

COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



WINTER

2015

There's so much hope and optimism to a New Year. There is the reality, of course, that many things stay the same. Sometimes they turn on us. As family members of missing servicemen, we form a unique blend of hope, optimism, and cynicism. Let's be optimistic here and indulge the hopeful side.

New Year, New Hope

left behind following the armistice, and ongoing live sightings of Americans POWs held

in North Korea over the decades. The *UFOs* of the accounting mission.

* Six decades of documents in the national archives and agencies throughout the government have information on missing men and need declassification.

* 1200 sets of remains of loved ones **already on American soil** (or laboratory shelves) wait to be identified. Reaching out to a nongovernmental laboratory with a success record in the area will speed things up.

* Maybe Russia will call and say (apply Russian accent here), "*Come! Come to Russia! We will open old KGB records and learn what happened to American GIs from Cold War and ones Stalin brought from Korean War to keep in gulags.*" More *UFOs*. Maybe our new agency's leadership will persuade the President to raise the issue with Russia's leadership.

* There is always the chance that Chinese Army (*PLA*) representatives will stroll into a meeting with U.S. archivists and pile carton-after-carton of Korean War *POW* camp records on the table. Maybe the U.S. leadership will apply leverage here, as well.

Hope and optimism. They go hand-in-hand when searching for the missing men. Neither mindset will move the issues along on their own. We will need to roll up our collective sleeves to make things happen. All of us working together can do that. Really.

Here are projected highlights and familiar issues for 1995 ... I mean 2015. Any or all of them can relate to someone's missing loved one.



* One primary source for optimism is the Defense Department's new *Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency*. They have big plans. As have others before them.

* It would be great to renew negotiations that will return remains recovery operations to North Korea. And schedule them after annual spring U.S. /South Korean war games. (North Korea never takes kindly to the maneuvers.)

* Negotiations should also add investigating teams to locate the hundreds of air loss crash sites scattered across North Korea, and interview North Korean families living in those areas. These families know the stories behind the crashes, and most likely the fate of missing crewmen.

* There is always the pursuit of American *POWs*

Table of Contents

<i>President's Corner / United States</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Korea/Russia/China/Cold War</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Our Collective Voice / Coalition News</i>	<i>Page 4</i>	<i>Research - John Zimmerlee/Live Sighting</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>To-Do List / Media / Member Form</i>	<i>Page 6</i>	<i>Petition - We Call Upon the Governments ...</i>	<i>Page 7</i>

President's Corner

What's In a Name?



My work on *POW/MIA* issues is twofold. One focus revolves around the missing men. The other revolves around the families who miss them. Two directions with a common meeting ground somewhere in the future.

In writing about the missing men, I have used the term *servicemen* as an alternate reference. "The servicemen were last seen" Over time, however, the reference has taken on the ill-suited image of a sharply dressed fella, marching about in a clean uniform. There was no hint of horrific aspects of combat the missing men faced. They weren't lost in a formation on some parade ground. They faced frightening, violent, no-win scenarios. I found more of that harsh reality in the term *soldier*. *Servicemen* serve. *Soldiers* fight.

In responses from family members, however, there has been concern that referring to the missing men as *soldiers* limits the reference to Army losses. Family members with missing loved ones in the Air Force, Navy, Marines and other services have mentioned feeling left out. These perceptions matter. We've been left out of enough as it is. We shouldn't feel left out here.

Dictionary definitions of the term *soldier* vary. Some do limit the meaning to *land based armed forces*. Others define *soldier* as *any military person*.

My father was Air Force. A *soldier*, to my mind, but specific to one service. I am comfortable with the term. Other family members are not, however. What are your thoughts? Servicemen? Soldiers? Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines personnel? Let me know. (coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com)

*Rick Downes, President
(Lt. Hal Downes - MIA 1952)*

United States

The Defense Department's long-running *POW/MIA* accounting drama has entered the next stage in its restructuring. To date, the changes appear to include: The transfer of JPAC responsibilities to the *DoD*, combining all budgets and authority under one director position, the appointment of a forensic medical examiner as final identification authority, and titling the new agency – *Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency* (*The new website: www.dpaa.mil*).

Hopefully, these changes lead to stronger results. Quite the *drama* to reach them has gone on behind the scenes. Established characters have written themselves out, others were recast, some old-guard performers will be in featured roles, and new characters will be introduced. It's all featured in this tongue-in-cheek perspective:

As the Defense Department Turns.

The initial producer, USD Michael Lumpkin, was off to a strong start. Ratings were good. He was only cast for the initial episode, however; until the permanent producer was approved by the *network* (U.S. Senate).

Mr. Lumpkin entrusted the initial rewrite of the drama to a small cadre referred to as the *PACT*. A high-priced (\$6-8 million) public relations firm, *The Clearing*, was enlisted to canvas the *audience* (family members) on their likes and dislikes about the mission. Shortly thereafter, the intended producer, USD Christine Wormuth, was approved. Mr. Lumpkin went back to his former job. Ms. Wormuth began a sharp learning curve.

Recap: Michael Lumpkin in, PACT in, The Clearing in, Christine Wormuth in, Michael Lumpkin out.

In October, Capt. Edward Reedy (Navy) was cast in the new role of medical examiner. Cpt. Reedy will be the *single identification authority*, taking on most of the role previously played by Dr. Tom Holland.

In a surprising twist, *DASD* Montague "Q" Winfield, the lead role in the longstanding *DPMO* plotline, resigned before he was to be written out. This



was followed by an even more surprising twist, the executive producer of the serial, the Secretary of Defense himself, Chuck Hagel resigned. The ratings of the serial hit a new low.

A hiatus followed. When the drama returned, it did so with a bang! The *PACT* team was *gone*. *The Clearing* was given a new storyline. RADM Michael Franken and Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague were hired as *interim* directors to lead the restructuring of the restructuring. (*Should a permanent director have been hired, allowing him/her to be part of the development of the new serial? To be continued.*)

Next, and currently running, the serial was renamed: *The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency*, and Dr. Ashton Carter was appointed new Secretary of Defense.

Recap (to date): Lumpkin in, PACT/Clearing in, Wormuth in, Lumpkin out, Reedy in, "Q" out, Hagel out. Hiatus. PACT out, Franken and McKeague in, DPMO/JPAC out, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and Carter in.

In the end, the most enduring aspect of the government's *POW/MIA* accounting mission is still the ongoing missing status of the *POW/MIAs*, background extras in the evolving drama.

Korea

Republic of Korea (South Korea) / DPRK (North Korea)



Improved relations between the two *siblings* are always hopeful, signs that progress will one day be made in the *POW/MIA* front.



In October, generals from both countries held military talks for the first time in more than three years on how to ease animosities. A few days later, however, South Korean soldiers fired warning shots at North Korean troops too near to the *Demilitarized Zone* separating the two sides.

Then in December, South Korea proposed high-level talks to discuss issues that could help lay the groundwork for unification. A few days later, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un supported the gesture by proposing a summit. The North Korean leader emphasized that the ultimate goal of his proposal was unification. This spring, however, the U.S. and South Korea begin annual joint military maneuvers, which North Korea considers a threat of invasion. They get nervous. Shots are fired somewhere. And so it goes.

China

In September a combined *DPMO* and *JPAC* (today's *DPAA*) team traveled to Beijing to attend an annual meeting with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (*PLA*) archives department. The *PLA* repatriated remains believed to be from a 1953 Korean War

aircraft crash in Northeast China. *PLA* archivists were asked to continue researching cases from World War II and the Korea and Vietnam wars.



Russia

Researchers from the U.S./Russia Joint Commission Support Directorate continue to work four days each

month (4 hrs/day) researching air force fighter records in Russia's Podolsk Archives. The Russian side may open their first office in Washington, DC, later this year.



Cold War

During the Cold War, (1946-1991), U.S. and Soviet Bloc intelligence organizations kept a close watch on each other, especially the defense readiness of the opposing side. According to U.S. records, at the height of the Cold War, the West carried out more than 3,000 reconnaissance flights annually. About half of these occurred over or near the former Soviet Union. The others occurred over or near former Communist east European countries, North Korea, and the People's Republic of China.

126 American's remain unaccounted for from the Cold War. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is currently investigating 14 missions in which aircrew members were lost and remain unaccounted for. Currently, the research is conducted by the U.S./Russia Joint Commission's Support Directorate in Russia's Podolsk archives. Available evidence suggests that most of these incidents were over-water losses. (<http://www.dpaa.mil/OurMissing/ColdWar.aspx>)

Membership!

We accomplish so much working together! Your donation is tax deductible and supports the *Coalition's* outreach, advocacy and research work. (A *donation form* is on page seven.)



Our Collective Voice - Coalition News

The *Coalition* pursues multiple facets of the *POW/MIA* accounting mission. This pulls us in many directions, too many at times.

The *DoD* restructuring of their accounting mission has drawn a lot of our attention. Working independently, and in concert with family organizations from other past conflicts, along with veteran service organizations, we have monitored and participated in each stage of the effort.

The trick is to not get so caught up in the restructuring that other aspects of the mission aren't pursued. When time and finances allow, we travel to Washington, D.C., to broaden awareness of the issues with Congressional offices. Over the years, most of the positive developments in the accounting mission ... from senate hearings, to the creation of *DPMO*, to more senate hearings, the 2012 near-miss return of recovery teams to North Korea, and now the restructuring of the entire accounting mission have been initiated by concerned members of Congress.

So we go to Washington with optimism, and leave with constructive direction. Donna Knox, board member and past *Coalition* president, is now the DC liaison. Donna traveled to Washington last November. She met with legislative aides from offices we have established relationships

with, and briefed new offices on the broad issues. We are developing declassification legislation with one House office. Several others are monitoring the *DoD* restructuring. We are also engaged with a non-governmental organization in presenting a briefing for Congressional offices that focuses on the *POWs* left behind after the armistice and live sighting reports of Americans in North Korea that have persisted over the decades.



*** *Revisit Korea (ROK) Tour***

A number of family members are interested in this partially subsidized opportunity to visit South Korea. The trip is sponsored by *Revisit Korea*, a South Korean organization, and has been set for May 18 through May 23, 2015. Openings have come available. Contact Sunny Lee for information. (sjzior@gmail.com)

(The Coalition is not affiliated with the endeavor.)

*** *Social Media (Outreach)***

Join us on **Facebook** [facebook.com/groups/2307893609/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2307893609/) and **Twitter** (twitter.com/KoreanWarMIAs). Roll up your sleeves, add your voice!

DoD's Generic File of Korean War Live Sightings

This is a list of still classified reports of encounters with unnamed American *POWs* inside North Korea. The June, 2000, declassified report can be found on the *Coalition's* website. (coalitionoffamilies.org/livesightings.html)

Case File for the Korean War

Index Number	Date of Report	Topic	Classification Info
020402	220601ZAPR02	U.S. Servicemember in North Korea	Ongoing
020804	070655ZAPR02	U.S. Defectors in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info
021005	040531ZAPR02	U.S. POWs in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info
031101	180136ZNOV03	American POW in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info
040601	220023ZJUN04	American POW in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info
040901	130017ZSEP04	UN POW in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info
041201	192230ZDEC04	American POWs in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info
061001	130613ZAPR06	American defectors in North Korea	Foreign Govt Info

Declassified Reports

Last Updated: 7/2/2013

Index Number	Date of Report	Topic	Location of Report
040401	271714ZAPR04	POWs in North Korea	Federal Bureau of Investigation, Records Management Division, Washington, DC 20535
040501	201550ZMAY04	Caucasian Prisoner sighted	Federal Bureau of Investigation, Records Management Division, Washington, DC 20535
000602	080947ZJUN00	Possible American POW in NK	Office of Information Programs and Services A/GIS/IPS/RL Department of State, Wash DC 20522

Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIA's
 PO Box 4194
 Portsmouth, NH 03802
 818.259.9950
coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com

Board of Directors

John Zimmerlee **Donna D. Knox**
Gail Embery **Suzanne Schilling**
Mary Jo Loftus **Gary Boyle**
Rick Downes, President/Executive Officer

never-ending nightmare

John Zimmerlee

Imagine reading details about a missing serviceman's capture and life in a prison camp, but not having a family contact with whom to share it!

For twenty years, this has been my never-ending recurring nightmare. While some people spend their spare time reading novels, watching TV, playing cards, and shopping, I sit in front of a pile of documents and start reading each one. My goal is to learn what actually happened to the more than 8,000 men who didn't return from the Korean War.

For instance, USAF John W. Gahan went missing 11/3/1950. PFC Embry Cox witnessed the shooting of four Air Force ground liaison men by the Chinese. Logically, Gahan, was one of them. Yet, a memo from 502nd Tac Con Group stated Gahan was last seen leaving Kunu-ri on foot. Gahan then appeared on an unofficial POW list . . . and then appeared on lists of known POWs that were submitted annually to the Communists with a demand for their return . . . maybe, because his name and photo appeared in China Monthly Review in May 1951. Gahan also appears on the list of 71, who were held after the war and possibly convicted of war crimes. Yet, Gahan is still listed as MIA.

Joseph Adamo was supposedly killed on 11/30/1950, yet a dozen ex-POWs stated he was most definitely a POW. In fact, his name was on the 944 list of men known to be POWs with a public demand for their return in 1954. Two years later, it was publicly announced in Geneva that 70 more remains had been identified, and Joseph Adamo was among them. Yet, Adamo is still labeled "KIA" and his body has never been returned to the family.

In Geneva 1956, of those 70 remains recently identified, 46 still have not been delivered to the families! Why not?

Manuel Abreu was killed in action on 11/1/1950. That isn't debated. What concerns me is that remains X-25 from Pyongyang cemetery was positively identified as Manuel Abreu on 23 May 1951 . . . and no attempt has ever been made to return the body to the family.

In 1953, our government was busy arranging space at the National Cemetery in Hawaii for the unidentifiable re-

mains. When approval was granted, all unidentified remains were immediately shipped to the cemetery . . . including a dozen who had been positively identified, but not yet approved by the Board. Some of their names are Charles Barton, Darden Miller, Roy Moore, Juan Quintana, Charles Rushing, John Senay, George Damico, and Gerald Kappler.

According to DPAA's website, Robert Salvie was killed in action 8/8/1950 in South Korea and his body was not recovered. Yet, his name and unit were found handwritten (along with 300 others) on a blackboard in a school in Seoul on 20 September 1950.



His name appears on the KW76 Atrocity list which means he was captured 8/8/1950, marched for 30 days to Seoul, housed in the school, marched another 30 days to Pyongyang, then loaded on a train which rolled into a tunnel on Oct 20, 1950 where Salvie and 99 others were removed to be fed, but were actually fired upon with machine guns and left to die. Americans showed up a day later and temporarily buried the men, including Salvie. Later, they were dug up and transferred to Pyongyang. Along about 24 May 1951, unidentified remains X-41 was positively identified as Robert J Salvie RA13300064. So why is Salvie still listed on DPAA's website as KIA 8/8/1950????

For 60 years we've been treated like this. When Undersecretary Christine Wormuth was challenged about the lack of performance on November 3, 2014, she announced they would be taking a "Pause" until things get straightened out. That "pause" lasted through Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years!

Together, we can . . . and will get answers!

John Zimmerlee
(Capt. John Zimmerlee, Jr. - MIA)
Korean War POW/MIA Network
john.zimmerlee@gmail.com

Live Sighting: American P.O.W. in North Korea (follow-up)

A June, 2000 ,U.S. embassy document reported that a North Korean citizen requested asylum in exchange for delivering 11 sets of U.S. remains and an American *POW* from the Korean War. A meeting was arranged between the source of the report and a rep from the U.S. embassy. The *DoD* had no info on that meeting until pressed at the 2014 annual family briefing. According to the *DoD*, the meeting did take place, but the source, after requesting the meeting, decided not to share is info. *Why?* The source then disappeared. *For the full report: www.coalitionoffamilies.org/livesightings.html*

TO-DO LIST

We are strongest when the families work together. There are all sorts of ways for you to be involved. Here are a few:

* *An aware Congress is our most effective advocate.* Your local/regional congressional offices are important supporters (both Senators and your district House representative). There will be a legislative aide there to share your case with and periodically update on the broader issues.

* *Petition.* The signed petition on page 7, calling for specific actions within the Korean War POW/MIA mission, will be sent to the White House. Signatures are needed! Set a comfortable goal - 10, 20, 100 signatures. You'll be spreading awareness as well as providing a critical tool.



* *Attend government briefings.* Most of us have seen and heard it all. Go anyway! Be proactive. Share your experiences with newcomers. Attendance sends word to the government that we want closure in the present frame of time, not some unending point in the future. Numbers matter! If we don't show up, they'll think we no longer care.

* Oh, and renew your membership in the Coalition (form below).

Lorna Akima, a family member in Hawaii, has become a superheroine gathering petition signatures. In addition to her significant effort, it is surprisingly pleasant to receive email messages beginning with *Aloha*. A blank copy of the petition is on page seven. The missing men need us all!

(For more info contact: coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com)

Special thanks to Roadwork Pictures and Hanover Park Entertainment!

Finnigan's War



Proceeds from these moving films are donated to the Coalition. Please visit the websites and purchase these powerful films!

Keeping the Promise Alive



www.createspace.com/379520

www.keepingthepromisealive.com/

Visit coalitionoffamilies.org for other important works: *American Trophies* and *Missing, Presumed Dead*.

Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs

National Membership Application

New

Renewal

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to missing service member:

Service member's full name: _____ Service # _____

Branch of Service/Unit or Group:

Date & Area of Loss:

Annual Membership Donation - \$20.00 * Please make checks payable to: Coalition of Families.

Send to:

Coalition of Families (Attn: Treasurer) P.O. Box 4194, Portsmouth, NH 03802

Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIA

We call upon the governments of the United States, Russia, China, North Korea, and South Korea, to:

- * Fully investigate reports that missing American servicemen were kept in captivity following the Korean War,
- * Pursue the recovery and identification of American servicemen's remains located within their borders,
- * Honor pledges for full transparency regarding still classified Korean and Cold War documents, and,
- * Pursue these humanitarian objectives steadfastly, in the present frame of time, not an unending point in the future.

<u>NAME</u> (Please Print)	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>FAMILY MEMBER</u> (Yes/No)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____