA). Invited to participate as Observers will be VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace and League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths. DPAA European-Mediterranean Regional Director Colonel. Chris Forbes, USA, and members of his Joint Commission Support Directorate staff will also attend and have put in long, arduous hours in preparation, as has LTC Maxim Alexeyev, Chief of the Russian Commission Support Office, Russian Embassy in Washington, DC. This is a follow-on to earlier plenary sessions and the Russian Commission's participation in the League's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in June, as well as the August DPAA-hosted Korean War/Cold War Annual Government Briefings, both held in the DC area.

**LEAGUE DELEGATION TO MOSCOW POSTPONED:** The League's Board of Directors had earlier approved a League Delegation to Moscow, dependent on suitable arrangements in advance to justify such a trip. League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths would lead a three-member delegation, including Vice Chairman Mark Stephensen (MIA/RR son) and Treasurer Eldon Robinson (KIA/BNR Brother). Both gentlemen, paying their own travel and expenses, were planning to take their wives, also at their own expense. In reality, and due in no small measure to the existing political tensions between the US and Russia, there was insufficient time to adequately plan for and execute a League Delegation to coincide with this USRJC Plenum. There also was insufficient integration of the full League Delegation into other aspects of the plans to justify the effort and expense at this time. As a result, there was a consensus among the three participants to postpone the trip to Moscow until satisfactory arrangements could be made for calls on high level Russian officials.

**SRV VICE MINISTER OF NAT'L DEFENSE MEETS WITH LEAGUE AND DOD OFFICIALS:** On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, League Chairman Ann Mills-Griffiths met with Vietnam's Vice Minister of National Defense LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh for in-depth discussion prior to his participation in the October 17<sup>th</sup> session of the bilateral Defense Dialogue which we welcome. Mr. Joseph Felter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South & Southeast Asia, led the US delegation for the talks that included Vietnam's Ambassador to Washington Pham Quang Vinh and other Vietnamese officials.

In the private meeting with Mills-Griffiths, Vice Minister Vinh was very forthcoming, stating there were no longer any restrictions on the number of US personnel who could work in-country simultaneously, affirming flexibility in field operations and that there are no longer any areas restricted to US access to conduct them, including in previously sensitive areas along the northern coastal provinces, noting the importance of continuing and increasing cooperation between the US and SRV navies and the SRV Coast Guard's increasing capability for mapping these sensitive, under-water coastline areas. He affirmed his country's appreciation for US humanitarian assistance to deal with dioxin remediation and unexploded ordnance.

Mills-Griffiths welcomed the positive news, indicating the specifics would be most welcome to all in the US, in particular the families, veterans, DPAA and the USG writ large. She also noted that his assurances were especially welcome in light of DPAA's hope to maximize the weather window to increase operations in the Central Provinces; thus, larger numbers of participants would be helpful. She raised the importance of the SRV proposal at the August Technical Talks in Hawaii to form a new Last Known Alive (LKA) Investigation Team. She assured the Vice Minister that the concept for engaging one DIA Stony Beach specialist and one SRV investigator would be very effective and efficient, with positive results then pursued by joint or unilateral DPAA or SRV surveys and, hopefully, recoveries. She assured the Vice Minister that plans for a League Delegation in early January would definitely include calls on him and Minister of Public Security To Lam and, hopefully, Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh, as well as others.

**VIETNAMESE DELEGATION MEETS DPAA OFFICIALS IN HAWAII:** As has long been the case, Vietnamese and US specialists met recently to discuss operational issues and exchange views. In earlier years, before joint field operations were the norm or unilateral Vietnamese field operations were even considered, such technical talks were quarterly, then semi-annually, now annually. A primary objective is to find ways to enhance the processes that have expanded dramatically over the years, thanks to improved cooperation by Vietnam.

**Chairman’s Comment:** Though a long time coming, and fraught with unpredictable US budget constraints, field operations in Vietnam have improved tremendously. Further improvements can and should occur to meet Vietnam’s 2009 proposal to the League to “increase the pace and scope of operations.” Funding for FY17 saw reductions in Vietnam War accounting efforts in both Vietnam and Cambodia, though operations in Laos were sustained. Now that Kelly McKeague is DPAA Director, the deep-seated, continuing internal dysfunction within DPAA should soon end, but some changes take time. Due to death of firsthand witnesses, destruction of remains due to acidic soil, and incident sites endangered by development projects, Vietnam War accounting efforts are on borrowed time. For FY18, the amount requested (\$132 million) is in the DoD budget and reportedly is sufficient to meet DPAA’s operational plans; however, the League cannot state with confidence that Vietnam War accounting continues to be the agency priority. Real transparency is required to rebuild trust and confidence. Now that DPAA’s new Director is in place, there is reason for confidence in that regard.

**YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED!** Contact your elected officials to express appreciation for passing the DoD budget that includes \$132 million to fund DPAA’s FY2018 operational plans to handle worldwide accounting and recovery efforts AND to urge an exemption of DPAA funding from any/all reductions. Funding for Veterans’ care has rightfully increased and is protected by exempting Department of Veterans Affairs budgets from across-the-board cuts and/or sequestration. Our UNRETURNED Veterans, America’s POW/MIAs, deserve the same funding protection. .

**DPAA-HOSTED FAMILY UPDATES:** DPAA-hosted Family Member Updates (FMUs) are scheduled for 2018 as noted in the chart below. These sessions are no longer restricted solely to family members, and invited representatives of recognized Veteran Service Organizations are included, as are League and other NGO officials who are not family members. Also, the \*\* notation indicates that briefings are in conjunction with the League’s upcoming 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, June 21-24, 2018, obviously NOT hosted by DPAA.

2018 Family Update Schedule*	
Date	Location
January 20	San Diego, CA
February 24	Jacksonville, FL
March 24	El Paso, TX
April 21	Rapid City, SD
May 19	Louisville, KY
June 21-24	Washington, D.C.**
August 9-10	Washington, D.C.
September 8	Philadelphia, PA