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"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document: Department of Defense (DoD) Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA) Annual Briefings to Update Family Members of Missing Servicemembers from the Vietnam War and Korean War/Cold War, 2022-2025

Requested date: 10-June-2024

Release date: 04-September-2025

Posted date: 15-September-2025

Source of document: OSD/JS FOIA Requester Service Center
Freedom of Information Division
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155
Fax: (571) 372-0500
[OSD/JS and DLA FOIA request portal](#)

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/JOINT STAFF
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 24-F-1516
September 4, 2025

This is a final response to your June 10, 2024, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. The Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Staff (OSD/JS) FOIA Requester Service Center received your request on July 5, 2024, and assigned it FOIA case number 24-F-1516. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), a component of OSD, conducted a search of their records systems and located 487 pages determined to be responsive to your request. Mr. Daniel Gottrich, Chief of Staff, in his capacity as an Initial Denial Authority, has determined that portions of these records are exempt from mandatory disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), information which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals. Please note that we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying exemptions under the FOIA in the processing of this request.

During our review of the records, we were advised that the Defense Health Agency (DHA), would have cognizance over 150 pages, and the U.S. Department of State (DOS) would have cognizance over 62 pages, as described above. As such, we have referred these portions of your request to the agencies for a direct response to you. Additionally, after our review of the records, 34 pages were referred to another agency. For your convenience, contact information for the DHA and DOS FOIA offices are provided below:

Defense Health Agency
DHA Freedom of Information Service Center
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Washington, DC 20522-8100
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-5101

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS/RL
2201 C. Street NW, Suite B266
Washington, D.C. 20522

In this instance, fees for processing your request were below the threshold for requiring payment. Please note that fees may be assessed on future requests.

If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Subat Matin, at subat.matin.ctr@mail.mil or 571-372-0440. Additionally, if you have concerns about service received by our office, please contact a member of our Leadership Team at 571-372-0498 or Toll Free at 866-574-4970.

Should you wish to inquire about mediation services, you may contact the OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Virginia Burke, by email at osd.mc-alex.oatsd-pclt.mbx.foia-liaison@mail.mil or by phone at 571-372-0462. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Mr. Michael Kremlacek, Acting Principal Deputy to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency (PCLT), Office of the Secretary of Defense, at: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: PCLFD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox #24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may email your appeal to osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil. If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 24-F-1516 in any appeal correspondence.

We appreciate your patience in the processing of your request. As stated previously, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Subat Matin, and reference FOIA case number 24-F-1516, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

For Charles C. Marge

Pamela Andrews
Chief, FOIA

Enclosures:
As stated

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



DPAA Strategic Update

Kelly McKeague
Director

“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”



KEY ISSUES



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- ❖ **COVID – Still impacting**
- ❖ **Budget – Single(?) year dip**
- ❖ **ROK partnership solid, but DPRK has been silent**
- ❖ **Bottom line -- still a DoD priority**



THE CAPTAIN AND THE SERGEANT



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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings

Korean and Cold War Operations and Initiatives

Rear Admiral Darius Banaji, USN
Deputy Director for Operations



“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”



Cold War



- **Accounted for 2 of 128 (126 still unaccounted for)**
- **China**
 - **Jan 2021: People's Liberation Army Archives investigated one Cold War case and shared their findings w/ DPAA**
 - **Continuing to pursue information from PLA-A via DoD's Defense Policy Coordination Talks**
- **Russia**
 - **Conditions-based execution of in-person Commission related activities**
 - **Research continues in the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense**

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Korean War Accounting



- Accounted for 615 of 8,156 unaccounted for (7,541 still missing)
- Phase 4 (of 7) to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl in progress through Dec 2022
- Starting initial planning to begin Phase 5 disinterments in FY24
- Continue our strong relationship with ROK counterparts
 - MAKRI and ROKMND support annual DPAA operations in the ROK
 - MAKRI expanding DMZ ops to White Horse Hill and collaborating w/ DPAA in 2022
 - 2020 and 2021 Repatriations between U.S. and ROK
 - 2020: 6 U.S. / 147 ROK remains; 2021: 6 U.S. / 68 ROK remains

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- Since last update, DPAA conducted a second investigation in the DMZ and investigated 3 cases in ROK jointly with MAKRI supported by UNC and ROKMND
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- Partner actively working 6 research-related projects
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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



DPAA Korean War Operations Update

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SRT-1 Team Leader/Linguist

“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”



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- Each year we typically conduct 2 missions and 1 research meeting with MAKRI (Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery and Identification) each year
- September 2021 Joint Recovery conducted on Mt Baekseok
- May 2022 Joint investigation conducted in ROK
- DMZ Field Activities

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Korean War Operations



- **Joint Recovery at Mt Baekseok**
 - 10 DPAA, 100+ MAKRI and ROK Army
 - U.S. Remains previously recovered at this location
 - Integrated magnetometer into field work related to ground losses
- **ROK Investigation May 2022**
 - 3 cases investigated by 10 member DPAA team
 - MAKRI supported with Investigator, USFK supported with EOD/Mortuary Affairs
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Korean War Operations



- **DMZ Field Work**
 - **DPAAs fielded its first ever IT to the DMZ during May 2021**
 - **DPAAs conducted site visits and investigations during each of last 3 missions**
 - **MAKRI conducting ongoing recovery operations in DMZ**

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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



Korean War Identification Project (KWIP)

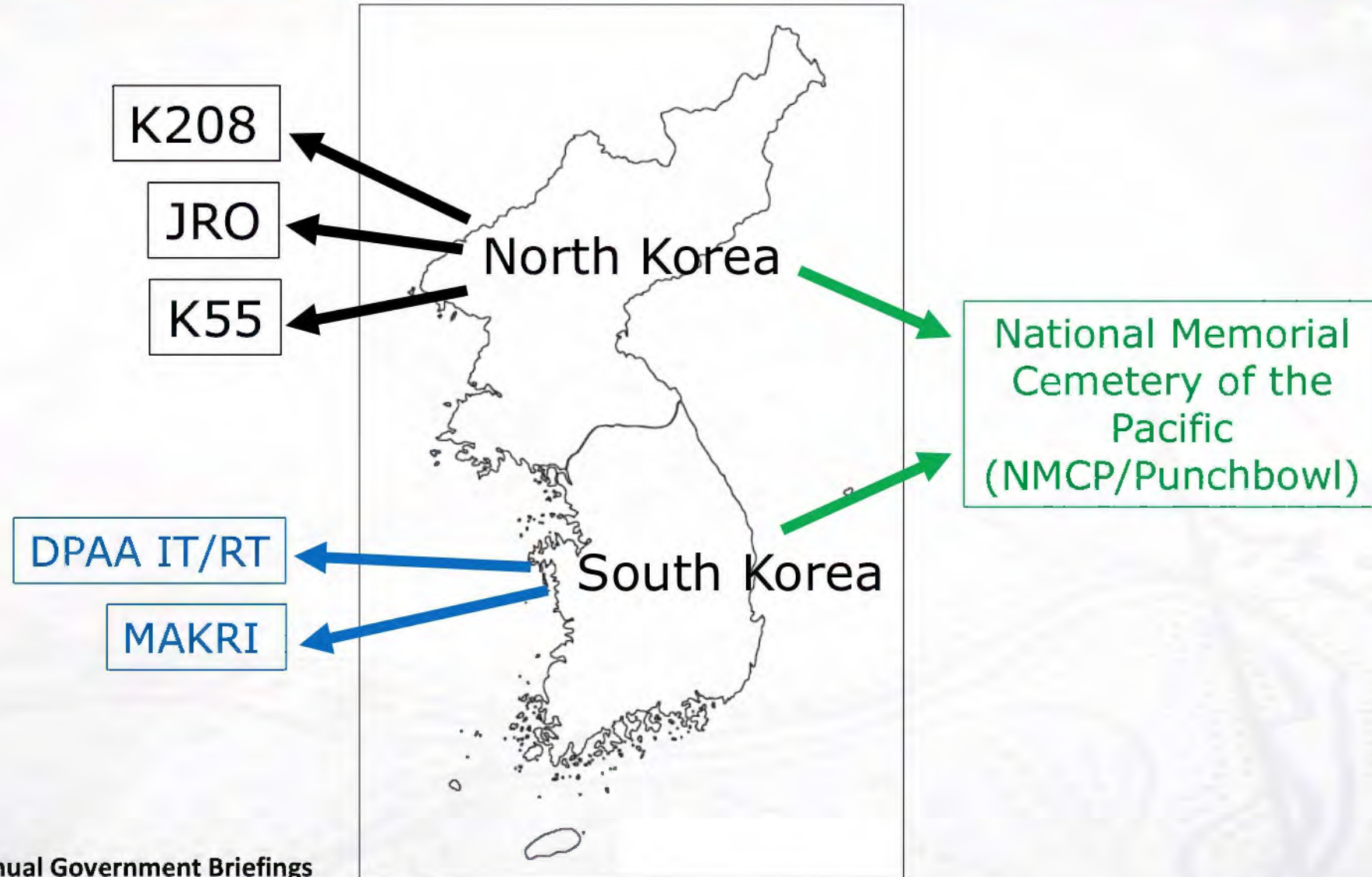
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Forensic Anthropologist, DPAA Laboratory

“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”



The Korean War Identification Project





NMCP Korean War Disinterments





Punchbowl Identifications



- **167 IDs of Punchbowl Unknowns**
- **142 IDs from Non-Phase**
- **12 IDs from Phase 1**
- **13 IDs from Phase 2**
- **Phases 1–3 undergoing active analysis**
- **Phase 4 disinterments scheduled to be completed in December 2022**

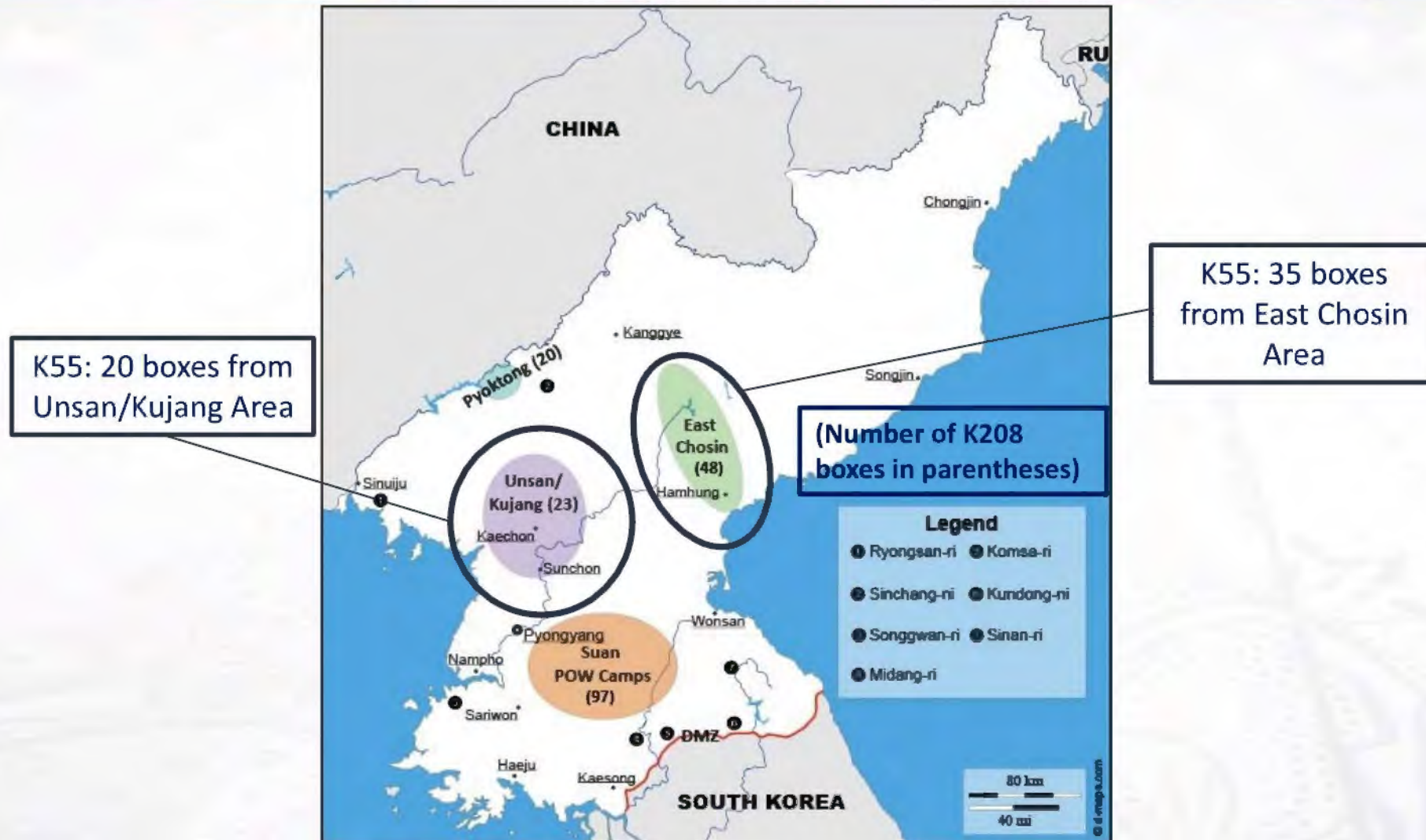


K55 Turnover





Location of DPRK Turnovers





Individuals Represented in K55



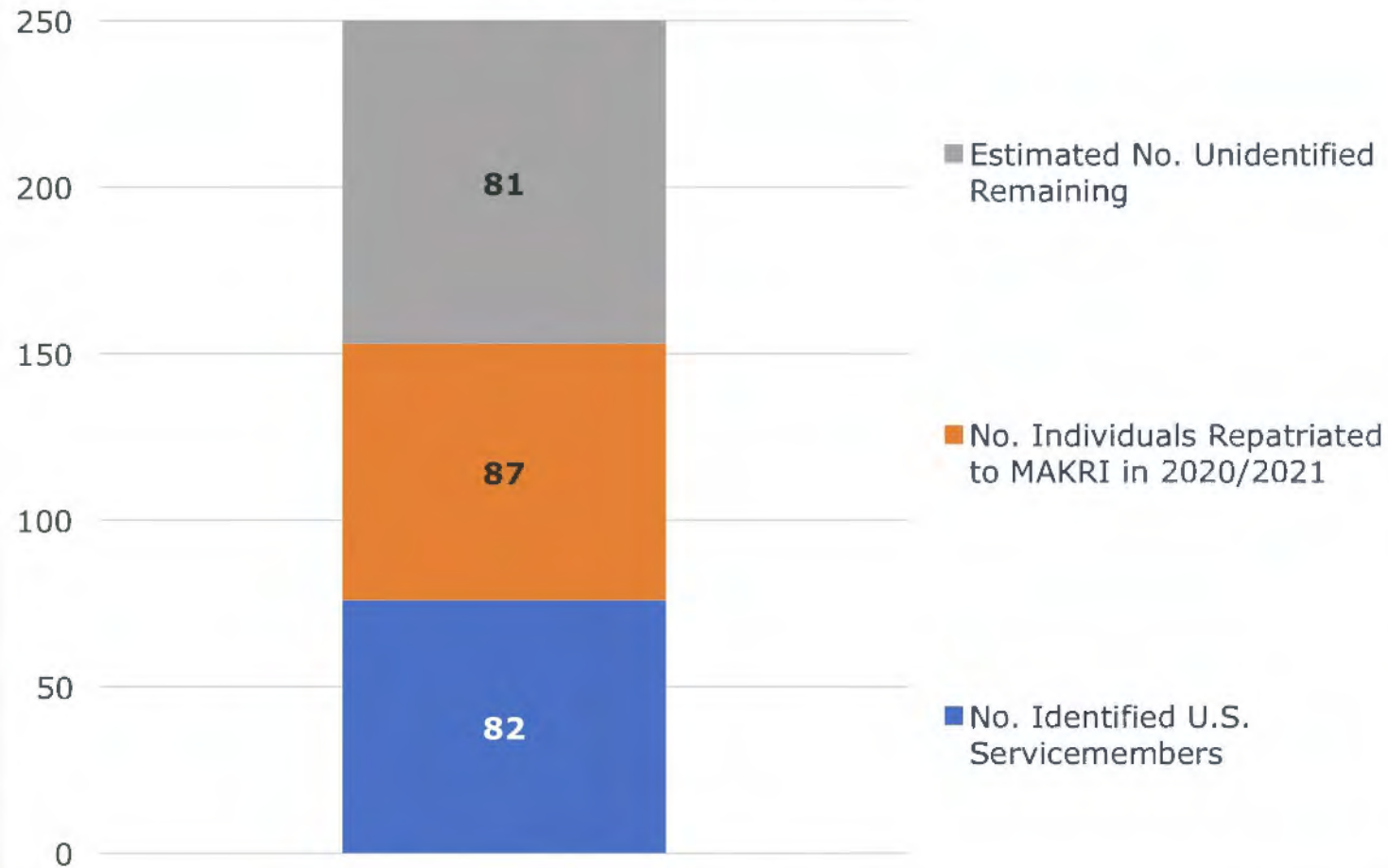
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- Approximately 160 U.S. service members are represented
- Approximately 90 individuals are likely non-U.S. personnel



K55 Identifications



K55 Individuals



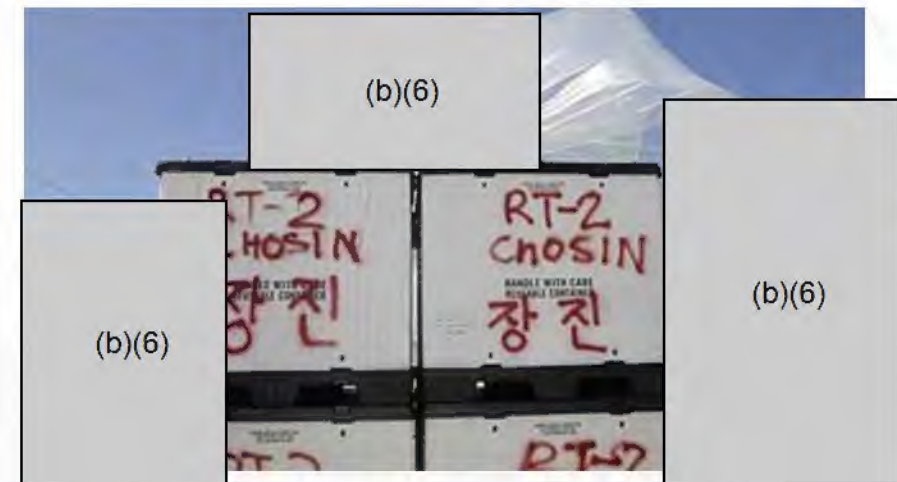
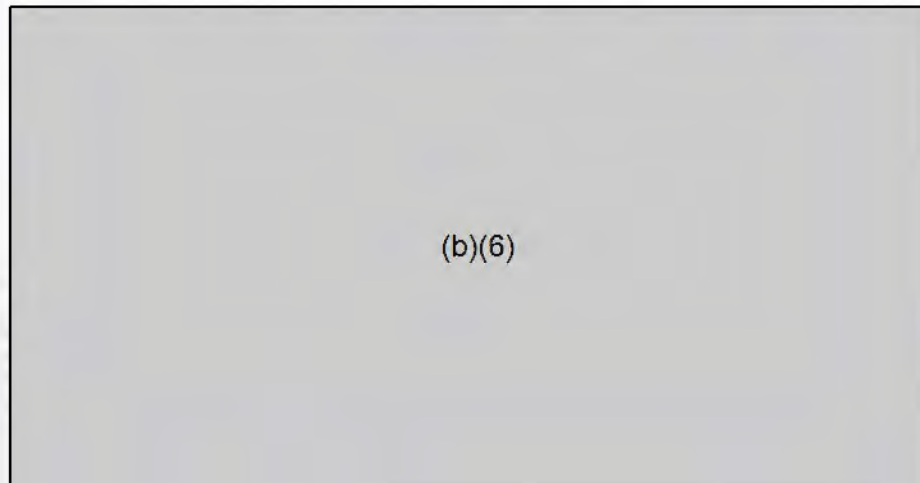


K208 and JRO



Analysis of the K208 and JRO is ongoing

- 152 IDs from the K208 boxes
- 153 IDs from the JRO remains
- 39 IDs from both K208 and JRO
- 1 ID from both K55 and JRO
- 344 total IDs from K208 and JRO





MAKRI Partnership





DPAA Laboratories

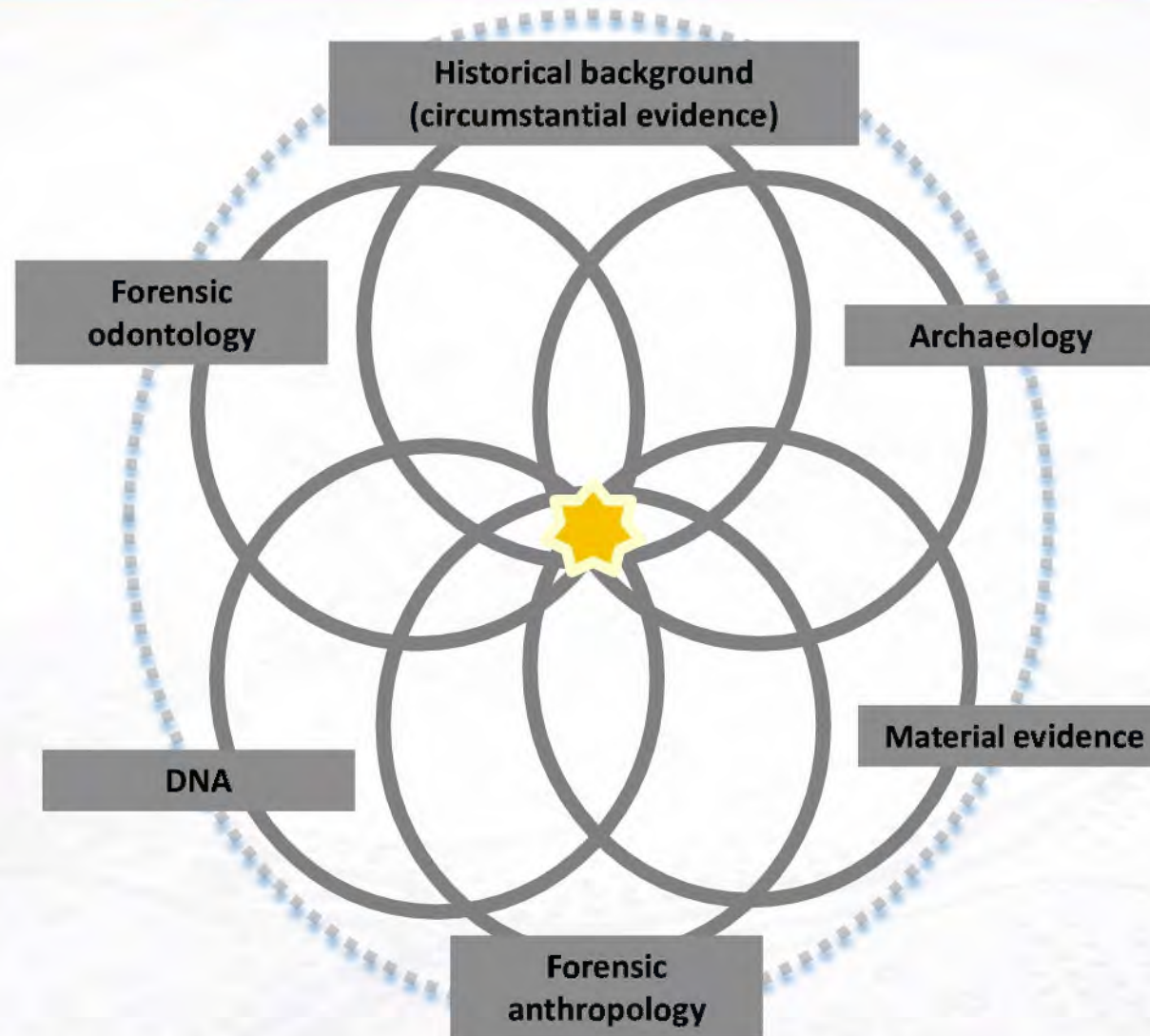


- Accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board, also known as ANAB
- Located at two core sites
 - A support site is located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH

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Lines of Evidence





Anthropological Analysis



Biological profile

- Sex
- Age
- Ancestry
- Stature
- Trauma, pathology
- Individual traits

Compare with antemortem data

- (1) Segregate commingled remains
- (2) Narrow the search

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DNA Evidence



Family reference samples are essential

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Chest X-ray Comparison



- **Generate a short list**
- **Find points of concordance**
- **Verify with superimposition**

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Odontology



Table 1. Dental comparison table of CIL			
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Forensic Chemistry



Stable isotopes are “nature’s recorders”

Diet: Carbon, Nitrogen, and Sulfur

Geographic origin: Oxygen, Strontium, and Lead

❖ Classification:

- Triage into likely populations based on dietary differences
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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) Update

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USA

Executive Secretary for the U.S. Side
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“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



People's Liberation Army- Archives Update

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Chief of Research

"Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise"



People's Liberation Army Archives



- **PLA-A/DPAA cooperative relationship**
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- **Virtual Research Exchange January 2021**
 - **DPAA passed the book of China cases to the PLA-A**
 - **PLA-A shared research findings for:**
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- **Planning 2022 Virtual Research Exchange**

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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



Question and Answer Session

“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”

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2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings

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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

Strategic Update

Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 27-28 Jun 2024



- **Vietnam War is the operational priority**
- **1st year of increased annual budget**
- **Principal Deputy Director's SE Asia trip**
- **Moving forward on operations in Laos**
- **Robust pace and scope in Vietnam**
- **Cambodia cooperation still strong**
- **Progress with China; none with Russia**

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Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



DPAA Korean War Operations Update

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SRT-1 Team Leader/Linguist

“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”



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2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



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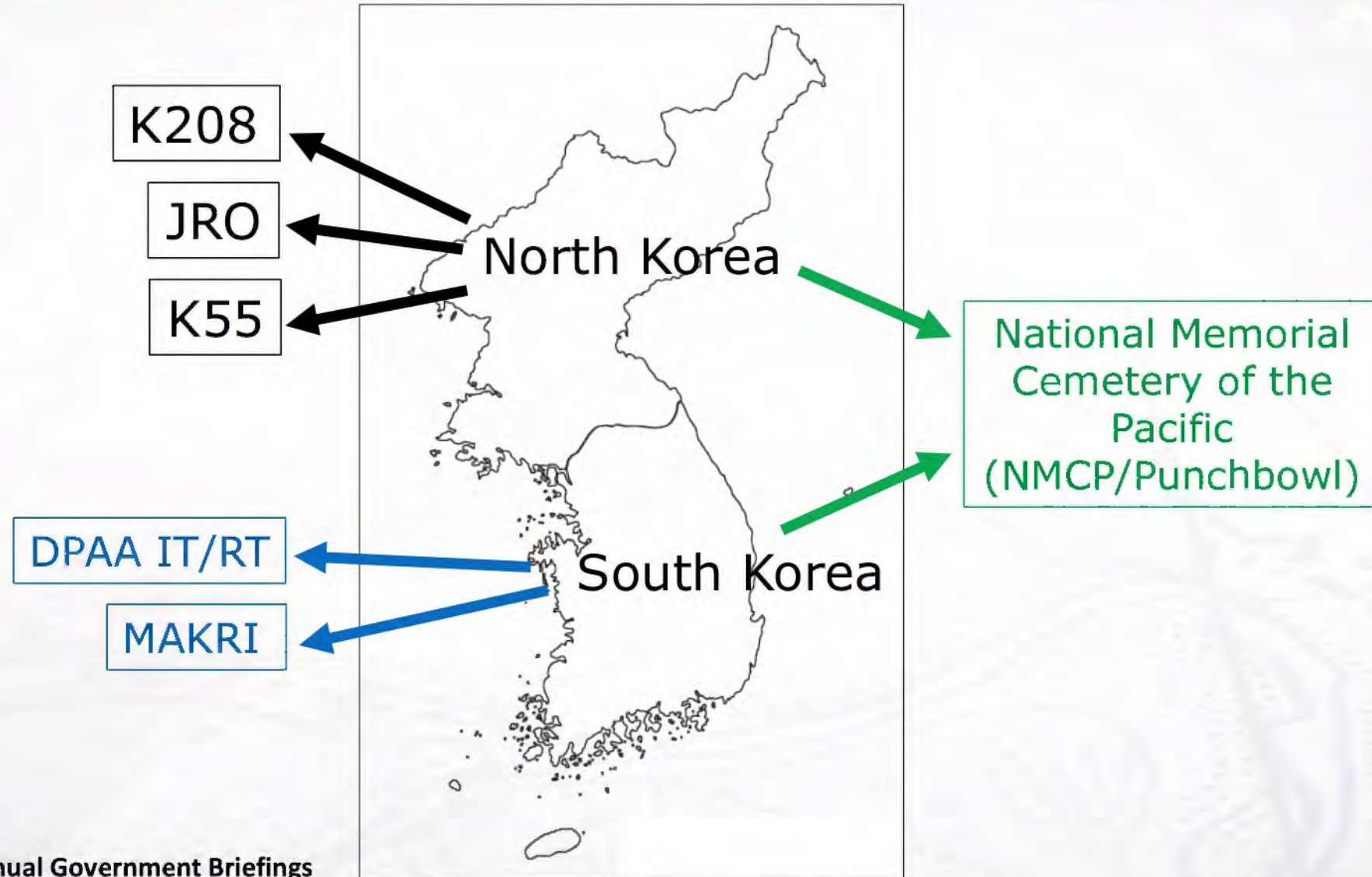
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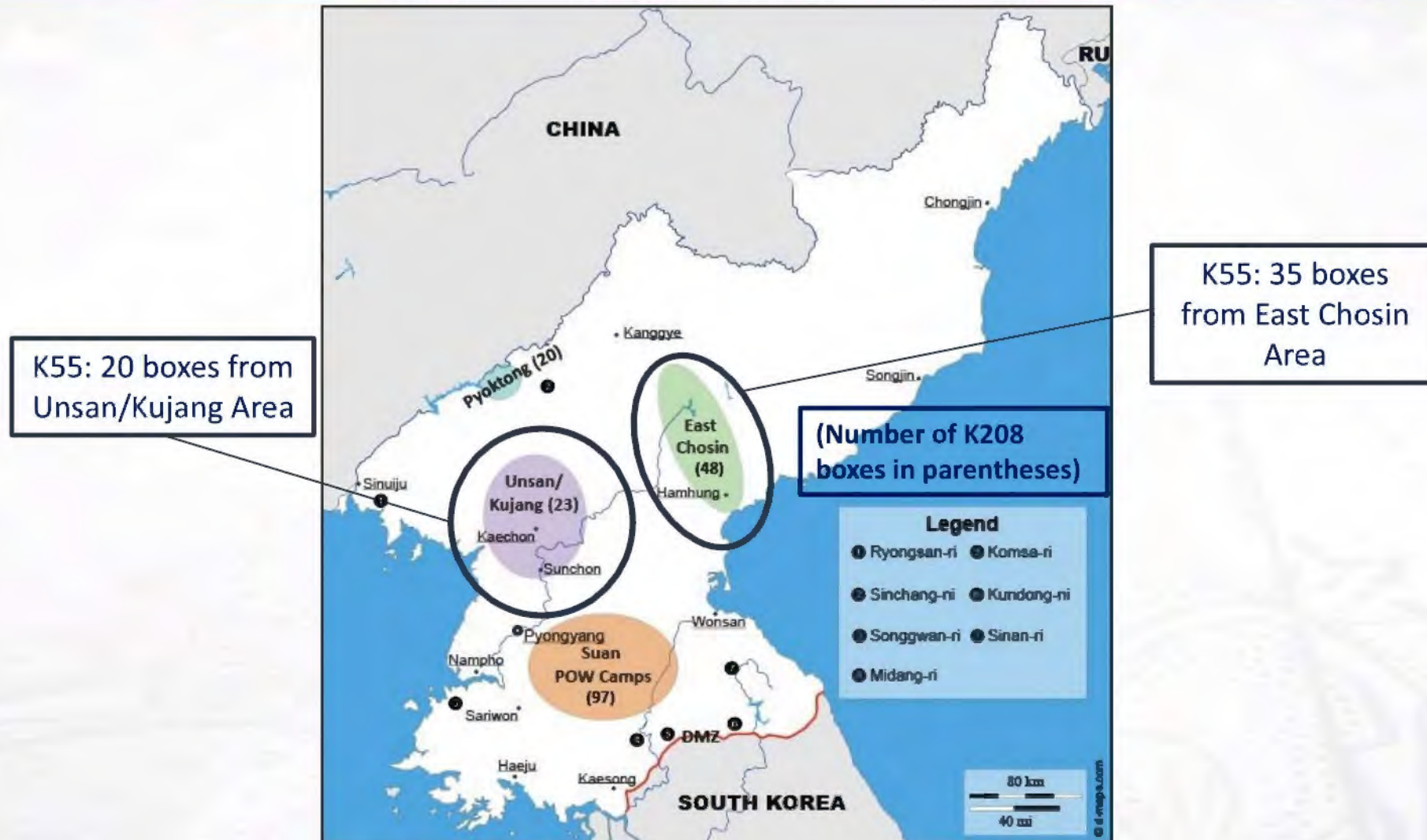


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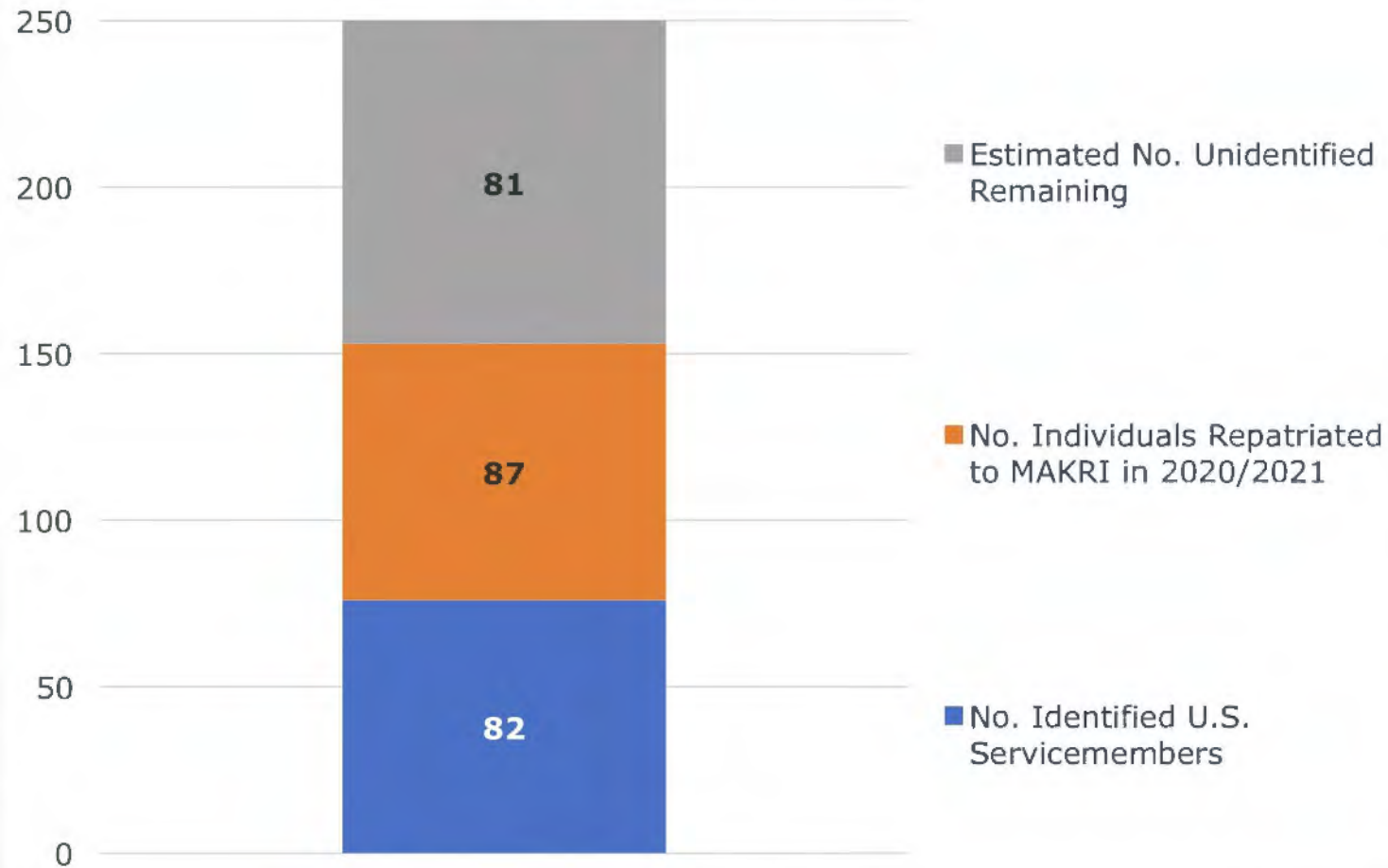
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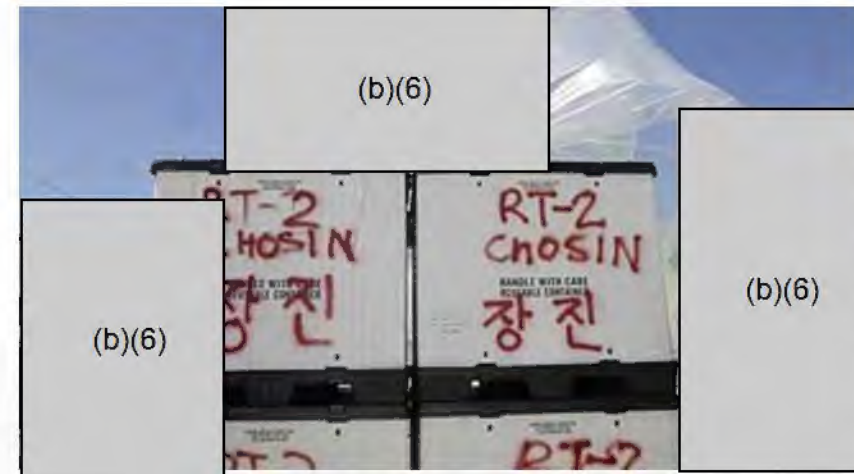
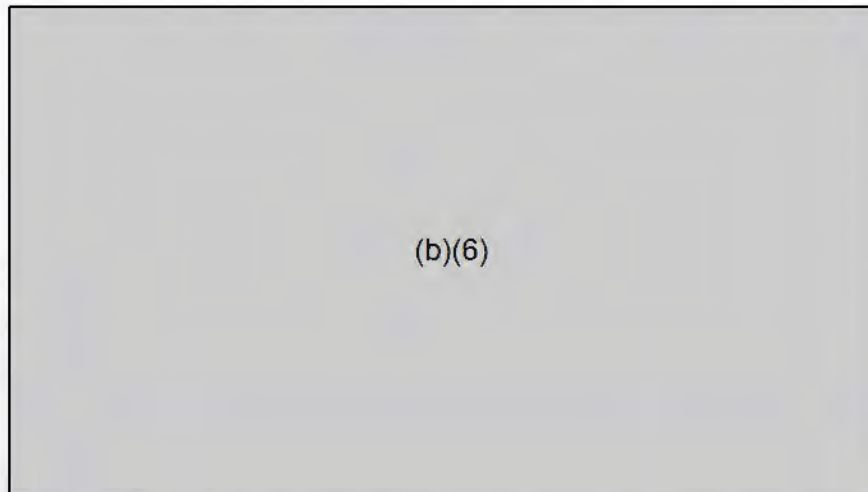


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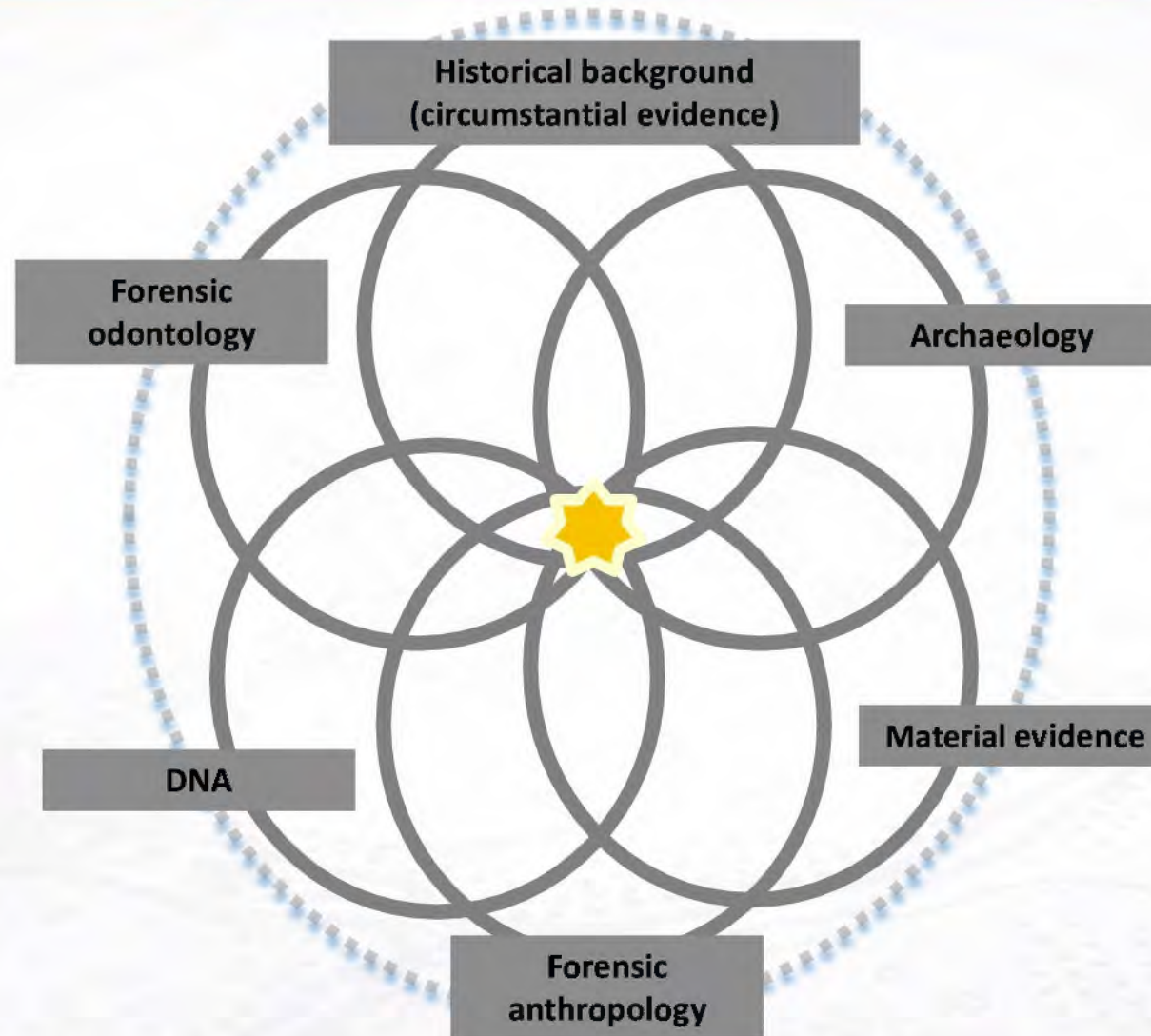


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“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2022 Korean / Cold War Annual Government Briefings



People's Liberation Army- Archives Update

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“Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise”



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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

Operations & Initiatives

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Acting Deputy Director for Operations

Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 15-16 August 2024



▪ Accounted for 2 of 128 (126 still unaccounted for)

- May 24, DPAA recognized Voice of the Ocean Foundation for their previous efforts in conducting an underwater investigation for a case off the coast of Latvia.

▪ China

- Archival exchange in May discussed China Cold War Cases and received information from PLA regarding several Cold War cases
- Continuing to pursue information from PLA-A via DoD's Defense Policy Coordination Talks

▪ Russia

- Engagements are limited to Chairman-to-Chairman talks and the exchange of requests for information
- Moscow-based DPAA contractors continue to conduct research on collected and open-source materials

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- **Accounted for 697 of 8,157 unaccounted for (7,460 unaccounted for)**
- **Disinter 642 of 866 Unknown graves from the Punchbowl**
 - Over 200 IDs from Punchbowl Unknowns
 - Phase 5 of 7 to be completed by end of FY 2024. Phase 6 planned to start FY 2025
- **Strongest and most extensive collaboration is with the ROK (MND and MAKRI)**
 - MAKRI hosted Research Case Coordination in November 2023
 - Hosted multi-nation Scientific Summit in May 2024
 - Successful US-ROK-Japan forensic reviews of recovered WWII remains; several more proposed

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- In FY24 DPAA has executed 1 recovery mission, 1 investigation in ROK, 2 investigations planned in Q4 (1 in ROK and 1 Korean War Case in China)
- In FY25 DPAA has planned 1 recovery mission and 1 investigation in ROK
- Partners actively working 10 research-related projects in FY24; FY25 12 research-related projects
- DPAA is prepared should the opportunity arise to open negotiations with DPRK about remains recovery operations

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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

Operations & Initiatives

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USMC

Deputy Director for Operations

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 27-28 Jun 2024



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DPAA's FY2024 Operational Priorities

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Vietnam War remains our operational priority, but most challenging and resource-intensive mission**
- **Majority of DPAA's operational funding for Regional Directorates is dedicated to Vietnam War**
- **Europe-Mediterranean Region focused on World War II and Cold War**
- **Continue increase opportunities with private partners in SEA and elsewhere**



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Total of 48 Field Missions:

- **Vietnam:** Executed 37 DPAA field missions; 18 recovery teams, 8 investigation teams; awaiting execution 6 DPAA field mission, 4 investigation team and 1 partner investigation
- **Laos:** Executed 6 DPAA field missions; 3 recovery teams and 1 investigation team; awaiting execution 1 recovery team and 1 investigation team
- **Cambodia:** Executed 5 DPAA field missions; 2 partners (Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., and Golden West Humanitarian Foundation) executed 3 investigation and 2 recovery teams

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Total of 43 Field Missions:

- **Vietnam: 22 DPAA field missions; 12 recovery teams, 6 investigation teams, 1 partner investigation team, 3 VNOSMP recovery teams and 2 VNOSMP investigation teams**
- **Laos: 19 DPAA field missions; 12 recovery teams, 4 investigation teams; 3 partner recovery teams**
- **Cambodia: 2 DPAA field missions; 1 partner recovery team and 1 partner investigation team**

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Cooperation and Collaboration

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Key leader & partner nation engagements; hosted US Ambassadors to Cambodia, Laos & Vietnam**
- **Conducted in person tech talks with Vietnam in Washington DC Sep 23 and Laos in Vientiane Laos, May 24**
- **Vietnamese AMB visit to DPAA**

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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

Vietnam War Joint Field Activities

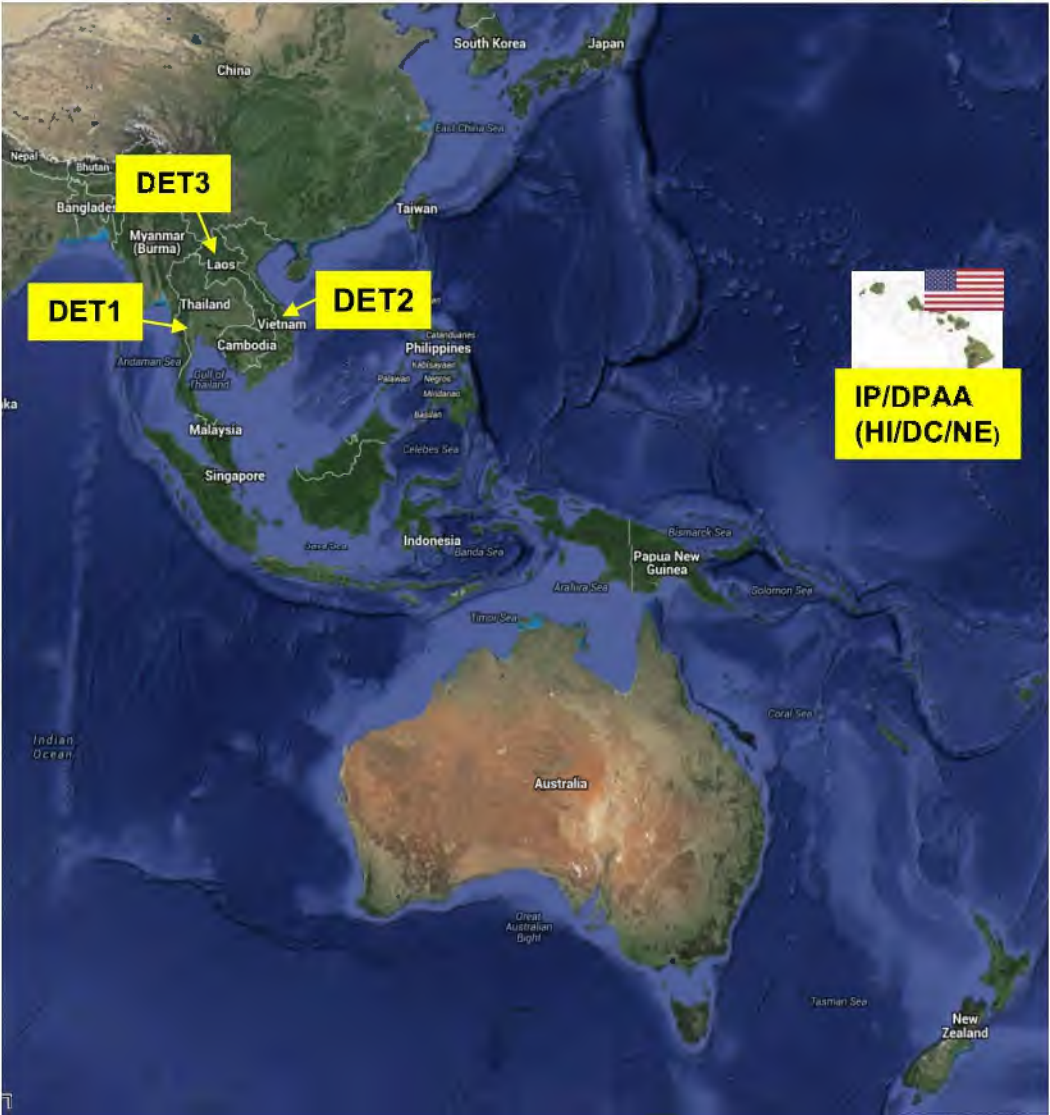
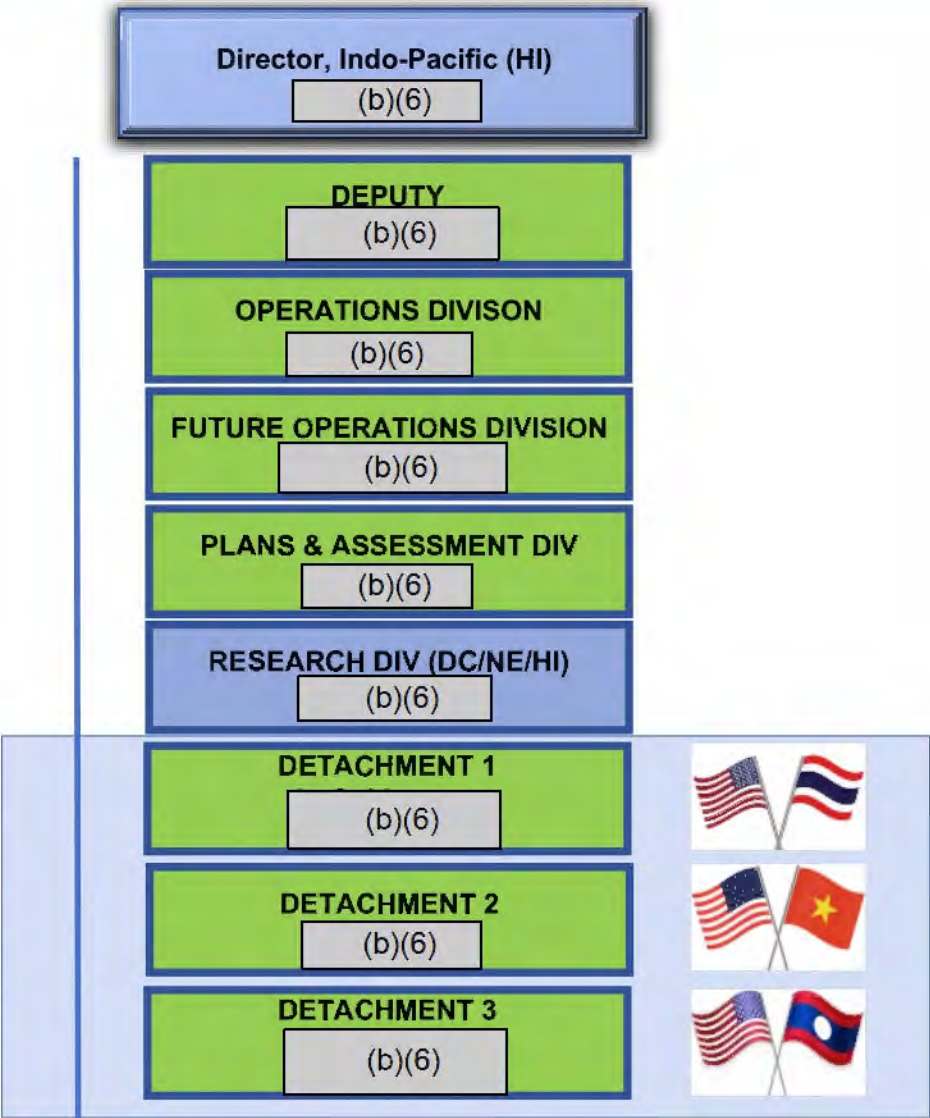
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USN

Indo-Pacific Operations Officer

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 27-28 Jun 2024

Task Organization



Teams Composition

Investigation Team

1. Team Leader – O-3/E-7
2. Team Sergeant – E-5 to E-6
3. Scientific Research Expert – Anthropologist/Archaeologist
4. Lead Investigator/Analyst
5. Photographer – E-5 to E-6
6. Independent Provider
7. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
8. Communication Specialist – E-4 to E-7
9. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
10. Life Support Investigator – E-5 to E-8

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Recovery Team

1. Team Leader - O-3
2. Team Sergeant – E-6 to E-7
3. Scientific Research Expert – Anthropologist/Archaeologist
4. Recovery NCO - E-5
5. Recovery NCO - E-5
6. Recovery NCO - E-5
7. Photographer – E-5 to E-7
8. Independent Provider
9. Medic
10. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
11. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
12. Communication Specialist – E-4 to E-8
13. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
14. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
15. Life Support Investigator – E-5 to E-8
16. *Mountaineer – E-5 to E-7*



Legend:
DPAA Organic Personnel
Augmented personnel

Indo-Pacific Vietnam War Operations

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FY24 Operations

FY25 Future Operations

Laos
2xIT
4xRT

Vietnam
8xIT
6xIT-H
1xIT-P(U)
13xRT
1xRT-U
11xRT-H

KOC
2xRT-P
3xIT-P

Laos
4xIT
12xRT
3xRT-P

Vietnam
6xIT
2xIT-H
1xIT-P(U)
11xRT
1xRT(U)
3xRT-H

KOC
1xRT-P
1xIT-P

Significant Events (1-2-3 QTR/FY24)

- 2 IDs for VN War in FY24
- 36th Anniversary of Sustain Operations in Vietnam
- 39th Anniversary of Sustain Operations in Laos
- First FY24 sustained RT(U) for 75 days in Vietnam
- Laos Consultative Talks

Significant Future Events

- Technical Talks FY25 VNOSMP- Hanoi, Vietnam in September
- Cambodia Consultative Talks- Siem Reap, Cambodia in September
- Increased use of partners in Southeast Asia

Legend:

RT= Recovery Team
IT= Investigation Team
P= Partner Mission
H= Host Nation
U= Underwater

Totals:
VN- 4 JFAs
LA- 2 JFAs

10xIT
6xIT-H
1xIT-P(U)
17xRT
1xRT(U)
11xRT-H
2xRT-P
3xIT-P

Totals:
VN- 4 JFAs
LA- 2 JFAs

10xIT
2xIT-H
1xIT-P(U)
23xRT
1xRT(U)
3xRT-H
1xRT-P
1xIT-P



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

IP Korea/Cold War Research Update

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**Research Branch Chief – Korea/Cold War (China)
Indo-Pacific Directorate, DPAA**

Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 15-16 August 2024

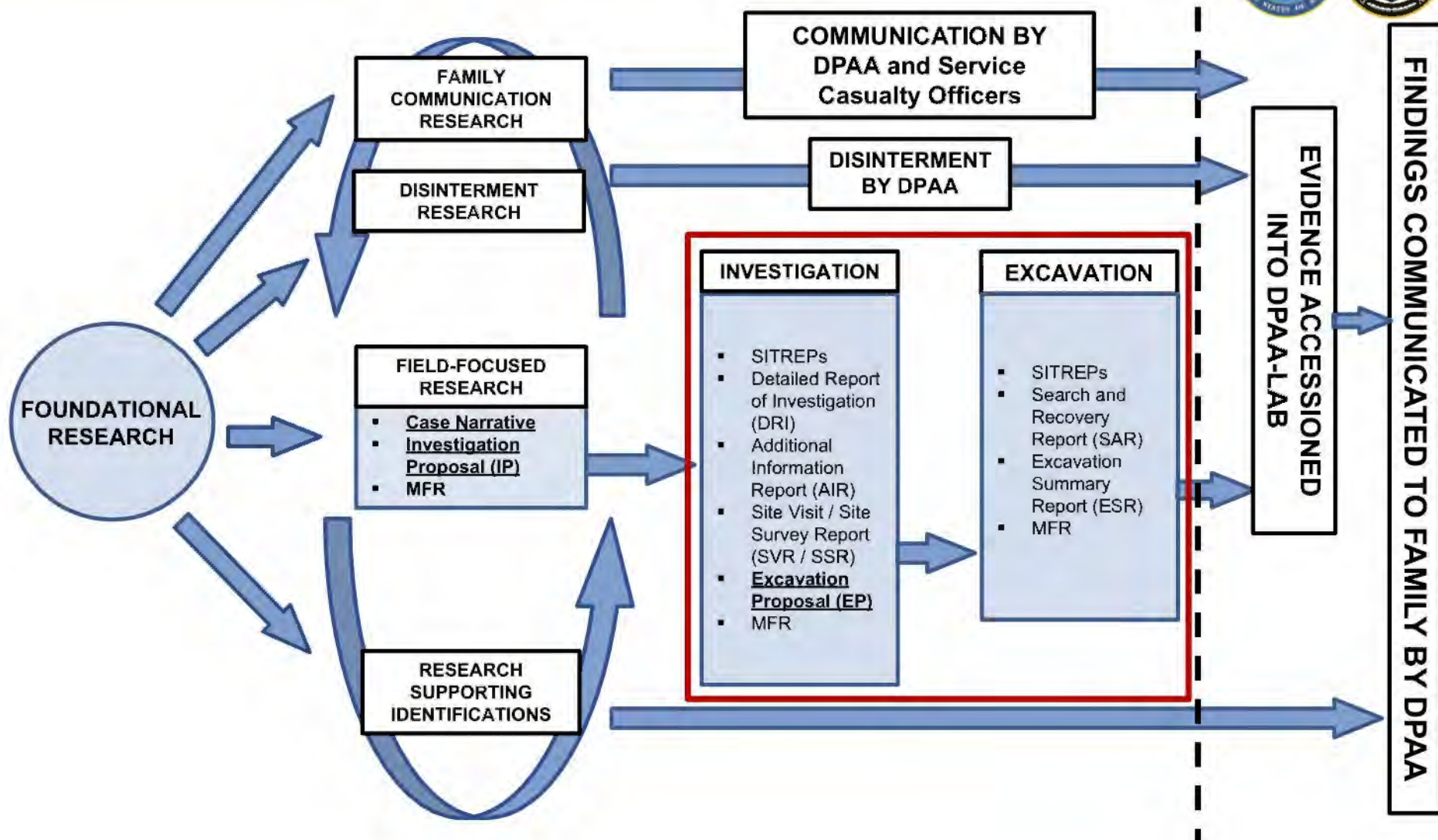


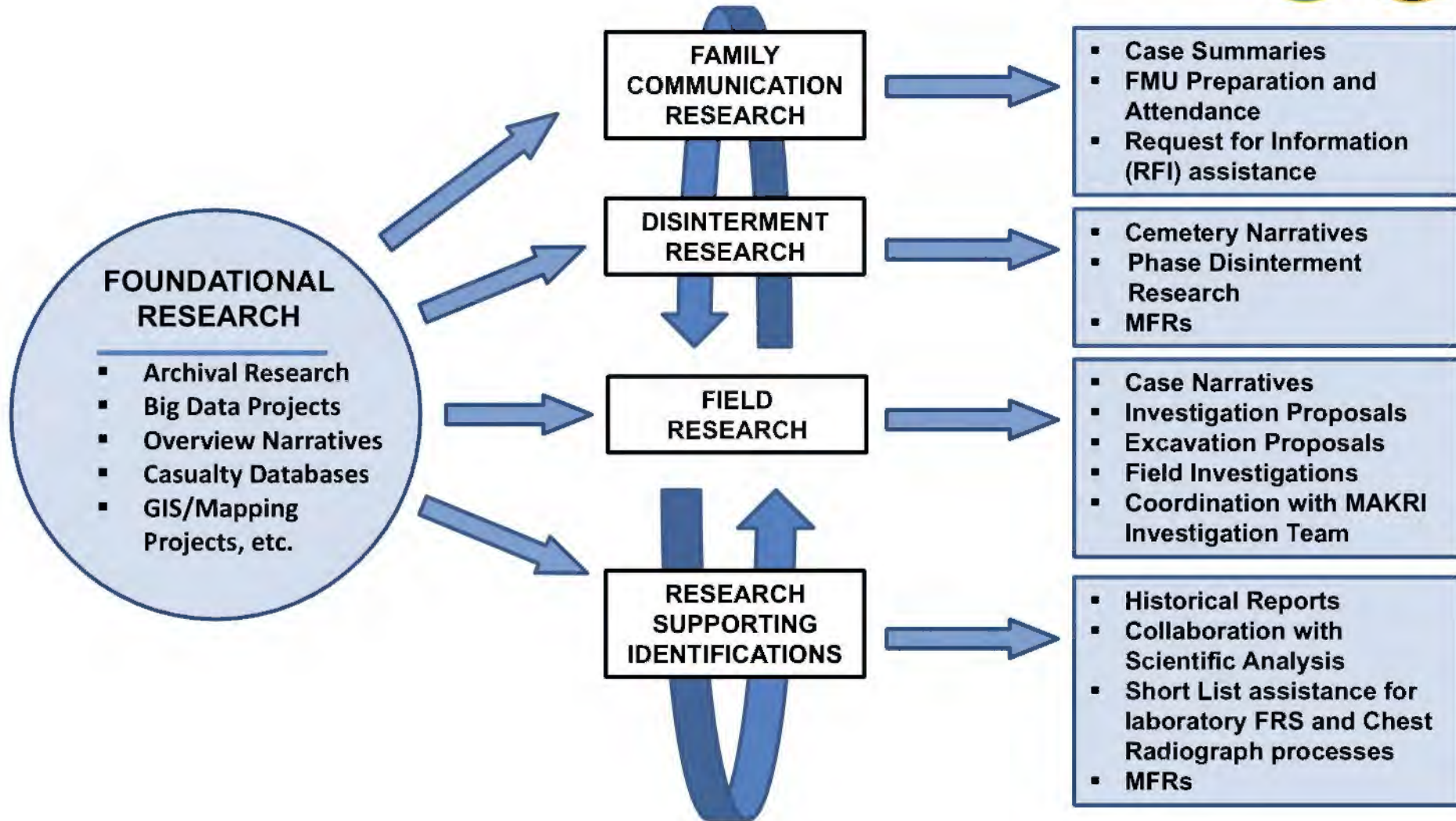
DPAA Research

- Is purposeful, systematic investigation
- Is driven by a question, problem, or requirement
- Seeks information methodically with a clear goal
- Produces knowledge/data that can be used to solve problems
- **Takes time (often months or years to develop fully, depending on the project)**

DPAA's Indo-Pacific Korean War Research

- Drives Operations (including Field Work and Disinterments)
- Supports Family Communications (Case Summaries, FMUs, RFIs)
- Supports Identifications (Assistance with short lists and Historical Reports)
- Is made possible by long-term foundational research that includes, but is not limited to, historical/archival work







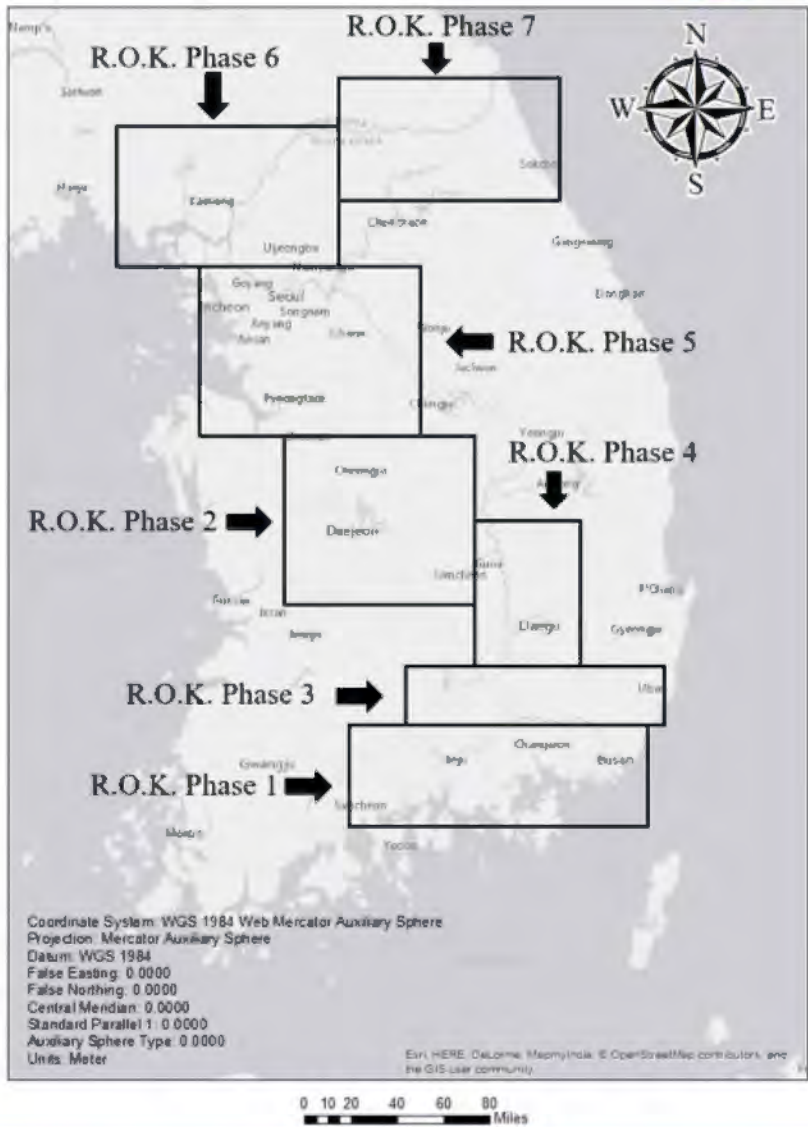
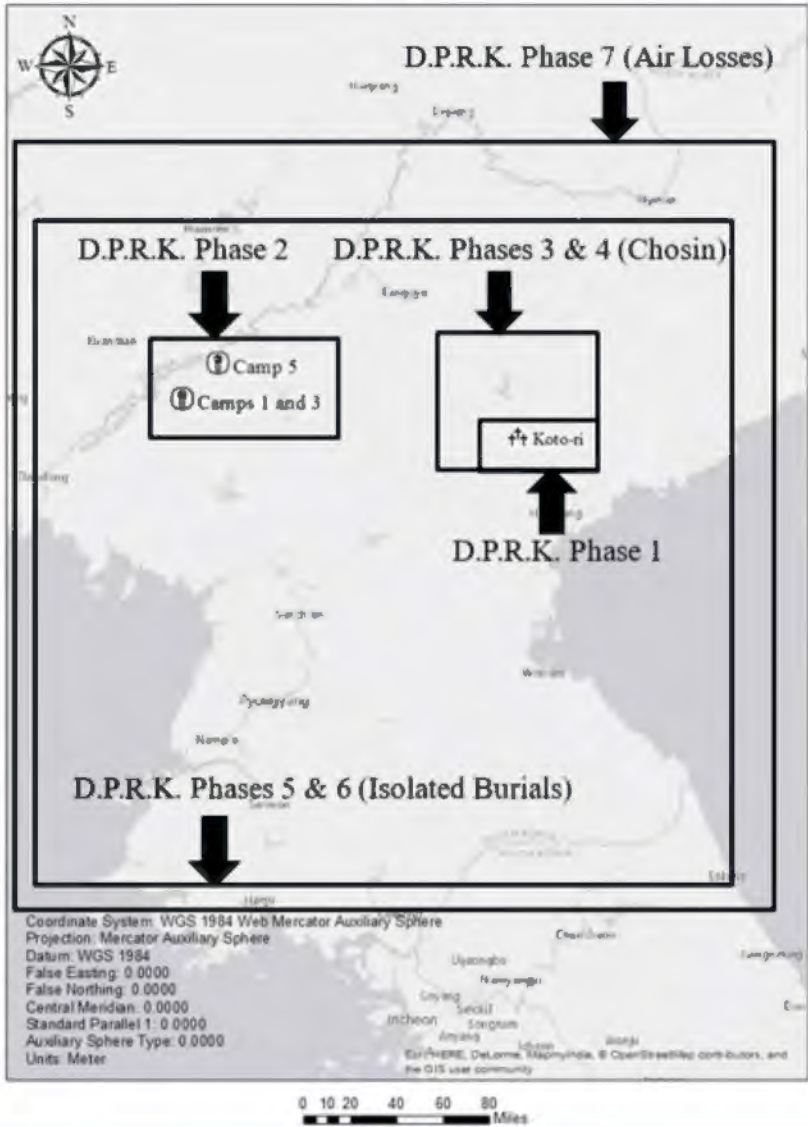
Benefits of a Holistic Approach to Research – Korean War Disinterment Project

- This comprehensive approach to Korean War Research is what led to the development of the Disinterment Project that is enabling 652 sets of remains to be disinterred from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), Hawaii-Punchbowl.



IP Korea/Cold War Research Update

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What is new with DPAA KCW Research?



- Resumption of joint research and field activities in China
- Strengthened relations with MAKRI's Investigation and Research Teams including new approaches to field investigations, the resumption of joint excavations, and the first joint underwater investigation



DPAA and the PLA Archival Exchange

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Ambassador Nicholas Burns  

@USAmbChina

Proud to welcome colleagues from the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, who are resuming joint humanitarian efforts with the PRC to locate, recover, and identify the remains of U.S. personnel who fought in China during WWII. This is a "Sacred Mission." [@dodpaa](#)



10:33 PM · May 8, 2024 · **63.9K** Views

3 Reposts **1** Quote **57** Likes **1** Bookmark



DPAA and MAKRI Research Collaboration

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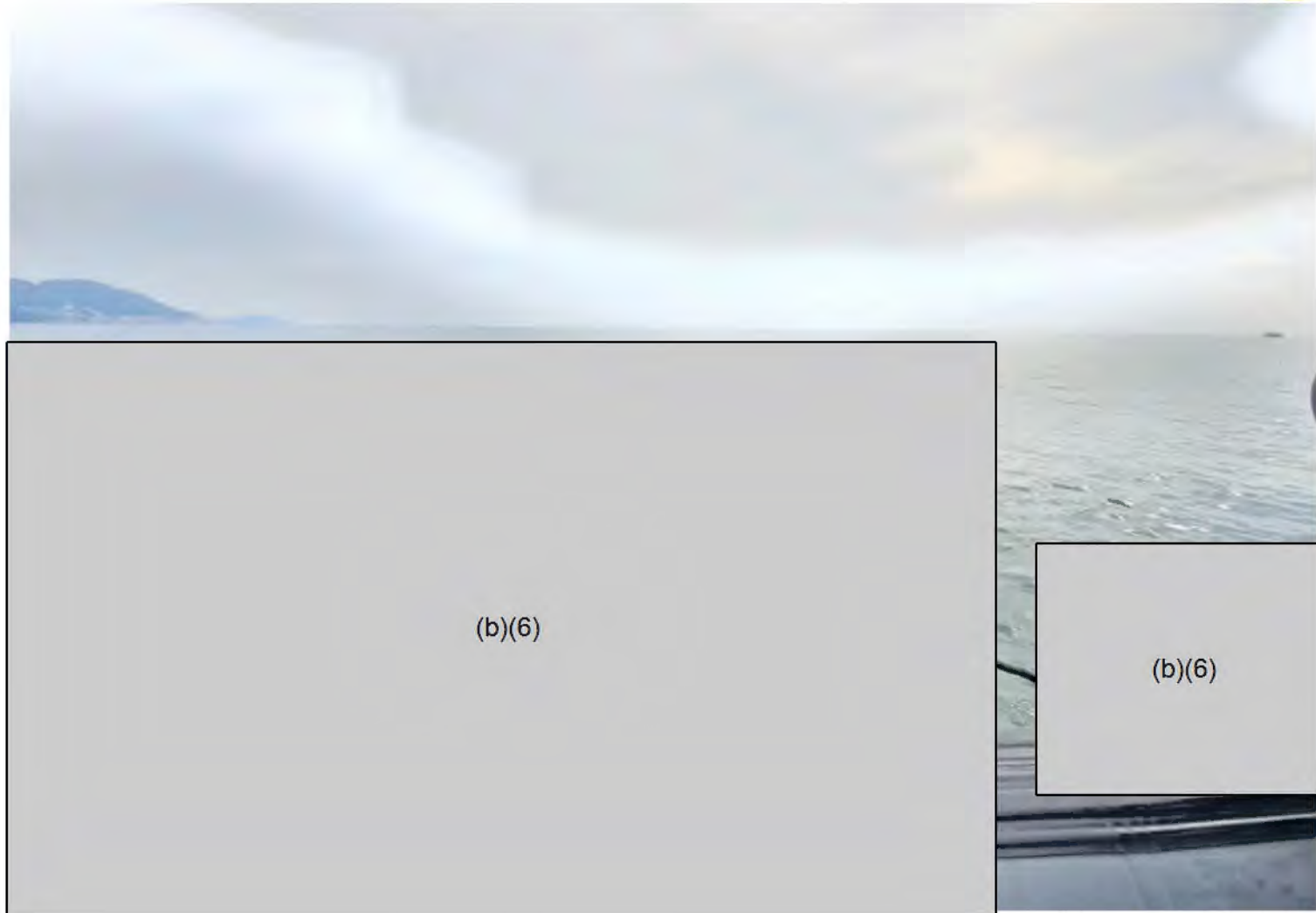


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This photo, provided by the Korean defense ministry's Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification (MAKRI), shows MAKRI officials posing with officials from the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties team at MAKRI's office in Seoul, Nov. 13. Yonhap

First DPAA/ROK Open Water Investigation

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New Approaches to Joint Investigations

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



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Resumption of DPAA/ROK Excavations

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What is next for DPAA KCW Research?

- CHINA
 - Investigation of a Korean War loss in China (September 2024)
 - Continued archival exchanges with the PLA for Korean and Cold War losses
- DPRK
 - Continued development of DPRK field research products in the hopes that we will be able to resume Joint Recovery Operations (JROs) in future
 - Continued development of POW Camp and march route research (particularly temporary camps and route visualizations)
- ROK
 - Continue to build Master Investigation and Master Excavation lists (MIL & MEL) with a continued focus on Underwater, DMZ, and CCZ cases.
 - Continue to integrate various historic and contemporary lines of research effort for losses in South Korea and the DMZ
- Build on successful FY24 field activities to develop more sites for future excavations

Korean War Disinterment Project

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Korean War Disinterment Project

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Disinterment Operations from National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) by FY

Project Phase	DPRK Unknowns	ROK Unknowns	Total # of Unknowns	Disinterment Year
Pre-Phase	128	82	210	FY99-FY19
1	9	64	73	FY19
2	65	52	117	FY20
3	38	63	101	FY21
4	36	35	71	FY22-23
5	56	40	96	FY24 (In Progress)
6	56	54	110	
7	30	54	84	





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Korean War Identification Project Update

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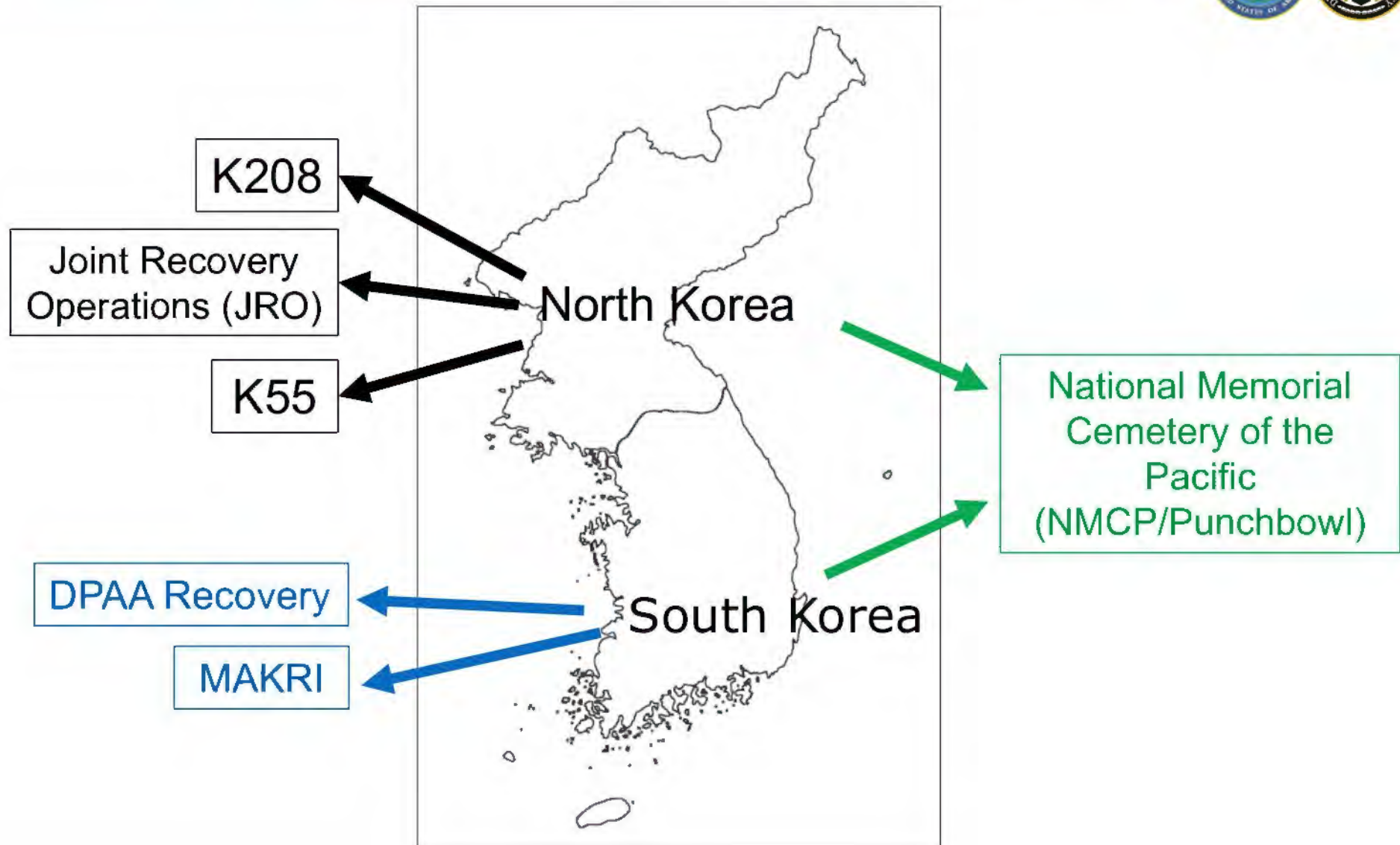
Korean War Identification Project Lead

Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 15-16 August 2024

**This brief contains images of human remains.*

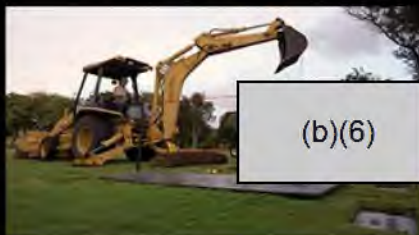
The Korean War Identification Project

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Punchbowl Korean War Disinterments

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Punchbowl Identifications

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- 225 IDs of Punchbowl Unknowns
- 19 IDs from Phase 1
- 48 IDs from Phase 2
- 9 IDs from Phase 3
- Phase 4 completed – all cases sampled, results pending
- Phase 5 in progress – projected completion expected in FY2024
- Phase 6 projected to begin in FY2025
- Repatriated 10 cases to MAKRI in 2021 and 2023
 - 2 non-Phase, 7 Phase 1, 1 Phase 3

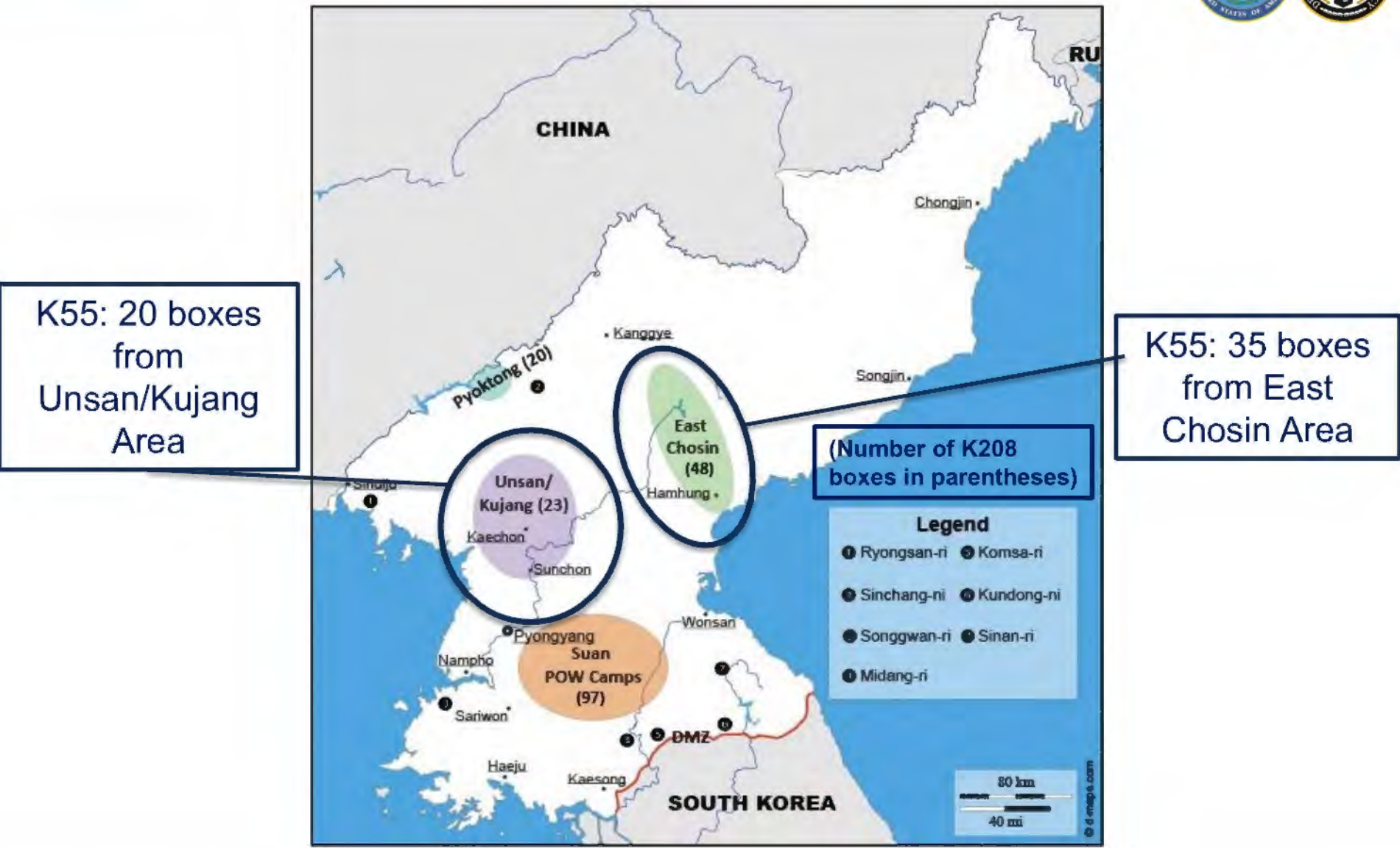
K55 Turnover (2018)

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Locations of DPRK Turnovers

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Individuals Represented in K55

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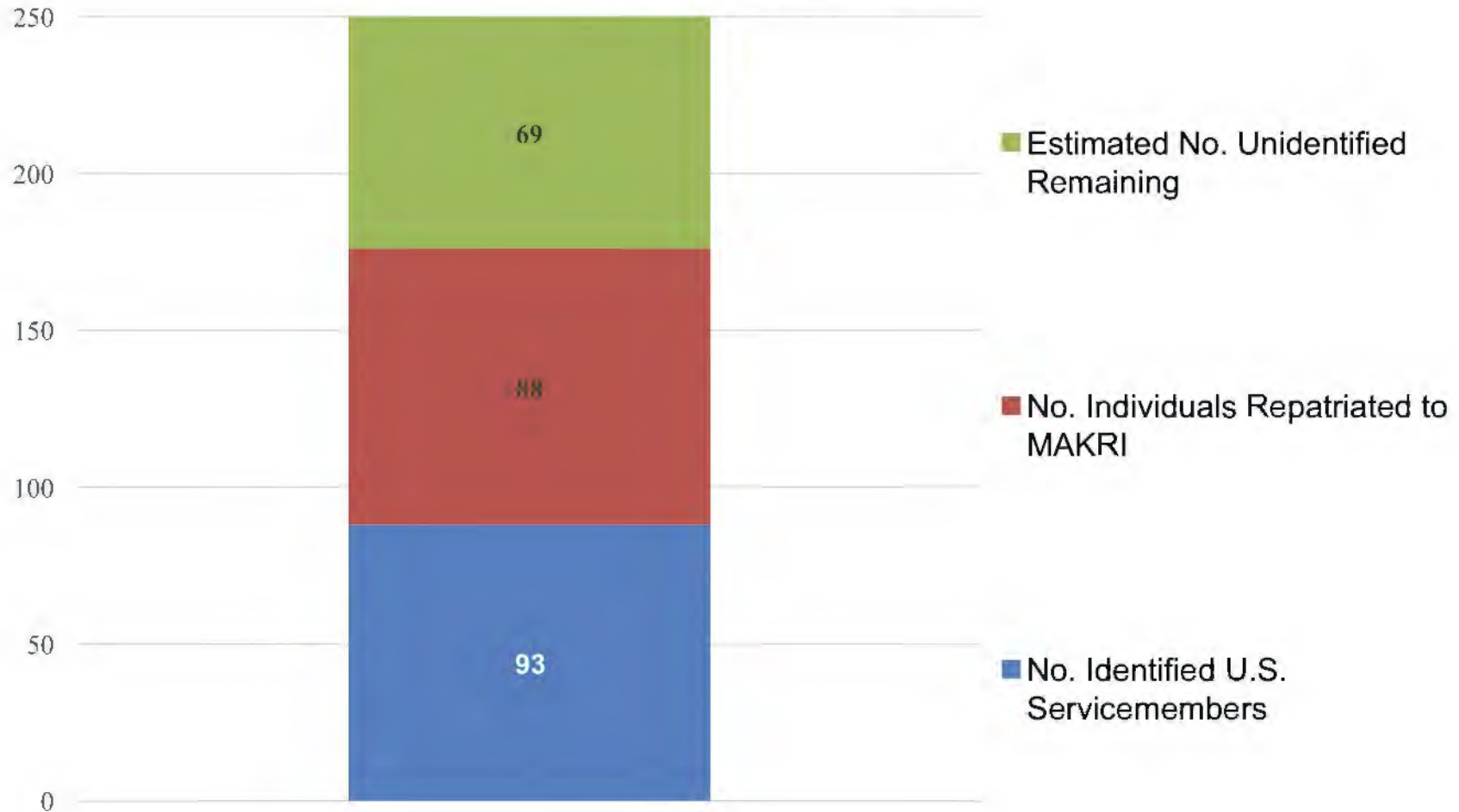
- There are an estimated 250 individuals represented in the K55 boxes
- Approximately 160 U.S. service members are represented in the K55 assemblage
- Approximately 90 individuals are likely non-U.S. personnel

Individuals Represented in K55

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K-55 Individuals



K208 (1990-1994) and JRO (1996-2005)

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Analysis of the K208 and JRO is ongoing

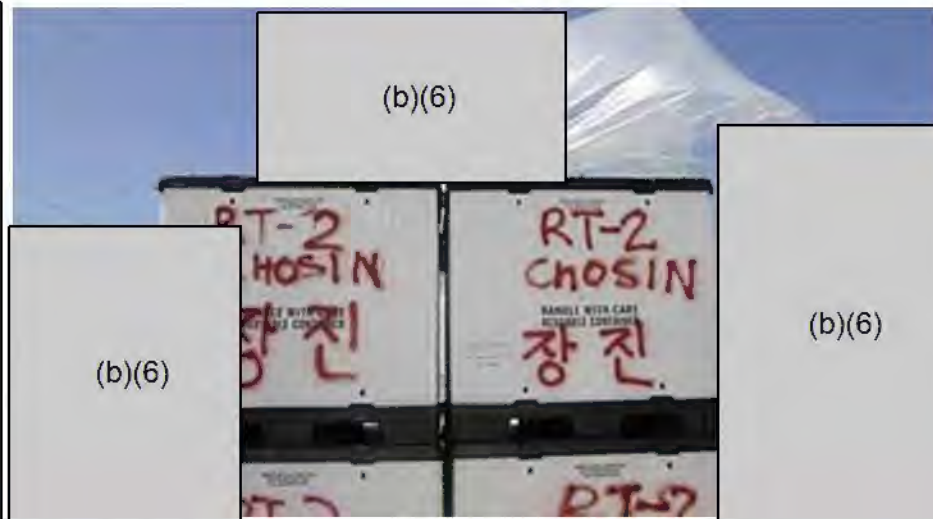
- 155 IDs from the K208 assemblage
- 153 IDs from the JRO assemblage
- 39 IDs from both K208 and JRO assemblages
- 1 ID from both K55 and JRO assemblages
- 348 total IDs from K208 and JRO assemblages

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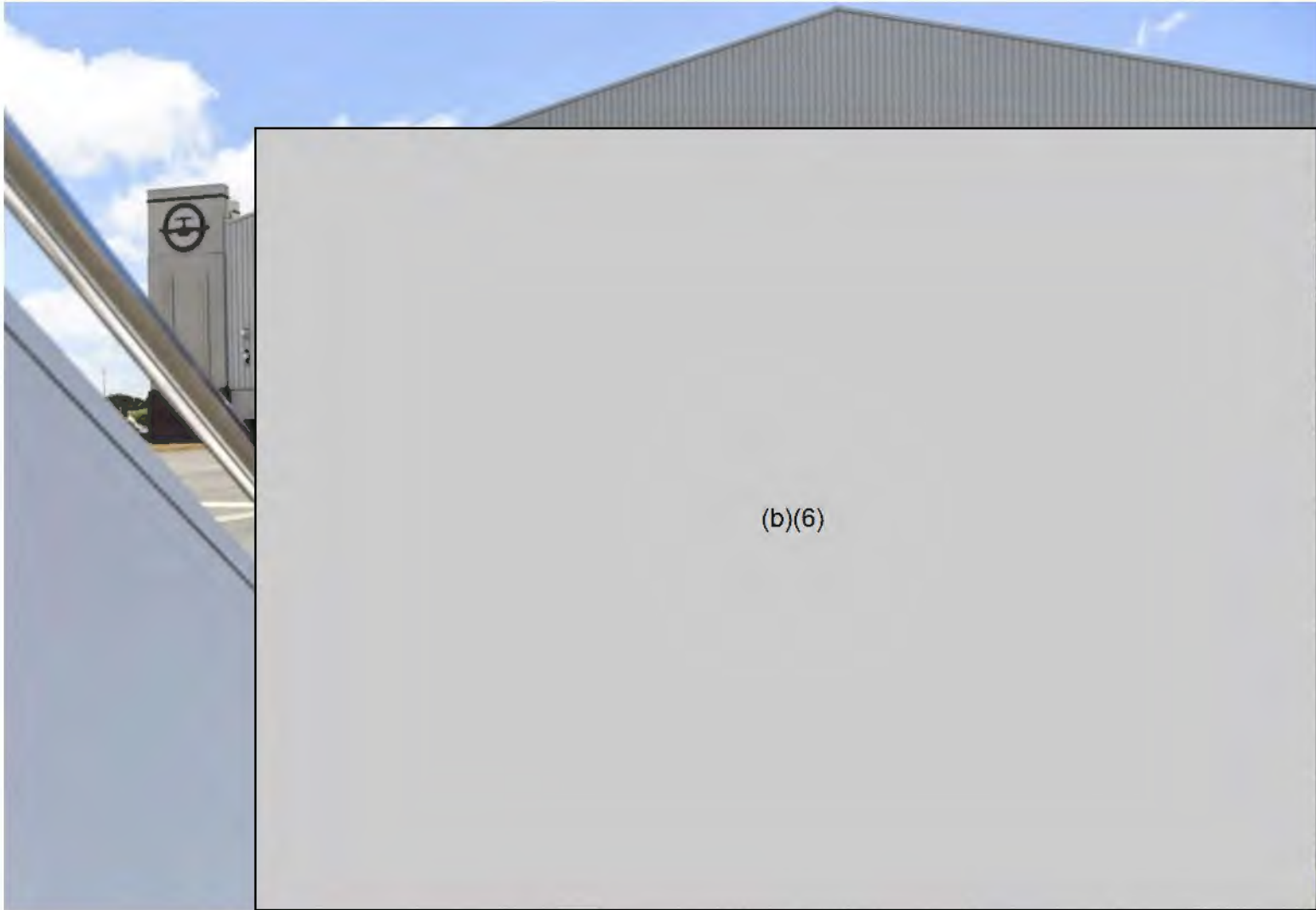
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MAKRI Partnership

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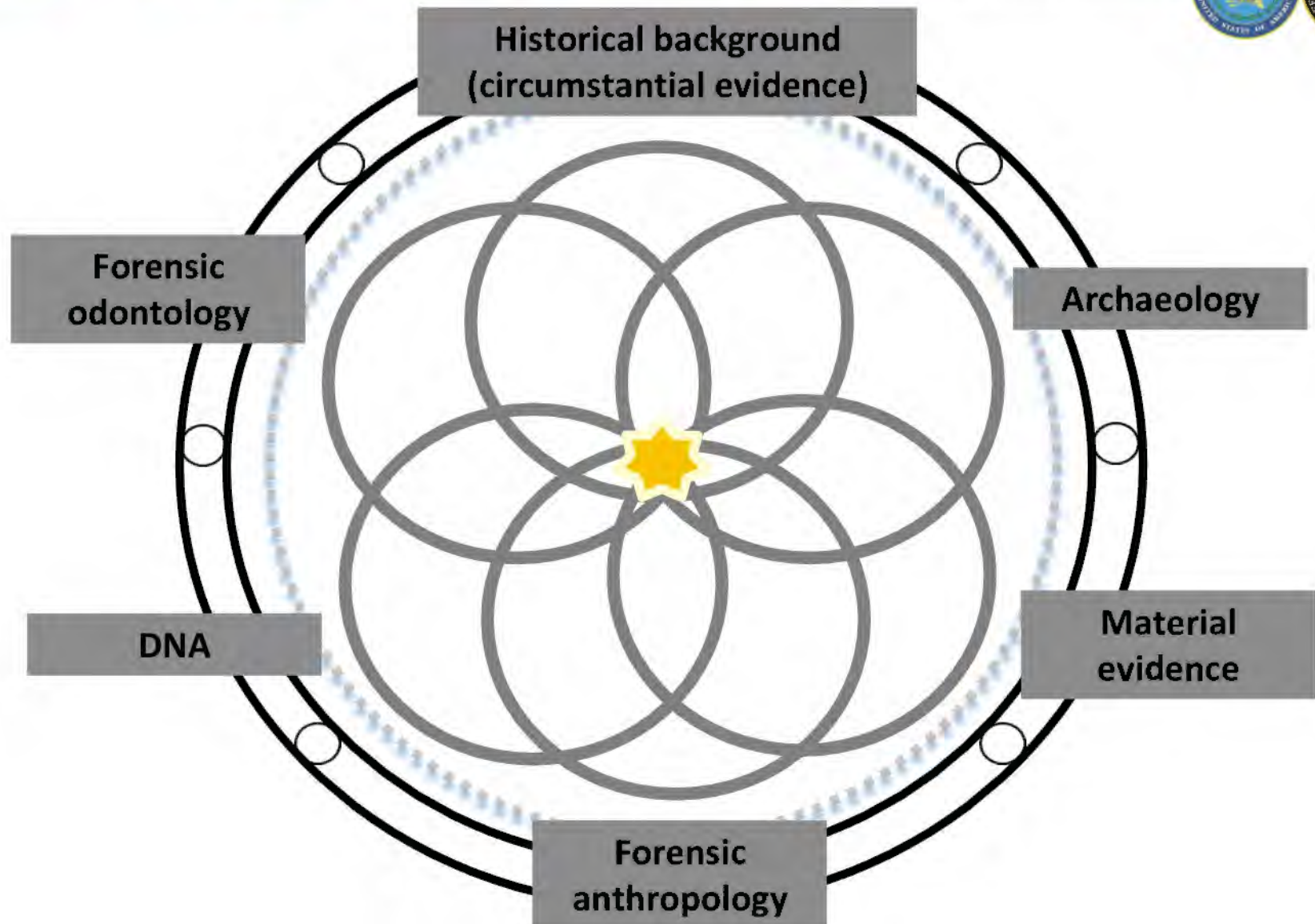
Recovered evidence is accessioned into the DPAA Laboratory Accredited by ANSI ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

- Located at two core sites

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Multiple Lines of Evidence

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Forensic Anthropology

- Bone? Human bone? How many individuals are present?

Biological Profile

- Sex
- Age
- Ancestry
- Stature
- Trauma, pathology
- Individual traits

Compare with Antemortem Data

- Segregate commingled remains
- Narrow the search space

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DNA Evidence

- Family reference samples are essential!

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Anthropologists Compare Post-Mortem and Antemortem Chest X-Rays

- Generate a short list
- Find points of concordance
- Verify with superimposition
- Helpful when DNA is inconclusive and to EXCLUDE individuals

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Forensic Odontology

- Dentists compare any dental remains to antemortem dental records
- Evidence toward IDs and exclusions

Table 1. Dental comparison table of CIL

Tooth #	Tooth #	Postmortem	Antemortem
27	R-11	E	V
28	R-12	E	V
29	R-13	E	V
30	R-14	V	V
31	R-15	V	V
32	R-16	V, impacted	V, impacted

KEY: green shade = similar findings, E = missing perimortem/postmortem; V = unrestored.

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Stable Isotopes are “Nature’s Recorders”

- Diet: Carbon, Nitrogen, and Sulfur
- Geographic origin: Oxygen, Strontium, and Lead

Classification

- Triage into likely populations based on dietary differences
- Reduces burden on DNA and follow-on casework

Separation

- Help resolve commingling
- Saves time and money

Geolocation

- Compare isotope record to home of record
- Provides evidence for an ID

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Identification Process

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Strategic Update

Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA

Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 15-16 August 2024



- **1st year of increased annual budget**
- **More and stronger collaboration with South Korea, except DMZ**
- **No communications from North Korea – at all levels**
- **Completing Phase V (of VII) of disinterment plan**
- **Progress with China; none with Russia**

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A Day in the Life of a Field Team

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 27-28 June 2024



Agenda:

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Getting Started
- Site Survey & Excavation Strategy
- Field Life
- What happens when you find something?
- Relationship Building
- Closing Site/End of Mission

Roles and Responsibilities of a Mission Team

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Team Leader - (b)(6) USA

Team Sergeant - (b)(6) USN

SRE - Scientific Recovery Expert - (b)(6)

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Getting Starting – Arrival, Site Survey & Set up

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Getting Starting – Arrival, Site Survey & Set up

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Screening Process, Screen Stations, Bucket Brigade

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What happens when you find something?



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Relationship Building - Host Nation

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Closing Site/End of Mission

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End of Mission

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KOREAN/COLD WAR ANNUAL GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023

Event Agenda

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



THURSDAY 17 AUGUST	TOPIC	SPEAKER
0730-0900	Registration / Roll Call	
0900-0920	Posting of Colors / National Anthem / Invocation Welcoming Comments / Agenda & Packet Overview	(b)(6) Director, Outreach & Communications, DPAA
0920-1030	Remembrance Ceremony	
1030-1100	Mission and Strategic Perspectives	Mr. Kelly McKeague Director, DPAA
1100-1130	DNA Briefing	(b)(6) Director of DoD DNA Operations (AFDIL and AFSSIR) for the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System
1130-1330	Lunch on Own (Dining Options in and Near Hotel)	
1330-1630	Cold War Museum Tour (For Cold War Families) 7172 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill, Virginia 20187	

Event Agenda

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



THURSDAY 17 AUGUST	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1300-1310	Administrative Notes	(b)(6)
1310-1325	U.S. Department of Defense Perspectives	(b)(6) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
1325-1340	Ambassadors' Messages	Video Message from the Ms. Joy M. Sakurai Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Korea Letter from the Honorable Nicholas Burns U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Deputy Chief of Mission or Defense Attaché – *Tentative Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the USA
1340-1345	National Security Council Perspectives	Video Message from (b)(6) Deputy Assistant to the President & Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific
1345-1350	U.S. Department of State Perspectives	Video Message from The Honorable Sung Kim U.S. Special Representative for The Democratic People's Republic of Korea
1350-1420	MAKRI Director Remarks	(b)(6) Director, Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery Identification (MAKRI)
1420-1425	Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Remarks	Video Message from the Honorable Minshik Park Minister, Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs
1425-1500	Questions and Answers Session	(b)(6) Moderator

Event Agenda

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



FRIDAY 18 AUGUST	TOPIC	SPEAKER
0900-0905	Administrative Comments	(b)(6)
0905-0935	Ensign Jesse Brown Project: An Example of an External Partnership Effort	(b)(6) Director, Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE) and Research Professor, Middle Tennessee State University
0935-1005	United Nations Command Perspectives (Livestreamed)	(b)(6) Deputy Commander, United Nations Command
1005-1040	Operations Overview	(b)(6) USMC Deputy Director for Operations, DPAA
1040-1110	Operations and Research Update	(b)(6) Director, Indo-Pacific (IP) Directorate, DPAA (b)(6) USA Operations Officer, IP Directorate, DPAA (b)(6) Chief of Research (Korea), IP Directorate, DPAA (b)(6) Disinterments Manager, IP Directorate, DPAA
1110-1130	U.S.-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) Update	General (Retired) Robert Foglesong Chairman of U.S. Side of USRJC (b)(6) Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of USRJC
1130-1330	Lunch on Own (Dining Options in and Near Hotel)	

Event Agenda

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



FRIDAY 18 AUGUST	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1330-1430	Cold War Breakout Discussion	<p>Mr. Kelly McKeague Director, DPAA</p> <p>(b)(6) USA Deputy Director, Euro-Mediterranean Directorate, DPAA</p> <p>Mr. Chris Phelps Director, IP Directorate, DPAA</p> <p>(b)(6) Acting Director, Partnerships and Innovations Directorate, DPAA</p> <p>(b)(6) Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of USRJC</p>
1330-1400	Korean War Identification Project Update	<p>(b)(6) Forensic Anthropologist, Korean War Identification Project Lead, DPAA</p>
1400-1430	Partner Research Opportunities and Projects	<p>(b)(6) Henry M. Jackson Foundation Senior Historian (Working Under a Cooperative Agreement with DPAA)</p>
1430-1600	Questions and Answers Session	(b)(6) Moderator
1600-1605	Closing Remarks	Mr. Kelly McKeague
1730-2100	National Museum of the U.S. Army (For All Families) 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060	Reception and Tour



...Freedom isn't free.





DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

Mission and Strategic Perspectives

Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA

Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 17-18 August 2023



- 30% budget increase over next 5 years – most of it against ops
- More and stronger collaboration with South Korea
- No communications from North Korea since March 2019
- 23% of Korean War Unknowns identified
- US-ROK exploring trilateral opportunities
- Strained relations with Russia & China restrict activities, but . . .

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Partner Research

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DPAA's Partnerships & Innovation (PI)

Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefing 15-16 August 2024



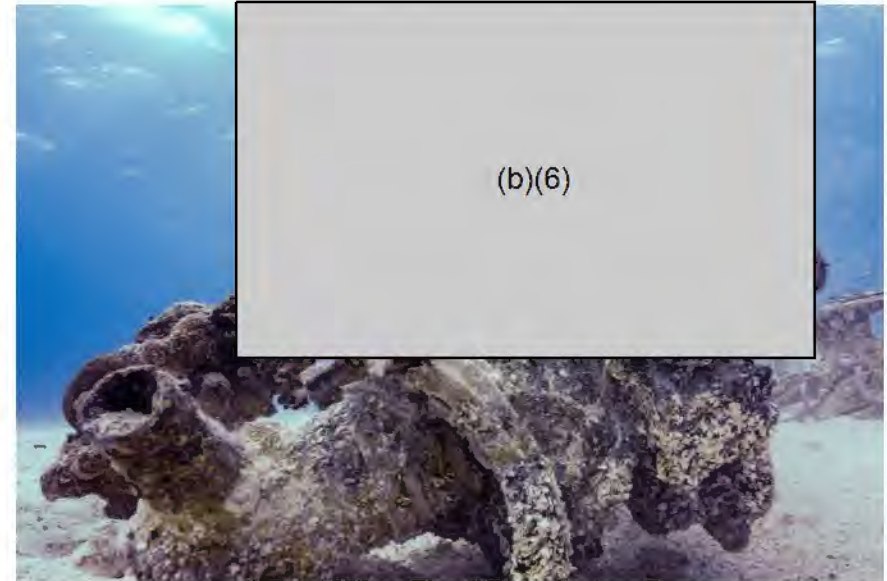
“The best partnerships aren't dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion.”



Sarah Maclean, author and management guru



- Expand capabilities and capacity
- Leverage external skills and expertise
- Cutting edge technologies, practices, and procedures
- Complementary to DPAA efforts



Domestic and International Partners

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Government
agencies

DPAA partners with
professional organizations
across the country and
around the world.

Academic
institutions

Non-profits

Private companies

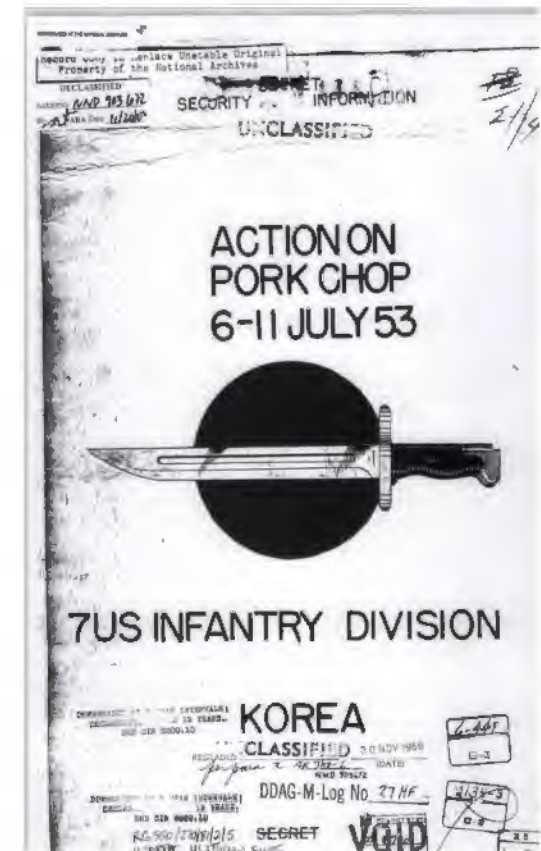
What Does This Mean For Korean War Accounting?

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Capacity, Capability, Cost Effectiveness**
 - Since 2017, DPAA has established a proven Partner Research model, expanding partnerships with universities, organizations, and other groups.
 - Korean War research is led by the Korean War research team in the Indo-Pacific Directorate.
 - Internal Korean War researchers direct partner research projects that serve unaccounted-for Korean War losses.

**Partners are helping
to set the stage for
future success**



Who are our Korean War Research Partners?

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Primary Korean War Research Partner



Other Korean War Research Partners



Other Research Partners (Possible future Korean War projects)



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



New Research Partner Institutions coming online FY 2025



- DPAA has been working on Korean War partner research since 2017.
- Completed past projects include:
 - A Historical Narrative of the Pork Chop Hill campaign
 - Oral Histories with Korean War Veterans who handled remains near the DMZ
 - Korean War Legacy Foundation Curriculum Book
 - 1,000+ accounted-for losses researched in support of the Korean War Enhanced Roster of the Dead
 - Articles for DPAA Website
 - Pusan Perimeter
 - Inchon
 - DMZ Campaign

HONORING SACRIFICE:

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
TO THE KOREAN WAR

KOREAN WAR LEGACY FOUNDATION





- **DPAA has 10 Partner Research Projects related to the Korean War in FY 2024 So Far**
- **REQ P-127 Korea DMZ Resolved Project**
 - **Project:** Provides analysis of 600+ accounted-for losses near the DMZ area.
 - **Current Status:** IDPFs and other documents analyzed for 600+ losses. Florida State University Fellow is currently creating visualizations and other products so researchers can find patterns in remains recovery at different points in the Korean War.
- **REQ P-334 Korean War DMZ Losses Narrative**
 - **Project:** To create a research report, maps, and data analysis of losses near the 38th parallel.
 - **Current Status:** Initial report draft presented to the Korean War research team. Maps and GIS data shared with Florida State University fellow to help him build more map visualizations. Archival research at National Archives of remains recovery in the post-war era currently being processed.
- **REQ P-110 Korean War Photo Project (Texas)**
 - **Project:** Provides photos and other information on all Korean War unaccounted-for losses from Texas. Similar projects exist in North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.
 - **Current Status:** 138 photos of Korean War losses from Texas have been located. 25 student interns at Texas A&M researched 321 unaccounted-for losses, created written products, and built animated maps.

The Road Ahead: Korean War Partner Research Projects

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- Since 2017 DPAA has continued to initiate, complete, and expand Korean War partner research.
- New projects are in Coordination with Korean War Research Team and Indo-Pacific Directorate.
- New Research Partners/Scholars with a variety of skills will support the Korean War effort through 2024-2025.





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Partnership Opportunities in Southeast Asia

(b)(6)

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 27-28 Jun 2024



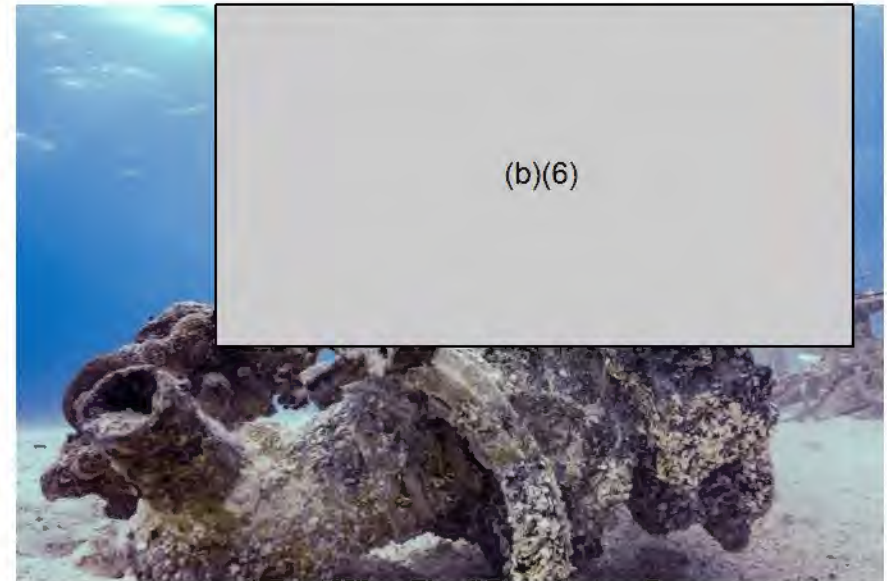
“The best partnerships aren't dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion.”



Sarah Maclean, author and management guru

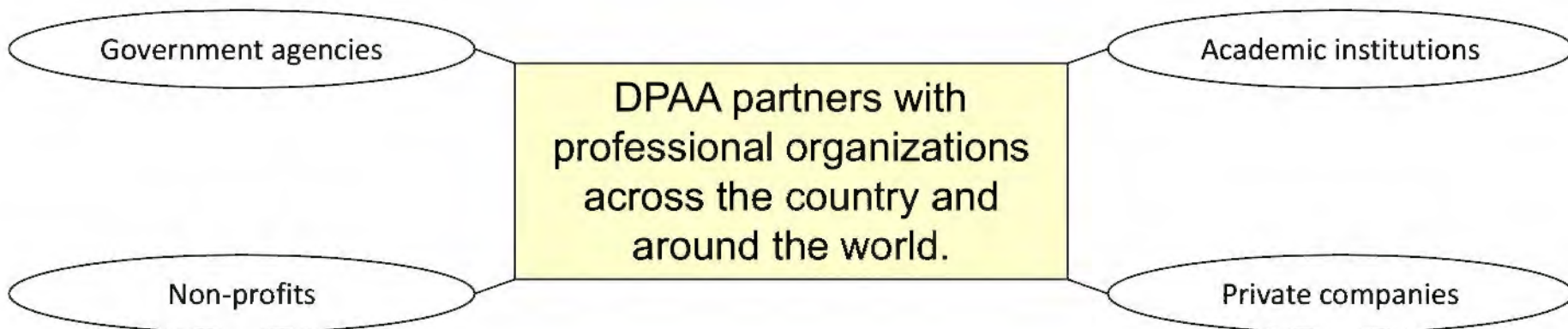


- Expand capabilities and capacity
- Leverage external skills, expertise, and passion
- Cutting edge technologies, practices, and procedures
- Complementary to DPAA efforts
- Exposes many partner personnel/volunteers to our noble mission



Domestic and International Partners

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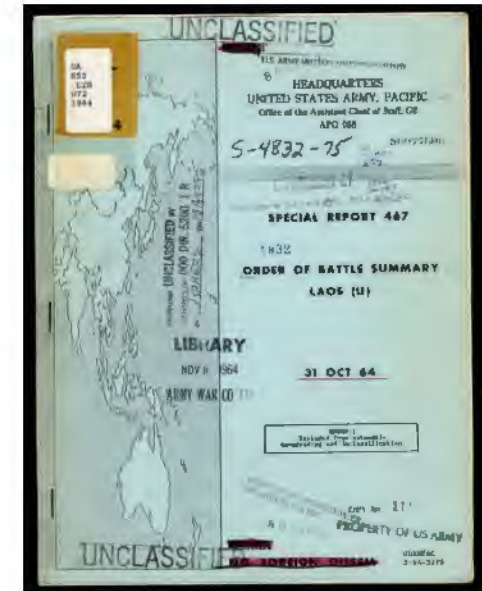
What Does This Mean For VW Accounting?

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Capacity**
 - SEA presents unique challenges for partnering
 - Partners both support and amplify the mission through Research and Field activities
- **Capability**
 - DPAA has Extensive Experience in SEA
- **Cost Effectiveness**
 - DPAA Has Proven Model

**Partners are helping
to set the stage for
future success**



Includes two Hub & Spoke Fellows dedicated to SEA Research – at Texas Tech University and The Ohio State University. Both Fellows speak Vietnamese fluently and hold PhDs in SEA History.



- **DPAA has 10 Active Partner Research Projects related to SE Asia**
 - **P-298 Vietnamese Linguist – Translation Project**
 - **Project:** Provides translation and transcription Vietnamese-language of documents. The Ohio State Fellow completed translation of the *History of Group 559* in May 2024. This translation provided data on Vietnamese military structure, unit leadership, and aircraft shootdown incidents that occurred along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
 - **Current Status:** The Ohio State Fellow recently translated *The History of Rear Echelon Services in the Anti-American Resistance War to Save the Nation 1954-1965*. This book provided information on 61 downed aircraft lost from 1964-1965. The Ohio State Fellow is beginning translation of *The History of Anti-American Resistance To Save the Nation In Quang Binh Province 1954-1975* and continues to share Vietnamese language documents/books from the Ohio State University Inter-library Loan system. Fellow's expertise in Vietnamese-language archival sources may also support future requests for Vietnamese-language documents in US repositories.
 - **P-1203 Vietnam War Order of Battle GIS Project-Republic of Vietnam**
 - **Project:** To create GIS visualizations and other products to better utilize Vietnam War order of battle documents
 - **Current Status:** Kicked-off in late May 2024, SEA researchers and the Florida State Fellow are currently collaborating on the first set of GIS products.
 - **P-311 and 312 Historical Report Assistance Project**
 - **Project:** Provides historical research and writing support to draft biographical introductory paragraphs for Historical Reports.
 - **Current Status:** The Ohio State and Texas Tech Fellow have submitted over 100 introductory paragraphs to date, including several quick-turn requirements to support Identification Packets.

What Does This Mean For VW Accounting?

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Personnel from Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) work on the back of a Vietnamese ship, readying the use of an AUV and a ROV. Divers also participated in this UW effort in Gulf of Tonkin (July 2023).

- **Current & Planned Field Activities**

- 6 activities in FY24
4 ITs and 2 RT
- 6 activities in FY25
2 ITs and 4 RTs

Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., leads a partner recovery mission at a remote site in Cambodia (March 2024).

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VIETNAM WAR ANNUAL GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

Washington, D.C.

29-30 Jun 23

Overview 29 Jun

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



THURSDAY 29 JUNE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
0730-0900	Registration / Roll Call	
0900-0920	Welcoming Comments / Agenda & Packet Overview Posting of Colors / National Anthem	(b)(6) Director, Outreach & Communications, DPAA
0920-1030	Remembrance Ceremony	
1030-1100	Mission and Strategic Perspectives	Mr. Kelly McKeague Director, DPAA
1100-1115	Ambassadors' Messages (Videotaped)	The Honorable Marc E. Knapper, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam The Honorable W. Patrick Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia The Honorable Peter M. Haymond, U.S. Ambassador to Laos
1115-1145	U.S.-Russia Joint Commission Update	(b)(6) Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs
1145-1345	Lunch on Own (Dining Options in and Near Hotel)	
1345-1415	Vietnam War Identification Project Update	(b)(6) Forensic Anthropologist, Vietnam War Identification Project Lead, DPAA
1415-1445	DNA Briefing	(b)(6) Director of DoD DNA Operations (AFDIL and AFSSIR) for the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System
1445-1515	Partnership Opportunities in Southeast Asia	(b)(6) Acting Deputy Director, Partnerships and Innovations Directorate, DPAA
1515-1530	Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) Team Leader Personal Reflections	(b)(6) VNOSMP Team Leader, Quang Tri Province
1530-1630	Questions and Answers Session	(b)(6) Moderator

Overview 30 Jun

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



FRIDAY 30 JUNE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
0900-0905	Administrative Comments	(b)(6)
0905-0935	Defense Intelligence Agency-Stony Beach	(b)(6) USA Director for Operations, DIA (b)(6) Chief of Stony Beach, Defense Attaché Service, DIA
0935-1000	Operations Overview	(b)(6) USMC Deputy Director for Operations, DPAA
1000-1030	U.S. Department of Defense Perspectives	The Honorable Sasha N. Baker Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
1030-1100	U.S. Department of State Perspectives	Video from The Honorable Daniel J. Kritenbrink Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs (b)(6) Deputy Assistant Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
1100-1150	Vietnam War Research and Joint Field Activities	(b)(6) USAF Chief, Research Support Division, Indo Pacific Directorate (b)(6) USA Operations Officer, Indo-Pacific Directorate (b)(6) USA Commander, Detachment Two (Vietnam)

Overview 30 Jun (Continued)

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



FRIDAY 30 JUNE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1200-1400	Luncheon (Open Seating in East Ballroom)	Keynote Speaker: (b)(6) Senior Southeast Asia Expert, U.S. Institute of Peace
1400-1435	Veterans Service Organizations' Trips to the Region	(b)(6) Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) (b)(6) Chair POW-MIA Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) (b)(6) Director of Communications, VVA
1435-1520	"A Day in the Life of a Field Team" Panel	(b)(6) Scientific Analysis Directorate (b)(6) and Chief Petty Officer (b)(6) Expeditionary Support Directorate (b)(6) USAF, Moderator
1520-1620	Questions and Answers Session	(b)(6) Moderator
1620-1630	Closing Remarks	Mr. Kelly McKeague



Remembrance





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Mission and Strategic Perspectives

Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 29-30 Jun 23



- Sustaining the operational priority of Vietnam War accounting
- 30% budget increase over next 5 years – much of it against operations
- Increasingly augmenting mission with private partners
- Productive engagements in Vietnam and Laos
- Cambodia cooperation still strong amid national election

(b)(6)

Ambassadors' Messages (Videotaped)

The Honorable Marc E. Knapper

U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam

The Honorable W. Patrick Murphy

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia

The Honorable Peter M. Haymond

U.S. Ambassador to Laos



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U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)

DPAA Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD)

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USRJC Executive Secretary, U.S. Side

Chief, Joint Commission Support Division
Europe-Mediterranean Region / DPAA

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 29-30 Jun 23

U.S. Side of the USRJC

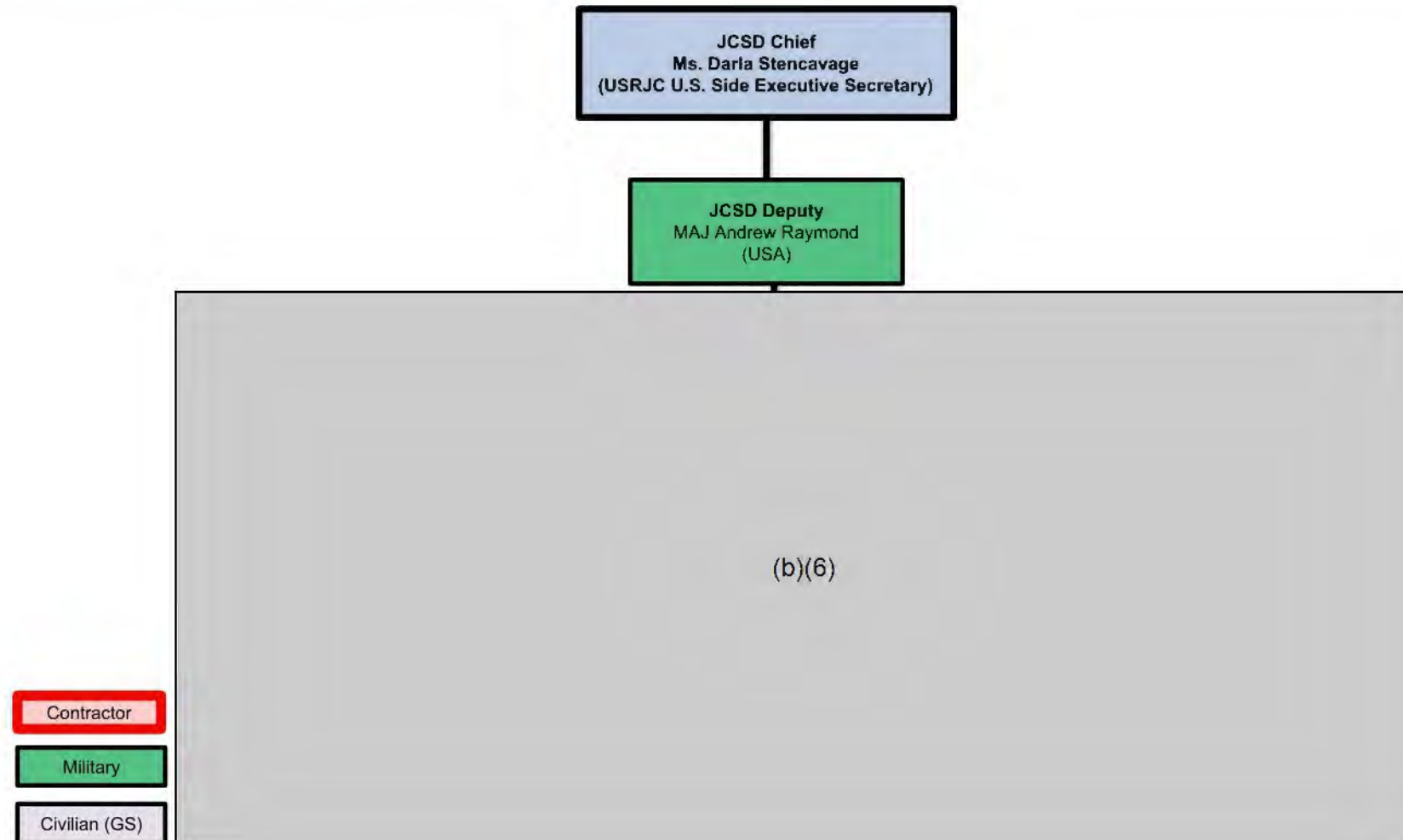
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Joint Commission Support Division – Vietnam War Accounting

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Achievements:

- White House and DoD approved continued engagement within USRJC framework
- U.S. Chairman regularly communicates with senior U.S. officials
- USRJC Co-Chairmen continue telephonic communications and are exploring possibilities to resume collaboration by analysts and subject matter experts
- U.S. Aircraft Shootdown Database
 - Data: 3,000+ entries from Russian archival records, other sources
 - Analysis: 300+ instances cross-referenced
 - Outcome: requests for additional archival search on specific losses
- U.S. POW/MIA in-person research in Russian Defense Archives is ongoing
- Russian Side returned to in-person research in U.S. National Archives

Challenges:

- High level constraints placed on interactions due to bilateral relations that affect planned engagements/activities
- Restricted ability to travel to Russia



April 2023: Agreement to exchange papers detailing POW/MIA research goals and issues

June 2023: U.S. Side White Paper delivered to Russian Side; Vietnam War Working Group Issues requested:

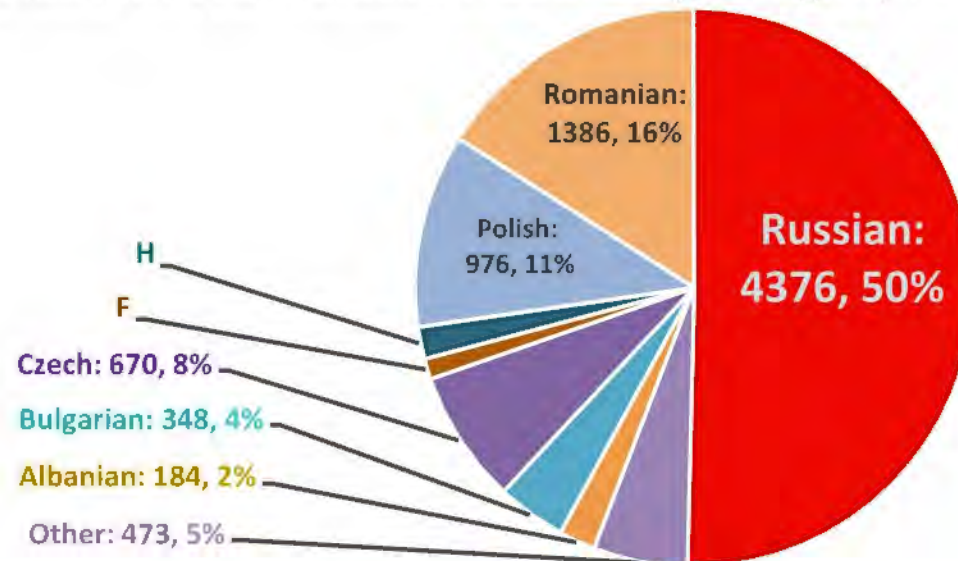
- Access to Central Archives of Russian Federal Security Service
- Review of records from specific Soviet Air Defense and Air Transportation Units
- Additional search for information on 3 specific U.S. loss incidents
- Review of groups of records:
 - Shootdown Reports by Soviet Advisors
 - Reports by Special Group that collected equipment from downed U.S. aircraft



JCSD Vietnam War Working Group (VWWG) Research

- Managing VWWG Historical Records (part of DPAA Digitization Project)
- Databasing and analyzing information provided by Soviet/Eastern Europe Vietnam War veterans
- Compiling U.S. Aircraft Shootdown Database
- Researching Soviet involvement in the Vietnam War within available Russian open sources

JCSD Vietnam War-related Records (in pages) in Foreign Languages





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Vietnam War Identification Project

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**Forensic Anthropologist,
Project Lead**

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 29-30 Jun 23

My Background

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- **Started at JPAC in 2012**
- **Board Certified Forensic Anthropologist**
- **Extensive excavation experience in Southeast Asia**
 - **10 sites in Vietnam**
 - **4 sites in Laos**

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(b)(6)

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Aircraft Crashes

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Vietnam War



How Remains Arrive in the Laboratory

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- **Archaeological recoveries**
 - **Scientific excavations**
- **Unilateral turnovers**
 - **Remains turnover**
 - **Local government**
 - **Stony Beach - DIA**
 - **US Citizens**

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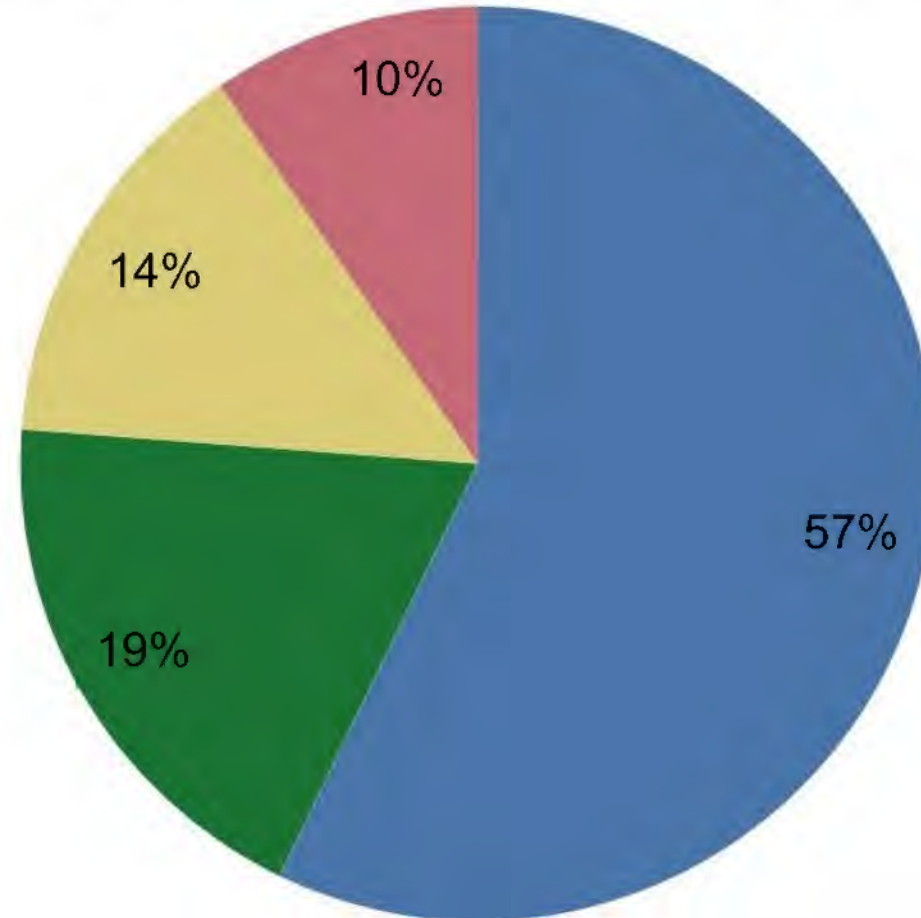
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Vietnam War FY23 Accession Sources

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- DPAA Excavation
- Partner Excavation
- DPAA Investigation
- Unilateral Turnover

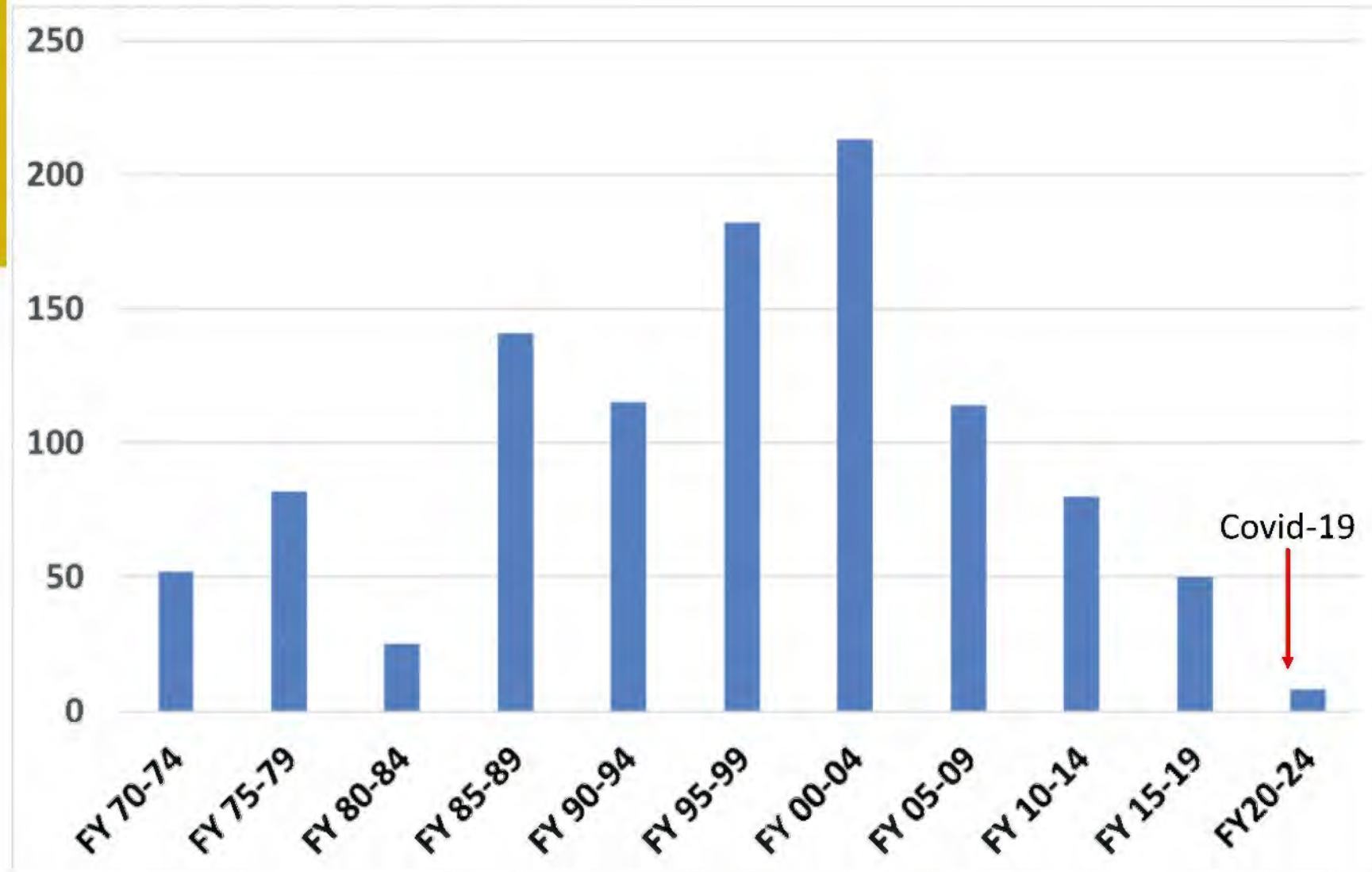


Vietnam War Identifications

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By 5 Year Increments



Vietnam War Lab Case Flow

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- New laboratory accessions
 - Field excavations and recent unilateral turnovers
 - Managed by (b)(6)
- Open accessions from historical cases
 - Managed by (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



- Foster transparency with Vietnam War families and other directorates
- Accessions in lab date back to 1970's
- Older accessions originally not viable for DNA testing
- Evaluate old accessions with aim to make new identifications

(b)(6)

Vietnam Era Skeletal Remains

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Vietnam Era Skeletal Remains vs other conflicts**
- **Small, highly fragmented, often burnt**
- **Limited skeletal assessments based on condition of remains**

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Background on Unilateral Turnovers

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- Southeast Asia unilateral turnovers often arrive with little background information
- Historical losses in Southeast Asia:
 - French Indochina War
 - U.S. Military and Civilians
 - U.S. Allies
 - Southeast Asian Military and Civilians

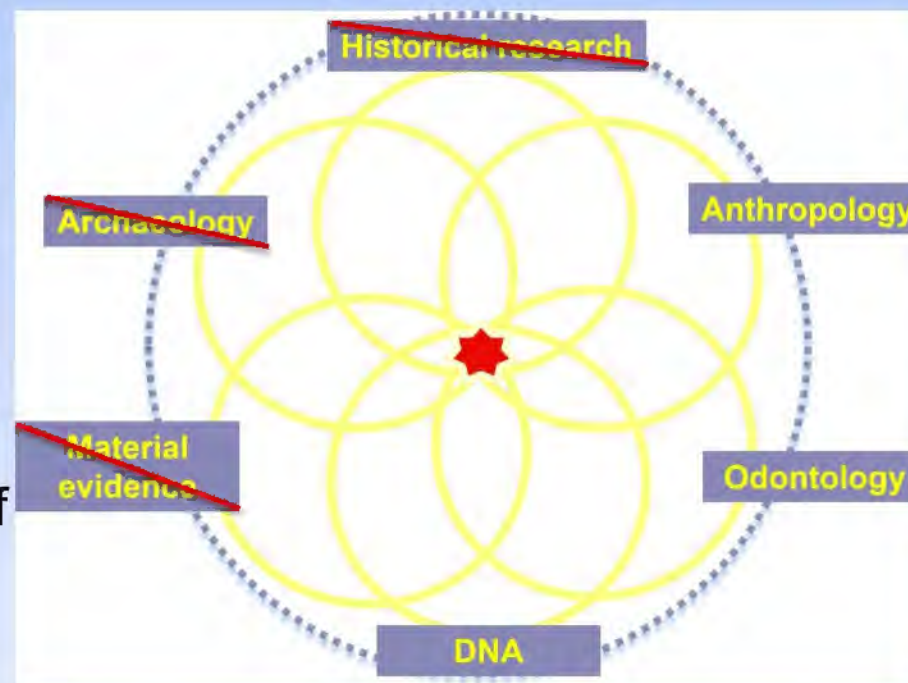
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Case Study – Additional Portion ID

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Walk through of three accessions**
 - Unilateral turnovers with no provenience
- **Additional Portion Identification**
 - Skeletal remains in the lab determined to be remains of a previously identified individual



→ How we reduce an **unknown number** of losses down to **one individual** using multiple lines of evidence

Case Study – Additional Portion ID

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



1985

Source: Director of Thai refugee camp received remains from Lao refugee

Location: Laos

Name Association:

Fiegl – ID tag

Nicely – belt buckle

Inventory:

Left mandible

Lower right 2nd molar

(b)(6)

Case Study – Additional Portion ID

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



1987

Source: Turned over from Lao villager

Location: Eastern Savannakhet Province, Laos

Name Association:

None

Inventory:

Left maxilla

Upper left 1st molar

Rib fragment

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Case Study – Additional Portion ID

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



1988

Source: Turned over to representative at Southwest LSU Air Force Reserve by Lao student

Location: Laos crash site

Name Association:

Faltesek – ID tag

Inventory:

Lower right 3rd molar

(b)(6)



Three Separate Accessions

- Commonalities
- All reportedly from Laos
- Are they human – **yes**
- Are they American?
 - U.S. Dental work – **yes**
 - Rib – **unknown**
- How many individuals?

*DNA testing not available in 1980s

(b)(6)

Unknown Number of Individuals



- **mtDNA testing of four elements**
 - All elements yield same mtDNA sequence
 - 5 Vietnam War Family Reference Samples (FRS) match this sequence
 - None match the 3 name associations provided by the sources

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★ Sampled for DNA testing

UNKNOWN NUMBER

5

Case Study – Additional Portion ID

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- **Anthropology analysis**
 - **Minimum Number of Individuals = 1**
 - **Sex** = Indeterminate
 - **Age** = 19 and 22 years old
 - **Ancestry** = European
 - How many of the 5 missing U.S. personnel are consistent with this biological profile?
 - 3 U.S. personnel match

UNKNOWN NUMBER

5

3

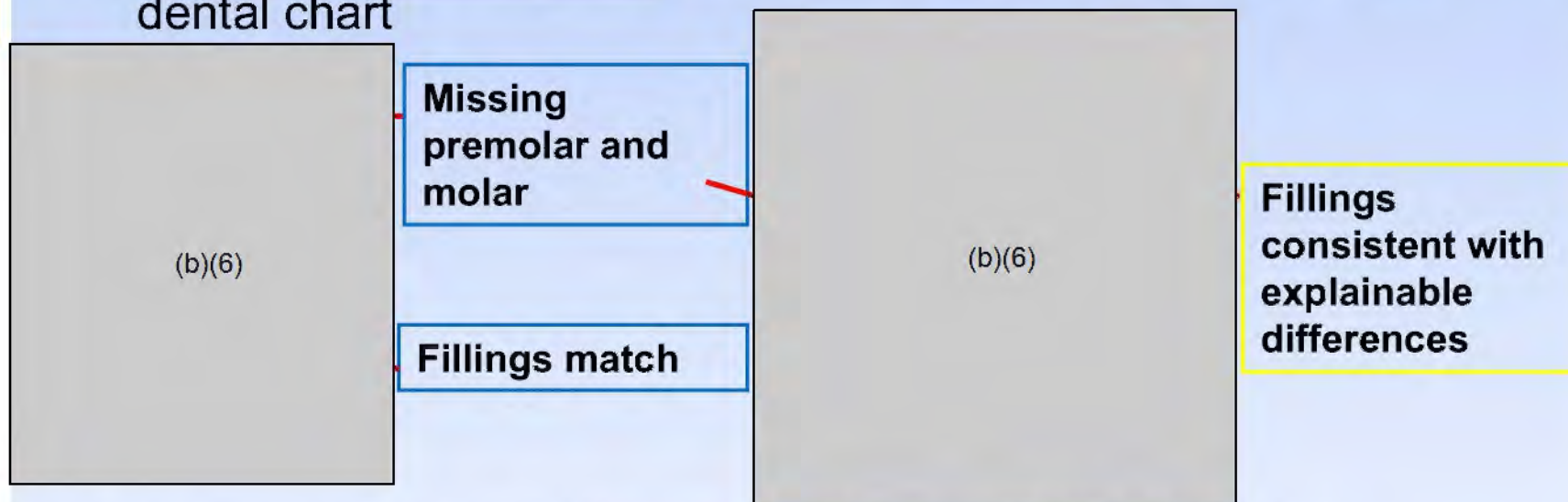
Case Study – Additional Portion ID

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Dental analysis**

- Dental similarities in 3 teeth between antemortem dental chart and one service member
- Explainable discrepancy between two teeth and antemortem dental chart



➤ Finding: remains are *possibly* those of PO2 Hartzheim

UNKNOWN NUMBER

5

3

1?



- **mtDNA**
 - Sequence matches 5 missing U.S. personnel, including **PO2 Hartzheim**
- **Nuclear DNA**
 - **Y chromosomal STR Profile**
 - 4 of the 5 missing U.S. personnel excluded
 - **Autosomal STR Profile**
 - Consistent using Sibling Statistic with the Sister for **PO2 Hartzheim**
- **Combined mtDNA and autosomal STR statistic**
 - **8.50 billion** times more likely to be observed if the unknown sample originated from **the biological brother** of “*Sister Name*” than from an unrelated individual

UNKNOWN NUMBER

5

3

1?

1

Case Study – Additional Portion ID

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



CIL 1987-057-I-02.1

- Sex = Indeterminate
- Age = 19 and 22 years old
- Ancestry = European

(b)(6)

PO2 John F. HARTZHEIM

- Sex = male
- Age = 22 years old
- Ancestry = White

(b)(6)

Original Identification 25 August 1998

Case Study – New Identification

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



1988

Source: Handover from Vietnamese refugee in Malaysia to DIA in April 1988

Location: Aircraft crash in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

Name Association: None
-9 individuals?

Inventory: Multiple cranial fragments, teeth, and small non-diagnostic bone fragments

(b)(6)

*DNA testing capabilities were not a viable option in the 1980s

Case Study – New Identification

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **mtDNA testing of several bone and tooth fragments - 2014**
 - 7 Asian mtDNA signatures
 - 2 distinct European mtDNA signatures
 - Minimum of 9 individuals present

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4 fragments matched mtDNA sequence of previously identified U.S. personnel

Case Study – New Identification

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Anthropology analysis**
 - **Minimum Number of Individuals = 1**
 - **Sex = Indeterminate**
 - **Age = Older adolescent or adult individual**
 - **Ancestry = Indeterminate**
- Limited biological assessments due to sparsity of osseous material

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DNA Analysis

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mtDNA (2014):

- Sequence consistent with **two U.S. personnel** from the Vietnam War in AFDIL comparative database

Nuclear DNA (2015):

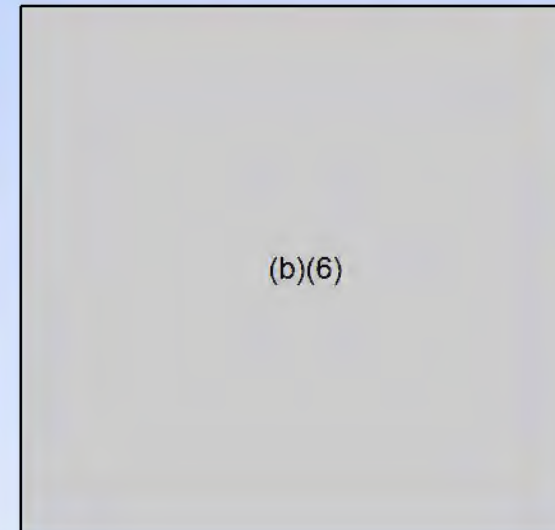
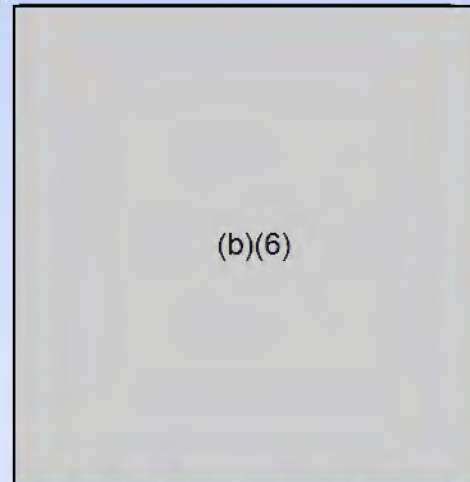
- Failed to yield sufficient data for comparison
 - Nuclear DNA not helpful in narrowing down individual

Case Study – New Identification

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **First Dental analysis - 2016**
 - X-ray comparison of tooth between two U.S. personnel is too similar
- **Opinion:** Possible match to CW3 Zich but unable to rule out other individual



- **Second Dental analysis - 2020**
 - X-ray comparison
 - **Opinion:** Possible match to CW3 Zich but unable to rule out other individual



- **Third and Final Dental analysis - 2022**
 - Dental x-ray reversed
 - Antemortem and postmortem dental x-ray comparison

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- Remarkable anatomic similarities
 - Cusp outline, anomalous third root
 - Finding: remains are *positively* those of CW3 Zich with no discrepancies

Case Study – New Identification

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



CIL 1988-093-I-01

- Sex = Indeterminate
- Age = Older adolescent/adult
- Ancestry = Indeterminate

(b)(6)

CW3 Larry A. ZICH

- Sex = male
- Age = 24 years old
- Ancestry = White

(b)(6)



- **VWIP focus on historic accessions in the lab**
 - 4 accessions dating to the 1980s
 - 3 belong to a previously resolved individual
 - Nuclear DNA testing helped lead to an Additional Portion Identification
 - 1 resulted in a new identification
- **Tenacity of DPAA laboratory**
 - VWIP consistently re-evaluating old cases
 - Technological advances help progress casework and lead towards case resolution

Additional Portion Identifications

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



FY21	ID Date	FY22	ID Date
GUERRA, Raul A.	07-Jul-21	BRANCH, James A.	12-Jan-22
ROGGOW, Norman L.	07-Jul-21	SANDOVAL, Antonio R.	27-Jan-22
WOOD, Patrick H.	16-Aug-21	MUSIL Sr., Clinton A.	25-Mar-22
KIBBEY, Richard A.	23-Aug-21	REX, Robert, A.	20-May-22
		HARTZHEIM, John F.	22-Jun-22
		ZOOK, Harold J.	22-Jun-22
		McCUBBIN, Glenn D.	13-Jul-22
		LANNOM, Richard C.	9-Sept-22

FY23	ID Date
ROBERTS, Michael L.	16-Nov-22
CARR, Donald G.	5-Jan-23
CARR and THOMAS Group APR	5-Jan-23
KARGER, Barry E.	18-Jan-23
HANLEY, Larry J.	3-Mar-23
BRANCH, James A.	3-Apr-23

Vietnam War Identifications Since Onset of VWIP

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Partnership Opportunities in Southeast Asia

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Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 29-30 Jun 23



“It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.”



Charles Darwin

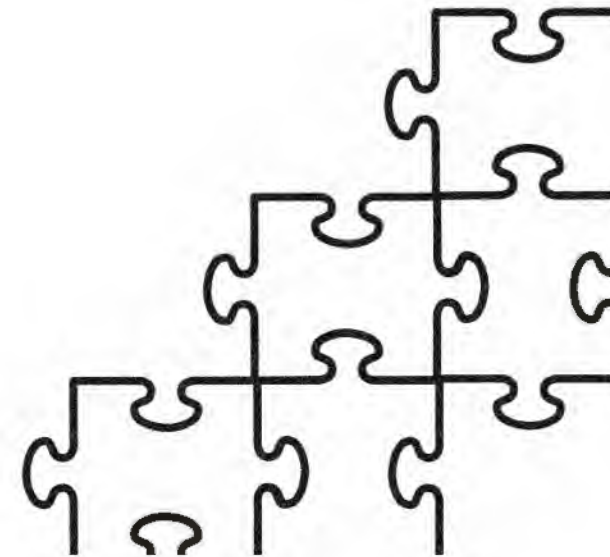
English naturalist, geologist
and biologist
and management guru

Why do we partner?

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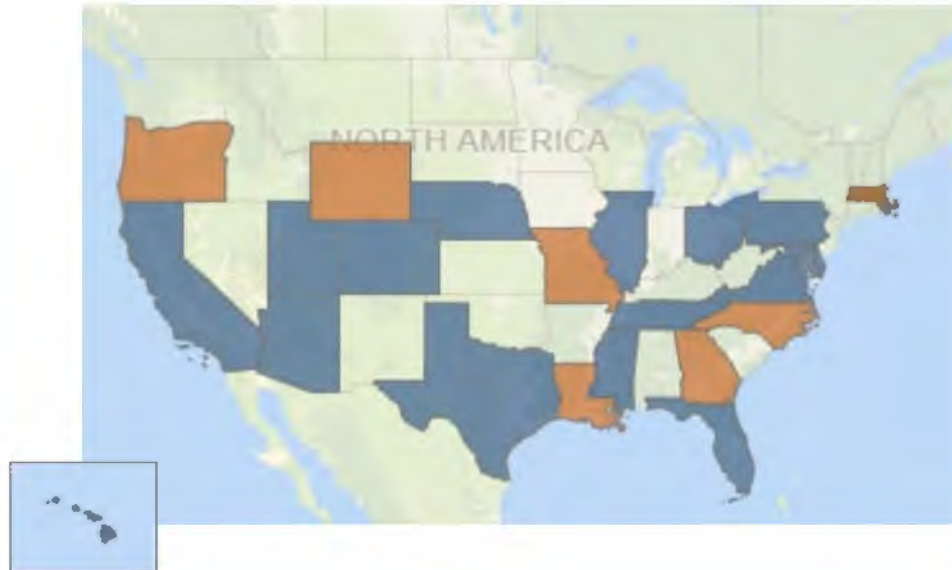


- **Increase our Capacity**
 - Partners add to the TOTAL number of teams and researchers available
- **Increase our Capabilities**
 - Partner teams are sometimes able to access countries in which it is difficult for DPAA-led teams to operate
 - Partners can add:
 - Access to new equipment/technology
 - Access to locations we can't get to
 - Multi-year efforts



Active & Developing Partners by US State

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



DPAAs partner with qualified and vetted, universities, other academic institutions, and non-profit from across the nation.

State	Entity
Arizona	Arizona State University Center for Digital Antiquity
California	University of California San Diego Cultural Heritage Engineering
California	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
California	University of California at Los Angeles
California	San Diego State University
California	California State University-Fullerton
Colorado	Colorado State University
Delaware	University of Delaware
Florida	Florida State University
Florida	University of Miami
Florida	National Center for Forensic Science at the University of Central Florida
Hawaii	University of Hawaii-Manoa
Illinois	University of Illinois at Chicago
Louisiana	University of New Orleans
Maryland	University of Maryland
Missouri	University of Missouri
Mississippi	University of Southern Mississippi
North Carolina	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
North Carolina	East Carolina University
North Carolina	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Nebraska	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Nebraska	University of Nebraska-Omaha
Ohio	Ohio State University, The
Oregon	University of Oregon
Oregon	Portland State University
Pennsylvania	Temple University
Pennsylvania	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Tennessee	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Tennessee	Middle Tennessee State University
Texas	Texas Tech University
Texas	Texas A&M University
Texas	Southern Methodist University
Utah	University of Utah, The
Utah	Brigham Young University
Virginia	George Mason University
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Wyoming	University of Wyoming

Active & Developing Partners by Country

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



And we partner with interested organizations from around the world through various programs

Country	Partner
Australia	Unrecovered War Casualties-Army, Australian Department of Defense
Australia	Western Australian Museum
Australia	Flinders University
Australia	Cosmos Archaeology
Australia	James Cook University
Austria	University of Innsbruck
Belgium	Flanders Marine Institute
Canada	Saint Mary's University
France	EOD-EX
Germany	University of Osnabrueck
Germany	Trident Archäologie
Germany	Underwater Archaeology
India	Anthropological Survey of India
India	National Forensic Sciences University
Italy	Isola di Morgo srl
Malta	University of Malta
Marshall Islands	American Legion Post 44 DBA Kwajalein MIA Project
Netherlands	International Search and Recovery Team for Missing Persons
New Zealand	Sealark Maritime Exploration
New Zealand	University of Otago
Papua New Guinea	National Museum and Art Gallery
Papua New Guinea	University of Papua New Guinea
Philippines	University of Philippines
Philippines	University of San Carlos
Poland	Institute of National Remembrance
South Korea	Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery
Sweden	Voice of the Ocean Foundation
United Kingdom	Cranfield University
United Kingdom	Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust
United Kingdom	OceanMind
United Kingdom	MSDS Marine
United Kingdom	Geoscope Services Ltd
United Kingdom	University of York
United Kingdom	Cotswold Archaeology

Why do we partner?

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Cost effectiveness** - *How do Partners save DPAA money?*

- **Volunteers**

- Research and Fieldwork

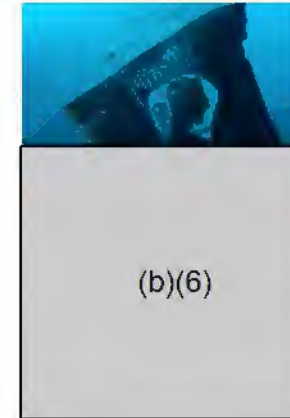
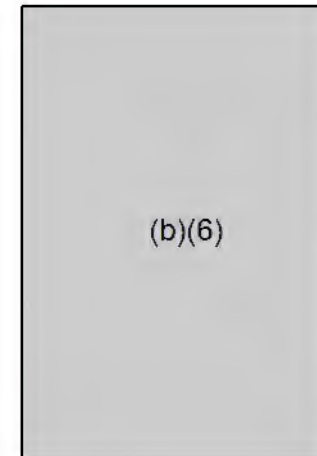
- **Public-Private Partnerships**

- Fieldwork
 - Voice of the Ocean
 - SCRIPPS
 - UIC

- **Cooperative Agreements**

- Research and Fieldwork

- **Contract vehicle “last resort”**



A study by the US Center for Naval Analysis found that partnered recovery missions can cost up to 80% less than internal missions

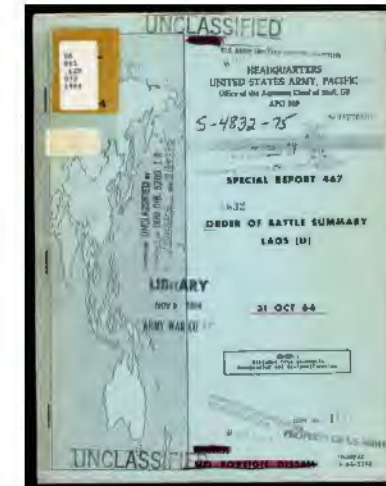
What Does This Mean For VW Accounting?

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



- **Capacity**
 - SEA presents unique challenges for partnering
 - Partners both support and amplify the mission through Research and Field activities
- **Capability**
 - DPAA has Extensive Experience in SEA
- **Cost Effectiveness**
 - DPAA Has Proven Model

**Partners Are Helping
to Set the Stage for
Future Success**



Includes two Hub & Spoke Fellows dedicated to SEA Research – at Texas Tech University and The Ohio State University. Both Fellows speak Vietnamese fluently and hold PhDs in SEA History.



- **DCAA has 10 Active Partner Research Projects related to SE Asia**
 - **REQ #19-006B Vietnamese Linguist – Translation Project**
 - **Project:** Provides translation and transcription Vietnamese-language of documents. The Fellow's current work on the *History of Group 559* provides data on Vietnamese military structure, unit leadership, and aircraft shootdown incidents that occurred along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
 - **Current Status:** Approximately 49,000 words translated to date. Fellow acquired original historic monograph through Ohio State University Inter-library Loan system and was able to digitize maps and figures. Fellow's expertise in Vietnamese-language archival sources may also support future requests for Vietnamese-language documents in US repositories.
 - **REQ #21-031 Laos Order of Battle Project**
 - **Project:** To locate and digitize monthly collection of US Army Order of Battle Documents for Laos from the Vietnam War Era
 - **Current Status:** Successfully located and digitized a number of documents acquired through OSU Inter-Library Loan system from the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks.
 - **REQ #22-027A-B Historical Report Assistance Project**
 - **Project:** Provides historical research and writing support to draft biographical introductory paragraphs for Historical Reports.
 - **Current Status:** Over 100 introductory paragraphs submitted to date, including several quick-turn requirements to support Identification Packets.

What Does This Mean For VW Accounting?

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- **Planned Field Activities**

- (6) activities in FY23
 - (1) Survey, (1) Investigation, (4) Recovery
- (7) activities in FY24
 - (2) Survey, (1) Investigation, (4) Recovery

20-2VN with Scripps/Project Recover.
Mission dates: Feb 17-March 6, 2020

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Preparing to launch Autonomous Underwater Vehicles used during the mission to survey the seafloor offshore Vietnam

Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP)
Team Leader Personal Reflections

(b)(6)

VNOSMP Team Leader, Quang Tri Province



QUESTIONS?



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Operations Overview

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USMC

Deputy Director for Operations

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 29-30 Jun 23



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% of DPAA Planned Field Missions



- Vietnam War remains our operational priority
- Approx 76% of DPAA's operational funding for Regional Directorates is dedicated to Vietnam War
- Europe-Mediterranean Region focused on World War II, Cold War & Gulf War
- Continue seeking opportunities with private partners



Total of 8 Joint Field Activities (JFA):

- **Vietnam:** Executed 2 DPAA JFA; 5 recovery teams, 3 investigation teams and 1 partner (Scripps) recovery team; awaiting execution 1 JFA; 1 investigation team
- **Laos:** Executed 2 DPAA JFA; 4 recovery teams and 1 investigation team; awaiting execution 1 JFA; 2 recovery teams and 1 limited joint investigation team
- **Cambodia:** Executed 2 partner missions (Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., and Golden West Humanitarian Foundation); 1 investigation and 1 recovery team

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Total of 14 JFA:

- Vietnam: 4 JFA; 15 recovery teams, 8 investigation teams, 1 partner investigation team, 12 VNOSMP recovery teams and 6 VNOSMP investigation teams
- Laos: 5 JFA; 13 recovery teams, 6 investigation teams and 2 partner recovery teams
- Cambodia: 5 partner missions; 3 partner recovery teams and 2 partner investigation teams
- Approx 300% increase in overall missions in FY24

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- **Key leader & Partner Nation engagements**
- **50th Anniversary of VNOSMP establishment**
- **Conducted in person tech talks with Laos in SEP 22**

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U.S. Department of Defense Perspectives

The Honorable Sasha N. Baker
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Vietnam War Annual Government Briefing 29-30 Jun 23

U.S. Department of State Perspectives

Video from The Honorable Daniel J. Kritenbrink
Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and
Pacific Affairs



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U.S. Department of State Perspectives

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Deputy Assistance Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

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Vietnam War Research and Joint Field Activities

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Chief of IP Research

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IP Operations Officer

(b)(6)

Commander Detachment 2 (Hanoi)

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Vietnam War Research and Joint Field Activities

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USMC

3rd Force Recon Co.

Killed in Action: Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam – 14 January 1970

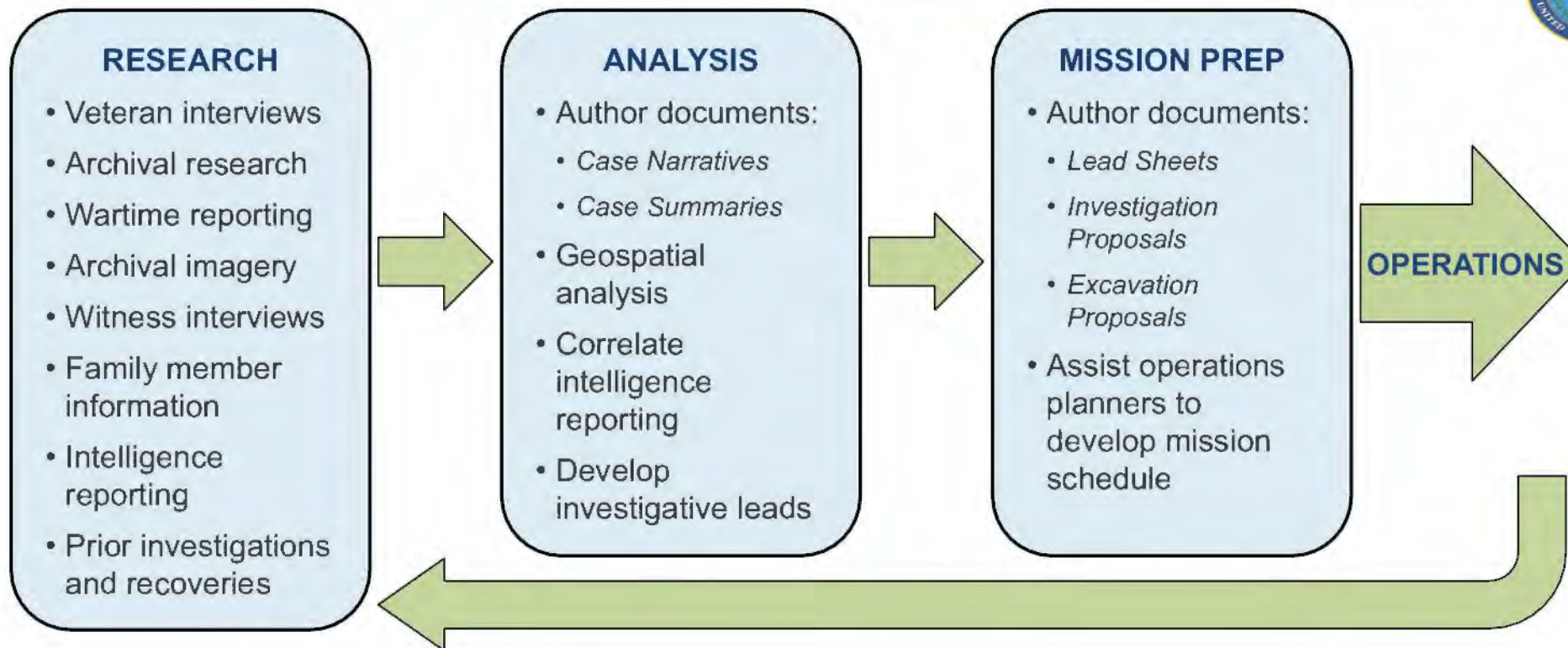


IP Research Division:

- Our primary mission is to proactively develop cases for fieldwork
- 82 personnel in 8 duty locations
 - 27 personnel focused on the Vietnam War (located in DC and Hawaii)
- Responsible for researching ~49,000 cases from WWII Pacific, Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War
- Augment Investigation Teams in the field
 - Identify potential witnesses and leads
 - Locate and survey sites
 - Collect evidence
- Lead for communication with families

Case Progression Process

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Reasons for delays:

- Each Vietnam researcher is assigned ~150-300 cases
- Our remaining cases are the most difficult ones with the fewest leads
- Every Vietnam War case has been worked for decades – was anything missed?



Additional Research Support Tasks:

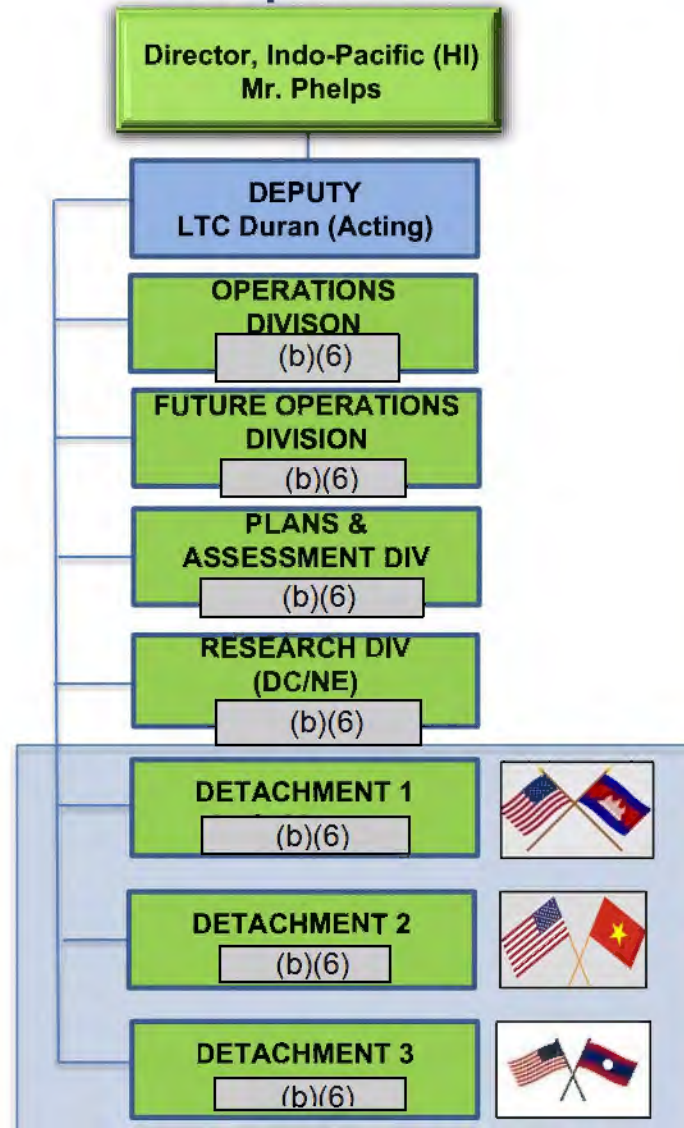
- Conduct archival research visits and attend veteran reunions
- Answer Congressional and family inquiries
- Support Family Member Update meetings and Annual Briefings
- Coordinate support with Partners and host nation investigators
- Conduct semi-annual Case Coordination Conferences
 - Weeklong meetings held twice per year
 - Supported by all DPAA Vietnam War analysts and historians, plus the DPAA Lab, Stony Beach, and DPAA Partners
 - Analyze all upcoming cases for investigation or recovery

Task Organization

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Composition



Disposition



Teams Composition

Investigation Team

1. Team Leader – O-3/E-7
2. Team Sergeant – E-5 to E-6
3. Scientific Research Expert – Anthropologist/Archeologist
4. Lead Investigator/Analyst
5. Photographer – E-5 to E-6
6. Independent Provider
7. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
8. Communication Specialist – E-4 to E-7
9. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
10. Life Support Investigator – E-5 to E-8

Note: Positions colored blue are DPAA internal, positions in black are Short-Term Individual Augmentees (STIAs).

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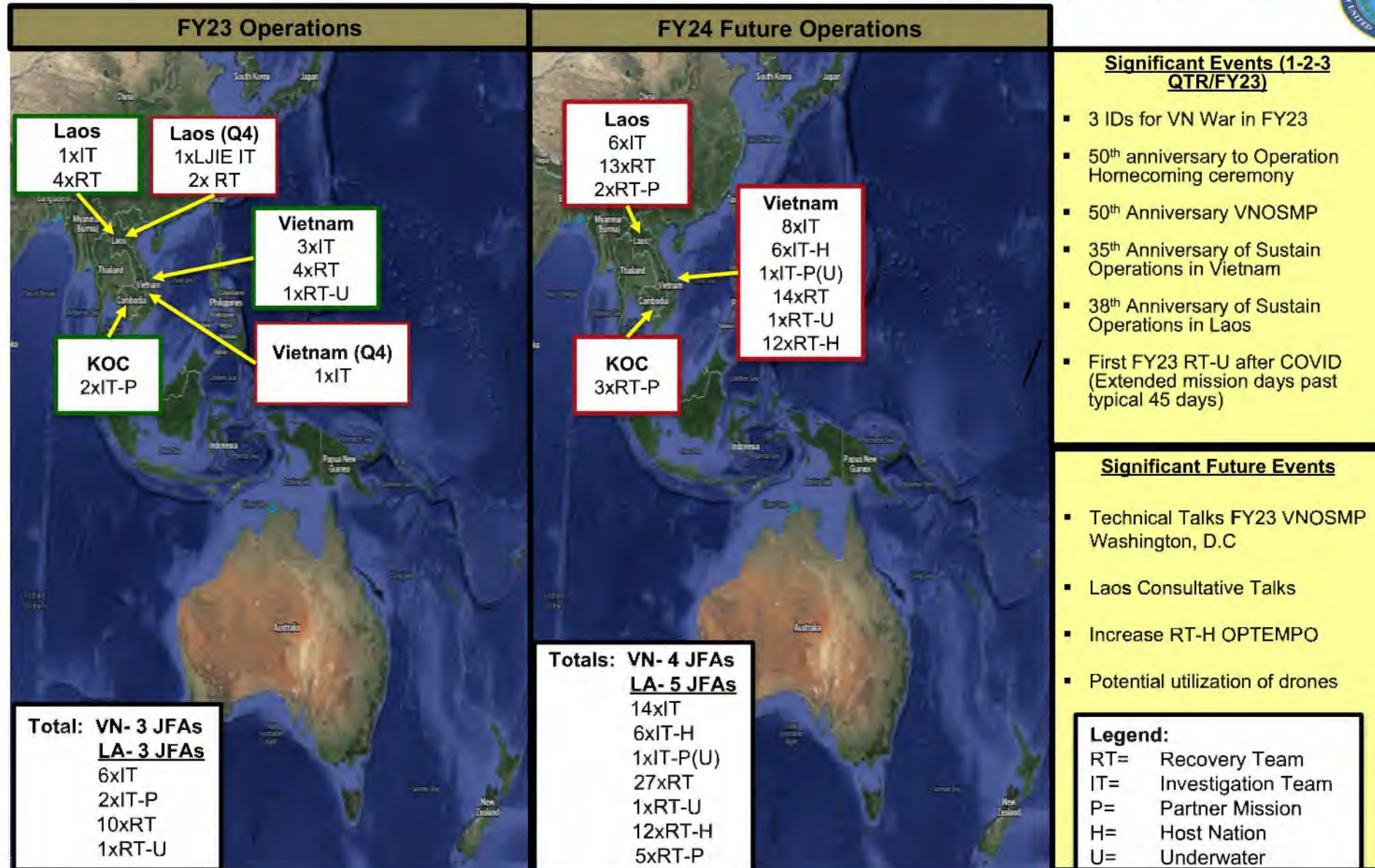
DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY Recovery Team

1. Team Leader - O-3
2. Team Sergeant – E-6 to E-7
3. Scientific Research Expert – Anthropologist/Archeologist
4. Recovery NCO - E-5
5. Recovery NCO - E-5
6. Recovery NCO - E-5
7. Photographer – E-5 to E-7
8. Independent Provider
9. Medic
10. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
11. Linguist – E-4 to O-4/DOD Civilian
12. Communication Specialist – E-4 to E-8
13. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
14. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician – E-5 to E-8
15. Life Support Investigator – E-5 to E-8
16. *Mountaineer – E-5 to E-7*



IP Vietnam War Operations

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Introduction, Inspiration, Community

Detachment Two – Hanoi, Vietnam

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Operational environment
constants / changes

Vietnamese counterparts
by, with, through





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Veterans Service Organizations' Trips to the Region

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Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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Chair POW-MIA Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

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Director of Communications, VVA

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A Day in the Life of a Field Team

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Agenda:

- Roles and Responsibilities on a Mission – Intro of panel
- Getting Started – Departure, Arrival, Site Survey, Set up- Team Leader
- Daily Work
- Field Life – Team Sergeant
- What happens when you find something?- Scientific Recovery Expert
- Closing Site/End of Mission- Team Sergeant (equipment/personnel)
Scientific Recovery Expert
- Relationship Building- Host Nation- Team Leader

Roles and Responsibilities on a Mission Team

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SRE- Scientific Recovery Expert- (b)(6)

Team Leader- USA, (b)(6)

Team Sergeant/EOD- USN, Chief Petty Officer, (b)(6)

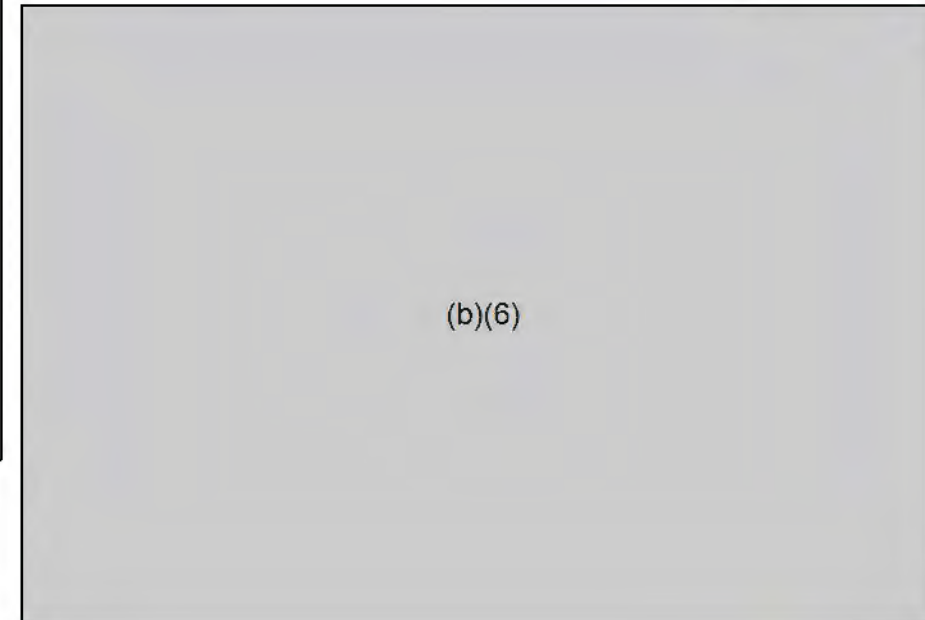
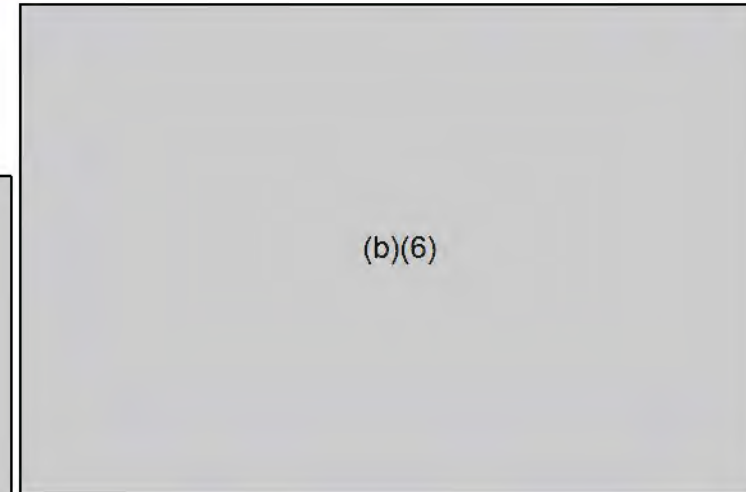
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Getting Starting – Arrival, Site Survey, Set up

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Getting Starting – Arrival, Site Survey, Set up

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Screening Process, Screen Stations, Bucket Brigade

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Field Life

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What happens when you find something?

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Closing Site/End of Mission

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End of Mission

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Relationship Building- Host Nation

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QUESTIONS?