

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT

Complete this form and forward to WHS/ESD/Correspondence Control Division,
Attention: Suspense Desk, Pentagon Room 3C843 Phone (b)(6)
Fax (b)(6) Email (b)(6)
Classified Email: (b)(6)

TASKED AGENCY USP
SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) 10/02/2014

1. REQUESTED ACTION

- ☒ a. ACTION COMPLETED ☒ COPY ATTACHED and/or ☐ SEE JUSTIFICATION BELOW
- ☐ b. REQUEST EXTENSION OF SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) TO _____ (Justify below)
- ☐ c. INTERIM REPLY SENT (Attach copy); EXTEND SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) TO _____ (Justify below)
- ☐ d. REQUEST CANCELLATION (Justify below)
- ☐ e. REQUEST TRANSFER TO _____ (Justify below, include POC name and telephone number)
- ☐ f. REQUEST DOWNGRADE TO _____ (Justify below)

2. JUSTIFICATION

See attached USDP signed responses.

3. TASKED AGENCY

a. AGENCY NAME USDP/PACT	b. ACTION OFFICER NAME (b)(6)	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER (b)(6)
d. DATE (MMDDYYYY) 10/09/2014	e. AGENCY APPROVING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE (Service Secretary/Under Secretary/ASD Military/ Executive Assistant Level) (b)(6)	

4. ACTION TAKEN (For ExecSec/Executive Support Office and Correspondence Control Division Use Only)

- a. ACTION COMPLETED ☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED
- b. EXTENSION ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED
- c. CANCELLATION ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED
- d. TRANSFER ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED
- e. DOWNGRADE ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED
- f. OTHER (Specify below) ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED

RD -> Action Complete

g. DATESIGNED (MMDDYYYY)

10092014

h. SIGNATURE

R. J. Kirk, Jr.

5. OSD CONTROL NUMBER



OSD010510-14

1329654



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

OCT 9 2014

(b)(6)

(b)(6) C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory
Department of Anthropology, University of Florida
PO Box 103615
Gainesville, FL 32610

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your letter in support of Dr. Thomas Holland and maintaining the integrity of the scientific process at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). I have shared your letter with the Secretary of Defense.

In March 2014, Secretary Hagel directed changes to the way the Department of Defense (DoD) conducts POW/MIA activities to increase the number of missing Service personnel accounted for and ensure timely and accurate information is provided to their families. This included naming a forensic pathologist from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System as the lead for identifications and scientific processes at a new Defense Agency for past conflict personnel accounting. These changes were informed by the Government Accounting Office (GAO), DoD Inspector General, and other DoD investigations and findings.

The addition of the medical examiner integrates the new agency into the broader DoD forensic enterprise and makes the process for past and current identifications the same, better enables transportation of remains across international and State boundaries, provides for making a legal finding for death and identification, and opens the full assets of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System to this mission.

Your letter highlights some practical concerns with having a forensic pathologist lead a scientific effort that relies heavily on forensic anthropology. As we go forward the new agency will maintain the scientific integrity of skeletal and dental remains analysis by having an appropriate scientific expert (anthropologist, odontologist) conduct the analysis and report their findings to the medical examiner. Additionally, we will maintain the professional qualifications of and provide for professional development opportunities for all staff of the agency.

I am dedicated to seeing this transformation through in a way that builds on the strengths we have in place and encourages continued innovation to serve the families of the missing in the best possible way. The integrity of the scientific process within the JPAC is one of these strengths. Your concerns and insights provide very useful ideas for how we can better implement this transformation.

Alisa Stack is my lead for implementing the transformation effort. Please contact her at (b)(6) with any concerns or suggestions you may have during this process.

Sincerely,

Christine E. Wormuth



OSD010510-14



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON D C 20301-2000

OCT 9 2014

(b)(6)

(b)(6) The George Washington University Department of Anthropology
Hortense Amsterdam House
2110 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20052

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2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D C 20301-2000

OCT 9 2014

(b)(6)

Forensic Anthropology Center
Department of Anthropology
250 South Stadium Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-0720

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Sincerely,

Christine E. Wormuth



TASK FORCE OMEGA, INC
14043 North 64th Drive
Glendale, Arizona 85306-3705
Phone: 623+979-5651; FAX: 623+979-9471
E-mail: tfoinc@cox.net
Web Site: www.taskforceomega.org

Date: 26 August 2014

To: The Honorable Charles T. Hagel
United States Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

From: (b)(6)

Subject: Central Identification Laboratory

CC: Christine E. Wormuth, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Elissa B. Slotkin, Principal Deputy to Under Secretary
Alisa M. Stack, Director, PACT

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to you today because you are both the Secretary of Defense as well as a Vietnam Veteran with a vested interest in the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action issue.

(b)(6)

For the last three weeks I have been wrestling with the dilemma we all are facing, which is your planned restructuring of DPMO and JPAC. It has been a welcome situation on one hand; difficult and thorny on the other. Above all else it has become angering because of how aspects of it are being manipulated by people in and out of government service. Please allow me to elaborate. During the National League of Families annual meeting, your three key personnel involved in this restructuring and who are copied herein were introduced to the families in attendance along with a sizable list of foreign and domestic dignitaries in such a manner that your ladies were hidden in plain sight. We were not afforded the opportunity to put a face with a name, let alone the reason for each one's attendance at our Annual Meeting. Further, most of us were not aware of the concerted effort orchestrated by (b)(6) to control who your people talked with and when thereby stacking the deck with her agenda items.

(b)(6) It is my understanding that (b)(6) "suggested" your personnel talk with her handpicked family members to gather their comments about the merger along with which senior members of DPMO and JPAC should stay and who should go. In addition to (b)(6) herself, I expect her short list included, but may not have been limited to the following: (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6) Your key personnel were steered away from the rest of us, and that I find to be a pity because our voices deserve to be heard as well. Clearly understand (b)(6) does not speak for a large number of League members including me.

What I am most concerned with in this restructuring is replacing Dr Tom Holland with a military officer regardless of training and experience who will automatically be replaced every 18 months to 3 years by another military officer with similar training and experience. In reality what this means is you are establishing a "revolving door" process that ensures just about the time your officer gets the CIL "just the way he wants it" and he "understands the skeletal identification process," he will be replaced by a new officer still wet behind the CIL ears who will "reorganize the lab" to his liking while imprinting his leadership techniques upon the lab's staff. This revolving door is a formula for disaster with nothing of substance being accomplished for those men and women we want to find and identify. It took years to break this debilitating process. Now with the stroke of a pen you will reestablish it - why?



OSD010510-14

From our perspective, the first real steps taken to move the CiL out of the scientific dark ages in the remains identification process were taken in 1992 when Dr. Tom Holland was hired to be the lab's Forensic Director. In these ensuing 22 years, and as a direct result of his steadfast dedication to his mission, the CiL has become the most impressive state-of-the-art lab of its kind anywhere in the world. We are very proud that it is the "gold standard" every other forensic lab tries to emulate no matter where in the world it is located. That is a direct result of Dr. Holland's absolute unrelenting devotion to our nation's POW/MIAs and the steps that must be taken to achieve solid identifications. Now having said that, while the lab practices pure science, or as pure as humanly possible, it is reliant upon other USG agencies to provide it with a range of information to aid it in understanding the loss incident, follow-on case related data along with politically relevant information that has a bearing on this case and how everything fits together with the fractured and frequently limited forensic material in front of them. That information is only as good as those agencies/entities wish to make it. I know this to be an absolute fact because manipulated information played an important part in the lab's identification of (b)(6) remains.

That identification of remains for (b)(6) was based on an odd combination of 5 loose teeth/parts of teeth recovered from the crash site that match the radiographs in (b)(6) casualty file. The teeth were recovered along with 23 extremely small unidentifiable bone fragments that may or may not be human. What Dr. Holland and his staff were not privy to at the time was relevant survival information from date of loss through the end of the war along with documented military intelligence that he was one of some 26 American POWs tracked by name and prison camp location in Laos between 1981 and 1984 by members of Special Forces Detachment-Korea, the unit assigned the responsibility of seeking out information regarding living POWs anywhere in Southeast Asia by President Ronald Reagan. Further, not only was all of the live intelligence kept away from those working his case at the lab, they were initially led to believe he rode his aircraft into the ground in a catastrophic crash and died in it, which was simply not the case at all. I wonder had Dr. Holland and his staff been provided all of the live intelligence available in (b)(6) case at the time they were processing the remains recovered from this crash site if it would have made a difference in its findings as issued in their Briefing Book. Please understand we are not the only family faced with this scenario. There are over 100 other families who have dealt with similar circumstances and taken a similar stand to ours.

Are there obstructionists involved in DOD, DPMO, Military Casualty Offices, etc? Most certainly. Besides Q Winfield, one who immediately comes to mind is (b)(6). He will be retiring in the near future, and I for one am grateful for that. The Marine families deserve much better than they've received at his hand. Case in point: what that man did to the family of Kenneth Plumadore. His sister was Kenny's Primary Next Of Kin. While she battled cancer (b)(6) made her life as difficult as he could to the level that within hours of Kenny being interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Pat died in a local DC hospital without attending his funeral herself. Further, and the most reprehensible aspect of all is the agreement between the US Marine Com/USG and the Plumadore family that should have been carried out by (b)(6) was not because of decisions (b)(6) made on the spot. If you're interested in more details beyond what you find in the records, just ask. As for Q Winfield, we all deserve much better than we've received at his hand.

On the civilian side, (b)(6) is an obstructionist with her own multi-leveled agenda. I would suggest to better grasp the level of her duplicity (b)(6).

(b)(6) I recommend you and your staff explore in depth "The POW Warrior" website at <http://powwarrior.wordpress.com/>. You will find a variety of well documented in-depth articles relating to (b)(6) the League and others directly involved with the League and other NGOs associated with it. Another private sector obstructionist is (b)(6) of the National Alliance of Families. You will also find information relating to (b)(6) and the Alliance on the POW Warrior's website. Please do not ever lose sight of the fact that (b)(6) is intentionally malicious while (b)(6) now is she distributes articles that may or may not have been properly vetted before they were printed in the first place. (b)(6) adds fuel to the fire when she passes these articles along as fact without vetting the information herself, either. An excellent example of that involves the Stars and Stripes article referencing "POW/MIA remains being grossly mishandled by the CiL personnel who left the transfer cases in a hanger unattended - abandoned if you will - for an undetermined length of time." Those transfer cases were empty, but the story went out that "they held the remains of American POW/MIAs that had been discarded in that hanger" and it was all the Forensic Director's fault. If true, this would constitute an unforgivable dereliction of duty. That is something Dr. Tom Holland would never allow to happen. Not in this lifetime!

"Assassination By Rumor" is nothing new. It has been around for millennia; however, in this case the character assassination of Dr. Holland harms not only that fine man, it is causing immeasurable harm to the Central Identification Laboratory and, in turn, to all of our POW/MIAs from all wars who have yet to be recovered and identified.

Both the League and the Alliance have taken the stand that Vietnam's POW/MIAs should be fully recovered and identified before those of any other war never mind that other wars and their missing matter just as much as ours. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

takes it many steps further and with much greater maliciousness. Those in government service directly involved in this issue fear her vindictiveness. They have every right to do so because they know how she's vilified and crucified those who came before them who have had the courage of their convictions to challenge [redacted] authority. An excellent example of that is what she did to DASD Jerry Jennings when she belittled, hammered, hounded and maligned him terribly all because he had the audacity to tell her "no, the government briefings would be handled by government personnel, not by her (during that year's annual meeting)." While, Jerry Jennings died years ago, Adrian Cronauer worked in DPMO before, during and after this time can fill in many missing pieces. Being retired means he does not have to fear retaliation from [redacted] for sharing the truth with you.

(b)(6)

I don't know what Tom Holland's done to raise [redacted] ire, but I expect it can be something as simple as him telling her that the only way the lab has any chance of reaching that magic 200 identifications per year that has been imposed on it is through recovering and identifying a substantial number of POW/MIAs from other wars, particularly WWII. Knowing Tom I expect he would have included wording along the lines of, "... [redacted] that's just the way it is..." This is important, Mr. Hegel, because I believe it directly impacts Dr. Holland's position with the CIL and is a major ingredient in why his position as the lab's Forensic Director is being terminated.

(b)(6)

I do know this: There is no question that all aspects of forensic science practiced at the CIL is exceptional and light years ahead of every other lab of its kind in the world. Further, all work at the CIL is handled in a timely manner with all of the checks-and-balances in place to ensure nothing is out of place or left to chance. We have Dr. Holland and only Dr. Holland to thank for how the lab is managed and identifications made.

A critical question, Sir: Why are you planning to replace a highly trained, experienced and dedicated forensic anthropologist who is responsible for bringing the CIL up to the state-of-the-art facility that it is today and who is highly respected and honored by his peers both here and abroad with a medical examiner whose time at the lab will be limited at best? These are two very different scientific fields that are in no way interchangeable. I believe this reality has been pointed out to you by experts in both scientific fields. Likewise, there is no doubt in my mind that by comingling these two unrelated sciences, it will not increase the number of real identifications made, but I fear it will actually turn the entire identification process on its head!

Another related question: Do you want scientifically accurate identifications that will withstand close examination under the proverbial microscope or do you want skeletal remains wrongly identified because a science that is not capable of identifying skeletal remains has been implemented and has failed miserably? That is precisely what will happen if you put a medical examiner in charge of a forensic laboratory!

In the end if you choose to replace Dr Holland, please wait at least until 1 January 2016 if not well into 2016 so that he has the needed time to prepare important procedural manuals — those all important "how to's" that he has learned through years of hands-on trial-and-error experience that has served him well and has been developed along the way during these past 22 years. These are elements that will be critical to whoever steps into his slot in the future. Clearly understand I am not asking this for Tom Holland's sake. I am making this request of you on behalf of all POW/MIAs and their families. We need Tom Holland to remain in place because he is absolutely the most qualified forensic anthropologist let alone medical examiner available anywhere in the world today.

Now having said that, if you choose not to retain Dr. Holland at the CIL, then please give him the time needed to prepare for a responsible turnover to his replacement no matter who it is. This way your new team will not have to fish around for information related to how to accomplish various tasks while trying to reinvent their own brand of a CIL wheel.

One final observation: Like all military personnel, our prisoners and missing signed the same blank check you did to our nation "for payment up to and including my life" before each one of them vanished into the shadow world of POW/MIAs. They deserve our very best efforts. Tom Holland fulfills that promise because his very best effort as the Forensic Director of the Central Identification Laboratory is exactly what our missing countrymen and women require.

(b)(6)

704

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION REPORT

Complete this form and forward to WHS/ESD/Correspondence Control Division,
Attention: Suspense Desk, Pentagon Room 3C843. Phone (b)(6)
Fax (b)(6) Email (b)(6)
Classified Email: (b)(6)

TASKED AGENCY USP
SUSPENSE DATE (MMDDYYYY) 03/21/2014

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2. JUSTIFICATION

See attached signed responses.

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d. DATE (MMDDYYYY) 04/10/2014 e. AGENCY APPROVING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE (Service Secretary/Under Secretary/ASD Military/Executive Assistant Level) (b)(6)

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RDC → Action Complete

(6 Mar 14)

g. DATE SIGNED (MMDDYYYY)

h. SIGNATURE

04/10/2014

R- [Signature]

5. OSD CONTROL NUMBER



OSD002248-14



POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

I discussed this matter with Secretary Hagel. As part of the recently announced restructuring of the personnel accounting community, he directed that I conduct a review of the issue of accounting for service members killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma*. Based on this review, I will make recommendations on how to proceed on the issue of further disinterment of the unknowns from *USS Oklahoma*. I will provide you an update on this issue after the review is complete.

Accounting for these unknown personnel is important to the Department, and I understand the families' interests in finding out the fate of their missing loved ones. I greatly appreciate your strong support for our service members and their families.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Lumpkin
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Policy



OSD002248-14



POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
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APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

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Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Policy



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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

I discussed this matter with Secretary Hagel. As part of the recently announced restructuring of the personnel accounting community, he directed that I conduct a review of the issue of accounting for service members killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma*. Based on this review, I will make recommendations on how to proceed on the issue of further disinterment of the unknowns from *USS Oklahoma*. I will provide you an update on this issue after the review is complete.

Accounting for these unknown personnel is important to the Department, and I understand the families' interests in finding out the fate of their missing loved ones. I greatly appreciate your strong support for our service members and their families.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Lumpkin
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Policy



POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

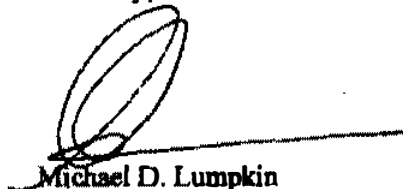
Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
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APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Mark Udall
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Mark S. Kirk
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your March 6, 2014, letter requesting the disinterment of remains in caskets believed to contain the remains of 22 service members who were killed while serving on *USS Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary Hagel.

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Michael D. Lumpkin
Assistant Secretary of Defense
Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Policy

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Hagel:

We are writing on behalf of our constituents, the relatives of 21 men who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and all Americans. These families have sought our assistance in the effort to have the bodies of their loved ones exhumed so they can receive a proper burial in their community or be buried in a marked grave in Hawaii.

All 21 men were killed, along with 408 other sailors, when the U.S.S. *Oklahoma* was torpedoed during the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1943, when the *Oklahoma* was salvaged and raised, the remains of the sailors classified as "unknown" were buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. For nearly 70 years, the family members of these men never knew the final resting place of their loved ones.

In 2003, using military records and personnel files, a historian for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association named Ray Emory ascertained the identities of 27 men killed on the *Oklahoma* previously listed as "unknown." After Mr. Emory's research was shared with the Department of Defense, scientists from the Central Identification Laboratory of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) exhumed the coffin from grave P-1002 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Between 2003 and 2008, with the help of Mr. Emory's research and the families of the five men buried at P-1002, JPAC correctly identified all five men in the coffin (Lawrence A. Boxrucker, Eldon P. Wyman, Irvin A.R. Thompson, Charles H. Swanson, and Gerald G. Lehman), and their remains were returned to their respective families for burial.

Once Mr. Emory's research was validated by the correct identification of the men buried in P-1002, he enlisted the help of Bob Valley from USS *Oklahoma* Family, Inc. to track down the next of kin for the remaining 22 men. Mr. Valley was able to find contact information for 21 of the 22 men and alerted them of Mr. Emory's work. Since then, they have lobbied various government agencies for the return of their loved one.



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According to Mr. Emory's research, these 22 men are buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in five caskets in three graves: P-1001, P-1003, and P-0989.

It is our understanding that the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory has applied for permission to recover and identify the remains buried in the remaining "unknown" caskets.

We respectfully ask that the Department of Defense grant the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory's request to exhume the five "unknown" caskets and identify the remains. The brave men who died protecting our great nation at Pearl Harbor deserve a final resting place of their families' choosing. We request that their remains be released to their family so that they may be interred according to their wishes.

Please keep our offices updated about any developments in this matter. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator




KELLY A. AYOTTE
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



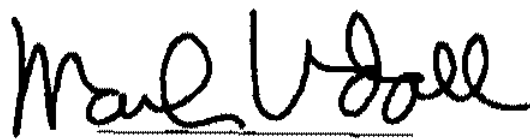
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



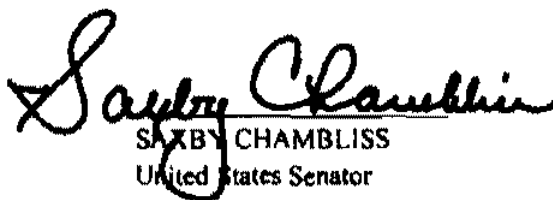
RON JOHNSON
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator



MARK UDALL
United States Senator



SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator



ROB PORTMAN
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



MARK S. KIRK
United States Senator



LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator



THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army
The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs