



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES

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MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED-FOR FROM THE VIETNAM WAR: The number missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is **1,584**. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on March 14th that U.S. Naval Reserve Cmdr. Paul C. Charvet, 26, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for March 1, 2021. On March 21, 1967, his A-1H Skyraider airplane disappeared near Hon Me Island off the coast of North Vietnam. Until this announcement, there had been no US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War since July 2020. During the “DPAA Family/VSO Quarterly Call and Update” on April 29th, the Lab affirmed that there are NO Vietnam War-related remains awaiting ID. DPAA laboratories and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) continue to focus efforts on identifying remains previously recovered, turned over unilaterally by foreign countries or buried in US cemeteries as unknowns, disinterred then identified.

Of the 1,584 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam’s wartime control: Vietnam-1,244 (VN-442, VS-802); Laos-285; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. Since chartered 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 **999**. A breakdown by country of these 999 Americans is: Vietnam – 674, Laos – 280, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,062. A total of 288 have been accounted for from Laos, 729 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC. These 63 Americans, were accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS/EVENTS CANCELLED FOR 2020; UNILATERAL SRV RECOVERIES HELPED REDUCE THE DELAYS CAUSED BY COVID 19: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Defense (DoD) banned all DoD travel in early 2020, and Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were canceled. During this hiatus, DPAA Deputy Director for Operations RDML Darius Banaji, USN, met virtually with the **Cambodian POW/MIA Committee**. US Ambassador to Cambodia Patrick Murphy and Cambodian Deputy Chairman Sieng Lapresse participated, as did DPAA IndoPacific Regional Director Col Brian Peterson, USMC.

Also during this difficult time, **Vietnam fielded three Unilateral Recovery Teams (URT)**s that focused on several cases. Though DPAA has provided few details, some remains were reportedly recovered. DoD, DIA, State Department and other US agencies are still largely teleworking, but some are alternating schedules to try to ensure greater in-person coverage and productivity. DIA Headquarters personnel, including Stony Beach specialists, are working in shifts, as are DPAA scientists in the respective laboratories at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and Offutt AFB, Nebraska. In Vietnam, a large Joint Field Activity (JFA) will include 3 Recovery Teams (RTs), 1 underwater RT, a Research Investigation Team (RIT), plus 2 SRV URTs.

Field operations resumed in early February in **Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia**. A DPAA “partnership” 70-day recovery, ending March 23rd, was undertaken at Koh Tong, Cambodia, with the University of Illinois-Chicago. US teams recently concluded the 142nd Joint Field Activity (JFA) in **Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam**. Reportedly, there were three RTs and one joint Investigation Team (IT) that included DIA Stony Beach specialists. Two Vietnamese URTs were added to plus-up the pace and scope of long-delayed operations.

A **Joint Field Activity in Laos** was unfortunately canceled when US personnel were not permitted in-country due to further COVID pandemic-related restrictions. Thankfully, DIA's Stony Beach Lao specialist, permanently in-country, was allowed to utilize the helicopter support previously arranged, so investigations occurred, though no further information is available as to what was accomplished. A JFA in Laos is now ongoing, following a required quarantine at the beginning. It consists of three Recovery Teams.

DPAA continues to conduct **WWII, Korean War and Cold War** field recoveries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region, most recently in Austria and Belgium, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. Planning is ongoing for a recovery in Germany, and investigations are planned to take place from May – September in Germany, Poland, Italy, Belgium and Panama, a later US Navy incident on which DPAA was requested to handle. The latest large-scale unilateral turnover of remains was the K55 repatriation that followed the Singapore Agreement reached in the summer of 2018 by former President Trump and DPRK President Kim Jong Un. Reportedly, DPAA's Lab has made 74 IDs on the comingled remains, estimated to possibly be those of as many as 160-170 US personnel. Eighty remains believed to be those of indigenous personnel were turned over to the South Korean Government.

LEAGUE 51ST ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2021: As previously announced, no annual meeting could be held in 2020, was rescheduled for June 23-27, 2021, and, after again re-scheduling, the **51st Annual Meeting will be held September 15-19, 2021**. It is increasingly looking like DoD travel restrictions will be lifted, meaning COIN Assist travel for eligible next-of-kin will be available. Hilton Crystal City Hotel is now open on a limited basis, and we're hoping for fewer restrictions and greater normalcy by September.

The **Board of Directors Election for 2021-2023** was postponed and will be held prior to the 51st Annual Meeting, with results announced at that time. Applications to run for the Board can be accessed on the League website and will be sent in advance by USPS by the end of this month to all League family members.

DPAA-HOSTED FAMILY MEMBER UPDATES: Last year, DPAA cancelled Family Member Updates previously scheduled for March, April, May, August and September. DPAA-hosted Annual Government Briefings for Korean War/Cold War Families, previously planned for August, 2020, were also cancelled and are now scheduled for August, 2021. The next DPAA FMU will again be virtual and held May 22nd in Oklahoma City, OK. During all such FMUs, individual case reviews can be held virtually with US officials.

SUPPORT THE LEAGUE: You can support the League on Facebook by creating a fundraiser to celebrate meaningful occasions and events. Opportunities are nearly endless, ranging from appeals for donations to the League in lieu of birthday gifts or to honor a missing loved one on the anniversary of his loss and, if returned, his story commemorating his recovery, etc. If you would like to create a fundraiser to benefit the League, visit www.facebook.com/fund/powmiafamilies. **100% of the proceeds** raised from your Facebook fundraiser will benefit the League!

You and your family, friends and colleagues can also support the League by shopping at **Amazon Smile**. It is simple and automatic, **at no extra cost to you**. Just visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7071242>, and you will find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping to which you may be increasingly accustomed. The added bonus? The **Amazon Smile Foundation** automatically donates 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchases to the League.

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