



Florida Veteran

Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc.

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Volume 15 - Issue 2

Florida's 30th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

The date for the next Reunion is May 4 - 7th at Wickham Park in Melbourne, Florida. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be at the park for viewing April 30th-May 7th. As most of you are aware, *this is the Nations largest Veterans Reunion*. Make sure to visit the Reunion Website at www.floridaveteransreunion.com for up to date information regarding the schedule of events, including the Wall escort the preceding Sunday, hotel listings, camping information as well as vendor applications.

The Vietnam and all Veterans of Florida State Coalition would like to recognize the following members/organizations for awards that were presented at our Annual Banquet held this past January. Honor Release Return - Organization of the Year, Chris Bischoff - Veteran of the Year, Kiki Carter - Member of the Year. This year we also present several young adults/young children with special awards for their various efforts in support of veterans. This age group ranged from 5 - 14 years old. We would like to congratulate Ruari Voisey, Anthony Mathews-Carter, Madelynn Earrusso, Isabella Earrusso, Destiney Carter and Jake Burton for all they have done and will continue to do to help and honor veterans.

In addition, our 2016 executive board members are: Robert "Doc" Neitzel, President, "Big" Al Diaz 1st Vice President, Ralph Earrusso 2nd Vice President, Roberta Neitzel, Secretary, Jacque Earrusso, Treasurer and Van Carter, Sgt of Arms.

A few reminders to members of the coalition:

Nominations are being accepted for 1st Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The floor will be opened at the October 29th general membership meeting at Lexington Inn & Suites in Daytona Beach, Florida and will continue through the January Meeting to be held in Daytona Beach when the elections will be held. Installation of the Officers will take place that evening at the Annual Banquet and Awards Dinner.

Nominations are also being accepted for Veteran of the Year, Member of the Year, Organization of the Year and Business of the Year. **Nominations must be received no later than November 20th, 2016 to be considered.** The Veteran of the Year will be voted on by prior recipients of this award. The remaining three awards are determined by the Executive Board of the Coalition. **The nominations for these prestigious awards must be submitted in a written biography and submitted to Robert Neitzel, President of the Coalition, to either the address listed on the front of the newsletter, or via e-mail to hdwizr7@aol.com or to Al Diaz, Vice President at bigalchico@yahoo.com with a copy to Roberta Neizel, Secretary at hdwizr8@aol.com**

The January General Membership meeting is scheduled for January 20-22, 2017 at Lexington Inn & Suites in Daytona Beach. The evening of the 22nd is the Banquet and Awards Dinner. Please mark your calendar for this event. The cost of the room will be \$59.00 per night (excluding tax) and reservations must be made by December 20th 2016 in order to receive the discounted rate. Additional information will be forthcoming on our website VVOF.ORG immediately after the October meeting.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year is quickly coming to an end..where does the time go? It seems that there is always so much to accomplish and time flies so quickly. The information we have obtained at the meetings throughout the year has been overwhelming (in a good way) and I would like to thank all that have attended and contributed to the discussions. I would also like to thank Florida Dustoff Association, The USA River Rats, The Vietnam Brotherhood and The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard for hosting our meetings this year. I know a lot of time and effort goes into hosting a meeting.

I would like to take a moment once again to stress the importance of disseminating the information to all members of your organizations that is provided by the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition at the General membership meetings or via e-mails. A good amount of this information contains pending Federal legislation that affects ***all veterans***.

Why, you may ask it is important to share this information? Possibly, the information may help a fellow veteran with their disability claim with the VA, or let them know of a program or assistance that may be available to them and their family. In addition, if there is pending legislation that you or your organization feels warrants your support, or non-support, contact your Senator or Congressperson by e-mail, fax, letter or phone and let them know what your concerns are about the bill. Without your voice, your representative will not know how their constituents' feel and sometimes, not always, will sway their vote on the issue. ***Remember a voice of many is heard above a voice of one.***

I would also like to remind everyone that membership for the coalition is everyone's responsibility. Please take some of the Coalition tri-folds and hand them out to your friends or other organizations that you feel would benefit from being a part of our organization. Take a few minutes of your time to explain to them what we are all about and the benefits of being involved.

We are heading into the cold weather months, and I would like to ask everyone to please keep our homeless veterans and their families in mind. Warm clothing of all sizes (for men, women and children), blankets, comforters, hats and gloves will be needed, as well as canned soup, stews (with pop top lids). If

you are able to provide any of these items, there are several transitional facilities throughout the State that could use your support, as well as organizations geared solely on assisting our homeless brothers and sisters and their families.

In addition, as we head into the holiday season, I am pleased to announce that the Coalition has made a donation to Wreaths Across America for the placement of several wreaths at the Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Cemetery where my wife and I will be attending the ceremony and I ask that you please keep our troops that are serving overseas in mind. There are numerous organizations that send care packages to the troops, but more so during the holiday season. I know that this is a busy time for all, but it only takes a moment or two of your time, while shopping for friends and family, to purchase a few extra items to send overseas. Let our Servicemen and Servicewomen be reminded that we support their efforts and sacrifices. Also please do not forget our children. Whether it be a child of a homeless veteran or a child whose family has hit hard times..it does not take much to pick up an extra gift to give a child a little happiness. Please donate to our transitional facilities or Toys for Tots throughout the State.

With Veterans Day approaching, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your service and hope that you partake in one of many events scheduled for this day. Roberta, my granddaughter and I will be joining the Vietnam Brotherhood for the Annual Parade in Orlando for the second year. I would also like to wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season and would like to thank you for the honor of having been the President for the past several years and hope you feel that I have served you well.

Robert Neitzel
President
Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State
Coalition



VVB NEWS

Well another great reunion has come and gone. Not to steal Doc Russo's thunder, but a huge THANK YOU needs to go out to each and everyone of the volunteers that made it possible to "accomplish the mission" at hand.

Good job!!

On to things in the future' such as Memorial Day, a steak night get together, POW/MIA Day and Remembrance and the awards ceremony. I am currently making lists of anyone who would like to volunteer for any of these functions. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please see either Linda or myself to sign up.

We need able bodies for the above functions as well as starting to work on the bunker. The bunker is going to be a great but worthwhile task in itself.

In conclusion, I would just say there are good things to come and let's "continue to march." Y'all make me proud!

Ranger Bob

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

Hello All

Well, another year is winding down with the completion of 15 events; traveling about 22,000 miles from Florida to Louisiana to Minnesota to New York and back. We got to meet a lot of great people and visit some beautiful towns along the way.

We did run into some mechanical issues throughout the year but, everything worked out. With this being part of the 50 year commemoration of the war, the Wall has been in great demand.

Our 2017 schedule is completely booked already and 2018 is just about full, also.

I can honestly say that this is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I am keeping notes on our events

so that I can remember what I call my "Little Wall Miracles"; the reasons we take the Wall where we do.

Thank you for all your support,

Doc Russo
Wall Manager

VVB MAILING ADDRESS
Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.
PO Box 237225
Cocoa, FL 32922

THEVVBUNKER@AOL.COM

FLORIDA DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION



Dedicated Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting Forces

"So Others May Live"

On behalf of The Florida Dustoff Association I would like to take a moment to say "Welcome Home." The Florida Dustoff Association is comprised of Dustoff Medics, Pilots, Corpsmen, Donut Dollies, Med-Evacs and many whom themselves have been "dusted-off" from The Vietnam, The Gulf War and OIF/OEF. **ALL ARE WELCOMED AT DUSTOFF!!**

This year's officers are: Ron "Doc" Custer, President, Robert "Doc" Neitzel, Vice President, and Roberta Neitzel Treasurer, Nancy Church, Secretary and Doc Combs, Chaplin.

Florida Dustoff continues to send packages overseas to support our troops and also continues to sell military pot holders. All proceeds from the sale of these pot holders go directly to our efforts of supporting the troops. Once again, we will be participating in Wreaths Across America December 17th at the Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Cemetery in Edgewater and have made donations this year to both Honor-Release-Return for The Ride Home honoring POWs and MIAs in Andersonville, The VVOF for Trunk or Treat in Edgewater and Wreaths Across America.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate this past year's recipients of awards in our organization: Member of the Year was Roberta Neitzel, Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Dustoff –, Ruari Voisey, Bill and Hjordis Sauerwine, Ralph and Jacque Earrusso, Steve Doan], Art Smith, Nancy Church, John Patton, Michelle Wakefield, Bobbi Jo Dino, Rose Fantaccione, Big Al Diaz, Anthony Carter, Destiney Carter, Kiki and Van Carter, Chris Hamrick and Doc Custer. A plaque was presented to Florida Senator Dorothy Hukill. We also presented a plaque to the USA River Rats for Presentation of Colors at the January coalition meeting, as well as several members for their assistance during the meeting.

We are currently in the process of completing our website – www.DUSTOFFFL.ORG, so please feel free to take a peek, but please remember, it is currently under construction.

Robert Neitzel - Vice President Florida Dustoff Association

“WHEN I HAVE YOUR WOUNDED”



USARIVER RATS

I hate to report that we have lost another member Norm “Hound Dog” Pamplin. We hope we will not have to report any in the next newsletter.

We have not done much this year except the usual events Reunion, Vista Manor (4th of July and Fun Days), Wall Escort. We had another “Paws for Veterans” Poker Run, which again was successful. We will be hosting the 7th annual fishing tournament on October 1st at American Legion Post 348 , and held a Benefit Poker Run for Bob Franklin in Memory of Linda Walker, and had a Yard Sale for the Medal of Honor Park. We will be having Thanksgiving Dinner at Vista Manor in November.

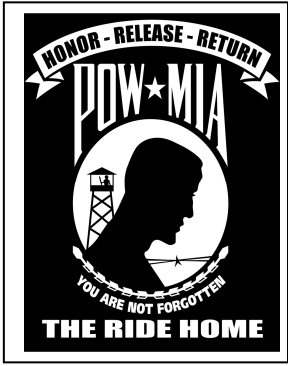
The National Veterans Homeless Support Stand Down will be on October 8, 2016 this year and as usual we will be doing the cooking, along with some members being Escorts and Volunteers.

We will be having nominations for new officers coming up in October with elections in December and looking forward to having new officers for the coming year.

That is all for now. You can always check out our website (usariverrats.com) for updates and upcoming events.

If you would like more information, or would like to consider membership in our organization, please feel free to contact any officer listed below.

President	Al “Big Al” Diaz	321-863-0575
1 st Vice	Richard “Woodchuck” Gililand	321-636-5538
2 nd Vice	Bill “Chapy” Chapman	321-403-4518
Treasurer	Al “Gunner” Dudley	321-258-3098
Secretary	Michelle “Screamer” Wakefield	321-323-4382
Chaplain	Tracy “Woody” Rac	321-684-1805
Quarter Master	Dot “Hot Dot” Howe	321-613-2005
Historian	Rosemary “Rosebud” Diaz	321-403-5875
Sr Sgt @ Arms	Skip “Grease Monkey	321-431-3352
Sgt @ Arms	Greg “Clueless” Boyle	321-327-4575
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Jerry “Wolverine” Celona	321-431-3352
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Kathy “RC Chopper” Fenocchi	321-243-0306
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Robert “Tailhook” Franklin	321-458-2843
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Linda “Radar” Patricks	321-427-5756
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Bobbie Jo “BAD” Dino	321-302-4781
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Greg “Clueless” Boyle	321-327-4575
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Gordon “Flash” Benson	717-571-3199
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Linda “Clueless 2” Boreske	321-271-6922
SR Advisor	Steve “Scarecrow” Worrell	321-698-0009
Advisor	Al “Gunner” Dudley	321-258-3098
Advisor	Robert “Dustoff” Neitzel	386-527-5445
Advisor	Wayne “Wayneo” Smith	321-698-5689



HONOR-RELEASE -RETURN, Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop Lake Wales, Florida 33859

www.honorreleasereturn.com

The Mission

Working for the repatriation of live American Prisoners of War in any form of captivity world-wide. To devote all available manpower and resources of the organization to build political support through education and attain mission favorable outcomes. To craft and pass effective legislation, gain government action and success in repatriating Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. To act as a catalyst for the POW/MIA community through communication, organization and coordination of efforts to foster common success of all and nurture a universal will to account for all the missing.

The Name

Why the name Honor Release Return? We have come together to take action and restore **honor** to our government by stopping the dishonor and hold them accountable. Our government has abandoned young patriots in captivity and we have come together to gain the **release** of their person alive or their remains and to **return** them to their country, their home and their family. This is our mission and this is our strategy. Truth and honor are our sabers. We will wield them unrelentingly and expertly, no matter how long the fight, until they all come home.

The Reason

Unaccounted for American Military Personal

<u>WWI</u>	<u>WWII</u>	<u>Korea</u>	<u>Cold War</u>	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>War on Terror</u>
3,344	73,677	7,926	126	1,654	6

Our Demands

1. U.S.G. formally request the return of all live Americans who are unaccounted for, in captivity or being detained in any foreign country
2. U.S.G. under take all measures necessary to repatriate all Americans who are unaccounted for, in captivity or being detained in any foreign country.
3. U.S.G. under take all measures necessary to obtain all information held and/or known by foreign governments, groups and individuals concerning all Americans who are now or who have been unaccounted for at any time.
4. All information, in any form regardless of when or how obtained, pertaining to Americans unaccounted for prior to 1991 be declassified and made available for public inspection.
5. Funding of all actions to account for Americans who are unaccounted for be fully funded by the U.S.G.
6. All remains recovered in association with unaccounted for Americans, past, present and future, be identified and/or confirmed using the latest scientific means and that all remains be tested and analyzed for age at death using minimal remains to allow for a 2nd, independent DNA analysis if family members so desire.

It is time for Americans to **STAND** for those who **CANNOT STAND** for themselves.

CONTACT US Together we can make happen!

BOB "Bulldog" Ousley bousley19@comcast.com

Jim "Moe" Moyer moehog@verizon.net



The Vietnam Brotherhood Inc. a Florida chartered Non Profit Corporation but with members Nationally, is committed to provide assistance to Vietnam Veterans and their families as well as work with all other Veterans and their families in the local communities as needed.

Should you have any questions about The Vietnam Brotherhood or like additional information please contact the CEO, Chris "Dai Uy" Bischoff.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1041-MARTIN COUNTY

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1041, Martin County, is comprised of 100% active duty Veterans of the Vietnam era. Almost all are combat veterans and many have disabilities of one form or another from their combat duty. However, we consider ourselves "The Lucky ones". Our mission is to bring honor, respect, and aid to veterans of all eras. We have no payroll, we pay no rent, we give of ourselves to aid other veterans, and nearly 100% of the money we raise goes to fulfill this mission in the local community.

Below are some of the projects we are currently working on or have planned:

Veterans Homeless Prevention Rapid Response Fund:

A fund of money that can be tapped into in a matter of hours to prevent eviction of veterans and their families giving them time to work out a more long term solution and by working with the Martin County Office of Veterans Services.

Long Term Housing for Paralyzed Veterans:

Working with other agencies we hope to remodel single family homes so they are suited for the special needs of physically handicapped veterans.

Memorial Brick Markers:

Working with the City of Stuart to relocate existing Memorial Brick Markers and provide for new Memorial Brick Markers as part of the remodeled Veterans Memorial Park in The City of Stuart we are expanding the number of memorial brick pavers and providing a lasting tribute to those that have served and sacrificed for their country. If you wish to purchase a brick paver to honor and remember a veteran please visit our website to download an application at <http://www.vva1041.org>.



Our mission is to assist veterans with their housing needs while creating a community of support for veterans in transition, with a vision for restoring some of the freedom and independence our veterans sacrificed while defending our country, and enabling them to focus on their family, recovery, and rebuilding their lives. How We Help – We support the City of Palm Bay in its efforts to build and refurbish homes as a departure point for veterans to rebuild their lives, and once again become highly productive members of our community. Empowered by the freedom a mortgage-free and specially adapted home brings, our veteran families can now focus on their recovery and returning to their life's work of serving others.

Who We Serve – We support honorably discharged veterans of all eras. Mortgage free home recipients must have served during Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom and be eligible as a person with special needs as defined in Title XXX Chapter 420.0004 Section 13 of the Florida Statutes.

In addition to the Homes for Warriors project, we also are proud to award an essay scholarship to the spouse or child of any honorably discharged veteran. The scholarship is distributed through the CPT. Carl White Scholarship Program. The scholarship is in the amount of \$500.00. Applications for the scholarship must be received by April 15th each year. The scholarship is designed to be used to help students with their tuition, books, and other academic fees.

To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be a dependent child or spouse of a veteran of the United States Armed Forces. It is not required that the veteran is a paratrooper, but the veteran must have received an honorable discharge from military service. In addition, for an applicant to be considered, they must either have been accepted for admission, or already enrolled in post high school education. This can be in college, a university, a secretarial school, business school or any vocational training school.

The CPT. Carl White Scholarship is good for one year. However, a student may reapply each year and receive the award up to four times. Applicants for the essay scholarship must present educational transcripts, three letters of reference, and a 300-word essay on their goals and desires for the future. Please note, the winners are selected based on their abundant potential to succeed, not on their grade point average. The winner will be notified in May. The award will be paid directly to the educational facility of the applicant's choice.

We encourage all spouses or children of honorably discharged veterans to apply. Please complete the following form and our Scholarship Selection Committee will contact you accordingly. We wish you the best of luck in your endeavors!

Space Coast Paratroopers Association is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Upcoming events and fundraisers include:

4th Annual Never Forget Support the Vets

Date: Saturday, October 1st

Time: 8:30am registration

Location: Merritt Island Moose Lodge- 3150 N. Courtenay PRWY Merritt Island, FL 32953

Cost: \$15 a hand- \$5 additional hand

Palm Bay Moose Riders "Our Family For Their Family" Inaugural Poker Run

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2016

Time: 10am-3pm

Location: Palm Bay Moose 2311 (1355 Malabar Rd. Palm Bay

Cost: Bikes \$10/Riders \$5

Veteran's Prayer Breakfast

Date: Wednesday, November 2nd

Time: 7:30am-9:30am

Location: Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place (200 Rialto Pl, Melbourne, FL 32901)

Cost: \$25 per person

Homes for Warriors Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday, November 12th

Time: 8:00am

Location: Majors Golf Course Bayside Lakes Palm Bay

Cost: \$65 per player/\$130 per two person team (Including Awards Lunch of Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans)

State of Women Veterans Social Media Campaign Launched

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is partnering with Women Veterans Interactive (WVI) to launch a State of Women Veterans' social media campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness of women Veterans' military and societal contributions and provide an avenue for informing women Veterans about the VA benefits they have earned.

"This campaign is a collaborative effort to establish partnerships with nonprofit organizations that advocate and provide assistance on behalf of women Veterans," said Kayla Williams, Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans. "We are elated to be partnering with WVI in this important initiative. The new State of Women Veterans' social media campaign offers another way to connect with women Veterans to raise awareness about VA care and benefits and to encourage collaborative partnerships."

The campaign will conclude over the Veterans Day weekend and will be recognized and featured during a WVI- sponsored event in November.

THE MEANING OF COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

Have you ever been in a cemetery and saw coins laying upon a tombstone? There is actually a reason behind it. Read more, so you can know what each coin means, and maybe as you visit a fallen soldier you can leave a coin to honor them too. These meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin:

A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased soldier's family know that somebody stopped by to pay their respect. Leaving a penny means you visited.

A nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained at boot camp together. If you served with the soldier, you leave a dime. A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that soldier was killed.

So what happens to the coins after Memorial Day? It is collected and the money is used for cemetery maintenance, the cost of burial for soldiers, or the care for indigent soldiers.

Supposedly the tradition became popular here in the United States during the Vietnam War. It is believed it was a way to show respect without getting into an uncomfortable political discussion about a war that was very controversial.

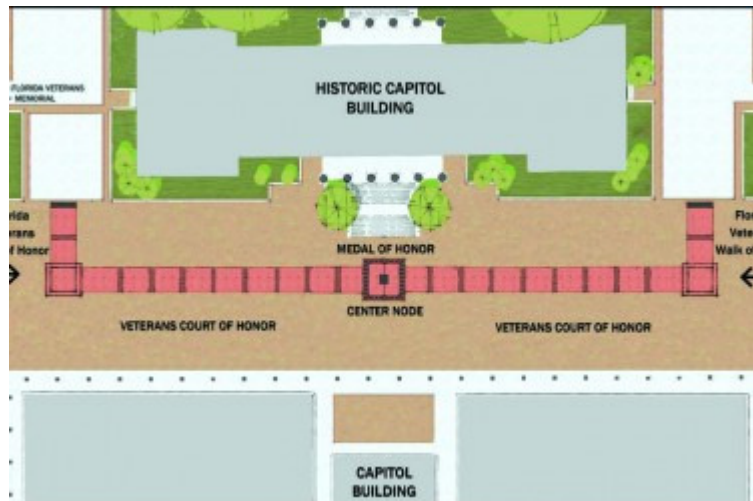
In general, however, this tradition can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire. It was a way to give a buddy some spending money for the hereafter.

Florida Veterans Walk of Honor

On November 12, 2014, Governor Scott placed the first memorialized engraved brick into the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor.

The Florida Veterans Walk of Honor measures 12 feet wide by 500 feet long, and connects both the old and new Capitol buildings, the House and Senate Buildings and the future home of the Florida Veterans Memorial.

The Walk of Honor will consist of engraved bricks which are being offered to veterans, families and friends of veterans. The proceeds from the sale of the engraved bricks will go to the Florida Veterans Foundation to help further the Foundation's mission to Serve, Support and Advocate for our Florida Veterans. To order your brick, go to their website <http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org/florida-veterans-walk-of-honor> and download the [Walk of Honor Brick Order Form](#) or to submit online, click the Walk of Honor image in the sidebar to open the [online brick order form](#).



Walk of Honor Brick Order

There are presently 1.5 million veterans residing in the State of Florida. Your engraved brick will be placed on a first come, first serve basis. Therefore, the first 25,000 engraved bricks will be the ones placed in the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor at our State Capitol.

- Florida Veterans Medal Of Honor – \$200.00
- Florida Veterans Walk of Honor – \$150.00
- Florida Veterans Court of Honor – \$125.00

U S Army's depleted uranium licensing saga highlights post-conflict contradictions

It has taken a decade but the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has finally granted the US Army a license to possess and manage DU weapon residues at 15 US installations. However the domestic regulatory framework imposed by the NRC stands in stark contrast to the absence of obligations governing the management of contamination caused by US military actions in Iraq and elsewhere.

This week's decision [<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2016/16-014.pdf>] by the NRC to grant the US Army a possession and management license for 15 of its installations known to be contaminated by DU brings to an end a long-running saga that began in 2006 with the discovery of DU on two ranges on Hawaii - Schofield Barracks, Oahu and the Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii.

The DU discovered in 2006 was from M101 spotting rounds – these were used in training for the 1960s Davey Crockett tactical nuclear weapon system. As the system was classified, few records were kept of which installations received the rounds and where they were fired. Each M101 round was 92% DU and 8% molybdenum, which equated to 190g of DU per round; the rounds were fused and also contained white phosphorous. In all, 75,318 rounds were originally produced. Of these, 44,000 were eventually demilitarized by firing them [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1999-06-09/pdf/99-14581.pdf>] into a sand box where they were produced at the Lake City Ammunition Factory Missouri, a further 2,000 were used for quality testing. The whereabouts of the remaining 29,300 rounds was something of a mystery to the US Army – but equated to around 5,560kg of DU.

The Army clashes with the NRC and campaigners

The US Army initially denied that DU was present on Hawaii but eventually admitted its presence after concerned local activists undertook their own radiation monitoring campaign in 2007. In 2008, Hawaii County Council passed a resolution requiring that the Army cease all live firing at the range due to concerns that the explosions would mobilize contaminated soil and allow it to be blown off site. The resolution also called for the clean-up of the ranges.

The Army grudgingly submitted an application [https://archive.org/stream/ArmyDuLicenseApplicationForCleanUpOfForgotten1960sM101DavyCrockett/DuLicenseApplicationForDavyCrockett_djvu.txt] to the NRC in 2008, all the while maintaining that: *“While the U.S. Army has not determined that the Atomic Energy Act (Act) requires a license in this situation, we are providing this application to promote cooperation between our agencies and to the extent required by the Act.”* The NRC took a different view,

and would later find that: *“The Army has enough DU at these sites that, under the Atomic Energy Act and NRC regulations, it is required to have a possession license.”*

The license for the two Hawaiian ranges was eventually granted in 2013 [<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1329/ML13297A239.pdf>], but not before years of wrangling between the Army and the NRC. Throughout the period, the Army dissembled, bluffed and frequently found itself facing the ire of the NRC, as well as sustained pressure from Hawaiian politicians and environmental and community activists. Even when the license was granted, it did not give the Army *carte blanche*, instead the license provides for *“...NRC inspections and requires the Army to implement a radiation safety plan and a physical security plan. The Army must also provide an air and plant sampling plan for NRC review within 90 days. The NRC must review sampling results before deciding whether to lift existing restrictions on activities that would disturb the DU. The license does not authorize the Army to use the DU or decommission the sites without additional review and approval by the NRC.”*

By this time, the question of the whereabouts of the remaining M101 rounds had resulted in the Army having to seek to expand the license to cover a further 13 installations following an internal review: Forts Benning and Gordon (Georgia); Forts Campbell and Knox (Kentucky); Fort Carson (Colorado); Fort Hood (Texas); Joint Base Lewis-McChord/Yakima Training Center (Washington); Fort Bragg (North Carolina); Fort Polk (Louisiana); Fort Sill (Oklahoma); Fort Jackson (South Carolina); Fort Hunter Liggett (California); Fort Wainwright (Alaska); Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (New Jersey); and Fort Riley (Kansas).

Contrasting regulations

As with the initial agreement on the Hawaiian installations, the license agreed by the NRC this week requires the Army to submit to inspections and periodic reviews. The license also requires the Army to meet NRC health and environmental standards and it limits the amount of DU that can be held at each site. Any work to decommission or clean-up sites would require further approval from the NRC.

The contrast with the strict US domestic regulatory framework for DU contaminated sites and the US military's response to DU following its use in conflict could not be starker. The US has consistently opposed measures to increase transparency over DU use at the UN. It has objected to any suggestion that there might be health or environmental risks associated with its use in conflict. The US and others are also of the view that they are under no obligation to deal with contamination and that it remains the sole responsibility of the country affected. Following the 2003 Iraq War, the US authorities were reluctant [<http://www.bandedpleteduranium.org/en/laid-to-waste>] to extend any decontamination work to beyond their own bases, or share information on target locations with the

Iraqi government. This Janus-like view extends to risk awareness [<http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/hazard-aware>], where the measures now adopted by many militaries to protect their own troops are rarely extended to the civilian population.

These views and practices, which utterly reject the radiation protection and management frameworks that exist for domestic DU use, continue to exist because of the lack of formal obligations for the post-conflict management of DU contamination. Time and again, DU-affected countries lack the financial and technical capacity to manage DU effectively – even to their own national standards, let alone those applicable domestically for the countries responsible for using the weapons. This glaring disparity leaves communities at risk of exposure and places an unwelcome burden on states recovering from conflict.

The saga of the M101 contamination should serve as a reminder of the contradictory and often hypocritical approach taken by the states that employ DU weapons – and of the challenge that the use of DU weapons poses to fundamental international radiation protection norms.

Notes:

The formal record of the NRC license decision is available here: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-28/pdf/2016-06947.pdf>

The most toxic war in history - 25 years later

Quarter of a century on from the first widespread use of depleted uranium munitions, have lessons been learned about the need to protect civilians, military personnel and the environment from conflict pollution and the toxic remnants of war?

This past year marked the 25th anniversary of the start of Operation Desert Storm, the combat phase of the Gulf War. Precipitated by Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait in August 1990, the conflict was the first to see the widespread use of depleted uranium (DU) ammunition. US and UK forces subsequently acknowledged firing a combined 286,000kg of DU – the vast majority of which was fired by US Abrams and M60 tanks, and A10 and Harrier aircraft.

The decision to deploy the radioactive and chemically toxic weapons, which had been under development since the 1950s as a response to Cold War concerns over defeating Soviet armored divisions, would prove highly contentious in the following years. Once the media [[high-tech-war-machine\] and military's enthusiasm for what was promoted as a new paradigm in high-tech low-casualty warfare began to subside, veterans \[<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/arison/gws.htm>\], journalists \[<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/something-nasty-in-the-gulf-1572630.html>\] and civil society \[<http://www.wise-uranium.org/dmtp.html>\] organizations in the US and UK increasingly began to challenge the general conduct of the war, and the use of DU in particular.](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/1991-02-03/the-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

This was largely to be expected, and had been anticipated just six months before the conflict in a US military study [<http://www.dtic.mil/get-tr-doc/pdf?AD=ADA395638>] on the environmental and health risks of DU: *“Public relations efforts are indicated, and may not be effective due to the public's perception of radioactivity. Fielding and combat activities present the potential for adverse international reaction.”* Those wishing to continue to use DU weapons recognized that they would need to plan vigorous public relations efforts in order to justify their continued use, a pattern that continues today. Following 1991, this saw DU branded as the “Silver Bullet” – a weapon capable of such astonishing feats, and so militarily important, that any concerns over its potential health or environmental impacts should be disregarded.

“The most toxic war in history”

As increasing numbers of veterans began to report post-deployment health problems in the years that followed, attention began to focus on the overall Gulf War Syndrome [<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a465603.pdf>]-toxicity of the conflict. From oil fires and pesticides, to the use and disposal of chemical weapons, the Gulf War was increasingly viewed as “the most toxic in history”. Whether it was – conflict pollution had been developing in concert with the mechanization of warfare and industrialization throughout the 20th Century, or whether this just represented a growing awareness of the linkages between chemicals and health is a matter of debate. Nevertheless, questions were asked about whether possible exposures to a suite of chemicals could be responsible for the ailments reported by veterans. These ranged from birth defects to chronic fatigue, and led to the emergence of the catch all term As was the case with military personnel, systems to track and record potential environmental exposures for communities in conflict were, and remain, largely absent. Mechanisms for warning civilians about possible environmental exposures are largely non-existent, in spite of the numerous pollution risks found in contemporary conflicts. Systems to follow up possible exposures in order to determine health effects in the medium to long-term are almost unheard of. What civilian epidemiological or exposure research [[http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)62599-4.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(13)62599-4.pdf)] there is, is often undertaken independently with minimal resources, as a result studies [<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13623699.2015.1020103>] may be temporally or geographically limited, which can leave methodologies open to criticism.

The new norm?

The pollution generated in 1991 affected military personnel and public and environmental health across the Persian Gulf area [<http://www1.american.edu/ted/kuwait.htm>], with smoke plumes travelling 1,600km and oil slicks affecting 440km of coastline, but it was not unique by contemporary standards. The conflict in Ukraine [<http://www.trwn.org/ukraine-conflict-24-months-of-urgent-environmental-recovery-will-cost-30m/>] is also thought to have produced significant pollution, due to the fighting taking place in one of the most heavily industrialized regions on Earth. Elsewhere, current Russian and Coalition bombing operations [http://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2016/01/fire-oil-collateral-damage-airstrikes-isis-oil-facilities/?utm_content=bufferf1202&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer] against Islamic State controlled oil facilities in Syria have also caused widespread air, water and soil pollution. This is also likely to be the case for the conflict as a Libya [<http://www.trwn.org/new-desk-study-on-syria-identifies-pollution-risks-to-civilians/>], which has seen half of Syria's housing stock pulverized to rubble and fighting in and around industrial areas. From Iraq, to policy on their use. Gulf War veterans are still seeking

Rather less progress has been made for the civilians living in environments polluted by conflict, and much more could and should be done to gather data on environmental risks and integrate it into humanitarian assistance and public health systems. As for environmental protection in times of war, little has changed since 1991. For that reason Ukraine deserves praise for sponsoring a resolution [<http://mfa.gov.ua/en/article/open/id/4098>] on the necessity of greater environmental protection and more effective response ahead of this May's UN Environment Assembly [<http://www.unep.org/unea2/>].

Last year, the Toxic Remnants of War Project completed a study [<http://www.toxicremnantsofwar.info/new-report-environmental-mechanics-re-imagining-post-conflict-environmental-assistance/>] that examined whether a more formalized mechanism of post-conflict environmental assistance could not only help address wartime environmental damage when it does occur, but also help to strengthen norms against the most damaging military behaviors. For inspiration, we looked to the treaties on land mines and cluster bombs but also to the norms and principles established by international environmental and human rights law. Although primarily a think piece, it clearly demonstrated that elements of these systems are readily transferrable to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts – if the political will could be mobilized to address the topic in a meaningful way.

Building the political will for the systemic change that could overhaul the existing ad-hoc responses to wartime environmental damage, and challenge the weakness of current protection under international humanitarian law is a significant challenge, but if we fail to do so we will be

ignoring the lessons from 1991 and from many conflicts since.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

POW/MIA Facts Sheets

WORLD WAR II

Status of U.S. - China Cooperation

In April 2016, DPAA and the China Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Office of Military Cooperation (OIMC), PLA Archives Department conducted talks reviewing upcoming missions and continued information sharing in FY16/17.

DPAA and China MFA and China MND/PLA Archives Department conducted working level talks to propose two field activities in China during 2015 in Beijing, China, on April 13, 2015.

In September 2014, the PLA Archives provided DPMO with its sixth annual research report covering the period from Sept. 1, 2013 to Aug. 31, 2014.

In May 2012, the Department of Defense (DoD) and U.S. Embassy staff met with Chinese Archivists and signed an updated technical arrangement renewing cooperation for another three years on sharing information about American military personnel missing in conflicts involving China.

From 2009-2014 the PLA submitted annual reports to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel office (DPMO), which contained information on World War II (WWII), Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War losses. DPMO has posted all six reports on DPMO's Internet page.

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and China's Ministry of National Defense Department and People's Liberation Army (PLA) agreed that Chinese archivists would review military holdings for information related to American missing before, during, and after the Korean War, and provide relevant information to DPMO. The U.S.-China archival research cooperation arrangement remains in effect.

Department of Defense Personal Accounting Cooperation Goals for 2016

Exchange information and maintain dialogue with the Embassy of Japan in Washington, Ministry of Health, Labor,

and Welfare (MHLW) officials, and select Japanese non-governmental organizations regarding U.S. and Japanese World War II personnel accounting efforts.

Exchange information and maintain close coordination with U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) on all personnel accounting plans and activities involving Japan.

Engage Japanese MHLW officials about select U.S. World War II MIA cases as required.

As required, request permission to investigate, locate, and recover remains of missing American servicemen that are located in Japan or on Japanese territory. Continue to assist Japan in its World War II (WWII) remains recovery efforts in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Background

Following the end of WWII, the U.S. Army Graves Registrations Service conducted an extensive search for nearly 54,000 personnel missing in the Pacific and the Chinese-Burma-India Theaters of Operation. As required, the USPACOM Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) searches for and recovers WWII losses on Japanese territory.

The Government of Japan (GOJ), through the MHLW, and select non-governmental organizations (NGOs) conducts search and recovery operations throughout the Asia Pacific region. The MHLW coordinates all remains recovery activities on Iwo Jima with Japan's Ministry of Defense.

In the past, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) hosted many official Japanese delegation visits to the U.S. In addition, JPAC has trained Ministry of Defense and police personnel in JPAC methodology. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) will continue to engage Japan's MHLW as DPMO and JPAC have done in the past

USS CALIFORNIA

At the onset of Pearl Harbor attack, USS California occupied berth F-3 on "battleship row" along the shore of Ford Island. The California received two torpedo hits and one bomb hit. The attack caused massive damage to the ship, but it did not capsize. It sank over a period of three days, coming to rest upright on the harbor floor.

102 crew members of California died during the attack; 20 sailors from the battleship remain unresolved today.

The sailors and marines who died aboard the California were initially buried in Halawa Naval Cemetery and Nuuanu Cemetery, both located on the island of Oahu. The burials took place between Dec. 7, 1941 and March 9, 1943.

The burials in Halawa and Nuuanu consisted of individual burials of single sets of remains.

50 men were initially buried as known remains.

In 1947, the Pearl Harbor casualties were disinterred and removed to the Schofield Barracks Central Identification Laboratory. Identification processing by the laboratory resulted in an additional 32 positive identifications made from among remains initially buried as "unknown."

Today there are 23 burials of unknowns associated with the USS California in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

This number is higher than the number of unresolved cases for the ship, making it likely that crew members from other ships in the area died aboard the California.

Unknown files pertaining to these burials indicate the presence of dentition in the majority of cases, and also of skeletal remains from which stature, race, and age determinations might be made, should they be considered for current day disinterment and identification.

Recent consideration of these unknowns indicates that further work to collect and access medical records of the missing individuals would need to be done to make progress on identifying these unknowns, and initial comparisons of the records at hand show that the process of matching up those still missing with those buried as unknowns is neither straightforward nor simple.

Files for these unknowns do not indicate the same severe commingling of remains to be found among the unknowns of USS Oklahoma.

USS WEST VIRGINIA

At the onset of the Pearl Harbor attack, USS West Virginia occupied berth F-6 outboard of USS Tennessee on "battleship row" along the shore of Ford Island. The West Virginia received multiple torpedo hits along the port side as well as bomb hits from aircraft overhead. The attack caused massive

damage to the ship, but it did not capsize. West Virginia sank, coming to rest upright on the harbor floor.

106 crew members of West Virginia died during the attack; 25 sailors from the battleship remain unresolved today.

The sailors who died aboard the West Virginia were initially buried in Halawa Naval Cemetery and Nuuanu Cemetery, both located on the island of Oahu. The burials took place between December 8, 1941 and November 24, 1942.

The burials in Halawa and Nuuanu consisted almost entirely of individual burials of single sets of remains, with only two burials of unknowns, X-126 and X-168, having burial records indicating that two and five remains, respectively, were buried under those numbers.

36 men were initially buried as known remains.

In 1947, Pearl Harbor casualties were disinterred and removed to the Schofield Barracks Central Identification Laboratory. Identification processing by the laboratory resulted in an additional 45 positive identifications made from among remains initially buried as "unknown."

Today there are 38 burials of unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific which have association to the USS West Virginia.

This number is higher than the number of unresolved cases for the ship, making it likely that crew members from other ships in the area died aboard West Virginia.

Unknown files pertaining to these burials indicate the presence of dentition in most of the cases, and also of skeletal remains from which stature, race, and age might be determined, should they be considered for disinterment and identification.

Recent consideration of these unknowns indicates that further work to collect and access medical records of the missing individuals would need to be done to make progress on identifying these unknowns, and initial comparisons of the records at hand show that the process of matching up those still missing with those buried as unknowns is neither straightforward nor simple.

Files for these unknowns do not indicate the same severe commingling of remains to be found among the unknowns of USS Oklahoma.

KOREAN WAR

Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula

Korean War Personnel Accounting Strategy – main avenues of pursuit are:

Resolution of the Live Prisoner Issue. Finding live Americans is the highest priority of our accounting process. Department of Defense (DoD), with the full support of the U.S. intelligence community, aggressively investigates all credible reports and sightings of alleged American survivors of the Korean War living in North Korea. Since 1995, more than 25,000 defectors from North Korea have been screened for information concerning Americans possibly living in the North. To date, this effort has produced no useful information concerning live Americans. Most reports of live Americans in North Korea pertain to six known U.S. military defectors. Of the six defectors, only one remains alive in North Korea. Four are reported to have died in the North, and one, Sergeant Jenkins, was returned to U.S. control in 2004.

Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in North Korea. JFAs consist of investigative and recovery operations. The U.S. conducted 33 JFAs in North Korea from 1996 through 2005. The U.S. government pays fair and reasonable compensation for the efforts associated with recovering remains, but does not pay for remains or information.

Identification of remains already recovered and under U.S. control. Unidentified Korean War remains are located at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and at JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Efforts are underway to identify these remains using DNA and other methods.

Investigative and remains recovery operations in South Korea and China. Approximately 950 remains are located in South Korea and fewer than 20 are known to be in China.

Korean War era archives. DoD continues to conduct archival research in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, Eastern Europe, and China. We have also conducted research in North Korean archives, and currently we have an arrangement with China for the Peoples Liberation Army to search its military records for information on U.S. personnel. Chinese Communist Forces administered and operated the POW camps in North Korea for most of the war.

Oral history programs in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, and China. DoD periodically interviews Korean War veterans in the U.S., South Korea, Russia and China. These efforts are

designed to uncover information that will help determine the circumstances of loss for missing servicemen; build our knowledge base of Korean War loss incidents; and gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements.

Cold War Loss-Sea of Japan

On April 15, 1969, North Korean fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 aircraft carrying a crew of 31 over the Sea of Japan. U.S. Navy ships recovered two remains; 29 U.S. service members are still unaccounted-for as a result of this incident.

Major Remains Concentrations in North Korea

POW March Routes and U.N. Cemeteries

Background: Among losses on the ground, most men died in major battles or as prisoners of war (POW) in permanent or recurrently used camps. Others died along the wayside or in small villages, and air losses occurred all over North Korea. Many of the air losses also occurred in proximity to battle zones or the roads connecting them. So it is possible that major concentrations of human remains are located in these areas. Of more than 7,800 men lost and unrecovered from the Korean War, about 5,300 were lost in North Korea, and most of these men were part of well defined, geographical populations.

POW Camps: The locations of the Apex Camps operated by the North Koreans are believed to hold more than 300 remains, and peninsular Camp 5 on the south bank of the Yalu River, is believed to hold another 550. The main Death Valley Camp, also known as Pukchin-Tarigol, is believed to add 350. Most of the men who died at these sites passed during the winter of 1950-51, before food could be delivered reliably and shelter was haphazard at best. By the next winter, conditions were far better and deaths were far fewer. There were many other POW deaths as well, but these were along the wayside or in smaller villages, of which Valley #1 Camp is an example. The villages of the Suan Camps may contain another 225 war dead from several recurrent movements, nearly all being exhausted men who could go no farther north in their marches.

Battle Zones: The combined Unsan and Chongchon River battle area contains approximately 1,600 dead, including concentrations along the Kuryong River, and at Unsan, Kunu-ri, and Kujang. Our recovery teams have worked at several sites within this general area. Farther east, in the Chosin Reservoir campaign, almost 1,200 men are still unaccounted-for. Most of these were at sites along the east side of the Reservoir, but there were also substantial losses at Yudam-ni and along the road south from the Reservoir to Hungnam.

United Nations Military Cemeteries (UNMCs): U.S. and United Nations (U.N.) forces buried many of their own battlefield dead in temporary cemeteries at several locations across North Korea. As allied forces withdrew, these sites were abandoned to advancing Chinese forces. Following the war, many human remains were turned over by the Chinese and North Koreans during Operation Glory (details below). Some of the cemeteries were completely evacuated. However, these turnovers were incomplete, and we still hope to gather additional human remains from sites of the UNMCs at Pyongyang, Hungnam, and Koto-ri, as well as from many isolated burials whose locations are known to us.

Operation Glory (and other returns): As required by the Armistice, both sides made an effort to return war dead during September through November of 1954. The Chinese and North Koreans provided a total of 4,167 containers, with an estimated 4,219 human remains, of whom 2,944 are known or believed to be Americans. Generalizing, the figures presented in the slide are “net,” after identifications from these returns have been deducted. This is also true of unilateral remains turnovers by the North Koreans in 1990-94 and in 2007, and our own recovery work in North Korea from 1996-2005.

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ): The present DMZ separates North and South Korea. It is 4,000 meters wide, with half in North Korea and half in South Korea. The center line, the de facto international border, is known as the Military Demarcation Line (MDL). Just over 1,000 men are unrecovered from the generalized DMZ area and nearby buffer zones. The “89” cited in the associated map are specific losses, which U.S. Army Graves Registration Services believed in 1954 could still be recovered.

VIETNAM WAR

Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	Vietnam	Laos	Cambodia	China	Total
Original Missing	1,972	574	90	10	2,646
Repatriated Identified	711	273	41	3	1028
Remaining Missing	1,261	301	49	7	1,618

Progress in Cambodia Field Operations

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) conducts at least one Joint Field Activity (JFA) per fiscal year in Cambodia.

Each JFA involves 25-40 U.S. personnel plus their Cambodian counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30-60 days per JFA.

Recovered remains believed to be those of Americans are transferred to DPAA's Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for identification by forensic anthropologists.

The 51st JFA began January 10 and continued through March 1, 2016. A recovery team excavated sites in Prey Veng and Stung Treng Provinces.

The 52nd JFA is scheduled to begin January 11 and continue through March 14, 2017. A recovery team plans to excavate a site in Ratanakiri Province.

Resolving "Last Known Alive" Cases

Of the original 19 individuals "Last Known Alive" in Cambodia (those who survived or may have survived their loss incident and were either alive on the ground, in captivity, or in immediate proximity to capture, but did not return), DoD has confirmed the death of 10, with nine still unresolved.

Of the 10 whose deaths have been confirmed, the remains of seven have been recovered and identified; efforts continue to recover the remaining three.

U.S. and Vietnamese specialists meet regularly in Hanoi to discuss Last Known Alive cases in areas of Cambodia controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

Research and Investigations

A U.S. POW/MIA investigator is stationed in Phnom Penh full-time. He pursues leads associated with the remaining 49 individuals still unaccounted for in Cambodia.

Witnesses have assisted in identifying recovery sites on Koh Tang, the island associated with the Mayaguez incident. Thirteen of the 18 Americans missing from that incident have been recovered and identified.

U.S. researchers continue to review materials in Cambodian archives. Private researchers studying Khmer Rouge wartime atrocities in Cambodia have also shared relevant information they have uncovered.

Progress in Laos

Field Operations

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) plans to conduct four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) this fiscal year in

Laos. Each JFA involves up to 53 U.S. personnel plus their Lao counterparts. Together, they will work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for periods of between 30 - 45 days per JFA.

Recovered remains believed to be those of Americans are transferred to DPAA's Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for identification by forensic anthropologists.

The 141st JFA began April 30 and continues through June 16, 2016. Recovery teams are excavating sites in Houaphan, Xiang Khouang, and Khammouan Provinces.

The 142nd JFA is scheduled to begin October 22 and continue through December 8, 2016. Recovery teams plan to excavate sites in Khammouan and Savannakhet Provinces.

Resolving "Last Known Alive" Cases

Of the original 81 individuals "Last Known Alive" in Laos (those who survived or may have survived their loss incident and were either alive on the ground, in captivity, or in immediate proximity to capture, but did not return), DoD has confirmed the death of 62, with 19 still unresolved.

Of the 62 whose deaths have been confirmed, the remains of 20 have been located and identified; efforts continue to recover the remaining 42.

U.S. and Vietnamese specialists meet regularly in Hanoi to discuss Last Known Alive cases in areas of Laos controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

Research and Investigations

A U.S. POW/MIA investigator is stationed in Vientiane full-time. He pursues leads associated with the remaining 301 individuals still unaccounted for in Laos.

The Lao have allowed approximately 80 Vietnamese witnesses to participate in investigating 50 cases in trilateral operations during JFAs in Laos. These witnesses have provided significant information that has led to the excavation of several sites and recoveries associated with as many as 20 individuals.

The U.S. completed an archival research arrangement with the Lao in 2007. The initiative, begun in June 2004, did not uncover any information regarding Americans missing in Laos during the war, but the U.S. continues to seek relevant archival records that may still exist.

A Joint Archival Research Team (ART) accessed the Lao National Film Archives and Video Center from 1994 - 1999. The ART reviewed over 18,000 photographs, with only eight depicting U.S. POWs and nine depicting U.S. aircraft wreckage.

Progress in Vietnam

Of the remaining 1,261 Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam, 477 are in a "non-recoverable" category. This means that as a result of rigorous investigation, we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains. On rare occasions, new leads can arise that bring a case back to an active status.

Field Operations

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) plans to conduct four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) this fiscal year in Vietnam. Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days per JFA.

Recovered remains believed to be those of Americans are transferred to DPAA's Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for identification by forensic anthropologists.

The 122nd JFA began February 25 and continued through April 12, 2016. Recovery teams excavated sites in Kontum, Binh Dinh, Dac Lac, Khanh Hoa, and Binh Phuoc Provinces.

The 123rd JFA began May 24 and continued through June 29, 2016. Recovery teams excavated sites in Quang Tri, Quang Nam, and Quang Binh Provinces.

The 124th JFA began August 9 and continues through September 13, 2016. Recovery teams are excavating sites in Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Binh, and Thua Thien-Hue Provinces.

Resolving "Last Known Alive" Cases

Of the original 196 individuals "Last Known Alive" in Vietnam (those who survived or may have survived their loss incident and were either alive on the ground, in captivity, or in immediate proximity to capture, but did not return), DoD has confirmed the death of 174, with 22 still unresolved.

Of the 174 whose deaths have been confirmed, the remains of 51 have been located and identified; efforts continue to recover the remaining 123.

U.S. and Vietnamese specialists meet regularly in Hanoi to discuss Last Known Alive cases in Vietnam, as well as in Cambodia and Laos.

Research and Investigations

U.S. POW/MIA investigators rotate into Hanoi on a continuous basis to pursue leads associated with the remaining 1,261 Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam.

A research effort continues in the Ministry of National Defense (MND) central archives. Since May 2012, Vietnam has turned over policy, strategic, and tactical level archival documents regarding unaccounted for Americans.

In addition to the interviews conducted during JFAs, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have conducted nearly 300 oral history interviews of former and current Vietnamese government and military officials. This program is ongoing.

Since Vietnamese troops occupied portions of Cambodia and Laos during the War, the U.S. asked them to cooperate in investigations there. Ninety-three (93) Vietnamese witnesses have participated in operations in Laos (79) and Cambodia (14); most of them have participated more than once.

VA Announces Several Caregiver Partnerships

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced several new and expanded partnerships to support the VA Caregiver Support Program. The VA Caregiver Support Program supports the often unsung heroes of wounded or ill Veterans – the ones who take care of them. Announcement of the partnerships, made during a summit co-hosted by VA and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. The daylong event, Empowering Hidden Heroes: Pathways to InnoVation, attracted 400 leaders from government, the non-profit sector, private industry, academic and stakeholders from the Veteran and caregiver community.

"VA knows that without family caregivers, many Veterans would not be able to remain in their communities," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald, a speaker during the event. "Caregivers are a force multiplier. They support Veterans in ways that VA cannot—they are essential to the health and well-being of Veterans. We can never thank them enough for what they do, and we will continue to find innovative avenues of support and foster strategic partnerships that provide them with the resources they need to keep doing what they do so well."

The following partnerships were announced:

- Amazon: Together with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Amazon has curated a bookshelf of titles recommended by experts and caregivers. Titles reflect the most current and useful information to support military and Veteran caregivers and their families. Amazon also provided free Kindles to military and Veteran caregivers in attendance. Titles are

available for preview [here](#). Caregivers and consumers can [download Kindle software](#) to enjoy these books on any mobile device.

- Coursera: In 2014, Coursera, an online education platform, teamed up with VA to provide one free education certification to every Veteran and transitioning service member. In 2015, that offer was extended to spouses, and this year, they are expanding the eligibility further to caregivers.
- PsychArmor Institute: A longstanding collaborator with VA, PsychArmor Institute works with nationally recognized subject matter experts to create and deliver online courses tailored to issues related to military and Veteran communities. In conjunction with today's event, PsychArmor released a suite of new free training resources for caregivers of Veterans. (www.PsychArmor.org)
- VetTix: VA has partnered with Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix), a nonprofit organization that provides free tickets to events for current serving military, Veterans and Gold Star families. Vet Tix has provided more than 2.3 million tickets for current serving military, Veterans and Gold Star families to attend nearly 40,000 events valued at over \$87 million since 2008. They currently serve approximately 450,000 Vet Tixers and their families. Through these events, VA and VetTix are exploring ways to encourage service members, families, and friends stay engaged with local communities and reduce stress by attending fun events that everyone can enjoy for a very low delivery fee.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH): VA's Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Assistance program has formed a partnership with The Hotline to provide cross-training resources to Veterans. The Hotline provides 24/7/365 support and referrals for people impacted by domestic violence/intimate partner violence. Through this partnership NDVH will also provide the VA with Veteran-specific usage data from the hotline that will be used to inform VA programs and policies.

VA's Caregiver Support Program began in 2007 and expanded in 2010 to offer a variety of local and national programs including, Building Better Caregivers™; Peer Support Mentoring; Caregiver Self-Care Courses; a national Caregiver Support Line; targeted programs for dementia, stroke and spinal cord injury; Respite; and Home and Community Based Care programs.

For more information about VA Caregiver support programs, visit: www.caregiver.va.gov.

VA Announces \$3.4 Million in Funding to Help the Homeless

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald announced the award of \$3.4 million in grant funding offered through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program to 16 community agencies that provide enhanced services for homeless Veterans with special needs.

The GPD Program promotes the development and provision of supportive housing and services to help homeless Veterans to have stable residences, increase their skills and income, and

achieve independence. Specifically, GPD special need grant funding assists with additional operating costs of transitional housing and services for special need groups such as women, chronically mental ill, frail elderly, terminally ill, and those with minor dependents.

"GPD Special Need Grants exemplify VA's response to the wide range of needs of subpopulations of homeless Veterans," said VA Secretary McDonald. "These 16 grants strengthen the continuum of VA services to help the most vulnerable Veterans become stably housed and achieve greater self-determination."

As a result of these and other efforts, the number of U.S. Veterans experiencing homelessness has been cut nearly in half since 2010. As of September 16, 2016, 29 communities and two states have confirmed and publicly announced that they have effectively ended Veteran homelessness, serving as models for others across the nation.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless. Community organizations seeking details and/or more information may visit VA's National Grant and Per Diem Program website

Wreaths Across America Launches 2016 Campaign

THIS YEARS CEREMONY WHICH IS TAKING PLACE DECEMBER 17th THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

REMEMBER *our fallen U.S. veterans.*

HONOR *those who serve.*

TEACH *your children the value of freedom*

Volunteers Will Place 225,000 Holiday Wreaths at Each Veteran's Head Stone in Arlington National Cemetery; Wreaths to Travel from Maine to Virginia via Convoy of 50 Long-Haul Tractor-Trailers

Wreaths Across America goal is to honor every veteran buried at Arlington National Cemetery. This year the organization's National Remembrance Ceremony at Arlington will take place on Saturday, Dec.17, 2016. During the day, thousands of volunteers will place a holiday wreath and hold a brief moment of silence at each veteran's head stone — 225,000 in total. To fulfill its mission, Wreaths Across America seeks to significantly expand sponsorships and wreath donations by mid-November.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 by the Worcester family, owners of the Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. The wreath-laying effort began with a simple act of patriotism when co-owner of the Worcester Wreath Company, Morrill Worcester, donated 5,000 evergreen wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery in 1992. Today, the annual pilgrimage from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade with 50 long-haul tractor trailers from major sponsors making the week-long journey. "It is our great honor to place a holiday wreath on every head stone at Arlington to ensure that all of those buried on this hallowed ground are uniquely acknowledged and remembered for sacrificing their lives to protect our freedoms," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "For this reason, we are committed to coordinating this parade, creating and distributing the wreaths and securing the logistical support necessary to successfully execute an event of this scale. Our hope is that veterans across the country will view this event as a symbol of the American people's profound appreciation."

The parade will stop at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach — in keeping with the organization's mission to teach younger generations about the value of their freedom and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms.

This year, including the effort at Arlington, Wreaths Across America will distribute 400,000 wreaths nationwide, providing support for memorials in all 50 states, including special services at Valley Forge Military Academy, Pearl Harbor, Bunker Hill, Charleston Naval Shipyard, and a wreath for every victim of 9-11 in New York City, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa.

Currently, there are 33 cemeteries throughout the State of Florida that partake in this event.

To make a donation to this program, for more information, or to locate a local ceremony to participate in, their web address is:
<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>

History of Wreaths Across America

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career in business, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their Country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a

surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's Veterans. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery, a section which had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual "Veterans Honor Parade" that travels the east coast in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual Veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple:

Remember. Honor. Teach.

In 2008 over 300 locations held wreath laying

ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated.

December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day".

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond. We were able to include ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. We accomplished this with help from 2047 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands.

Our goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was accomplished in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.

The wreath laying is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. Our annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

Wreaths Across America also conducts several programs to honor our Veterans, including our popular "Thanks a Million" campaign which distributes cards to people all over the country to give Veterans a simple "thank you" for their service. We participate in Veterans' events throughout the year, and have a Veteran liaison on staff to work with local Veterans organizations.

WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. We offer learning tools, interactive media projects, and opportunities for youth groups to participate in our events. We also work to create opportunities to connect "the Greatest Generation" with the "Generation of Hope". The inspirational stories of our World War II Veterans must be passed on to the leaders of the future.

Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of volunteers, active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry. We thank them for working with us to remember the men and women who served our country, honor our military and their families, and teach our children about our freedom and those who protect it.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

What is a
VETERANS' WREATH?

A veterans' wreath is a symbol of
HONOR, RESPECT and VICTORY.

10 BALSAM BOUQUETS = **10 SPECIAL QUALITIES**
comprising each veterans' wreath that our veterans embody

- THEIR **FAITH** IN GOD
- THEIR **LOVE** FOR ONE ANOTHER
- THEIR **STRENGTH** WORK ETHIC, & CHARACTER
- THEIR **HONESTY** & INTEGRITY
- THEIR **HUMILITY**, SELFLESSNESS, & MODESTY
- THEIR **AMBITIONS** & ASPIRATIONS
- THEIR **OPTIMISM** FOR AMERICA
- THEIR **CONCERN** FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
- THEIR **PRIDE** IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES

10. THEIR HOPES & DREAMS
THAT DIDN'T ALWAYS COME TRUE, BUT LEFT THEM WITH NO REGRETS

- Evergreens = **LONGEVITY & ENDURANCE**
- Red Bow = **GREAT SACRIFICE**
- Forest Scent = **PURITY & SIMPLICITY**
- Circular Shape = **ETERNITY**

“ THIS YEAR, WHEN YOU PLACE A WREATH ON A VETERAN'S GRAVE, you will know it is not just a wreath. It's *your* personal gift to an American hero, and you'll swell with pride and have a tear in your eye knowing you've done something very, very special. God bless our veterans and God bless America. ”
—MORILLA WOODLATER, FOUNDER OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

REMEMBER, HONOR AND TEACH. Don't say "I should have." Say "I did."

MAKE YOUR OWN
Order our DIY wreath kit at bit.ly/DIYWreath

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

OVER 900 LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE:

- See more at:
<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/about/history/#sthas.h.JcGklqB6.dpuf>

Military Addressing Tips
Make sure your mail reaches our troops

Our troops look forward to receiving your letters and packages. That's why it's important to make sure your mail gets there, to the right person,

in the right place.

The Department of Defense has issued the following guidelines for addressing your mail to military and civilian personnel deployed overseas

1. **Use the service member's full name.** The Department of Defense cancelled the [Any Service Member program](#) so mail must be addressed to someone specific.
2. **Include the unit and APO/FPO/DPO** (Air/Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office) address with the nine-digit ZIP Code™ (if one is assigned). [Click-N-Ship®](#) customers should be advised that the Postal Service and the Military will continue to add and update valid APO/FPO addresses for your online labels.
3. **Include a return address.**
4. **For packages, print on one side only** with the recipient's address in the lower right portion or print a postage-paid label online with [Click-N-Ship®](#). (Please note that ZIP Codes 093XX and 964XX are currently unavailable for electronic labels)

What special precautions should I use when packaging overseas military mail?

Following these precautions will safeguard your package on the way to its final destination:

- 1 Place the mailing address inside the parcel on a separate piece of paper.
- 2 Use a box that is constructed to conform to the contents you are sending.
- 3 Ensure the weight of the items in the box is evenly distributed.
- 4 Add packing material on the inside if any portion of the box sags or is easily depressed.
- 5 Use packaging tape for wrapping the outside of the box. Do not wrap with string.
- 6 Cross out or cover excess markings or printing to prevent your box from being misssent.
- 7 Enclose all personal hygiene items, such as deodorant, lotion, or shampoo, in a sealable bag.
- 8 Place all perishable items, such as cookies, chips, etc., in a plastic container.
- 9 Do not mail liquids of any kind, especially carbonated drinks, which can explode during transit.

Military Care Package Mailing Kit

Since Priority Mail service supplies are the packaging of choice for families preparing care packages for service members overseas, the USPS has created a "Mili-kit" based on the items most frequently requested by the **military**.

The kit contains:

- Three (3) each of flat rate boxes O-FRB1 and O-FRB2
- Two (2) each of Cube boxes OBOX7
- Address labels - Label # 228: 8 each
- Address labels - Label # 106-A: 1 each
- Customs FORM 2976-A: 8 EA.
- Customs FORM Envelope 2976-E: 8 EA.

To order the kit, call 800-610-8734. Guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops can be found at usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-guidelines.htm. [Click here](#) to order flat-rate boxes featuring the "America Supports You" logo.

1. Choose your language ("1" is English, "2" is Spanish).
2. Choose option 1 (it states it is for Express Mail service, Priority Mail or Global Express Guaranteed).
3. When you reach a live agent, request "**CAREKIT04**."
4. Please allow 7-10 days for delivery.

Note: These are free supplies, postage must be affixed.

Additionally, you can find guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops at www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/.

Holiday Dates for Military Mail Calculated for December 25, 20156

Military Mail Addressed To and From	Priority Mail Express Military Service (PMEMS) ¹	First-Class Mail Letters and Cards	Priority Mail	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) ²	Space Available Mail (SAM) ³	Standard Post
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec-15	Dec-10	Dec-8	Dec 1	Nov-23	Nov-5
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec-1	Dec-1	Dec 1	Nov-23	Nov-5
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec-15	Dec-8	Dec-8	Dec 1	Nov-23	Nov-5
APO/FPO AA ZIP 340	Dec-15	Dec-8	Dec-8	Dec 1	Nov-23	Nov-5
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec-15	Dec-8	Dec-8	Dec 1	Nov-23	Nov-5

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COALITION?

There are many benefits to join the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition. A voice of many is heard above a voice of one. The coalition meets quarterly at various locations in the State of Florida and we discuss and disseminate information pertaining to veterans and their benefits. **We also are represented on the of the board Florida Veteran Council which helps**

determine policies in the State
To obtain information regarding joining the coalition either as an Organization, or an individual, please visit our website at VVOF.ORG.

If you or your organization is already a member of the coalition, and there has been a change in officers, please immediately advise the coalition of these changes, including mailing addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers so we may keep you up-to-date with all pertinent information.

FAIR USE NOTICE: This newsletter contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. The Vietnam and ALL Veterans of Florida, Inc. are making such material available in our efforts to advance

understanding of: POW/MIA, Military, Veterans, Health, democracy, and scientific issues, etc.

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<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>

All inquiries, questions or comments may be directed to the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All articles printed in our newsletters are strictly the opinion of the submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition or its member organizations. Updated September 17, 2006



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL



About Our Wall

Our Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, it stands six feet tall at the apex and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. The Memorial Wall is sponsored by The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB). Work to build our Wall was started in April of 2005. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall was completed and first shown to the public April 24, 2006.

This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall also allows people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town, who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

The names on The Wall were painstakingly researched from five different data bases and cross-referenced with the Department of Informational and Organizational Reports (DIOR) in Washington, DC, and is one of the most correct and up-to-date traveling wall in the country.

Feel free to take a look at our website www.travelingwall.us, read about what we have to offer. Please contact us with any questions you might have in regards to The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to your town.

Copyright The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall 2006-07

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NEWS PLEASE EXPEDITE