POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 6 new announcements. Click on

the links to read more:

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, bolstered by the strengthening and expansion of partnerships, the

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) accounted for 218 formerly missing persons

from past conflicts, the highest yearly total reached by the agency or its predecessor organizations.

Of the 218 newly accounted-for, 140 were from World War II, 73 from the Korean War, and 5

from the Vietnam War, including two civilians who flew for Air America.

"The noble mission of accounting for Americans missing from past conflicts continues to succeed

because of the myriad partners DPAA is fortunate to work with," said DPAA Director Kelly

McKeague. "Foreign governments, Department of Defense and other U.S. agency partners, and

private organizations all contribute to providing more answers to families."

Besides the more than 35 partner nations whose cooperation in FY 2019 contributed to this success,

DPAA’s mission also benefitted from stronger collaboration with the casualty offices from the

Military Departments and Department of State; the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and

the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory; the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S.

European Command; the Defense Intelligence Agency - Stony Beach; the Department of Veterans

Affairs; and the American Battle Monuments Commission.

In increasing its capability and capacity to reach this accounted-for milestone, DPAA also

benefitted from its strong relationships with groups representing families of missing Americans

and to veterans service organizations.

"As we continue to increase the roster of private partners in both depth and breadth, we are able to

leverage the talents they bring to the table to make the most of the agency's organic resources,"

said Dr. Thomas Holland, DPAA's Director of Partnerships and Innovations. DPAA currently has

71 active arrangements and another 71 potential arrangements in development.

This increased public-private partnerships have significantly enhanced DPAA’s accounting efforts

by expanding capacity and capability. Some of the core areas of assistance include field

investigatory and excavation work (35 field missions in FY 2019, alone); historical research and

analysis projects; database and systems development; data collection, such as with water samples

collected worldwide to assist with isotopic analyses and historical record digitization activities;

technology application testing and assessment; and public outreach and education efforts.

Associated with the agency’s success is a strong communication program to stay connected to the

family members of Americans still unaccounted for from past conflicts. During FY 2019, DPAA

briefed 2,347 family members at seven Family Member Updates throughout the United States, and

at the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia Annual

Meeting and Government Briefings, and the Korean War/Cold War Annual Government Briefings,

both held in Arlington, Virginia.

DPAA and its many partners remain committed to the research, investigation, recovery, and

identification of nearly 39,000 unaccounted-for Americans who are assessed to be possibly

recoverable from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and other

designated past conflicts.

Click here to read more. <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1981268/partnerships-critical-to-mission-success/>

News Releases 4 more POWs accounted for this week.

October 4, 2019

Coast Guardsman Accounted for From World War II (Crotty, T.) <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/PressReleaseArticleView/Article/1962730/coast-guardsman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-crotty-t/>

October 3, 2019

Marine Accounted for from Korean War (Fairchild, R.) <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/PressReleaseArticleView/Article/1978839/marine-accounted-for-from-korean-war-fairchild-r/>

Marine Accounted for from World War II (Van Zandt, J.) <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/PressReleaseArticleView/Article/1978832/marine-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-van-zandt-j/>

Marine Accounted for from World War II (Buan, N.) <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/PressReleaseArticleView/Article/1978795/marine-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-buan-n/>