



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

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AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: There has been no published change to the number still unaccounted-for since the April 10th Update. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates, and others are likely pending. Several of those named this year were examples of how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using contemporary science that wasn't available in earlier years. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 956. 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 1,019. Of the **1,627** still unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,269 (VN-467, VS-802); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These numbers occasionally fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

NEW DPAA DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED: LTG Mike Linnington, USA, retired from active duty on June 17th, has been announced as the new permanent Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). He previously served as the Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. While always cautious to not overstate support for people named to positions of responsibility in the POW/MIA accounting mission, it is no overstatement to recognize his outstanding background. LTG Linnington was born in Cape May, NJ. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1980 and was commissioned an Infantry Officer. His civilian education includes a BS from the US Military Academy at West Point, NY, and an MS in Applied Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. His military education includes the Infantry Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses at Ft Benning, Georgia, US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth, KS, and the National War College in Washington, DC where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security Strategy. His 33 year active duty career includes duties in key command and staff positions at Ft Ord, CA; Ft Riley, KS; West Berlin (Divided), Germany; multiple assignments at Fort Campbell, KY; the Republic of Korea, and several tours in Washington, DC (Army and Joint Staffs). From Jun '02 to Jun '04, then COL Linnington commanded the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) where he deployed both in Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After selection to Flag Rank, LTG Linnington held positions of responsibility at Ft Benning, GA (Deputy Commanding General), West Point, NY (Commandant of Cadets), Kabul, Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force), and in Washington, DC (Commander, US Army Military District of Washington). LTG Linnington assumed his duties as Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) in July 2013, the position from which he retired on June 17, 2015. LTG Linnington's wife of 32 years is the former Brenda Zachary of Salinas, CA. They have two children, a son, Army CAPT Michael, and a daughter, Tracy, a Program Manager, Navy Federal Credit Union; she and her husband are expecting the Linnington's first grandchild soon.

Chairman's Comment: I attended LTG Linnington's retirement on June 17th and had talked with him in his POW/MIA advisory role to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth, VADM Mike Franken and Maj Gen Kelly McKeague relating to the "complete reorganization" of the entire community. As a result, I can attest to the esteem in which he is held by a broad cross-section of military and civilian personnel. From the lowest level to those at the top, all seem to genuinely like and admire him. LTG Linnington will be sworn in on Monday, June 22nd, as the civilian Senior Executive Service Level 3 Director. It is my hope, prayer and expectation that he will work to achieve the objectives we share, and do so with honor, integrity, humility, dedication, energy and determination. That is all we can ask. All we should expect is his very best effort, and we do, but he will also need our full support and that of the currently demoralized former JPAC and DPMO workforce. Therefore, we, the Vietnam War families and our many concerned Veteran groups, individual Veterans and civilian supporters, ask all POW/MIA-related personnel – especially the experienced civilian core – to set aside the countless obstacles and justifiable frustrations you have endured over far too many years and focus on what is possible with our new DPAA Director. I believe DPAA truly can become the accounting agency we all have sorely missed since 1992, a cohesive, interagency US Government priority that will, with the support of all, achieve the **fullest possible accounting**, the League's longstanding, entirely reasonable objective.

46TH ANNUAL MEETING: The June 24-27th meeting will be the largest, most comprehensive and compelling annual meeting in years. The Hilton is sold out, responses from senior leaders have been positive, and animosity toward the League seems to have disappeared, and we are most grateful.