

COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



WINTER



2014

In modern warfare, independent contractors (NGOs) are widely used by the Defense Department to support soldiers in the field of battle. Soldiers missing from wars gone by wait for the same consideration. NGOs can help find them, identify them, and search records for answers to their fate.

The U.S. leads the world in locating and identifying remains of its missing soldiers.

In Battle and At Home – NGOs Are A Way!

With that accomplishment, however, has come a certain arrogance. The Defense Department considers its agencies and policies *the only way to go*. This stance has them shaking off potentially game-changing support from the private sector, as if it was an uncomfortable sweater on a balmy day.



The chilled air currently surrounding the Korean War accounting mission suggests that a good sweater can save the day.



There are currently three areas that private sector contractors can improve the government's accounting effort:

Remains Identification - The DoD has openly stated that it will not meet the Congressional mandate to identify 200 remains annually by 2015. Among their reasons are the time needed to train technicians and waiting for DNA, dental, and other lab results. Private sector laboratories, with qualified, experienced technicians, are willing and able to support these critical steps.

Locating Remains - The fates of five thousand U.S. soldiers await discovery in battlefields and P.O.W. camps throughout North Korea. Hundreds of crash sites are scattered across the countryside. Hardball U.S. policy toward North Korea keeps the humanitarian search for these an-

swers off limits. NGOs should be given an opportunity to sidestep this politically charged atmosphere and locate sites for future investigation.

Research - Thousands of critical documents lay waiting in the National Archives and federal agencies throughout the U.S.



Many of them hold important sightings and casualty status determinations. Private researchers have the skill and determination to locate, sort, and release this information.

It is time the government broadened its hold on the POW/MIA recovery mission. The DoD should issue a *Request For Information* that enlists experienced, private sector organizations to support archival research, remains recovery and identification, plus other facets of the mission. This is a time-sensitive mission, one that needs to move forward while those to whom it matters most can find the closure they have sought for so long.



NGOs are a way.

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President's Corner

The Cold War Mentality Lives On



I want into North Korea. Enough with having to imagine a black & white countryside, peopled with images of soldiers waiting to come home. Too many answers, to too many questions, wait there. Yet, the increasingly antagonistic relations between North Korea and the U.S. keep this hope only as a dream.

There is no question about what to expect from North Korea: ardent self interest, paranoid melodrama, inconsistency, and Orwellian political-speak firing-up nationalist fervor.

A more rational, insightful approach should be expected from our own side. Yet, nearly the same rhetoric voiced by North Korea was delivered by U.S. State Department and DoD speakers at this year's annual family brief-

ing. Only the colorful imagery was missing. Their steadfast denunciation of the DPRK was driven by the same archaic, simplistic fervor that drives DPRK policy. Ours is as closed minded as theirs. The U.S. doesn't have official diplomatic relations with North Korea. Hard to believe. The two countries communicate through another embassy, like adolescent arch-enemies bickering through a mutual friend. No wonder the two nations can't resolve their problems.

Until the policy makers of both sides behave like progressive leaders rather than Cold War stereotypes, I will have to stare wistfully into an imagined landscape for answers that should have come decades ago.

Rick Downes

(Lt. Hal Downes - MIA 1952)

United States

CONGRESS

Two important external reports were released this past summer that were critical of the DoD's mission to bring home the nation's missing soldiers. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) described the effort as being "undermined by longstanding leadership weaknesses and a fragmented organizational structure." An internal review by Dr. Paul Cole described JPAC's effort as "inept, mis-managed and wasteful." These reports sparked action in both the House and Senate.

Senate - Sen. McCaskill called a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee to address the two reports. Sen. Ayotte sat-in and participated fully. The heads of DPMO, JPAC, and AFDIL we're summoned. Senators McCaskill and Ayotte broached the issues with an innate understanding of the emotion involved, as if they were searching for someone themselves.

In follow-up, Sen. McCaskill is reportedly proposing an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring the Pentagon to "tackle this mess."

House - In July, twelve members sent a letter to JPAC calling for answers. Representatives Davis, Nugent, Shear-Porter, Noem, Loeb sack, Brady, Barber, Tsongas, Kilmer, Hanabusa, and LoBiando signed. In August, the House

Armed Services/Military Personnel subcommittee held a hearing, co-chaired by Reps. Wilson and Davis. The authors of both external reports were called. Many of the members who signed the earlier letter participated. They delved into the reports' findings, and inquired about what needed to be done to move the effort forward. Gen. McKeague (JPAC) later responded to the initial House letter. He reported that the DoD is conducting a review of the accounting effort and detailed improvements already implemented at JPAC, including modifying "the structure of our investigation teams to improve their efficiencies and effectiveness."

(www.coalitionoffamilies.org/facts.html for details)

DPMO

The government's Family Member Update program reached 833 family members (from all conflicts) in 2013. Of that total, 489 were first time attendees. The tentative family update schedule for 2014 has the annual Korean/ Cold War DC briefing scheduled for Aug 14-15th.

Schedule

Jan 11 - Portland, OR

Feb 22 - Houston, TX

Mar 15 - Charlotte, NC

Apr 12 - Las Vegas, NV

May 10 - Minneapolis, MN

Aug 14-15 Washington DC for Korean & Cold War
Sept 13 - Pittsburgh, PA



THE COLD WAR CORNER

Melody Raglin

At the Korean/Cold War family update in WDC last month, us Cold War families had a separate "break-out" meeting. I personally am very grateful for this addition to the 2 day, predominately Korean War event. (As it should be as there are so few of us). In fact, we consisted of 8 family members present. Last year, we numbered almost 20. Also present were 8 members from DPMO and JCSD (Joint Commission Support Division).

James Connell, Senior Analyst, JCSD, gave a brief presentation of all 10 Cold War Shoot downs. Dr. Connell has been a constant for us since 1992 and he is by far, the leading expert on these 10 cases. His expertise, knowledge and genuine compassion have been an asset to us family members all these years.

We also met the new JCSD Chief, Mr. Rich Lyda. He has been in this position since May 2013. Of course the only important question came up: "What is happening with the Russian Joint Commission?" I have asked two other people who were present at this gathering to tell me what answer they heard-and I can only say we all did hear and interpret the answer in the same way. Mr. Lyda gave the answer. He informed us that we still have a team in Russia. The team is ready whenever the Russians grant us permission into their archives. He expressed a lot of "hope". The familiar ring of that "hope", waiting and waiting to get into the Russian Archives is a broken record that comes up each time we ask this very same question for the last 10 years now. Mr. Lyda also expressed how challenging it was to expect the Russians to give us access to their "CIA" archives.

Hey, aren't we having the same challenge right here with our own NSA and NARA attempts? I have been saying for 2 years now, after repeated empty hopes that we need to be granted access to our own archives. Don't bother with Russia. As long as us family members get FOIA's consisting of blank pages and blacked out pages, I still believe the answers are right here. Before we declare Russia uncooperative, let's exhaust the information right here in our own country. Let's look at the process that continues to keep documents classified for 60+ years. How many more of us Family members will die before we find closure? I believe the answers are right here in WDC. Bring home the Russia team and put them into our own archives! So the simple answer of what is going on with the Russian Commission, well, nothing.



COLD WAR WRITING CAMPAIGN

Dear Family Members of the Cold War,

I am attempting to get as many families together with one strong voice to be heard. There is no time like the present with the hearings going on in WDC. When I FOIA'ed NSA through Senator Dianne Feinstein's office last year, I received 19 blank pages and numerous blacked out pages. Her office has continued to be helpful and supportive. I was told that I must be extremely "specific" with my request/questions. What I am hoping to accomplish with this letter writing campaign is that we have a few questions all the same. Please feel free to ask any request/question you need to. Again, being as specific as you can be. I know many of you have already written many letters. Our attempts are fragmented, a letter here, a letter there. I am hopeful that if we can collectively send our letters as one packet to the Head of Intelligence, Senator Feinstein, we can be heard loud and clear. We are so few; I am also suggesting that your other family members also send in a letter. Siblings, children, grandchildren can all submit a letter with this campaign.

I have a Privacy release form from the Senator that is to be used with this letter writing campaign. I will fax, mail or scan it to you. I would love to hear from each and every one of you. Together, I pray, we can change this dreadful process of being told "It's classified" or the "executive order" has our hands tied!

Here are my suggestions for collective questions, and I welcome any new suggestions you may have:

- 1) *When will there be a review of these Cold War records held at NSA for declassification?*
 - 2) *Will the executive orders that changed classification of documents from 50 years of silence to 75 years be considered for reevaluation?*
- (Executive order 13526-executed 12/2009, and it's predecessors 13292-executed 3/2003, 12958 executed 4/1995, and 12356 executed 4/1982).

Please include the whole crew's names along with your family member. Please "cc" this FOIA also to your Congressman and Senator.

I sincerely hope to hear from you. Together, we can be heard.

Respectfully,
Melody Raglin
raglinmia@yahoo.com / 530-265-5741

Korea

* * *

DPRK (North Korea)

In March, the U.N. Human Rights Council created a commission to report on issues in North Korea. The campaign targeted food deprivation, labor camps for political prisoners and torture. Reports of American/UN prisoners of war still being held inside North Korea were not on the agenda.

Friends, supporters, and families of the POW/MIA mission asked for an opportunity to appear before the commission. Mark Sauter and John Zimmerlee were allowed to present the issues (see page 6). Thanks to their knowledge and dedication, the live POW issue is now on the commission's agenda.

Merrill Newman, a Korean War veteran, visited North Korea on a tour in October. Mr. Newman reportedly spoke to guides about his war experience, which involved training North Korean partisans. That didn't go over well. The day he was to return home, Mr. Newman was removed from the airplane by DPRK authorities. He was held at a hotel, under guard, fed well, but was reportedly told that if he didn't deliver a statement apologizing for his wartime actions, he wouldn't go home for a long while. Mr. Newman delivered the statement. He returned home December 7th.



Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Balloon Drop—Human rights groups in South Korea try various ways to inform North Korean citizens about the outside world. One method is to release large helium balloons that land throughout the North Korean countryside. Suspended from the balloons are packages that in-

clude a couple of US dollars, sweets, and tiny transistor radios that will pick up stations from South Korea. Thanks to special friends of the POW/MIA mission, an October balloon drop also carried leaflets asking about American POWs still held in North Korea.



China

Research under the U.S./China archival agreement has focused on the search for air losses over China. *Several* cases have seen progress, but other types of information, impacting *thousands* of missing men, have not been touched. The areas include extensive POW camp records, air losses

over North Korea, and the liaison with Soviet advisors. The latter area is where much of the prisoner transfer to the Soviet Union likely happened. There is no word on when these critical areas will be researched.



Russia

The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) conducts research in Russia on missing U.S. servicemen from all modern conflicts. Each side of the commission appoints its own commissioners. General Robert

H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF, Retired, is the co-chairman of the U.S. side. Gen. Foglesong was recently approved by the DoD for special government employee status, which allows him to better carry out his duties. The U.S. side of the USRJC met on Dec 11th.



Live Sighting Report—North Korea

June, 2000 (Declassified 2009)

(Synopsis) Action Request from American Embassy, Seoul, to Sec of State, DC. Fax received from ROK human rights group. Chinese police officer approached by North Korean citizen requesting asylum in exchange for delivering 11 sets of U.S. remains and 3 P.O.W.s (2 ROK, 1 American) still alive and held in the DPRK. One set of remains was sent, including the dog tags of an American soldier. Requests: 1) Was the name on the dog tag listed among the missing from the Korean War, 2) Was the dog tag of Korean War era, 3) Provide questions to determine validity/authenticity of the report. *(The full report is at: www.coalitionoffamilies.org/livesightings.html)*

Our Collective Voice - Coalition News

Washington DC (Advocacy)

The *Coalition's* president, Rick Downes, traveled to Washington DC in September for meetings with Congressional offices. Legislative aides from each chamber's Armed Services, Military Personnel Committees agreed to meetings. There was genuine, positive response to issues they could act on directly:

- * Releasing classified records;
- * Enlisting experienced, nongovernment organizations to work on archival research, remains recovery and identification, and other facets of the mission.

Other issues discussed included the ongoing reports of POW sightings and returning recovery missions to North Korea.

Family members played influential roles in setting some of the meetings. Potentially strong working relationships may develop with several offices. Our hope is that a broad community of private sector organizations, Congress, and the Defense Department will be able to fill-in many of the missing men's storylines and bring closure to the families, in the present frame of time, not some unending point in the future.

Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War (Outreach)

The *Coalition* will begin a public access television series that will share stories of missing men from the Korean and Cold Wars. It will include the impact their loss has had on their families' lives. This will be an intriguing opportunity to broaden public awareness through nationwide public access networking and online streaming.

Please join with us by submitting the story of your loved one's loss, and how it has impacted your family. Email them to: coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com. Join us!

Petition (Advocacy)

The *Coalition* has posted an internet petition we would like you to join us in signing:

President Obama: Resolve the mysteries surrounding the Forgotten Men of the Forgotten War.

This is an opportunity to act on a global scale on behalf of the missing men. Hundreds of people have signed - family members, veterans, newcomers to the issue. Many more are needed, however, to make real impact. Adding your signature is way to make a difference.

Please go to www.change.org. (Search box, type: Forgotten Men of the Forgotten War, then enter. The petition's link will be the first one listed.)



*** Social Media (Outreach)**

For many family members, entering the world of social media is like taking the long leap off the short pier. *Please hold your breath and get wet!* It is today's way of interacting with the world; a way to make a difference. We need to make a difference in the accounting mission.

Join us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/groups/2307893609/ (ask to become a friend,; you will be welcomed), and Twitter (www.twitter.com/KoreanWarMIAs (become a *follower*) Add your voice to the mission! It matters!

***Membership**

We accomplish so much working together! *Your membership supports the Coalition's outreach, advocacy and research work.* New members are always welcome! Renewing members, even moreso! Membership donations are tax deductible. It's all good. (Member/renewal application on page 7.)

Please add your voice! It makes a difference!

* * * * *

As of Nov. 7, 2013, there are 7,901 American soldiers / loved ones still unaccounted-for from the Korean War. An additional 126 remain missing from the Cold War.

Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIA's

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Recently I was invited to testify before the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.

Heavy on their minds was the human rights issue and the many abuses North Korea inflicts on their own people, including slavery. My testimony was a reminder that it is not just North Koreans who are being abused, but also abducted Japanese, South Koreans, and thousands of United Nations Allied Servicemen from the Korean War . . . who are still in slave camps.

Right from the start, Judge Michael Kirby challenged my statement by stating that none of the escaping or released Korean prisoners had reported ever seeing Americans in captivity. Needless to say, he hadn't read the thousands of documents which clearly state that Koreans were separated from the rest of the forces immediately after capture. At least 37 listed prison camps are located all over North Korea and secret camps also abound. Those along the Yalu River which borders China were the preferred location for captured Americans, British, Australians, Canadians, and Turks. No Koreans, North or South, were kept in these camps with Caucasians.

During the war, the North Koreans and their partner, China, bragged about having UN forces alive in captivity. When the cease fire was signed in 1953, an exchange of prisoners took place soon thereafter, but over a thousand of the UN Servicemen who were POWs and appeared in newspapers, magazines, and voices heard over communist radio broadcasts . . . were not returned. Lists of these men were submitted to North Korea with a demand for their return, with no response. Repeated demands received no response.

North Korea needs a wake-up call. Their leader needs to be cut off from all external aid and commerce until he explains what happened to each and every one of these men. The Commission of Inquiry agreed.

But there is a deeper darker secret lurking here. When I mentioned, "The UN and the US Government claimed that most of the men who did not return were merely "Missing-in-Action" or were "Killed-in-Action" and that simply wasn't true and both parties knew it," the audience leaned forward and the Commission got nervous.

As the ex-POWs were released after the cease-fire, each man was debriefed and his comments were transcribed . . . but not made public. These men recalled buddies who survived the battlefield, were taken prisoner, but later died. Yet the records often stated they were 'killed-in-action'. Why? Because too many of our men surrendered, and if that went public, it would make us appear to be losing the war. So, if North Korea didn't publicize them as POWs, our government let the families believe they died on the battlefield. After all, a noble death was an expected casualty of war. Thousands, who were captured and lived, but not publicized, were labeled simply 'missing-in-action'.

My mission for the last 20 years is to reveal what happened to these men, and so far, I have uncovered compelling evidence that 216 so-called KIA cases and 898 MIA cases were known by the UN and our government to be POWs and a demand was never made to the North Koreans for their return. The Commission of Inquiry was caught 'off guard' when I brought up this point.

I was asked how I know this to be true, so I shared my own case with the commission:

"Years ago, I learned that the gunner aboard my father's plane was included in an Air Force report. That report summarized an

North Korea Needs a Wake-Up Call

John Zimmerlee

interrogation report about a twin-engine bomber that had gone down near a farmer's home and men had bailed out, but there was no reference number for the

actual interrogation. After nine years of searching, I found the reference number and demanded the report from the Department of personnel Missing, DPMO. A year later, I received a letter from DPMO stating that they had searched the Archives, presidential libraries and all military bases . . . and the report did not exist. The next day I contacted the researcher at the Archives and thanked him for participating in the search. He didn't recall a search and asked me for the reference number. He called back in five minutes and said he had it in his hand. I was shocked! When I asked him what else was in the box, he stated there were a few hundred other documents about other live sightings of American POWs. When I told him I would be there on Monday, he asked if I wanted just the one box . . . or all 30 in the series." At that I point I got emotional.



The Commission quickly changed the subject and asked how this relates to the human rights issue in North Korea, to which I responded, "You can demand that North Korea tell us what happened to the men who didn't return from the war, but when you have evidence of names, locations, and dates . . . the demand is more pertinent and personal."

We then talked about particular cases; the Ashley Five, Sam Logan, Gerald Glasser, and others. These men were known to be alive in captivity at the end of the war, but did not return.

I was asked why I think these men are still alive today, to which I responded, "They probably aren't, but they were convicted of war crimes. In North Korea, a conviction was not only for the accused, but also for three generations of his family. Most often, these men were allowed to marry while in captivity, which means their off-spring and their off-spring may still be imprisoned. I may actually have brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews alive and in captivity in North Korea.

Though I was allowed just 15 minutes of testimony, I was on the stand for more than 40 minutes.

In closing, I was asked to summarize my testimony to which I responded, "The UN should require North Korea to reveal everything they know about all UN servicemen who did not come home . . . and make an effort to share information the UN has about these men, release all its control and restrictions on documents at the National Archives, and encourage the US government to do the same. Though North Korea is at fault here, the UN and the US government need to accept some of the responsibility for the families still not knowing what happened to their missing loved ones."

So what does the United Nations actually intend to do about these inhumane acts in North Korea? Obviously, sanctions haven't worked in the past. Food missions have been absorbed by the North Korean government and never made it to the needed families. It is doubtful that the UN will wage war again against this arrogant little country.

North Korea's only friend is China. To have any effect, we must encourage Beijing to take action against North Korea. So, we have two choices: stop buying goods from China and/or stop making payments on Chinese debt until North Korea cleans up their act. Good luck with either of those!

TO DO LIST

Petition

The *Coalition* has posted an internet petition we would like you to join us in signing:
President Obama: Resolve the mysteries surrounding the Forgotten Men of the Forgotten War. This is an opportunity to make a global statement on behalf of our missing loved ones.
[wwwchange.org](http://www.change.org) - Search: *Forgotten Men of the Forgotten War*



Cold War POW/MIA documents *Older Than 25 Years* prioritized for declassification.

<http://blogs.archives.gov/transformingclassification/?p=567#comments>

Thousands of documents relating to missing American soldiers from the Korean and Cold Wars remain unnecessarily classified.

Note: The comment section is at the bottom of previously submitted comments.

*Scroll down to the bottom of all the comments,

*Enter your comment,

*Enter the scramble numbers **before** submitting.

(Comments will appear at a later date.)

This is a rare opportunity to share your voice. Thank you.

Document Declassification

Please go to the National Archives (NARA) blog (link below) and submit a comment requesting to have Korean and

Special thanks to Roadwork Pictures and Hanover Park Entertainment!

Finnigan's War



Proceeds from their moving films are donated to the Coalition. Please visit the websites and purchase these meaningful holiday gifts!

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