

DPAA Accounts for 203 Missing Personnel in Fiscal Year 2018

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WASHINGTON— In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) accounted for 203 formerly missing persons from past conflicts, the highest yearly total reached by the agency or its predecessor organizations. Also, the agency individually identified the remains of three additional personnel, who were previously accounted for as part of group burials, reaching another milestone of 206 individual identifications for the FY.

“Providing the families of the missing those long-sought answers with which they can at least achieve some solace is a profound manifestation of our nation's steadfast commitment to them and their loved ones. Because it's a sacred obligation, if not moral imperative, our over 600 military and civilian professionals earnestly contribute their talents, dedication, and passion to the noble mission with which we are entrusted,” said DPAA Director Kelly McKeague.

Broken down by conflict, 10 were accounted for from the Vietnam War, 37 from the Korean War, and 156 were from World War II.

“Science and technology have expanded exponentially in recent years, enabling identifications that even five years ago seemed impossible. We also attribute the increasing yearly trend to DPAA's expanded use of partnerships, a more precise management of disinterments, and improvements in our robust field operations,” said Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz, DPAA's Deputy Director for Operations.

DPAA's partnerships are strong and extensive. First, the government officials and people in each of the countries the agency operates in provide invaluable assistance and respect to the mission. Collaborative support from the four Service Casualty Offices; the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory; U.S. Indo Pacific Command, the U.S. European Command and the Defense Intelligence Agency – Stony Beach; the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries are also vital. DPAA's partnering with non-Federal entities continues to expand agency capacity and capabilities. Additionally, agency efforts benefit from partnerships with Family Groups and Veterans Service Organizations.

Today, the DPAA is focused on the research, investigation, recovery, and identification of the approximately 34,000 (out of approximately 83,000 missing DoD personnel) believed to be recoverable, who were lost in conflicts from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for DoD personnel still missing and unaccounted-for while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call (703) 699-1169/1193/1420.

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Cutline for accompanying photo:

In Fiscal Year 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of 203 Americans unaccounted-for from past conflicts and made three (3) individual identifications of remains included in previous group burials, for a total of 206 identifications. DPAA's highly skilled team of over 600 military members and civilian employees conducted missions and activities across the globe. Working in 24 countries, they performed 33 investigation missions, 46 recovery missions and 238 disinterments. Historians and analysts provide planners and in-country detachment personnel the information they need to manage recovery teams during excavation operations. Recovery teams in-turn bring back found materials to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification. DPAA also reaches out to families of the missing through family member updates and annual meetings/briefings to review their losses and collect family reference samples. DPAA assists in repatriations and disinterments of those who were once unaccounted-for in the effort to lay our fallen to rest and provide the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel to their families and the nation.