

COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



SUMMER

2013

It's that time of year. The government's annual family member briefing is here, August (8-9). It is common to place our hopes

and expectations on these agencies to tell us what happened to our missing loved ones. It is difficult not to. The resources are all there. The words are all there. "Highest priority", "Until they are Home". Yet, going back to when Pres. Eisenhower wrote the men off as casualties of war, it doesn't matter which party is in charge, the commitment will only be what current policies allow or the families and the nation demand.

There is a tidal wave building in the latter. Individuals and organizations alike are taking up the issue. Congress is demanding accountability. In this anniversary year of the armistice ending hostilities of the Korean War, the nation may finally be rising up to say, "Hey, it's been too long! Let's get it done!"

So many issues once seemed beyond the scope of any individual or group. Yet, North Korea just allowed a private U.S. veteran to enter the DPRK to search for the crash site of a fellow flyer. Two independent researchers are uncovering declassified documents that reinforce evidence missing men were kept behind following the Korean war and even taken to other countries. Powerful documentaries are being made. Online petitions are calling for action.

The wave is rising!

Tidal Wave!



things. This family briefing is a critical opportunity to carry the wave directly to agencies who can move the issues forward. The challenges reach beyond the people presenting the meeting, however, all the way to policy makers at the highest levels of the administration and DOD. The people putting on this briefing are who we get to see. It is

their responsibility to answer for inaction. It is our responsibility to make them do so.

To be prepared, bring a respectable amount of cynicism. There will be some straight talkers, but they will be odd moments of relief to other measured, cautious, defensive, in some cases outright misleading presentations.

It's theater, actually. A Cecil B. DeMille production. We need to be more than an audience. We need to be part of the production itself, asking questions and demanding explanations. These agencies were created to provide answers. They are being called by recent studies to do a better job at providing them, and do so in the present frame of time, not some indefinite point in the future. It is the families' responsibility to see that they do so.

The Coalition will be reporting on the briefing through the internet. You can follow the events as they happen through: www.twitter.com/@KoreanWarMIAs.

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President's Corner

All's Quiet on the North Korean Front



It happens this time of year. Peaceful overtures flow from the DPRK, including offers to renew remains recovery operations. The U.S. rejects these but the opportunities are there.

All the trouble comes early, in the spring, March through April, when the U.S. and South Korea practice war. *Key Resolve/Foal Eagle* are the mission names. The soldiers. The weaponry. Land, sea, and air. A big to-do ... that scares North Korea to death.

During past exercises, the DPRK has bombarded a South Korean island, possibly sank a South Korean ship, and this year threatened to turn Seoul and Washington into a Sea of Flames. North Korea truly believes they will be invaded. Each year, the U.S. fails to acknowledge this fear (or doesn't care). It would be comical if it wasn't so dangerous.

In 2011, the U.S. and North Korea agreed to renew remains recovery operations. The next year, a U.S. ship was loaded with military personnel and equipment then sent to a Chinese harbor to wait for entry visas into North Korea.

Six long years had passed since recovery operations were suspended by the U.S. Hope rose among the families.

When did the U.S. choose to send this ship loaded with equipment and military personnel into North Korea? Yes, the first day of Operation Foal Eagle. The very day that other U.S. military personnel and equipment began their practice for war against North Korea.

The outcome should have been predictable. The DPRK stalled the recovery team's visas then went on to test a ballistic missile. The U.S. threw up its hands and called the recovery teams home. The comedy went full course.

Wiser, more insightful minds would have scheduled the recovery teams' deployment after the dust settled from the military exercises, when North Korea was no longer manic about an invasion. If/when another opportunity to resume recovery operations in the DPRK comes along, we must be sure that U.S. policymakers, earning a living at this sort of thing, recall that North Korea thinks differently than we do. Let's schedule the deployment of a humanitarian mission when the host isn't paranoid that the operation is a side-door way of invading their country!

Rick Downes (Lt. Hal Downes - MIA)

United States

* A year-long Congressional/GAO study has been released analyzing the Defense Department's ability to meet identification goals for missing American servicemen. The long and short of the study is that the agencies in charge of the accounting mission are not working together well enough to meet the goals, and that the higher echelons supervising them are not involved enough to smooth out the differences.

"Collectively, these weaknesses jeopardize DOD's capability and capacity to accomplish the statutory goals of accounting for missing persons, and to provide some measure of closure to those families whose loved ones are still missing as a result of their service to their country."

Nine recommendations were made on how to improve cooperation among the agencies.

While these changes should improve the government's effort down the line, for now it will mean that agencies who are supposed to be out learning what happened to the missing men, will be focusing those energies on learning how to get along with one-another.

* *Cole Report*: An internal report, by noted researcher Paul Cole, was equally critical of operations within JPAC.

Changes were called for or, "the descent from dysfunction to total failure ... is inevitable." According to the article by AP reporter Bob Burns, "even the current JPAC commander, Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague, says he would not dispute those who say his organization is dysfunctional."

* *Oversight*: House and Senate hearings have already been called to address issues raised by the two reports. One longstanding effort complementing these findings is House Resolution 231, calling for a House Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs. It is currently gaining co-sponsors to move ahead in the committee process. Ask if your representative has signed on.

* *For-What-it's-Worth*: The 2010 China archival report established where remains of missing Americans were buried whose planes went down within China's borders during the Korean War. JPAC didn't go get them the next year, nor the year after. It has determined to visit sites this year or maybe next, or maybe when they overcome this dysfunctional thing.

* *Identifications*: As of June 24th, 2013, 246 of the missing men from Korea have been identified since 1982. Welcome home!

(Read more at www.coalitionoffamilies.org)



Our visits to Korea—Jan Curran

I can't remember a time when my sister and I haven't wondered about the place where our father, Lt. Charles Garrison, went missing. He was forced to bail from his burning plane on May 18, 1951, just a little south of the DMZ, which was occupied by the enemy at the time. He was presumably taken prisoner when a valiant effort to rescue him failed. A returning POW reported that he thought he saw Dad near Wonsan, which was far north of the location where he bailed out, and stated that they had spent days or even weeks together at this location.



I read this former POW's record of his sighting, and it struck me as odd that Dad did not mention having a wife and two daughters, but according to this report talked of how much he loved growing up on a farm. According to my mother, my dad disliked farming and I couldn't imagine his last words would be about that and not his beautiful wife and two daughters at home.

I interviewed this man by phone about 15 years ago and he had no memory of the story he had written to my grandparents; actually he only thought he remembered passing by Dad one day. Of course fifty or so years had passed, and I don't imagine I could remember much better.

There is, however, a definite record of the location of his crash. When I was about sixteen I was given a magazine with the story of his loss as written by one of his fellow pilots who was on the mission that morning. He told his story to Ken Jones, a war correspondent, and it is entitled "For God's Sake, Bail Out Now!"

My husband was recently offered an opportunity to work on an engineering project in South Korea and he accepted. I visited him last month and took many pictures of the War Museum of Korea, where dad's name is listed among the many others who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom for the people of South Korea.



I was interviewed for a special program they are to have this month to commemorate the signing of the Armistice 60 years ago. The Korean people are very warm and friendly and appreciative of what the US has done for them.

My sister and I will be going back to South Korea on September 22nd and stay until October 3rd. We will be traveling to the location to see with our own eyes the area where our dad was lost. It may not be complete closure, but we hope it will give us some peace of mind.



POW / MIA Charger R/T

More and more people are standing together in the search for the missing men. Many of these people, non-family members, commit lengthy resources and time to share their support. Chris Green is doing just that.

Chris started his POW/MIA tribute in 2010, in honor of his great uncle, Marion Miller, who was a POW in WWII's Bataan Death March. Chris broadens awareness by bringing



his POW/MIA cars (full-sized and one for children) to military events, car shows and parades. He has also been an escort vehicle during memorial services for soldiers who were once MIA, identified, then returned home. Chris designed the cars himself.

More people stepping forward like Chris will go a long way toward moving the mission ahead. Learn more about Chris' efforts through Facebook at POW MIA Charger R/T.



Korea

DPRK (North Korea)

In December, 1950, Ensign Jessie Brown was shot down over North Korea and trapped inside his plane. Jessie's wingman, Lt. Tom Hudner, watched from above as his friend struggled to get free. Hudner made the decision to crash land his own plane to help. That sacrifice proved to be in vain. Tom wasn't able to free Jessie, watched him fade into unconsciousness then was forced to evacuate for his own safety. He was sure his friend had died but made a promise to return. Sixty-three years later, that promise has

been partially fulfilled. Tom Hudner, 88 years old, received permission from North Korea to return to the crash site with hopes of locating Jessie's remains and then bring them home to Brown's family. A small group of supporters traveled with Hudner. They were welcomed by the North Koreans but were told that seasonal monsoon flooding had made the area of the crash site inaccessible. Another promise to return has been made. It was welcomed by the North Koreans.



Republic of Korea (South Korea)

In June, South Korea called on North Korea to free ROK prisoners of war held in North Korea since the Korean War hostilities ended 60 years ago. South Korea's commission on Korean War abductees has said that a total of

2,265 South Korean soldiers were taken prisoner by the North during and after the war.

North Korea responded to this plea by saying, *some of the alleged abductees were actually voluntary defectors.*



China

The central feature of the U.S.- China archival agreement is referred to as Plan A, in which the U.S. outlined the areas of research. Of the six types of information requested, China appears to be addressing only one facet of one section: Air losses over China.

They are doing thorough work there, going beyond paper files to visit locations within China, interviewing eyewitnesses and searching for artifacts, presenting the U.S. with a number of recovery opportunities. This aspect appears to be their only focus, however.

What *hasn't* been covered in any of the Chinese annual summary reports are areas with even more potential for answers to missing men's fate.

These areas include: air losses over North Korea, the extensive POW camp records, and the critical liaison with Soviet advisors - including joint operations and information sharing among the air forces and interrogation of prisoners. The latter area is where much of the transfer of prisoners to the Soviet Union likely transpired.



Russia

A charter for the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs has been approved by the President's National Security Staff. The USRJC is responsible for research into Russia's former Soviet Union files to locate records of American and other UN soldiers taken to the Soviet Union during the Korean War then never returned. The USRJC

was originally established as an independent Presidential commission. This status protected it from inter-agency policy changes. It has not been reported if this stature is included in the current version of the charter.



“Keeping the Promise Alive”

This inspiring documentary captures the emotion, drama, tragedy and truth underlying the Korean War's still missing fathers, husbands, brothers and uncles. The well researched, beautifully shot film is a critical step toward broadening awareness of the sixty-year effort to learn



what happened to the missing men. Ideally, our government's leaders will be inspired to uphold their end of the promise.

(“Keeping the Promise Alive” can be purchased at: www.keepingthepromisealive.com/)

Our Collective Voice - Coalition News

The Coalition is broadening its outreach program to expand the general public's role in the accounting mission. A motivated and informed public is essential to *inspiring* supportive policy decisions at the highest government levels.

With our friends, colleagues, neighbors, and veterans standing with us, the missing men's voice will ring loud and true. To this end, the Coalition is initiating new projects and supporting those of others.

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

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

This is a historical opportunity to act on a global scale on behalf of the missing men. We are looking for the tipping point where the petition will take on a life of its own, where signatures will mount to a level that will call for attention.

An old television commercial captured it well, "You tell ten people, then they tell ten people". Signing the petition then spreading the word to others can make a difference. Visit the Coalition's website for a link to the full petition and signature page: www.coalitionoffamilies.org

*** Media Network for the Missing - MNM**

The Missing Men Need You/Us!!

This will be a nationwide network of family members subscribed to local news publications, broadening awareness of Korean and Cold War POW/MIA issues by commenting to relevant articles published in local media. (See page 7)

* We highly recommend the following two ambitious, independent projects :

"Keeping The Promise Alive". This powerful documentary is a story of young love, brotherly love and one family's unwavering commitment to uncover the truth, and answer

the question, "What became of Captain Harry Cecil Moore?"

"American Trophies". How U.S. POWs were surrendered to North Korea, China and Russia.

Links to the documentary and eBook are on the Coalition's website: www.coalitionoffamilies.org .



* * * * *

Annual Government DC Update, August 8-9

* The Coalition will present the film *Keeping the Promise Alive* (66 minutes) on Thursday evening (August 8th) at the hotel. Please join us. Doors open at 7:00. The film begins at 7:30PM in the Hyatt hotel's Potomac Room 6. RSVP at: coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com.

* *Research* - John Zimmerlee will be meeting with family members to share documents he may have on your loved one's case. To arrange a time, contact John at 404-394-6930 or john.zimmerlee@gmail.com.

* We will be reporting on the update through the internet. You can follow the events as they happen through: www.twitter.com/@KoreanWarMIAs.

* This year, the hotel is situated closer to the airport (Reagan National) and DC/the Metro. So traveling from place to place will be easier. Remember though that important Q&A happens Friday afternoon. Be sure to stay for that!

Bracelet

Generous arrangements have been made for \$25 to be donated to the Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIA's for each of these POW/MIA bracelets sold. You can help support their efforts to broaden the mission by purchasing one of these stainless steel bracelets (\$50 each).



In addition to the donation, wearing it will draw interest from friends, colleagues and family. Possibly a good gift idea? If the price fits your budget, please visit the Coalition's website for details.

(www.coalitionoffamilies.org)

Thank you!

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“Acutely Dysfunctional”

By John Zimmerlee

When the Korean War ended in July 1953, we signed an armistice agreement, a cease fire agreement, and a demilitarized zone was created between the two countries. Since any one crossing the DMZ would be shot, we created an agreement to collect bodies of North Koreans in the South and the North Koreans would collect American bodies in the North . . . and we would exchange them in what was to become “Operation Glory”. Most of the bodies we received had names and service numbers associated with them. Many of those proved to be incorrect, but we were able to correctly identify most of them. Those that could not be identified correctly were labeled as unidentifiable and stored for future effort.

Also, during the war, the communists bragged about capturing our men and having them alive. They aired their voices on Peking radio, published their photos in newspapers, allowed them to write home, and returned men who identified others left behind. After the war, we created a list of 944 men known to be alive and in enemy custody and submitted the list to the communists with the demand, “You bragged about having these men, now give them back to us.” There was no response. Over the next year, we discovered that half of those men had since died in captivity, so we reduced the list to 450 names.

Three years after the Korean War, our government attended a convention in Geneva in order to confront the Communists about “unaccounted-for” Americans. In our government’s presentation was an announcement that we had reviewed the American remains returned by the North Koreans after the war and had since identified 56 Army, 10 Marines, and 4 Air Force remains . . . and would not therefore be demanding accounting on those individuals.

That meant that we were no longer requesting accounting on 450 men. Now, we were down to just 380 men assumed alive and in captivity . . . or were we? For some reason, we left one of the Army and 9 of the 10 Marines on the demand list after the 1956 Geneva Meeting.

The bigger problem was that we were also maintaining another list of unaccounted-for men from all the services and we left 36 of 56 Army men on the unaccounted-for list along with 9 of the 10 marines and two of the four Air Force. *Why would we attend the Geneva meeting, brag about identifying these men and then leave most of them on the unaccounted-for list, and not inform the families that the bodies were identified?*

Years later, our list of 8,177 unaccounted-for men was published. Unfortunately, most of the men were mis-categorized as KIA and, MIA. My research indicates that 1,113 of the KIAs and MIAs were known by our government as POWs. Even worse, 255

of these 8,177 unaccounted-for have remains identified with them and the families were never told. The Pentagon claims that these remains were either later identified as someone else or haven’t enough evidence to forensically identify the named individual. as



Let’s think about that for a minute. Over 250 remains with names on them. What are the odds that most of them are wrong? If the bodies were someone else, how did the communists get the initial names and service numbers? If the remains were confused, were they confused with a nearby remains buried in the same location? If so, are there other unidentified remains nearby that should be DNA tested?

These questions should be aimed at JPAC which is responsible for identifying the remains. Note the difference between “unaccounted-for” and “accounted-for” is the remains recovery and forensic identification of those remains, followed by family acceptance, and publishing the results.

Over the last 20 years, JPAC has identified an average of 8.3 Korean War remains per year at an average cost of 2.1 million each. My estimate is approximately 1,288 remains are in JPAC’s possession or in the Punchbowl. At that rate, it would take 155 years just to identify the readily available remains at a cost of 2.7 billion dollars. Imagine your future generations in the year 2168 receiving a body of an ancestor who died in the Korea War more than 215 years before. What good would that do anyone?

What we need is answers! Most of the details on what happened to our loved-ones are on the sixth floor of the National Archives right now!

The families should take a stand at the annual meeting next month and demand that DPMO change their mission statement again to, “Research all information pertaining to our missing servicemen and share it with the families.”

If anyone would like the names of those whose remains were identified in 1956, please contact John Zimmerlee at 404-394-6930 or john.zimmerlee@gmail.com

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

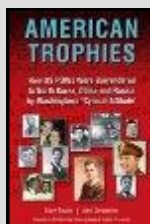
John Zimmerlee (Capt. John Zimmerlee, Jr. - MIA)

(John’s article was edited for space limitations. Visit www.coalitionoffamilies.org for the full article)

American Trophies

By John Zimmerlee and Mark Sauter

Soldier’s sent into battle face dire realities. One of these possibilities shouldn’t be the uncertainty that, like disappearing into a Stephen King fog, they will simply never be heard from again. American Trophies tells the personal stories of men who went into battle,



were captured by the enemy, were known to be alive then were never heard from again. This book brings these men to life, presents a strong case for finally learning what happened to them, and ideally bring closure to families who still search for answers to their loved one’s fate.

(This E-book can be purchased at:

www.kpows.com)

The Missing Men Need You/Us!!

(A nationwide network of family members broadening awareness by commenting on articles published in their local media.)

Yes, picture Uncle Sam pointing his finger your way, my way, our way ... to serve the missing men, our loved ones ... through our local media.

We've all read newspapers articles as Veterans Day or Memorial Day approached. These stories acknowledge the veterans who served, those who returned, and those known to have given their lives. Rightfully so. There is rarely any mention of the missing men, however, as if the media is unaware of them.

Well, there is something we, you, and I can do about that. The *Coalition* is developing a network of family members who will watch for stories in local publications relating to POW/MIA issues and then respond to them.

Most of the comments can be general response: *"My (father, uncle, brother, husband) is among the 8000 soldiers still missing from the Korean/Cold War. We are still searching for answers to what happened."*



Some responses may require deeper understanding of the issues. The *Coalition* will make content available.

Responding to these stories will provide opportunities to reach people unfamiliar with the MIA issue and broaden their awareness of the effort to account for the missing men. These comments may in turn generate response from other readers, even follow-up stories ... your own stories.

We will only learn what happened to our loved one by searching for all of the missing men. We need the general public's support to do this. It begins with us, of course. We are the missing men's voices. The effort can make a difference.

Please join with us in raising awareness of those in our community who would want to speak up on the issues, if only they were aware of them. Please contact us at:

coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com.

Join Us!

New members are always welcome! (Membership donations are tax deductible.) And please visit the expanded *Coalition's* website (www.coalitionoffamilies.org), become a friend on Facebook and a follower on the new Twitter page. Invite other family members and friends. Numbers show support for the mission!

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