



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

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AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: Since the League Newsletter, November 24, 2014, 11 US personnel have been announced as accounted for, including one this week, US Army SGT Rodney L. Griffin, previously listed as missing in Cambodia. (DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates.) Those most recently announced are:

Capt Richard D. Chorlins, USAF, MIA, LA, 1/11/70, RR 2/11/03, ID 12/17/14
LT Richard C. Clark, USNR, MIA, NVN, 10/24/67, RR1/17/91, ID 11/7/14
Col William E. Cooper, USAF, MIA, NVN, 4/24/66, RR 11/16/98, ID 12/4/14
SGT Rodney L. Griffin, USA, MIA, CB, 5/2/70, RR 4/3/14, ID 1/27/15
MSG James W. Holt, USA, MIA, SVN, 2/6/68, RR 6/21/89, ID 1/10/15
CMSgt Edwin E. Morgan, USAF, MIA, LA, 3/13/66, RR 11/19/11, ID 1/29/15
SSG Warren E. Newton, USA, MIA, SVN, 1/8/68, RR 9/8/11, ID 5/30/14
CW3 Larry Phipps, USA, MIA, SVN, 1/9/68, RR 9/8/11, ID 5/30/14
SSG Bunyan D. Price, Jr., USA, MIA, CB, 5/2/70, RR 4/3/14, ID 1/27/15
CW3 Ranier S. Ramos, USA, MIA, SVN, 1/9/68, RR 9/8/11, ID 5/30/14
LTJG Neil B. Taylor, USNR, KIA/BNR, 9/14/65, RR 6/24/13, ID 11/25/14

Several of those named serve as examples of how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using contemporary science that wasn't available in the early years. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 955. 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 1,018. Of the 1,628 still unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,267 (VN-465, VS-802); Laos-304; Cambodia-50; PRC territorial waters-7. (The announcement regarding SGT Griffin included change of location on two USAF personnel from North Vietnam to Laos.) Over-water losses on DoD's list of No Further Pursuit cases number well over 600.

ONGOING POW/MIA REORGANIZATION: Things continue to move fairly rapidly and with no small amount of confusion and dissension internal to the three major organizations—DPMO, JPAC and LSEL—being restructured into one agency, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA. RADM Michael T. Franken, USN, appointed by Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USDP) Christine Wormuth as the Interim Director, met with the Board of Directors on March 14th. His presentation gave reason for optimism that he was open to new ideas, such as Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) now under consideration. The League Board welcomed the concept, while recognizing that P3s would likely be more useful on WWII incidents that occurred in Europe, as well as Pacific Islands and other countries in Asia, than to Vietnam War losses, noting longstanding, hard-earned agreements reached with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, for USG access in the context of bilateral government-to-government cooperation.

Chairman's Assessment: Secretary Hagel's personal involvement and commitment gave reason for optimism that the reorganization he directed would prove to be beneficial. The outcome is now less certain; however, senior military officers were selected to restructure the various elements into one efficient, effective agency with higher priority and support. Clearly, former Secretary Hagel was determined to "get this right" and was not tolerant of excuses; however, initial implementation by the PACT, The Clearing and other inexperienced staff showed reluctance to build on strengths and look for ways to improve the existing process. While that may seem simple, educated insights from experienced, dedicated professionals were neither sought nor welcomed by the earlier transition team. We urged Under Secretary Wormuth to proceed thoughtfully, and she did, supported by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (ASD/SOLIC) Michael Lumpkin and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Community Outreach René Bardorf. Now, the reorganization is in the hands of RADM Franken, USN, for the initial six months. A permanent Director is due to be in place before the League's 46th Annual Meeting in June, meaning again we wait and see.