



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

# KOREAN/COLD WAR ANNUAL GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

*Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023*



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# Mission and Strategic Perspectives

Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA

*Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023*



- 30% budget increase over next 5 years – most of it against ops
- More and stronger collaboration with South Korea
- No communications from North Korea since March 2019
- 23% of Korean War Unknowns identified
- US-ROK exploring trilateral opportunities
- Strained relations with Russia & China restrict activities, but . . .





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# Operations & Initiatives

**Col Matt Brannen, USMC**  
Deputy Director for Operations

*Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023*



- **Accounted for 2 of 128 (126 still unaccounted for)**
  - Latvia IT-P(U) mission planned for Q3FY24
- **China**
  - Jan 2021: People's Liberation Army Archives investigated one Cold War case and shared their findings w/ DPAA
  - Continuing to pursue information from PLA-A via DoD's Defense Policy Coordination Talks
- **Russia**
  - Conditions-based execution of in-person Commission related activities
  - Research continues in the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense



# Korean War Accounting

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- **Accounted for 664 (as of 8 Aug 23) of 8,157 unaccounted for; 7,493 unaccounted for**
- **Disinter 572 of 866 unknown graves from the Punchbowl**
  - Over 200 IDs from Punchbowl Unknowns
  - Phase 5 (of 7) planned to start in October 2023
- **Strongest and most extensive collaboration is with the ROK (MND and MAKRI)**
  - DPAA-MAKRI conducted 1st joint investigation in DMZ in Summer 2021 (Hill 111); proposing joint excavation fall 2023 (Hill 111)
  - 2021 – 2023 Repatriations between U.S. and ROK
    - 2021: 6 U.S. / 68 ROK remains; 2023: 1 U.S. / 7 ROK remains



# Korean War Operations

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- In FY23 DPAA has executed 2 investigations in ROK, 1 investigation planned in Q4
- In FY24 DPAA has planned 1 recovery mission in the DMZ and 3 investigations in ROK
- Partners actively working 12 research-related projects in FY23; FY24 14 research-related projects
- DPAA is prepared should the opportunity arise to open negotiations with DPRK about remains recovery operations





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# Korea, Cold War Research and Joint Field Activities

**Mr. Christopher Phelps**  
Director, Indo-Pacific

*Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023*



## Mission:

- Indo-Pacific Directorate (IP) ***conducts research, analysis, and field activities*** (i.e., disinterments, investigations, and recovery missions) in FY 2023-2024 in the Indo-Pacific Theater, in order to facilitate case progression, maximize the number of identifications, and account for eligible personnel.

## Vision:

- The IP Directorate manages regional efforts effectively by creating an environment to allow our people to work at their natural best instead of asking them to do more. Espousing the tenets of trust, teamwork, transparency and tenacity along with competence and character, we continue to refine our processes to meet the next evolution of the Agency's mission.

# Task Organization



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## Composition

Director, Indo-Pacific (HI)  
Mr. Phelps

DEPUTY  
LTC Duran (Acting)

OPERATIONS  
DIVISION  
LTC Duran

FUTURE OPERATIONS  
DIVISION  
LTC Bosse

PLANS &  
ASSESSMENT DIV  
CDR Villanueva

RESEARCH DIV  
(DC/HI/NE)  
Lt Col Little

DETACHMENT 1  
Lt Col Lanuzo



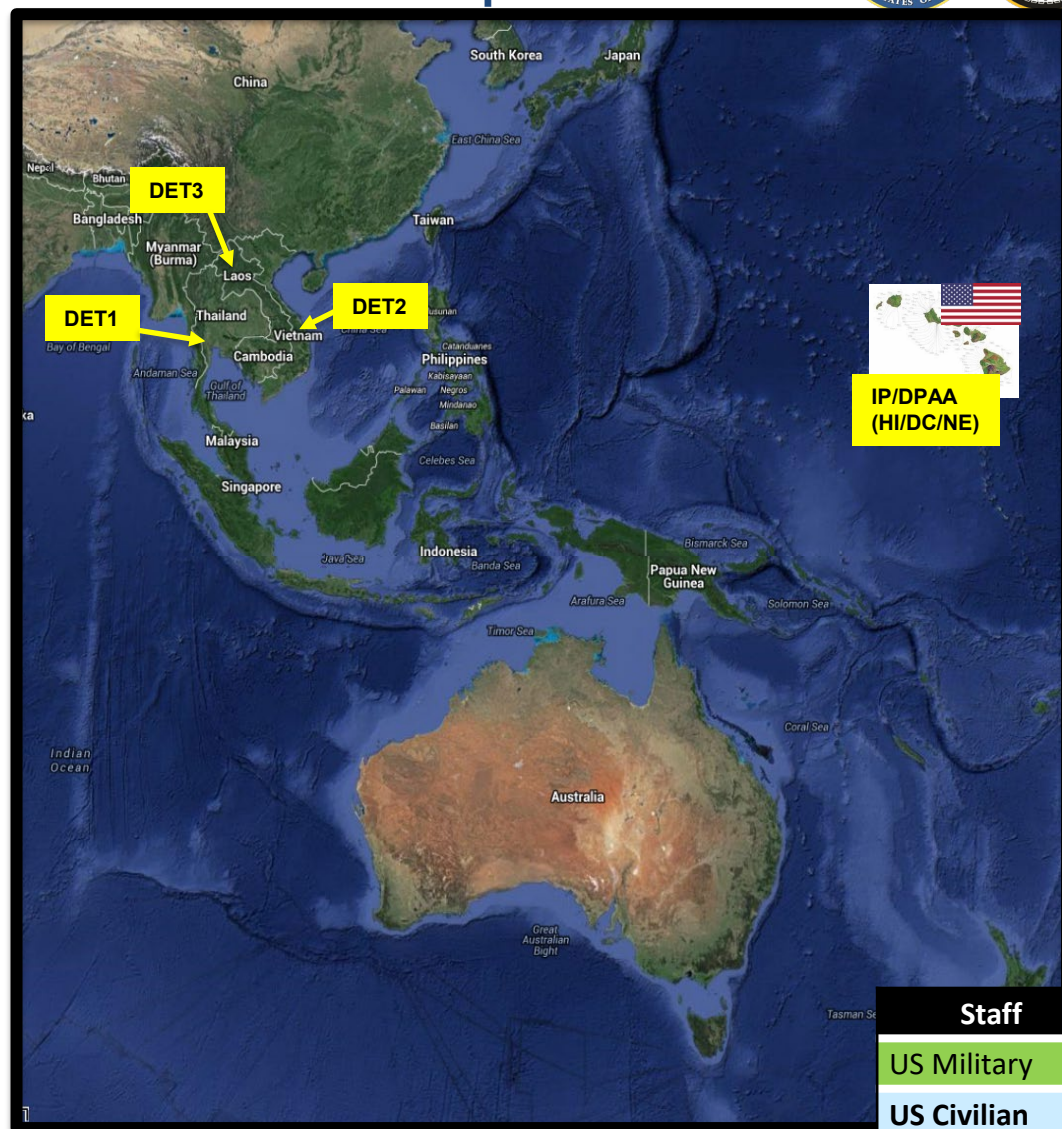
DETACHMENT 2  
LTC Walter



DETACHMENT 3  
MAJ Kissling



## Disposition



Staff

US Military

US Civilian



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# IP Korean War Research Update

**Dr. Dawn Alexandra Berry**  
Research Branch Chief – Korea  
Indo-Pacific Directorate, DPAA

*Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023*

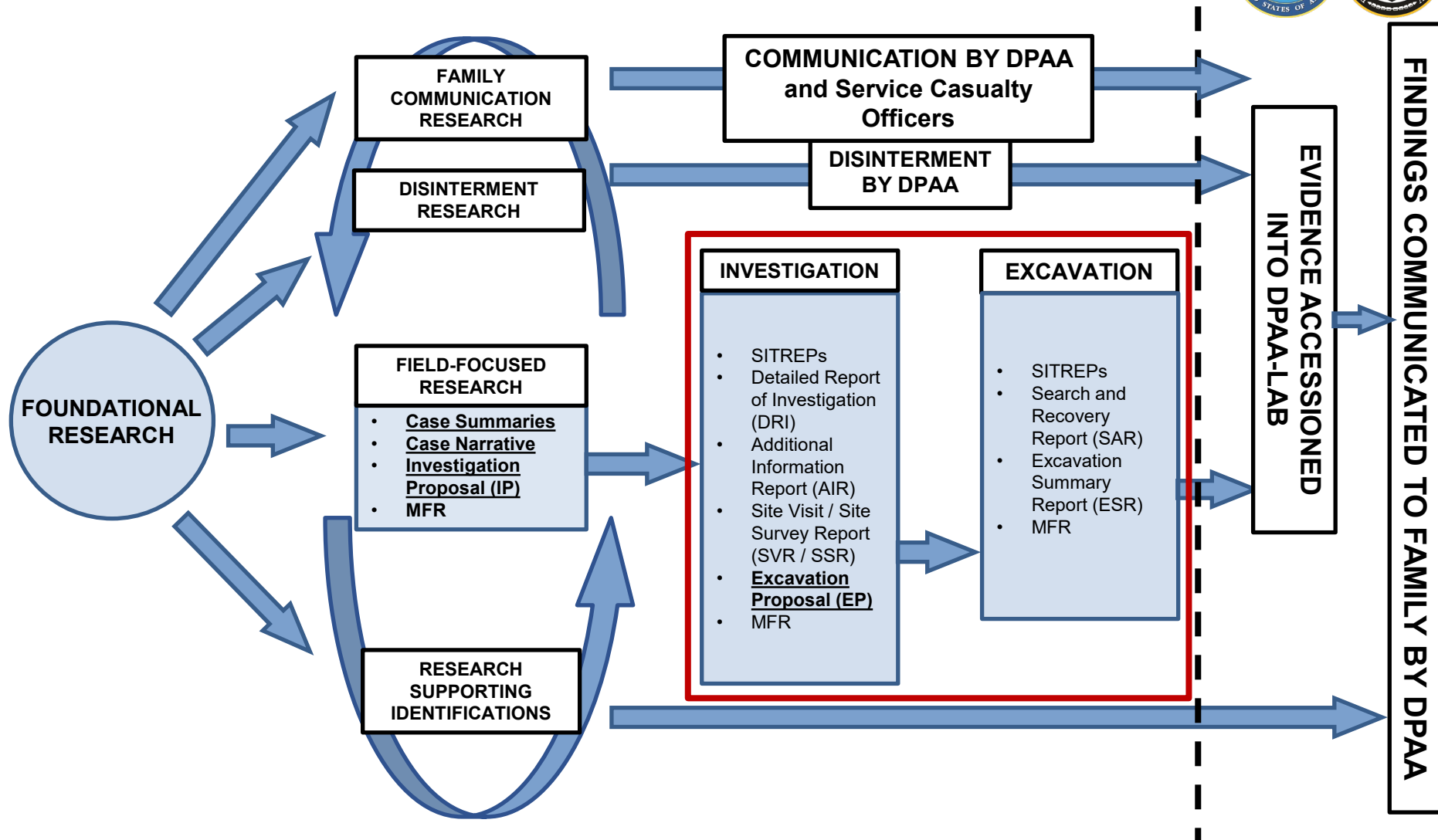


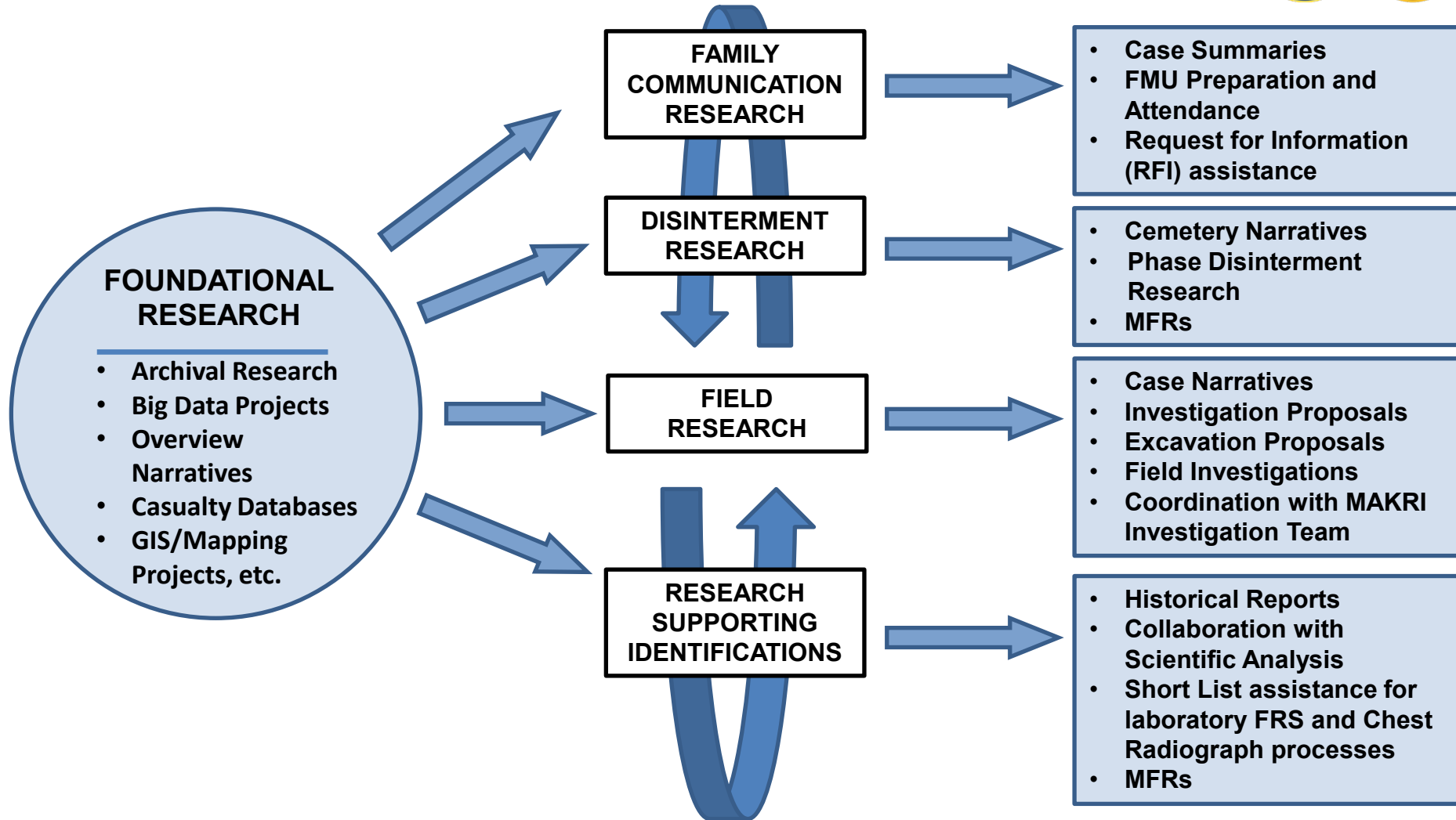
## DPAA Research

- Is purposeful, systematic investigation
- Is driven by a question, problem, or requirement
- Seeks information methodically with a clear goal
- Produces knowledge/data that can be used to solve problems
- Takes time (often months or years to develop fully, depending on the project)

## DPAA's Indo-Pacific Korean War Research

- Drives Operations (including Field Work and Disinterments)
- Supports Family Communications (Case Summaries, FMUs, RFIs)
- Supports Identifications (Assistance with short lists and Historical Reports)
- Is made possible by long-term foundational research that includes, but is not limited to, historical/archival work







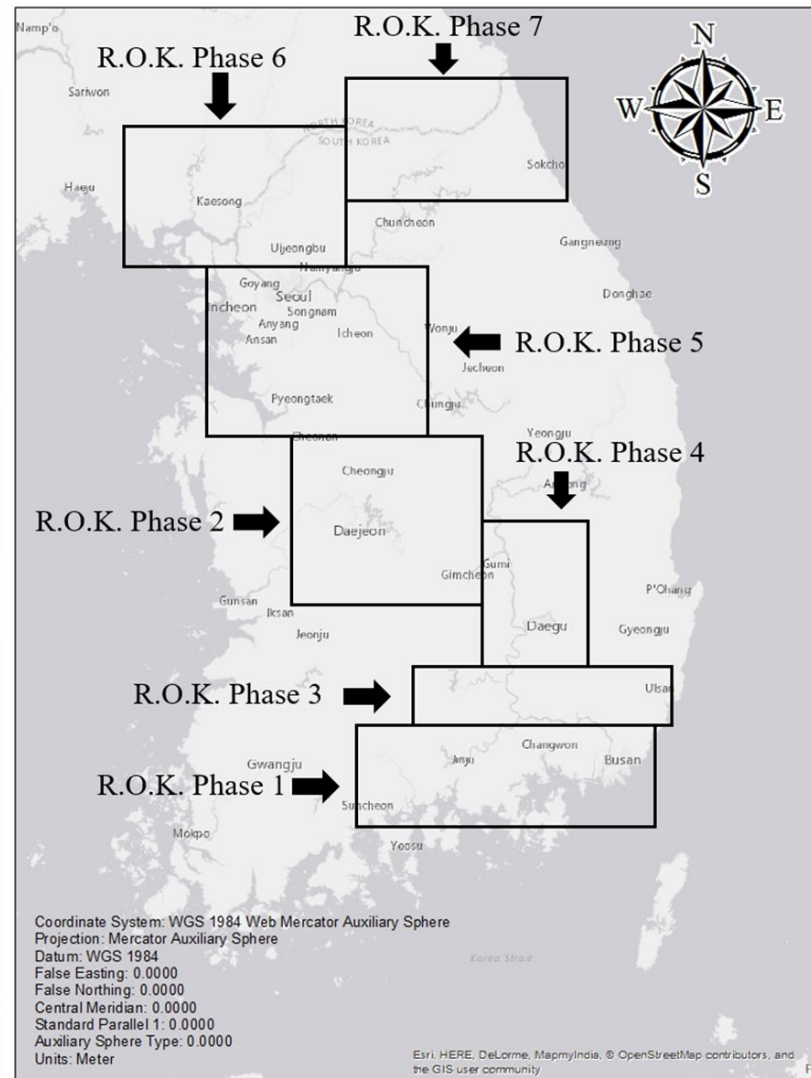
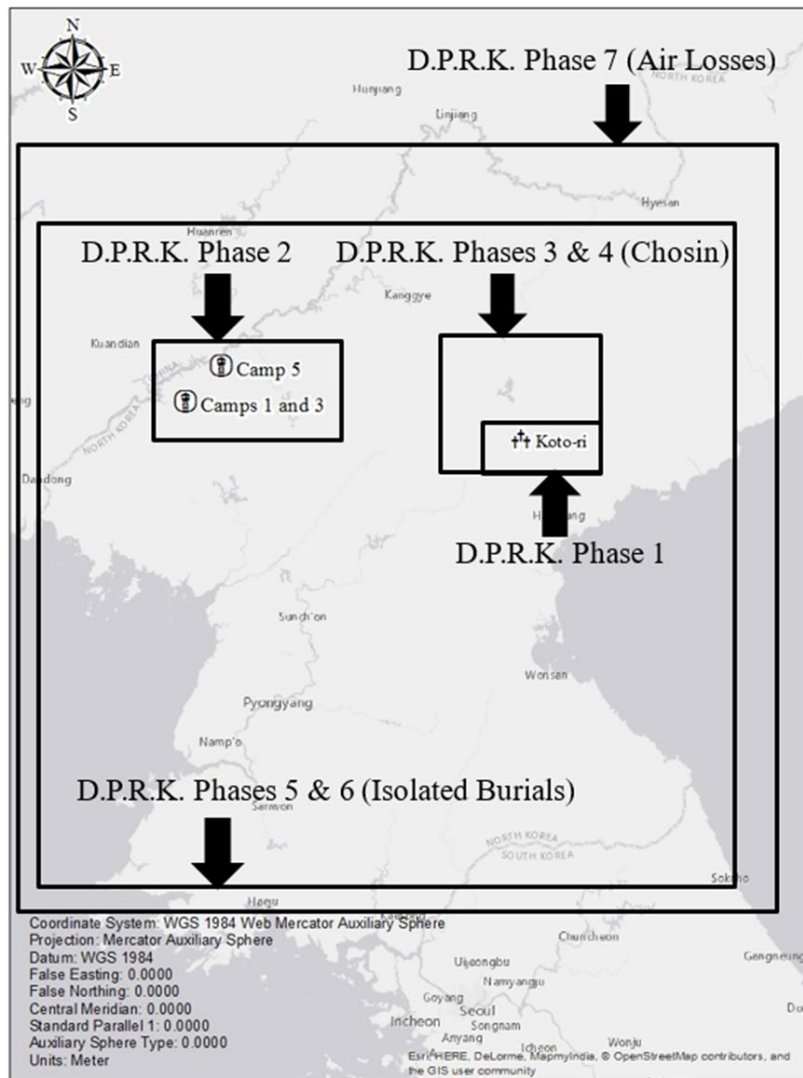
## Benefits of a Holistic Approach to Research – Korean War Disinterment Project

- This comprehensive approach to Korean War Research is what led to the development of the Disinterment Project that is enabling 547 sets of remains to be disinterred from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), Hawaii-Punchbowl.



# IP Korean War Research Update

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## What is new with DPAA Korean War Research?

- The pandemic allowed the Korea Research Team to build on its existing knowledge and expand into newer research areas – increased focus on the Civilian Control Zone (CCZ), DMZ, and underwater cases.
- This sustained research over the past several years is leading to the first Korean War Underwater Investigation, to take place in September 2023.





## What is next for DPAA Korean War Research?

- The Korean War Research Team has recently been consolidated under one O-5 (Lt Col Greg Little) and one Branch Chief (Dr. Dawn Berry). The DPAA has also allocated new research positions to the team – demonstrating the Agency’s commitment to Korean War Families.
- This change is also enabling the Korea Research Team to move forward as one unit with a single research strategy.
- Over the next year we will continue to build our D.P.R.K. and R.O.K. Master Investigation List (MIL)/ Master Excavation List (MEL) including, but not limited to Underwater Research, DMZ/CCZ, and Field Work that compliments Agency disinterment's and MAKRI operations.
- We will also continue to leverage DPAA’s Partnerships and Innovations Directorate (PI) to develop projects with Partner Institutions like George Mason University and Florida State University in order to support the above-mentioned Korean War Research goals
- In order to get Korean War Families answers as quickly as possible



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# IP Korean War Disinterment Project Update

**Mr. Heath Kennedy**  
Disinterment Manager  
Indo-Pacific Directorate, DPAA

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# Korean War Disinterment Project

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## Disinterment Operations from National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) by FY

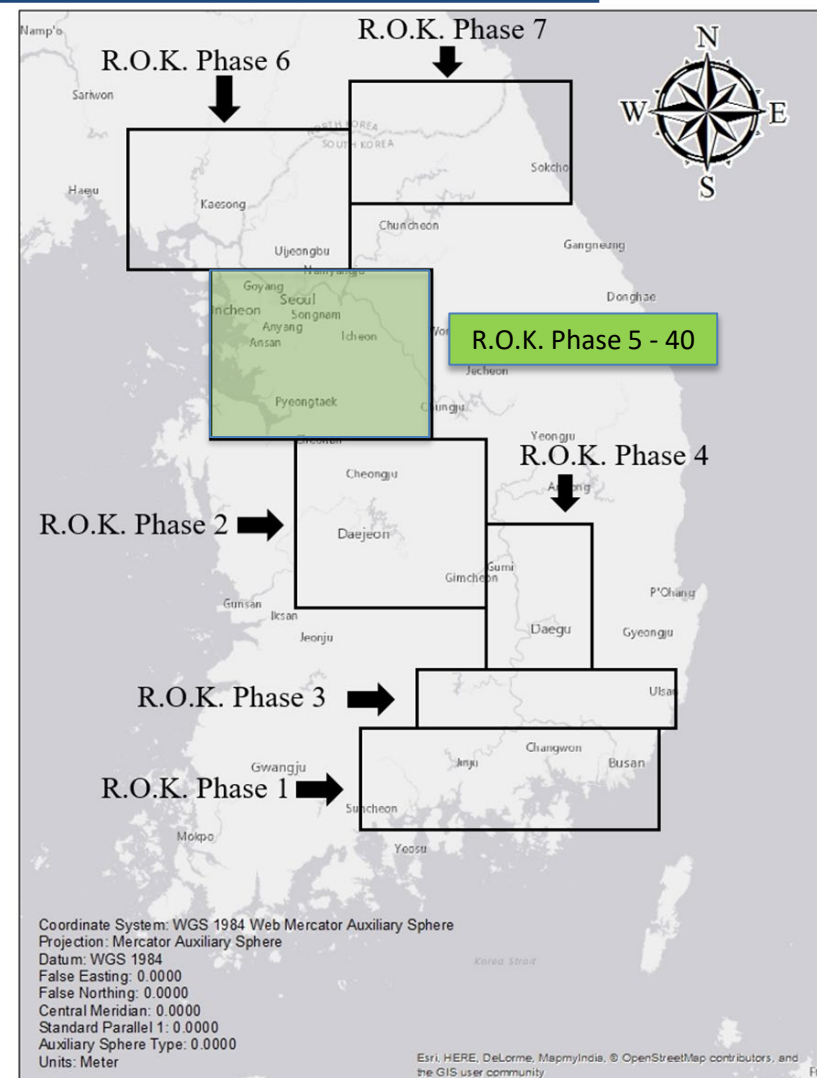
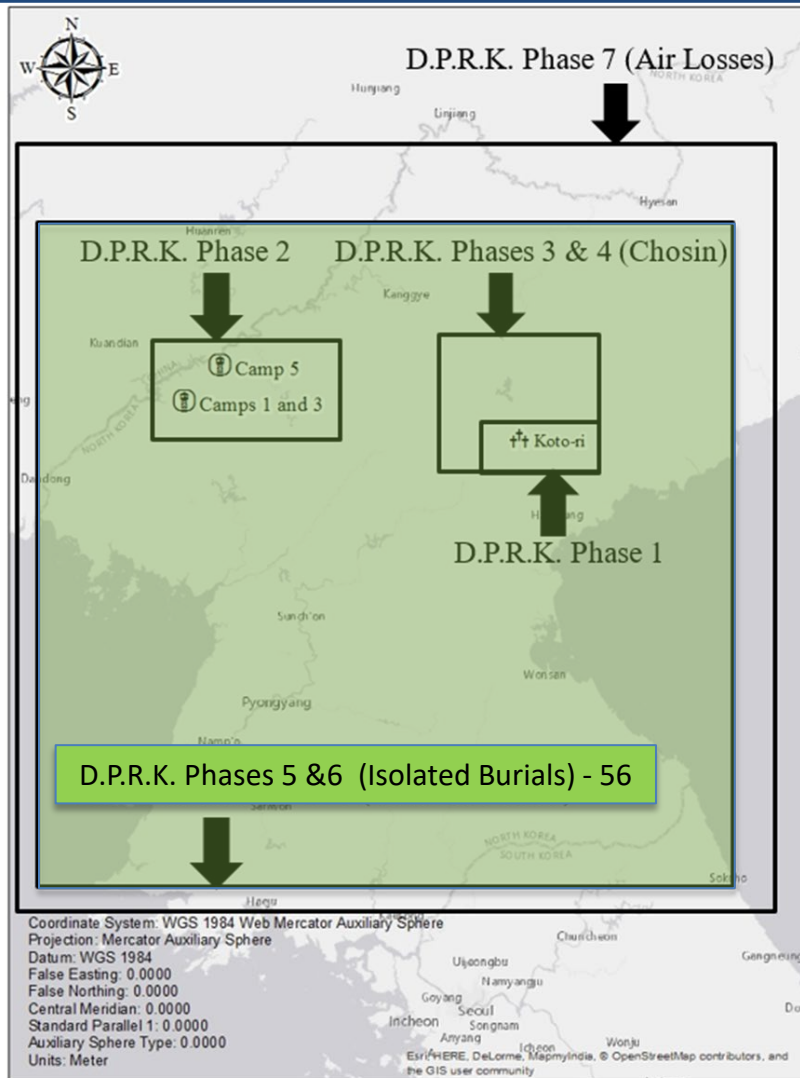
Project Phase	DPRK Unknowns	ROK Unknowns	Total # of Unknowns	Disinterment Year
1	9	64	73	FY19
2	65	52	117	FY20
3	38	63	101	FY21
4	36	35	71	FY22-23
5	56	40	96	FY24 (Planning)
6	56	54	110	FY25 (Projected)
7	30	54	84	FY26 (Projected)

# Korean War Disinterment Project

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## Phase 5: 96 Korean War Unknowns – Planned for Disinterment in FY24





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# IP Korean War Operations Update

**LTC Alex Duran**

**(Acting) Deputy Director/Operations Officer  
Indo-Pacific Directorate, DPAA**

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# Teams Composition

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## Investigation Team

1. Team Leader – O-3/E-7
2. Team Sergeant – E-5 to E-6
3. Scientific Research Expert – Anthropologist/Archeologist
4. Lead Investigator/Analyst
5. Photographer – E-5 to E-6
6. Independent Provider
7. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
8. Communication Specialist – E-4 to E-7
9. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
10. Life Support Investigator – E-5 to E-8



Note: Positions colored **blue** are DPAA internal, positions in black are Short-Term Individual Augmentees (STIAs).

## Recovery Team

1. Team Leader - O-3
2. Team Sergeant – E-6 to E-7
3. Scientific Research Expert – Anthropologist/Archeologist
4. Recovery NCO - E-5
5. Recovery NCO - E-5
6. Recovery NCO - E-5
7. Photographer – E-5 to E-7
8. Independent Provider
9. Medic
10. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
11. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
12. Communication Specialist – E-4 to E-8
13. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
14. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
15. Life Support Investigator – E-5 to E-8
16. \*Mountaineer – E-5 to E-7\*

# IP Korean War Operations

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## FY23 Operations

## FY24 Operations

### Significant Events (1-2-3 QTR/FY23)

- RoK Repatriation of 7 Korean Remains (6<sup>th</sup> repatriation since 2012)
- Total of 306 ROK/31 US repatriated since 1<sup>st</sup> REPAT
- Equipment Stage Completed
- 250 IDs out of 572 disinterred
- MAKRI and DPAA Bi-lateral engagement
- MAKRI and DPAA PDSS ISO IT-U

### **Legend:**

RT= Recovery Team  
IT= Investigation Team  
SEV= Staff Engagement Visit  
R= Research, Archival  
U= Underwater

23-1KR: 1xIT-R

23-2KR: 1xIT

23-4KR: 1xIT-U

**Total:** 1xIT  
1xIT-R  
1xIT-U

24-1KR: SEV

24-3KR: 1xIT-U

24-2KR: 1xIT  
1xRT

**Total:** 1xIT  
1xIT-U  
1xRT  
1xSEV





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## **U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)**

### **DPAA Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD)**

Darla L. Stencavage  
USRJC Executive Secretary, U.S. Side

Chief, Joint Commission Support Division  
Europe-Mediterranean Region / DPAA

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# U.S. Side of the USRJC

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**General (ret) Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong**  
*Chairman, U.S. Side of USRJC*



**Senator James Lankford**  
*R, OK*  
*USRJC Commissioner*



**Senator Joe Manchin**  
*D, WV*  
*USRJC Commissioner*



**Congressman Jimmy Panetta**  
*D, CA*  
*USRJC Commissioner*



**Congressman Brad Wenstrup**  
*R, OH*  
*USRJC Commissioner*



**Mr. Kelly McKeague**  
*Department of Defense*  
*USRJC Commissioner*  
*Chairman, Vietnam War WG*  
*Director, DPAA*



**Dr. Timothy Nenninger**  
*NARA*  
*USRJC Commissioner*  
*Chairman, WWII WG*



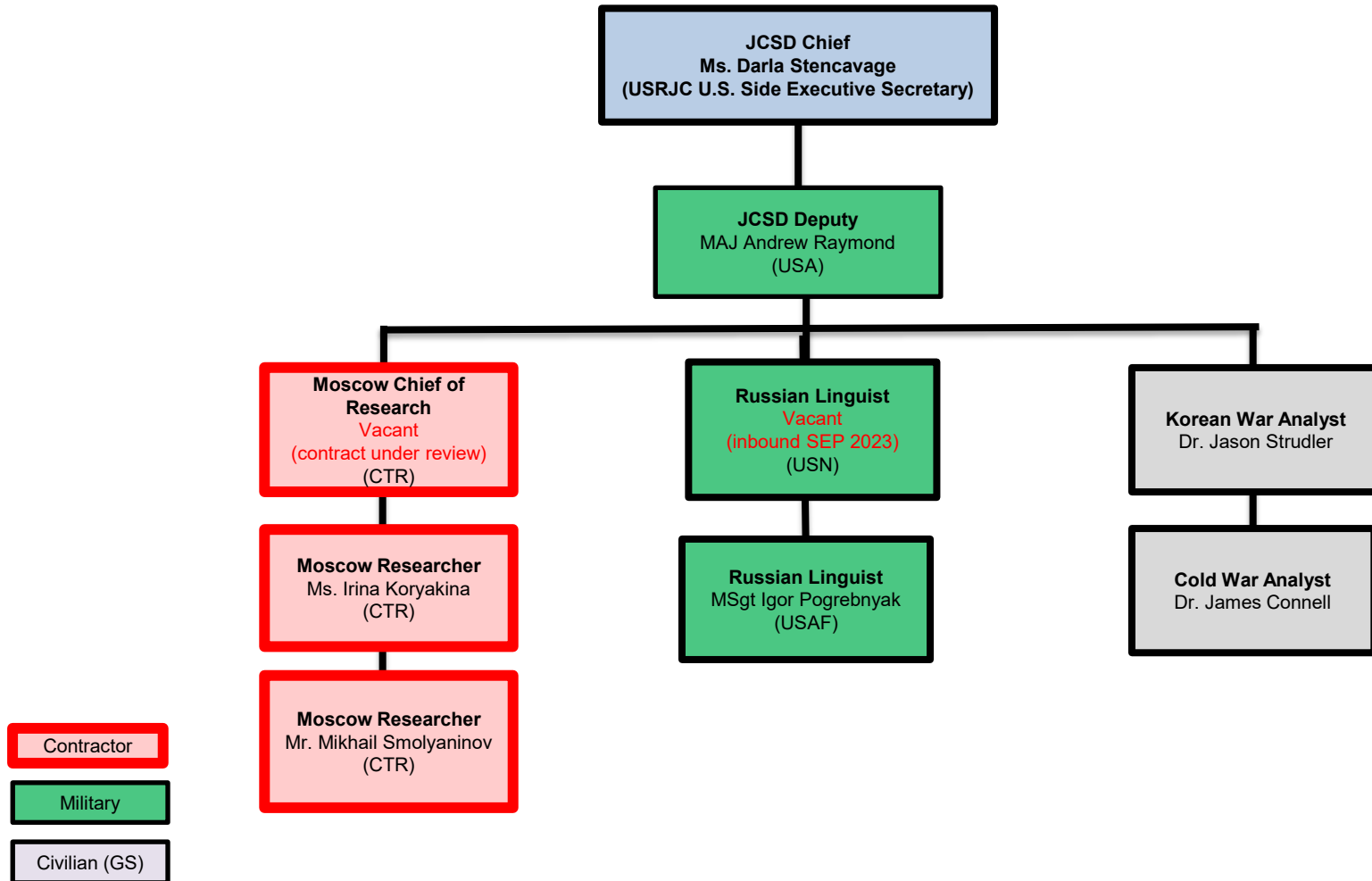
**Ms. Sonata Coulter**  
*State Dept*  
*USRJC Commissioner*  
*Chairman, Korean War WG*



**Mr. Timothy Shea**  
*DIA*  
*USRJC Commissioner*  
*Chairman, Cold War WG*



## Korean and Cold War Accounting





# USRJC Achievements and Challenges 2023

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## Achievements:

- White House and DoD approved continued engagement within USRJC
- USRJC U.S. Side Chairman regularly communicates with senior U.S. officials
- USRJC Co-Chairmen continue telephonic communications and are exploring possibilities to resume collaboration by analysts and subject matter experts
- U.S. POW/MIA in-person research in Russian Defense Archives is ongoing
- Russian Side returned to in-person research in U.S. National Archives
- JCSD conducted a thorough review of Cold War shoot down, oral history and archival data base to prioritize research
- Annual commemoration of April 8, 1950 shoot down held by U.S. Ambassador Christopher Robinson in Liepaja, Latvia

## Challenges:

- High level constraints placed on interactions due to bilateral relations that affect planned engagements/activities
- Restricted ability to travel to Russia



# Recent USRJC Co-Chairmen Engagement

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## April 2023:

- Inaugural agreement to exchange papers detailing POW/MIA research goals and issues

## June 2023:

- U.S. Side White Paper delivered to Russian Side
- Korean War Issues Requested:
  - Declassification of documents showing shoot down information
  - Russian review of POW Camps
  - Review of Federal Security Service records related to Americans in Main Administration for Affairs of POWs and Internees (Gulag) System
- Cold War Issues Requested:
  - Russian Side obtain permit to excavate anomalies at Novosysoyevka Cemetery (Hospital 404) and consider a third-party organization acceptable to both Sides that could conduct the excavation

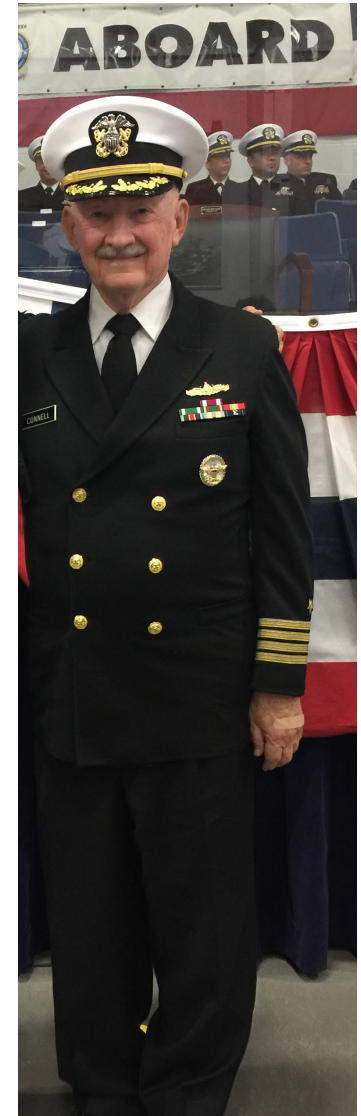
# Congratulations for 30 years of service to the accounting effort

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## James G. Connell Jr, Ph.D., Captain, U.S. Navy (retired)

- Senior Analyst and Executive Secretary Emeritus working on the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission since May 1992
- U.S. Naval Academy Graduate, served in the U.S. Navy 1961-1991
- Began work with Task Force Russia in May 1992, to support the Moscow Office of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
  - Served four years as Deputy of Moscow Office and five years as Chief, POW/MIA-Moscow
  - Has worked as an analyst at the Washington Office since 2001





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# Korean War Identification Project Update

Dr. Veronica Keyes, PhD, RPA, D-ABFA  
Korean War Identification Project Lead

*Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023*

*\*This brief contains images of human remains.*

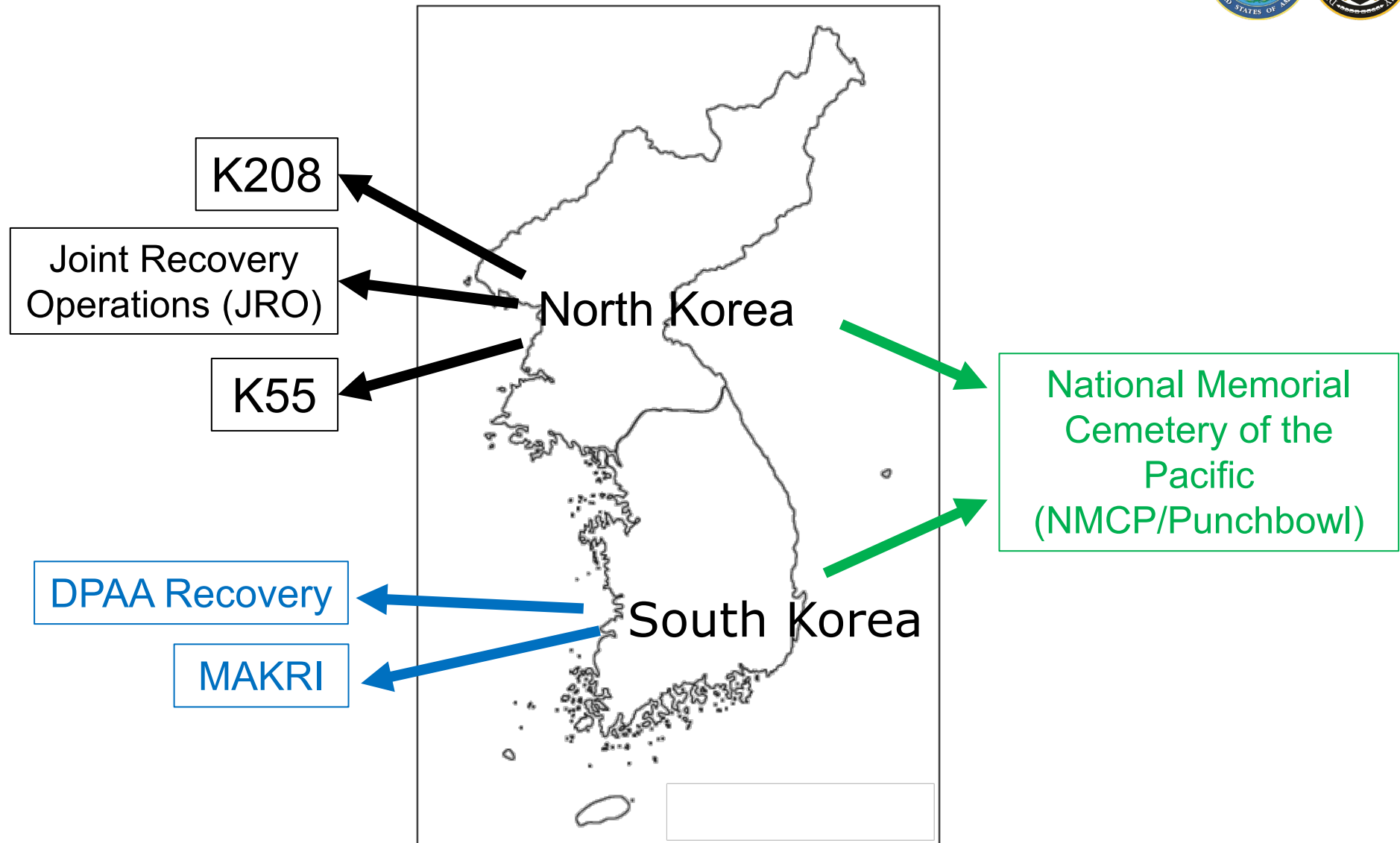
# The Korean War Identification Project

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# The Korean War Identification Project

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# Punchbowl Korean War Disinterments

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# Punchbowl Identifications

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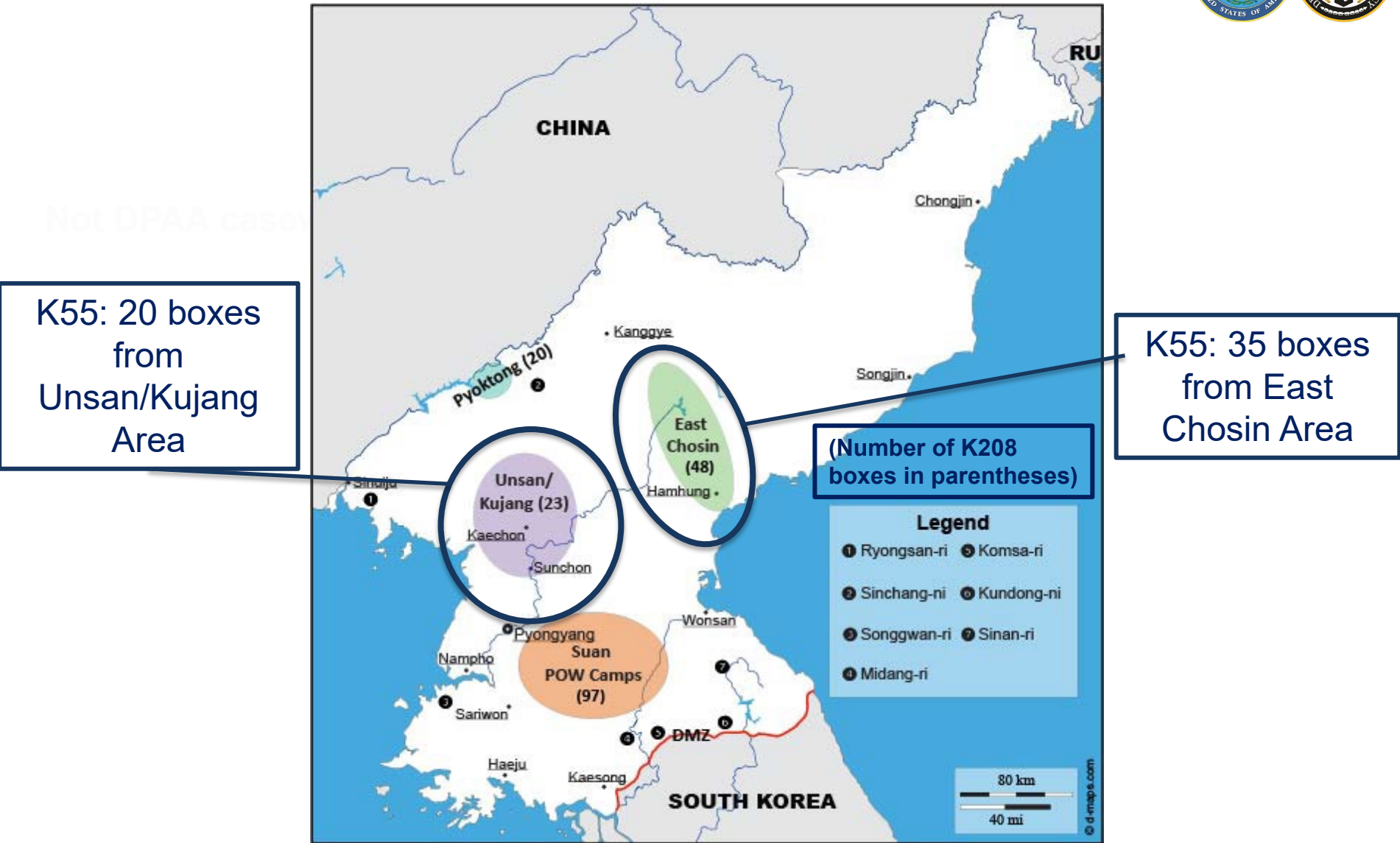
- 204 IDs of Punchbowl Unknowns
- 16 IDs from Phase 1
- 39 IDs from Phase 2
- 4 IDs from Phase 3
- Phase 4 completed – all cases sampled
  - 572 cases exhumed to date
- Phase 5 scheduled to begin in FY2024
- Repatriated 10 cases to MAKRI in 2021 and 2023
  - 2 non-Phase, 7 Phase 1, 1 Phase 3

# K55 Turnover (2018)

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# Locations of DPRK Turnovers





# Individuals Represented in K55

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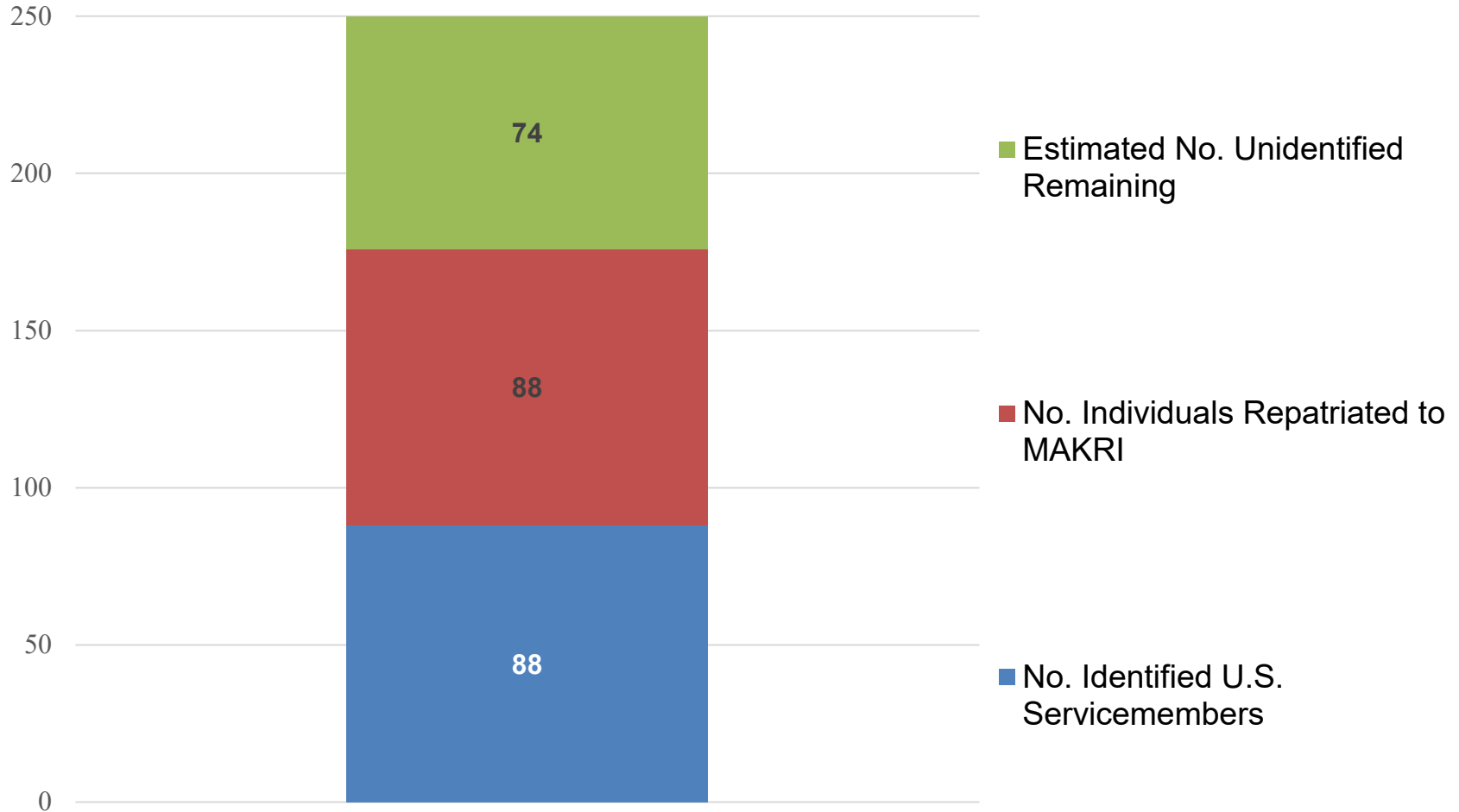
- There are an estimated 250 individuals represented in the K55 boxes
- Approximately 160 U.S. service members are represented in the K55 assemblage
- Approximately 90 individuals are likely non-U.S. personnel

# Individuals Represented in K55

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## K-55 Individuals



# K208 (1991-1994) and JRO (1996-2005)

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## Analysis of the K208 and JRO is ongoing

- 154 IDs from the K208 assemblage
- 153 IDs from the JRO assemblage
- 39 IDs from both K208 and JRO assemblages
- 1 ID from both K55 and JRO assemblages
- 347 total IDs from K208 and JRO assemblages



# MAKRI Partnership

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## Recovered evidence is accessioned into the DPAA Laboratory Accredited by ANSI ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

- Located at two core sites



**Joint Base Pearl Harbor-  
Hickam, O'ahu, HI**

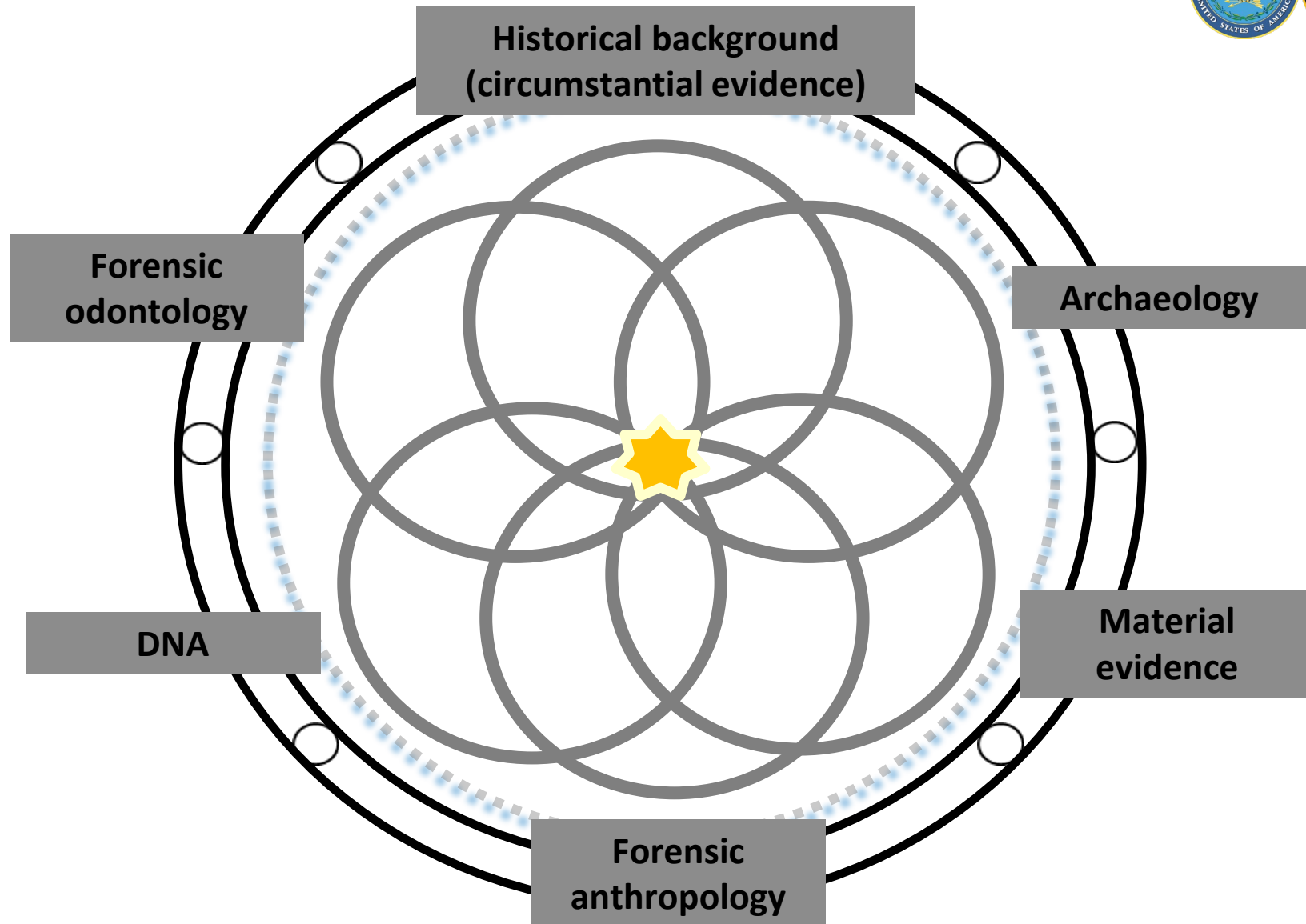


**Offutt Air Force Base,  
Omaha, NE**



# Multiple Lines of Evidence

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## Forensic Anthropology

- Bone? Human bone? How many individuals are present?

## Biological Profile

- Sex
- Age
- Ancestry
- Stature
- Trauma, pathology
- Individual traits

## Compare with Antemortem Data

- Segregate commingled remains
- Narrow the search space





## DNA Evidence

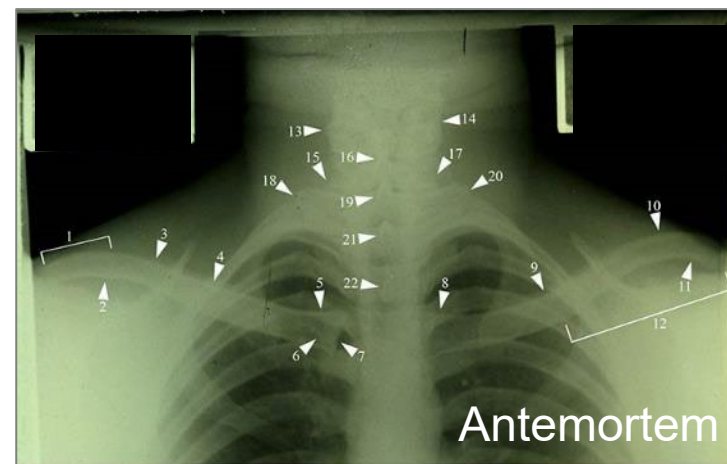
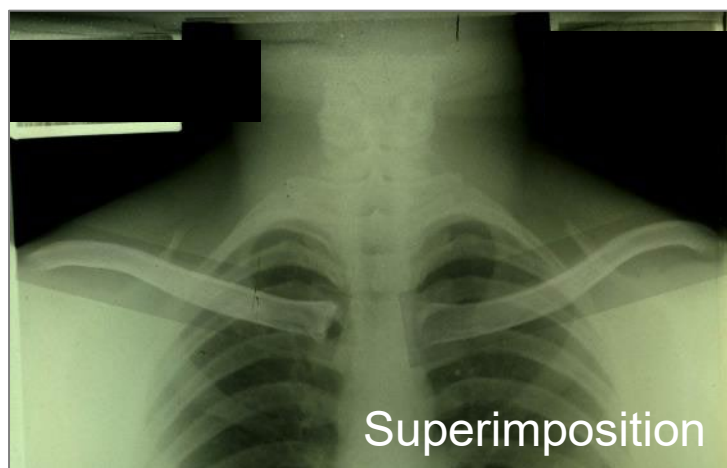
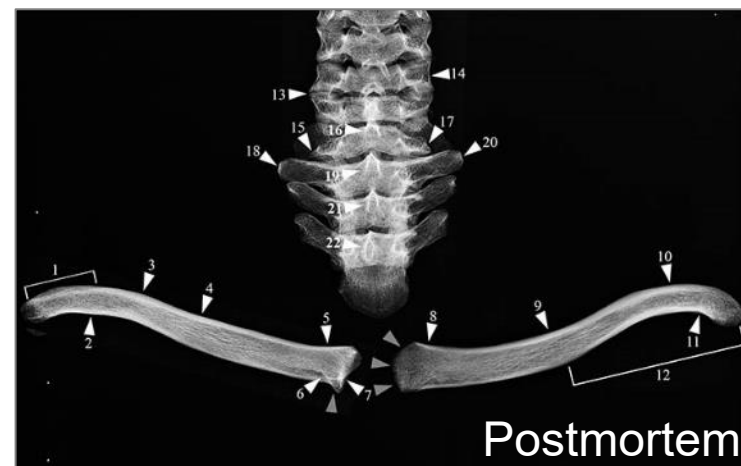
- Family reference samples are essential!

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## Anthropologists Compare Post-Mortem and Antemortem Chest X-Rays

- Generate a short list
- Find points of concordance
- Verify with superimposition
- Helpful when DNA is inconclusive and to EXCLUDE individuals





## Forensic Odontology

- Dentists compare any dental remains to antemortem dental records
- Evidence toward IDs and exclusions

Table 1. Dental comparison table of CIL

Tooth #	Tooth #	Postmortem	Antemortem
27	R-11	E	V
28	R-12	E	V
29	R-13	E	V
30	R-14	V	V
31	R-15	V	V
32	R-16	V, impacted	V, impacted

KEY: green shade = similar findings, E = missing perimortem/postmortem; V = unrestored.





## Stable Isotopes are “Nature’s Recorders”

- Diet: Carbon, Nitrogen, and Sulfur
- Geographic origin: Oxygen, Strontium, and Lead

## Classification

- Triage into likely populations based on dietary differences
- Reduces burden on DNA and follow-on casework

## Separation

- Help resolve commingling
- Saves time and money

## Geolocation

- Compare isotope record to home of record
- Provides evidence for an ID





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## **Partner Research**

**Dr. Katie Schroeder**

**Henry Jackson Foundation Senior Historian &  
Research Team Co-Lead (Acting), Partnerships &  
Innovations Directorate, DPAA**

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# What is Partner Research?



## Research

- Is purposeful, systematic investigation
- Driven by a question/problem/requirement
- Seeking information methodically, with a clear goal
- Producing knowledge/data that can be used to solve problems
- Takes time (months or years to develop fully, depending on the project)

## Partner Research Supporting DPAA

- Includes, but is not limited to, historical/archival work
- Conducted and used by all DPAA directorates in a wide variety of ways
- Can be used to fulfill immediate needs or long-term foundational work

# What is Partner Research?

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***PI Partner Research Projects increase capacity and capability while leveraging innovation to enhance DPAA's overall research efforts***

Areas where PI Research projects have an impact:

- Technical capabilities that the agency does not readily have, e.g. non-DOD-compliant software, or coding capabilities
- Very long-term or large-scale data projects that require additional support in a high-paced operational environment
- Difficult to access archival collections and scholarly databases
  - e.g. Small local archives, subscription-only databases
- Augmenting existing DPAA research capacity during periodic surges in case progression deliverable production
  - e.g. Case Summary production for Family Member Updates

# Who are our Korean War Research Partners?

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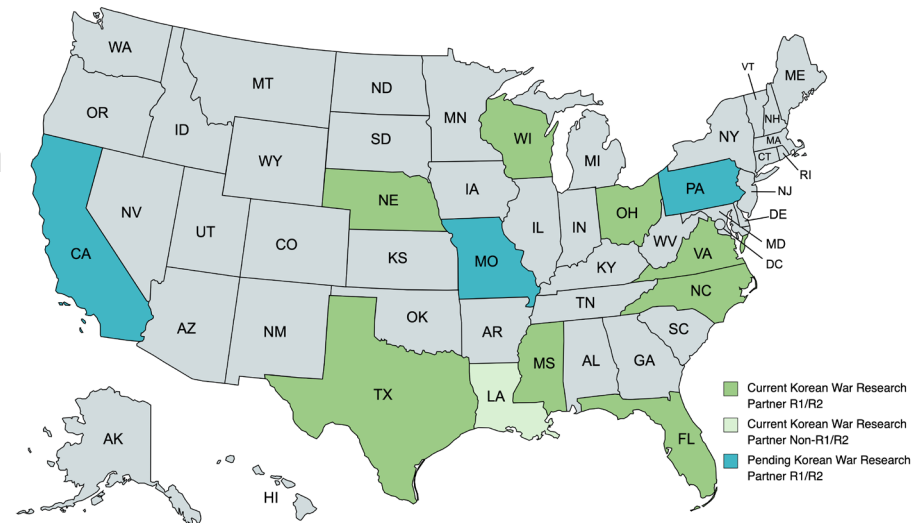


## Current Korean War Research Partners

- George Mason University
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- The Ohio State University
- East Carolina University
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Southern Mississippi
- The National World War II Museum
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Tech University
- Florida State

## Pending/Planned Korean War Research Partners

- Temple University
- San Diego State University
- University of Missouri





## Research Supporting Outreach and Communications



## Research Supporting Field Investigations and Excavations



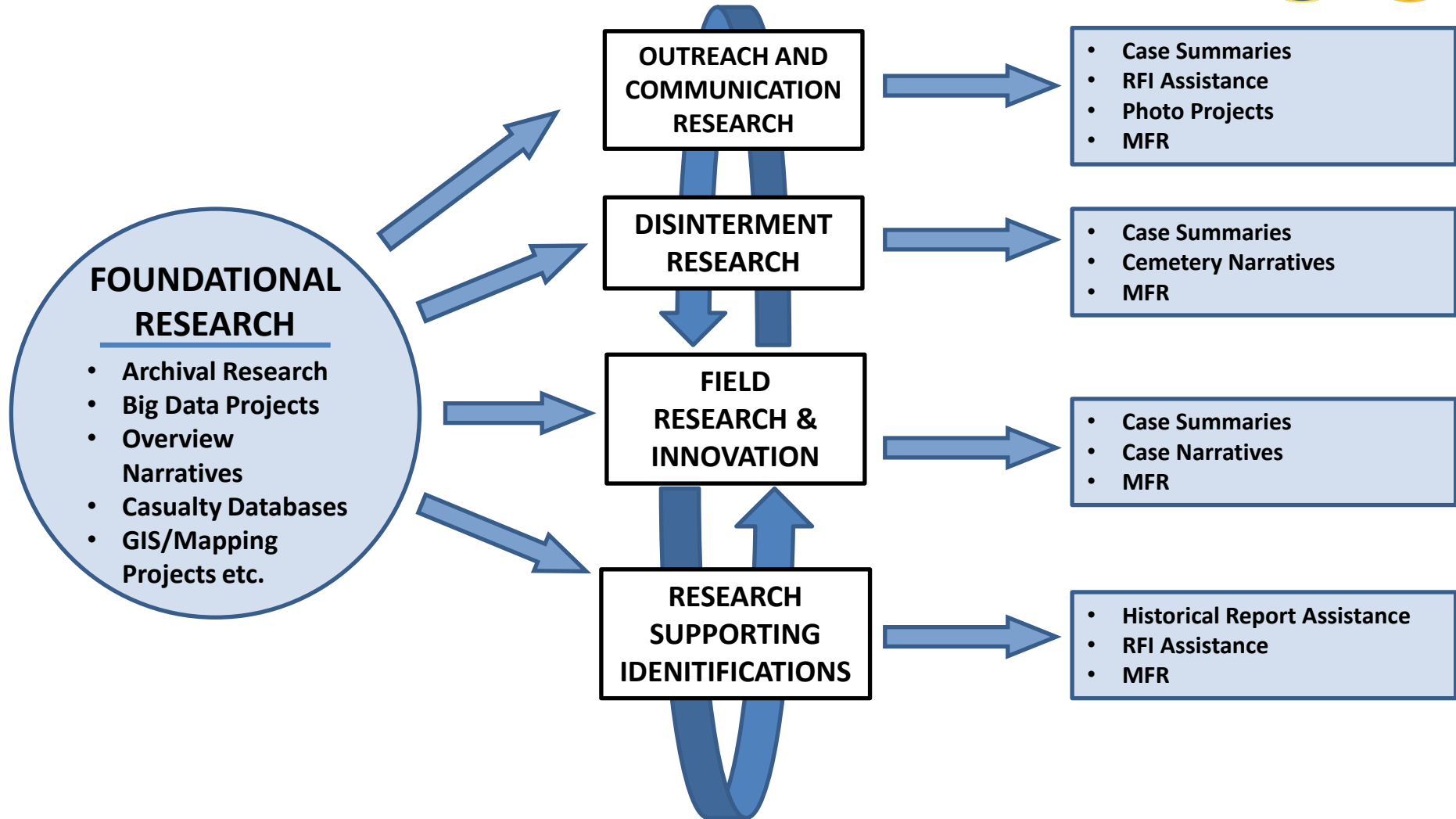
## Research Supporting Disinterments



Research Supporting  
other DPAA Agency  
Initiatives and Processes

## Research Supporting Identifications





# Completed Korean War Partner Research Projects

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- DPAA has been working on Korean War partner research since 2017
- Completed past projects include:
  - A Historical Narrative of the Pork Chop Hill campaign
  - Oral Histories with Korean War Veterans who handled remains near the DMZ
  - Korean War Legacy Foundation Curriculum Book
  - Articles for FamWeb
    - Pusan Perimeter
    - Inchon
    - DMZ Campaign





## Big Data/GIS Projects

- UNMC Tanggok 5615 Disinterment Project
- Korean War Resolved DMZ project
- Korean War GIS project

## Narrative Projects

- Korean War DMZ Losses Narrative

## Archival Projects

- RG 242 Korean War Captured Records

## Service Member Photo Projects

- Ohio
- Wisconsin
- Louisiana
- Texas
- New Mexico
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma

## Agency Supporting Projects

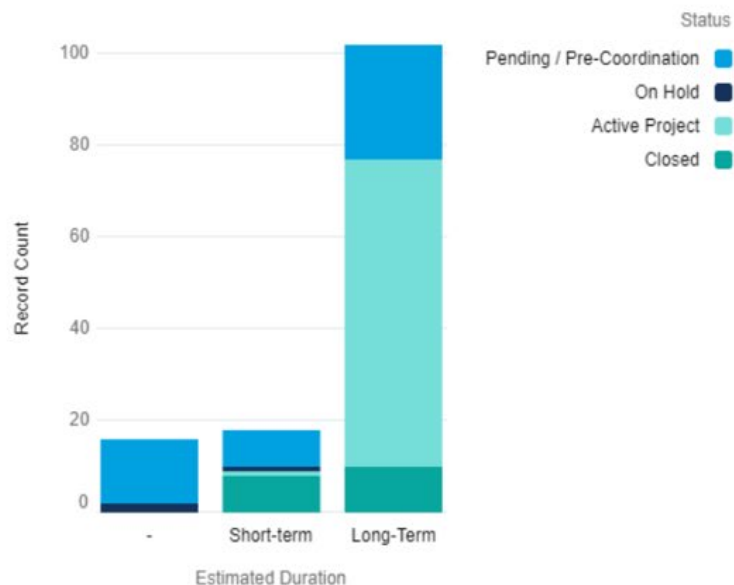
- Korean War Oral History Program (KWOHP)

# PI Research Projects\*

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## Research Opportunities by Duration



Short-term is <1 yr; long-term is >1 yr

### Active Projects

68

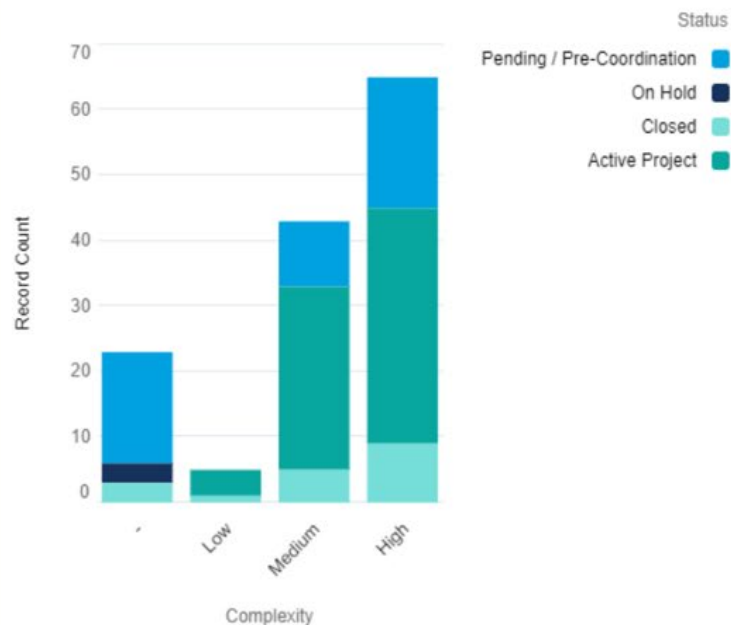
### Active H&S Projects

53

### Active Non-H&S P...

15

## Research Opportunities by Complexity



**\*Korean War Research Projects account for approximately 20% of current Partner Research efforts**

# Research Project Assistance by Researchers for Researchers

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Dr. Matt Minarchek, PI Research Team  
Co-Lead (Acting)



Dr. Katie Schroeder, PI Research Team  
Co-Lead (Acting)



Dr. Dawn Berry (PI Research Lead 2019-23,  
Currently IP Research Branch Chief, Korea)



Dr. Zack Matusheski, PI Research Project Officer



Dr. Keith Huxen, PI Research Project Officer



# QUESTIONS?