

Sent: 21 Sep 2016 14:33:10 +0000
Subject: Search Results-9/21/2016 2:33:10 PM

The search has Succeeded.

Started by: (b)(6)
Start Time: 9/21/2016 2:33:10 PM
Size: 588.5 MB (617,059,209 bytes)
Items: 2948
Results: (b)(6)
Errors: None
Operations performed: Messages were copied to the target mailbox.

Query: sent:(07/01/2015..07/25/2016) AND ("LEAGUE" OR (b)(6)@aol.com" OR "griffiths" OR "amg")
Search: True
Dumpster:
Logging: Basic
Mailboxes to search: (3) (b)(6)

See attachments for additional logging information when full logging is enabled.

Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server 2010.

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 7 Sep 2015 03:27:09 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; McKeague, Kelly K Maj Gen USAF DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: Re: In preparation for your trip to SEA.....

Ann,

Thanks for the good wishes and the extremely informative report. I am excited for the trip and to meet the key leaders and players in this endeavor. Look forward to sharing with you my notes and observations upon our return. A lot to learn - thanks for prep!

Best regards, Mark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2015 9:11 AM
To: McKeague, Kelly K Maj Gen USAF DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: In preparation for your trip to SEA.....

Kelly and Mark, I thought this trip report from the League Delegation earlier this year would be helpful in understanding the latest policy-level discourse and commitments from senior officials, most of whom I am assuming will be meeting with Mike when he goes later this year, still presumably in November.

All three governments have a way of being responsive to the League, knowing we'll pass it to the right levels in a unified effort, despite us having no "chain of command" requirements. In fact, that has proven to be precisely why they make commitments to the League.

Of course this is nothing new to you, Kelly and (b)(6) but likely is to you, Mark. I'm finishing up letters today to Lao DPM/FM Thongloun Sisoulith, and Vietnamese DPM/FM Pham Binh Minh (son of former SRV DPM/FM Nguyen Co Thach, a "pioneer" on the Vietnamese side of the US-SRV rapprochement, plus mentor to many others now in senior positions). The plan is to ensure both receive the letters prior to your arrival in country, as well as help set the stage for Mike's first visit in November.

I'll be thinking of you during your trip, hoping and praying for a productive visit in each country, as well as positive outcomes. SRV Vice Minister of Defense Sr. LTG Vinh is due here in DC later this month, and I'm hosting a lunch to introduce our new Director to the SRV Ambassador as well. The environments seems well-positioned for some serious forward movement. Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #20818

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Sir,

I bet very, very interesting.....

As a side note:

Some folks on this end warned me that any mixing of discussions on POW/MIA with UXO and toxin issues under the umbrella of the "Legacy of War" is highly sensitive and charged among our constituents (read VSOs). I'm told this is how the Viets categorize this - did you see any of that in your talks?

All is well here. Heading into a principle staff meeting for some introductory remarks, thoughts, and establishing initial direction on priority of work.

BTW: Feeling OK? Heal by Drugs :)!!

VR, Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 6:45 AM

To: (b)(6)@aol.com' <(b)(6)@aol.com>

Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>

Subject: Re: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

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----- Original Message -----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 12:40 PM

To: (b)(6)@aol.com' <(b)(6)@aol.com>

Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Subject: Re: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

Ann - everything below was discussed (except support for SRV recoveries), and Vice Minister Vinh presented a folder of mementos from 1968 - letters from the family of a USAF POW, repatriated in 1973, and deceased in 1999. We're returning through AF Casualty Affairs to his widow and family.

Today's close out meeting with USD(P) Wormuth was postponed until tomorrow (it was scheduled for 11:30 today). Lots going on with USD(P) and administration with ISIL, Russia, and Syria. I'll attend tomorrow, and let you know anything discussed in my area of responsibility.

Minister Vinh committed to more in depth discussions when I visit SEA in Nov. We're in a good place in all areas with SRV, and his only 'regret' he

mentioned is that more vietnamese and americans don't know how much we're doing together, and how closely aligned we are in our accounting responsibilities. As you mentioned below, Min Vinh noted there are no restrictions on where, how many, or make up of our teams, and they appreciated our noting their cooperation on archives.

Vr, Mike

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:27 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Subject: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

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Mike, although I'll fill in any questions later, following are key points from the one-hour meeting.

I first thanked him and their leadership for the forward-leaving tech talks on September 17th, including the suggestion to move more rapidly than FY17-18 to expand operations in the central provinces, the offer to explore any options the US thinks might improve the process, and urging more use of unilateral SRV personnel to conduct operations, as well as the commitment for an answer on SB by end of the year. Vice Minister Vinh was very pleased with the rundown and my question as to their suggestions on what kind of assistance they would like to have to support their recoveries, and said, in abbreviated form:

1) There are no restrictions on our willingness to cooperate on this mission, jointly or unilaterally, and no longer restricted areas, but that in the past the USG responsiveness had been slow. I assured him I recall very well their 2009 request to increase the pace and scope of operations, but noted it is a new day, a new agency with you at the helm, and that I was confident we'd all be seeing an expansion. I also noted that an additional factor was your intention to form partnerships with private organizations/companies to provide assistance, especially on WWII, and gave them the example of the Tarawa remains recovered by History Flight and repatriated while I was in HI, noting that such could help alleviate the pressure of the additional mandate of WWII remains recoveries, without additional personnel, but also other areas where such support might be needed to augment achieving objectives.

2) They would welcome underwater recoveries along the coastline, later clarifying there are sensitivities about large USN vessels in some areas, but there are options, such as smaller USN equipment and working from SRV

and private vessels. In response I said this is very welcome reiteration of what he'd earlier said and that I'd talked with Deputy PACOM and PACFLT CO, both favorable and looking forward to expanding the military relationship by working more closely on this mission. I added that I was confident you also were supportive and I am hoping that discussions could soon progress, but that decisions on such matters were entirely up to you, DoD, PACOM, etc. and their responsiveness to any USG proposals.

3) He noted they realize that recovery of their losses was their responsibility, Vietnamese killed in Vietnam, but mentioned possibly some form of DoD's DNA "matching" kit and underground detection (ground penetrating radar?) to locate remains in unknown locations, possibly training for use of specialized equipment and historical research to locate US records that might have locating information, but importantly, to seek personal artifacts that are very meaningful to the families who lost loved ones. He cited the recent TV documentary that was done in connection with the 40th anniversary of the reunification of their country and the end of the way, and the 70th anniversary of their national independence, an important year.

4) He mentioned Stony Beach and again said he has no problem with them coming to Vietnam and working on this issue with the US and SRV teams, and that he really didn't care what they did before or who they worked for, so long as their focus was strictly on the MIA issue. When I asked for clarification, stating that they work for DIA, have specialized training, cultural sensitivity, languages, sole mission to investigation and interview leads developed by analysts to help resolve cases, but they don't work for the Detachment. I noted that DIA's specialists in SB are permanently assigned in Laos and Cambodia, at the USEMB, but not in Vietnam and that it seemed illogical and said that is one reason I was disappointed that his schedule didn't have time for him to meet with DIA Director LTG Stewart, he smiled and nodded, saying it is "too soon" at present, but that he had been in charge of all military intelligence for 10 years and he has no problem with the background of anyone working on the issue, so long as they were working with the Detachment and VNOSMP.

5) There was also extensive discussion (due in no small part, in terms of extension) to Rick Weidman, VVA) on Agent Orange Dioxin and past efforts to do with scientific survey to determine the differences in birth defects between children born of southern (exposed) women and northern (unexposed) women since most eat basically the same diet, have similar lifestyles, so the results would be enlightening, etc., etc., Vinh said there are three areas that are the most toxic, Da Nang, where the US has been of significant assistance, some \$84 million and a "model" of how best to ameliorate the toxic conditions in the environment, but also Phu Cat Air Base and Binh Hoa Air Base, both not yet treated and in very bad condition. He also noted it will take 100 years to clean the environment to where there is no danger to succeeding generations, etc. There was also a specific appeal to all of us to talk with our elected officials to help them understand the importance of such assistance on a humanitarian basis, but made very clear that even if there was no assistance in these areas, they would continue to cooperate fully on the American MIA issue.

Interestingly to me, since I'd never hear it, is that Vice stated he is the head of the national steering committees dealing with both UXO and Agent Orange, and it is clear he cares deeply about doing his best to address and

get support for addressing both issues, just as he does getting artifacts to families and recovering and returning remains to families.

(b)(6) whom I introduced as having known longer than any, at least 40 years of knowledge and commitment, thanked Vice Minister Vinh for the expanded cooperation that was evident and his commitment to continue doing more. Bob Wallace also thanked him and pledged also to take his concerns to House and Senate Members. Rick Weidman thanked the Minister, and committed to conveying his message to relevant MCs. Vinh invited us all to come to Vietnam and, of course, I noted Bob as coming regularly, usually when bring his Nat'l Commander, new each year. Vinh was very engaged, almost passionately expressive, and thanked me for coming and bring the guys with me. They also appreciated the opportunity and are in full support.

I'm too tired for more, but will add anything else I pick up from my notes, but wanted this to you before your meeting tomorrow morning, though most importantly, I hope you are feeling much better after a good night's rest. Hope to talk soon, Ann

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Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Sir,

808-448-4500 ext (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:09 AM

To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>

Subject: Re: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

What's a good number for you real quick...

----- Original Message -----

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 01:04 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Subject: RE: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

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From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 12 Oct 2015 09:55:18 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Re: Questions from Ann M-G Prompted by Board Discussion

Thanks Ann, hope you find some time to rest as well.

Regards, Mark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2015 10:27 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Questions from Ann M-G Prompted by Board Discussion

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Mike, although disappointed that you will be unable to meet with them on December 5th, the Board had a couple of questions I couldn't really answer, so I said I'd following up.

- 1) Is the funding stated in the Defense Authorization Bill for FY16 (\$123,372 million) adequate for the expanded mission?
- 2) If yes, is there any danger that some % of the budgeted funds could be cut if an across the board cut is required?
- 3) Could the pace and scope of the Vietnam War accounting effort be expedited if additional funding was authorized and appropriated and more personnel were made available?

Obviously, there is always concern over the ability to sustain operations, especially when all are acutely aware of how fragile funding commitments can be.

- 4) Also, it was mentioned during the last DPAA Conference Call that DPAA had purchased some additional equipment for AFDIL to use in processing DNA, but what is the equipment purchased for use by AFDIL? (I was unable to tell them.)

Thanks in advance for your reply to what I assume easily answered questions.

I hope you are both enjoying a great Columbus Day weekend. Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Ok Mike, no shots fired!!

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Re: (b)(6) Case (U)

Yes. General. Msg came in after I sent you this.

s/f

Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (808) 448-4500 ext (b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)

Sent from my BlackBerry

Original Message

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 12:42
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Subject: FW: (b)(6) Case (U)

Mike,

Did the boss give you a cease fire????

MS

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 11:13 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: FW: (b)(6) Case (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

General,
Here is a recommended response to the return volley.....

Ann,
As we continue to move forward with the reorganization, I am taking a hard look at our decision criteria as it relates to inclusion of sites into the annual mission profiles with an eye towards improving the process. With the help of The Clearing, we are in the early stages of developing a new methodology as it relates to assigning cases to the MIL, MEL, and ultimately the OPLAN for execution. It is my desire to capture a process that effectively and efficiently aids site selection, as well as one that is easily explainable to the families, VSOs, Congress, etc..

The legacy system I inherited consisted of a number of determining factors that when combined assisted in the determination of where we focused our effort/resources. We started the determination process by ranking each case using our decision support tool, commonly referred to as the DECMAT. The use of this tool serves only as a method of initially ranking the sites within a country as we start the complex process for selecting the sites we will recover the following year. From this starting point numerous other factors are applied before we approve the following year's Operational Plan. These include: what sites are still open; any weather windows that would make recovery efforts infeasible, such as the monsoonal flow in Southeast Asia; how many sites can we resource (people and money) to deploy within the year; the logistics feasibility of conducting multiple sites during a single Joint Field Activity (e.g., we do not have unlimited helicopter support and sometimes have to balance a JFA by site type); host nation restrictions on where we can go; and also most importantly, the overall focus of the year within the OPLAN. Additionally, outside interest is always considered but balanced against all the other factors discussed previously.

I hope this explanation helps. Take care for now and have a great weekend.
s/f
Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (808) 448-4500 x(b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 9:26 AM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA

FO (US)

Subject: Re: (b)(6) Case (U)

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Mike, thanks for the reply, and the position on your schedule is clear, but nothing related to the selection process. It was my understanding that one of the primary factors was to be addressing cases on the MEL the longest, but I can certainly understand trying to complete and close sites previously opened. This site was only visited/surveyed in 2014, after being located in 1997, but the ease with which it is accessible, the relatively low cost and the length of time on the MEL are fairly persuasive.

Since all of those factors are known to you and you've indicated Site 1791 will be considered for inclusion on the FY17 OPLAN, are there other factors that will weigh into case selection? In past years we've heard about "outside interest" playing a role and some point system for compiling a basis for the decision. Is that system still in place? Or has that changed? I realize that you might not have all these answers and that the entire structure and approach may be in flux, but since you copied the Director and Deputy Director, I assume that perhaps there may have been some coordination and that this may be a topic best addressed to the most senior leadership.

If such is the case, I look forward to hearing the parameters of the current case-selection process that could be distributed by DPAA to all of the Vietnam War families, assuming that due to the vast differences in case-load, circumstances and environment, the selection process for the various wars may differ.

Again, my thanks, and this exchange will not be sent to the families in whose interest I intervened. My intervention was based primarily on the process question related to case selection, more than on behalf of these three particular families. I do not routinely raise any individual cases for the obvious reason that I have insufficient time. My focus is and always must be on the broader questions related to policy and approach, as well as implementation of the processes, communications and outreach that invariably affect all of the POW/MIA families.

Very best wishes, Ann
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In a message dated 10/16/2015 2:58:04 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann,

Thanks for the email and sorry I missed you on my trip to DC. It was a quick turnaround with two full days of work with the DC team. As far as Case 1791, we do have it slated as an alternate site for both 16-3 and 16-4LA. I am sorry for the confusion relating to a possible go at this site during FY15. I'm not sure who was passing information about a potential mission to that site, excess funding, or a shortage of RLs preventing us from going, but 1791 was not planned/tentatively planned for as a primary or alternate site in the last FY. Relating to this year's missions however, we will be working a total of seven primary sites in both north/south Laos. Our ability to transition to the alternate sites will be solely driven by the team's ability to complete work and close out the primary locations. That said, as we go forward with the planning for FY17, Site 1791 will be considered for inclusion on next year's mission slate.

I realize this is not the desired outcome for the families involved with 1791, but I hope the work we will be doing during this year's JFAs in Laos will provide some comfort for those other families associated with the FY16 sites. Take care for now and thanks again for reaching out.

s/f
Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (808) 448-4500 x-(b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS
(US)
Subject: (b)(6) Case

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

Mike, I understand that Case 1797 is currently not on the FY16 OPLAN and that during FY16, DPAA plans to cleaning up all of the OPEN sites except for two of them. Many of them have been open for many years. The location of Case 1791 is a northern province, and DPAA is going up north during JFAs 16-3LA and 16-4LA, but working three OPEN sites from two different base camps Xiangkhoang Province and Khammouan Province. Likely that won't allow time to go to Case 1791 in Ouidomxai Province, off by itself.

I just had another exchange with (b)(6) and asked directly if he thought there was anything potentially useful still at the loss site for his father's case. (b)(6) REFNO 1791, in which (b)(6) and (b)(6) were also lost. He sent the following photos and affirmed that he does think there may be, plus it is a piece of cake to get there to survey and do a recovery.

Granted, there are few, if any, other cases in the area, but that shouldn't obviate the facts: it is accessible, has been on the excavation list for about 20 years, and it needs to be scheduled. Just because the NOK of (b)(6) are not trouble-makers and/or screamers shouldn't be a reason not to press forward.

My question is when? And if not FY16, why? It isn't right, or so it seems to me. And if this can get moved up in priority by (b)(6) and (b)(6) writing letters to you, Mike, Christine, Secretary Carter, or even Senators Ayotte and McCaskill, then maybe they should go for it. None of them are getting any younger either, but (b)(6) and (b)(6) both went to Laos early last year and that is how they got the photos. They also met with (b)(6) and (b)(6) and I think were told well possibly as an "alternative" site, but that isn't very reassuring after already waiting since the site was located in 1997, some 18 years ago!!!

I understand this was tentatively planned, or at least hoped-for, in FY15 when there was a bit of left-over funding, but the lack of Recovery Leaders prevented going forward.

I can't imagine the Lao Government allowing, or even considering, a "strategic partner" to attempt recovery of this site, even though it is out there all alone. It was a road built by the Chinese that (b)(6) and (b)(6) took to get to the site early this year. And (b)(6) speaks Lao and has lived there. It is hard to know what to tell him and, with all the confusion, even I am uncertain on the decision-making criteria for case selection priority.

I sent this to you, Mike, as you're the Asia and Pacific Regional Director, and copied (b)(6) and (b)(6) because they know the families involved. (b)(6) talked with (b)(6) at the League's 46th Annual Meeting and knows that this case was being left off the FH16 plans. He also knows that I planned to send someone (didn't really say who) an inquiry about the rationale. (b)(6) is a quiet, contemplative and supportive guy, was on the League board for many years, but he is getting a bit impatient since he has waited so long for their turn. Let me know what you think, and any

insights would be appreciated, but not distributed, translated perhaps, but not distributed without your express permission.

I'm sorry I didn't get to see and talk with you during your quick visit here recently and am pleased to help in any way you think I can, and wish you the very best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org <
Caution-Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/> >

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From: (b)(6)@alcon.com
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 10/13/2015 4:58:28 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: two more pictures

Hi Ann, Thank you for the call and the help! This is the actual rice paddy where the plane crashed. Of course back then and in 1997 it was all trees. The bottom picture is where the "witness" said the plane hit. If you look at the rice stubble, you can see a bare spot or a lesser growth spot. This is due to soil contamination. I had a small metal detector and it was going off all over, just small pieces and such and nothing identifiable. The day I met the witness, he pulled a large piece of iron out of a trash pile. I thought it too large to be an airplane part, looked more like a 500 lb bomb casing. In hind sight, it could have been a piece of an engine block; they are usually iron. The witness said that people scavenged the area over the years for things to sell. The 105 mm shell casing that one kid showed to me was all corroded and not worth anything. That is why it was still there. My dad was carrying a mixed cargo but mostly 105-106 mm (white phosphorous rounds).

The witness also told me that he did visit the sight several days later and the Chinese troops would not let them near. He said they were busy digging into the site. They piled the debris just to the left in the top picture. It too had a lot of pieces in the dirt. Anyway, I have more pictures and such and (b)(6) certainly does. Again, we are not criers and ones to go banging on Congress doors and such. Maybe we should have.

Love, (b)(6)

Here are some pictures from this extremely difficult crash site to get to. Despite (b)(6) she was able to step out of our vehicle into this rice field on flat dry land. I don't think I broke a sweat and there were no rivers to cross or mountains to repel down. Why I even think they could land a helicopter there!! The "Chinese Highway" that we drove up on is just past the tree line.

(b)(6) my guide is the one in the light shirt in the bottom picture. The eye witness is the one he is talking to.

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Hi Ann,

Got your message that you were looking for Kelly McKeague's contact numbers. I don't have a good phone number, but here's an e-mail address:

(b)(6)@cox.net

Hope all is well, and thanks for your gracious offer to help us - it's great to partner with you in this mission! Hope to see you soon.

R, Mark

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

But well written.....!

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 2:39 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: FW: requests

Don't laugh...

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 8:27 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: requests

Hi Ann --

I'd like to be your POC for any inquiries on SEA research, investigations, recoveries, and identifications. My folks probably do not fully understand the importance of your 'asks', and won't put the proper thought/resources behind any answers provided. With your 40 years of commitment, you deserve me being your action officer, which you know I'll do my best to honor. I'd also like Mike Gann focused on supervising his subordinates -- the largest (by far) Directorate in DPAA.

Thanks for understanding Ann -- hope to talk with you later this week.

I'm heading to Johns Hopkins today to view some promising technology that assists in field recoveries: both on ground, and under water. Also meeting later this week with former 7th Fleet Cdr VADM Thomas and Dr Tom Drake -- both of whom you know and have spoken to. I'll link up with ADM Swift when I get to Hawaii.

Vr, Mike

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 22 Nov 2015 23:01:12 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

Sir,

You too, see you tomorrow.

VR, Mark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Mark -- yes, Friday is great with us. We'll have fun, and I hope you all enjoy your Thanksgiving together.

-----Original Message-----

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

Sir,

We were tracking Friday night - is that still good with all?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Mark -- GTG -- make sure you ask her about dinner, and which night is best for her.

Fern (b)(6) are good any time...

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 3:20 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

Sir,

Thanks for the offer - I'm good. I have a rental car and (b)(6) is meeting me at the airport.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 2:16 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

If you need anything at all -- let me know. Do you have a ride from the airport to your hotel?

-----Original Message-----

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 3:16 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

Sir, got it!

Heading to DC in a few hours - look forward to seeing you, and all being in the same place for a War Council :)!

VR, Mark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 2:09 PM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

FYI --

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider (U)

Makes perfect sense to me, Mike, and I can't wait to meet Fern, plus know what a relief it must be to have your top leadership team in place. Now you can work and plan together.

I'd love to get a short meeting with Mark while he is in town, but haven't sent him a note to ask. Please mention it to him and I'll be flexible in trying to meet his schedule, your office or mine.

Take that time for yourself, (b)(6) and the rest of your family, especially the baby; they change SO fast. Enjoy, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

In a message dated 11/20/2015 11:20:55 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Thanks for the suggestion Ann. Next week, Mark, Fern and I are huddling with a primary purpose of discussing how we'll operate as an Agency with both Flag officers (finally) on board. It's our FIRST day together, and the first day Fern is at work in DC with me in the office. As you know, she's been here 2 weeks while I was travelling, and this last week, she's been on leave at Hilton Head -- scheduled more than a year ago, which I insisted she honor with her husband and family.

For Monday/Wednesday -- we have a robust agenda, which doesn't include any specific conflict in particular -- we'll pick that up in December when I go to Hawaii to meet face to face with Mike Gann, our Lab, and others. Roger on leveraging the experienced folks that have been around. My challenge will be to EXPAND efforts in every theater/campaign while not gaining many (if any) additional resources. Just got notified to a 3% cut in \$ in FY '17 -- which when added to what we have to balance now, is a sizable (not significant, but sizable) reduction top what we have to execute this year.

All the folks you mention are excellent, and I'll insure Mark Spindler includes them in his (and my) plan to do more with less.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto (b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 9:41 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Another Thought to Consider

Mike, in your email of 11/18, you indicated you would be "huddling next week when BG Spindler is in town," and thinking through how to even further expand our efforts in SEA, noting also that the "WWII and Korean War advocacy groups" would not be pleased.

Setting aside irrational "advocacy groups (to which you should pay as little attention as possible and turn that task over to outreach and communications people), I meant to suggest you consider building a network of experienced civilians (more than five years experience and from HI and DC) whom you can trust to bounce ideas off and be able to rely on for advice.

Comfortable as you logically would be talking with such highly motivated, capable, energetic military staff, they likely have lots of good ideas, some of which may be practical and workable, but they can't

possibly know the history of what has been tried or might work. That can only come from dedicated civilians with practical experience, such as (b)(6) (b)(6) though I don't know her as well, but also for WWII, I'd think (b)(6) (for underwater), etc. All of these people have experience and have proven dedication TO THE MISSION.

This is a great opportunity and please take advantage of the proven assets at your disposal. No matter how well-intentioned and energetic, unless one has studied and, preferably, had personal experience in dealing with these foreign officials and the conditions to be faced, please do them all a favor and include the core of civilians who are sufficiently committed to be truthful in the best interest of mission success.

Thanks, and let me know if you have any questions. Have a good weekend and PLEASE get some rest and spend time with your new little grandson. It could be a whole new world by Monday! Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 25 Nov 2015 17:36:17 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: discussions with Directors (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Thanks Sir,

Directed Mike Gann to not respond to her e-mail.

VR, Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 8:41 AM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: discussions with Directors

Waiting for the explosion anytime soon.....

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 8:39 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: discussions with Directors

Ann -- if you have a chance today, I'd like to talk through your intent to provide direction/guidance to our 2 most overworked leaders in DPAA: Mike Gann, and Chris Forbes. I've asked them to focus DOWN on running their organizations, and not get side-tracked with soliciting/receiving guidance from anyone other than me, and the 2 flag leaders in DPAA. I know this isn't what you want -- but it's the way it has to be for us to be effective.

Vr, Mike

Mr. Michael S. Linnington
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2300
(b)(6)

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 24 Nov 2015 22:17:09 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Updated Board Regional State Coordinator List

Happy Thanksgiving to you as well Ann. I know MR L keeps you well informed of Agency activities, but just want to pile on and add that all is going well in Hawaii. The lab has fully moved into the new building as has all the other staff sections, so the Center is a nest of activity. There's a real sense of teamwork and energy - lot of excitement about the way ahead. Challenges for sure, but nothing insurmountable for this Team. Hope to see you on the Island soon. Again, have a great holiday.

Respectfully, Mark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Updated Board Regional State Coordinator List

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike and all, I thought you all might like to have the current list of League officials that we're again working to update, but it is current as of today.

Good job on the conference call briefing today. It almost seemed like a "lightning round" of activities, but clearly the workload and ongoing effort are massive, and deeply appreciated. I'm sorry the one caller tried to monopolize the conversation and even sorrier that he tried to take advantage of having allowed him back in after his exclusion by Secretary Hagel.

Best to all, and have a blessed, meaningful Thanksgiving. Sincerely, Ann

PS: I didn't mention that you were coming to our Board of Directors meeting on December 5th to prevent anyone thinking the League is being given special attention/favor, but we are looking forward to the discussion and to meeting you, Fern.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432*

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through the Combined Federal Campaign, #20818*

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Thanks Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)

Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 12:43 PM

To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

General,

For SA.

s/f

Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II

United States Marine Corps

Director, Asia/Pacific Region

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Commercial: (808) 448-4500 x (b)(6)

BlackBerry: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 6:44 AM

To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Col Gann: Though I'm sure you are swamped with one "huddle" after another, I'd love a chance to chat if you have any openings on your schedule, including over breakfast, lunch, coffee, dinner, at any time.

Of course I mean not including the "DPAA Conference Call" this afternoon in which all may participate, but a more substantive chat without the uninformed "ears" of the massive number listening in and, on occasion, using

things said out of context. That is the precise reason I say very little, if anything, during these calls, but appreciate the reasons why they were initiated.

Let me know what might be possible and I'll do my best to accommodate. In the interim, have a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving, and travel safely.
Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Perfect.....thanks Ed!

MS

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Cc: Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU (U)

BG Spindler:

Sir, a draft response per your request.

VR,
Ed

1. ALL identifications (100%) are written up by a medical examiner and are then peer reviewed by another medical examiner. While the outside consultants are experienced and well-regarded, they are not medical examiners and cannot perform a peer review on an identification (because they are not "peers" in the same discipline). The outside consultants will be used to review troublesome or difficult cases. The outside consultants also perform external competency testing for our scientists.
2. The definition of what constitutes an identification has changed in the past year. Title 10 is the source of the change. Previously, an identification was made after the consultants agreed with Dr. Holland's assessment. An individual was (and is) accounted for when the NOK accepts the remains that were identified. Currently, an identification is established when the Medical Examiner signs the death certificate (DD2064), which is a legal document, establishing identity, and cause and manner of death. Since a medical professional now establishes identity, the Armed Forces Identification Review Board (DoDI 3001.3) has been abolished as of 10 DEC 2015. If the NOK/family does not agree with the identification, a Federal Court must make a decision due to the legal nature of the document.
3. Scientific integrity is the highest standard of the laboratory and will not be compromised. Identification of past conflict remains have always been and always will be established using the most current scientific methods combined with historical circumstances. ALL lines of evidence are utilized to make an identification.

4. Standard Operating Procedures have been modified to accommodate the pace of identifications mandated by Congress (200/yr). Written SOPs are currently being modified to reflect the new policies and procedures in the laboratory.

(b)(5)

VR,
CAPT Reedy

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

Any idea what this is about -- before I call her back... I've got NO concerns... don't pass please....

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

Sounds fascinating and useful, from every angle, glad you took the time to go, as I believe that kind of forum is important and can have a positive impact on accomplishing the mission. Best, Ann

PS: There was no "peer review" by qualified scientists on the remains approved, just Col Tremayne's people at AFMES. My concern is over how the "ID process" is being interpreted, or reinterpreted, for implementation in today's environment. I need to know more, step by step, on the ID process and how it is being enacted, from beginning to end. I fear that VADM Franken's vision/interpretation of our collective recognition of the need for a process of checks and balances is far different than was intended. I'll get back to you, quietly, of course. This could be highly explosive if not handled well.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
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5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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In a message dated 1/12/2016 11:19:22 A.M. Eastern Standard Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- it was very helpful -- sat next to the Defense Attache, and behind the PRC Ambassador (and ADM (ret) Locklear) Panel was former Secretary's Perry, Brown, Cohen, and Hagel... Fascinating discussion on China past-present ---- and ways to increase collaboration/cooperation. Big audience...

Please visit our website at Caution-<http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto (b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Thanks for the reply and for checking, and I understand your view of political realities. I hope your PRC-related event last evening was productive for the mission. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Caution-Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/> >

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In a message dated 1/12/2016 10:20:59 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- all well taken, and considered in my announcing publicly. The number is 97: 52, 34, and 11. If I said 103, I mis-spoke and will correct in the paper summary of the phone call.

Yes, all IDs peer reviewed, yet, NOT all briefed to SCOs and/or families -- as you know, that can take months. Also understand The League's views on not chasing a number -- but most DoD/Congressional/VSO/MSO/Media that legislate/resource/hold-us-accountable "do" focus on all aspects of what we do -- including #'s of IDs. I/we can't run from that -- thus our "balanced" approach to our mission, and effort across the portfolio.

Europe/Russia in Feb.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:47 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

I'll pass the message to (b)(6) in fact just hung up talking with him and he thought I should send along a "personal for" note related to Lab ID's you announced last Thursday, during the DPAA Conference Call. I have no idea from whom you received the numbers of IDs for Calendar Year 2015, but you gave us 58 for WWII, 34 from Korean War, and 11 SEA (meaning Vietnam War). You indicated 97 for the year, but that adds up to 103, so there is a discrepancy that begs correction.

The larger issue, and one you may wish to question (without attribution to me) is whether all announced as ID's had in fact gone through the entire ID process, including peer review and approval, and provided to the PNOK. I've heard that process was not applied fully, meaning it would be premature and presumptive to announce them as ID'd. Therefore, you may have been put in the position of providing faulty, on at least unsubstantiated, information to the NGO, VSO and MSO community.

There has been far too much emphasis, therefore pressure, on the ID numbers, not specifically mandated by Congress, but still taken as a mandate by some in the community. Further, there is nothing that undercuts the legitimacy of official efforts more than unfounded accusations of false IDs and/or duplicity in the ID process. The League has NEVER bought such absurd accusations, nor have I personally, and has actively fought against acceptance, as well as those making such accusations. As I mentioned to you some time ago, the League commended CILHI when under greatest attack, and we're well aware of the damage caused by unproven accusations.

I hope you have a productive trip to St. Louise and am glad you went to NARA, but when is it that you intend to launch for Europe? Travel safely, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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#10218

In a message dated 1/11/2016 3:04:27 P.M. Eastern Standard Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- I have, and thank you. Spent the weekend with VVA
(Sat), and China prep (going to an event tonight, with 4 former Secretaries
of Defense). I hope to read the materials this week -- or while on a plane
to St LOouis. Thank (b)(6) for me as well....

r/Mike

Please visit our website at
Caution-Caution-Caution-http://www.dpaa.mil/

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Vietnam - 50 Years Later

All active links contained in this email were disabled.

Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Glad you thought it worthwhile, especially since I'm a member of the Federal Advisory Council, not that I sought that official position, and even had to be sworn in and state the pledge as if in the military or civilian employment/office. That wasn't easy. Have a good week, and call if you need anything. I hope you've received some of the interesting, informative background I've sent over, discovered in (b)(6) archives. Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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In a message dated 1/11/2016 10:48:37 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- thanks for sharing -- very powerful, thank you!
Hope you had a great weekend.

Please visit our website at
Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-http://www.dpaa.mil/

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 9:39 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Vietnam - 50 Years Later

All active links contained in this email were disabled.
Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of
all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the
address to a Web browser.

In case you haven't seen before, or even if you, this is
wonderful. I'd seen it several times and watched it again. I recommend it
highly, and it is only 4+ minutes of your time. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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fAxP8 <
Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-https://www.youtube.com/embed/aVeBtn
fAxP8 >
<Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-https://www.youtube.com/embed/aVeBt
nfAxP8>

SAM ELLIOT NARRATES THIS STIRRING VIDEO....

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 19 Jan 2016 02:14:21 +0000
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US); Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Note from AMG (U)

Mike,
Hang tight - I'll discuss with the boss first thing in the am. Det Cdr's should not be dealing with this - (b)(6) initial response to her though was appropriate.

MS

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 3:31 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Note from AMG (U)

Generals,

For SA, AMG is pinging (b)(6) about our activities and is obviously upset with information flow (email below). Is there any guidance I need to give (b)(6) as it relates to comms with AMG or do I let him continue with the status quo?

s/f

Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (808) 448-4500 x-(b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

Sent from my BlackBerry

Original Message

From: (b)(6) DPAA OPS TASK LA (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Note from AMG (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Sir,

Just got pinged by what appears to be a frantic AMG (please see email chain below).

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)@mail.mil

SIPR: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) DPAA OPS TASK LA (US)

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 6:52 AM

To: (b)(6)@aol.com'

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Note from AMG (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Ann,

Rushing out the door to go to a site. We're having the best year since I've been here. Recoveries are going extremely well and we're running a full IT this mission (to include Stony Beach). I'm very happy with every aspect of our efforts here.

Here's a picture of my little boy--the best thing that's ever happened to me (along with marrying my wife)!

Please don't worry,

(b)(6)

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)@mail.mil

SIPR: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 6:27 AM

To: (b)(6) DPAA OPS TASK LA (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Note from AMG

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

(b)(6) how did the last JTF go? Were the recoveries productive? Were there investigations? Did Stony Beach participate? I need information so I can reassure the families, though of course NOT with details, but NOTHING is coming out of DPAA in this new era of transparency. Can you help? If not, who?

Thanks in advance, and I hope your little guy and beautiful wife are thriving and happy. A new photo would help, too. As ever, Ann

(b)(6)

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Sir,

How sad. She is at a wonderful time and place in our evolution as an organization to be a champion, a real advocate for us. Instead, she chooses to be an antagonist, insisting upon doing things the old way.....the need to be relative must be intoxicating!!!!

Keep hanging in their boss.....we're doing great and going in the right direction!

VR, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;
Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: Fwd: Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Causes one to drink to excess.....

In a message dated 3/7/2016 10:00:08 A.M. Eastern Standard Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- definitely not overreacting, and I'm sorry you took it that way. I'm actually happy to be back -- sincerely. My only point (and one I'd ask you to think about, perhaps reversing roles with me for a moment) -- is that it's getting old (quite tiring in fact) that I have to justify decisions/leadership and the direction we're taking in DPAA to our workforce through you -- based on their discontent.

If they're as committed and dedicated as you profess, they'd have the courage of their convictions on what's NOT going the direction they think it should to come to me or their chain of command directly -- not through you, or using you as their advocate. It's actually quite embarrassing to me, unfair to you, and what's been wrong with this organization for the last 12 years. No overreaction -- and I won't bring it up again -- promise! I ask your forbearance in not discussing our workforce in the future -- like budget, it's government privileged. Back to work!!
:)

In a message dated 3/7/2016 9:34:56 A.M. Eastern Standard Time,

(b)(6)@aol.com writes:

Good morning, Mike, and please don't misinterpret my message or intention. Of course my note to Christine wasn't "necessary" on your behalf, but she deserved to hear it from me, directly.

That doesn't in any way suggest she doesn't trust you fully, as she should, to handle whatever comes along. I said publicly I was grateful to her for selecting you. Having dealt closely with many in her position over the years, rest assured no one appreciates the demands on Christine more than I. People in positions of authority and responsibility also appreciate reinforcement, and today's vehicle seems to be email, rather than hand-written notes, my personal preference.

As to your thanking me for my "advice on how to lead the organization -- and "listen" to our long-serving civilians," you've asked for my views, and I've given them honestly. If you've again decided to over-react, it's your call. As for me, I learn something new every single day about this mission, usually from long-serving civilians, but also from some newly assigned military personnel and civilians who don't fear communication and am not at all reluctant to ask their advice and counsel, as I do from a diverse group of trusted people.

Your comment about continuing to do your best "for the rest of this year" could be interpreted several ways, none of them welcome, especially if you're suggesting a one year limitation on doing your best, but if your intention was to convey you'll do so without two-way communication, I'd be disappointed and hope for re-consideration.

Despite this unwelcome exchange, I'm glad you're back and hope you feel rested and restored in both body and spirit. Have a good week, Ann

PS: I learned over the weekend that, once the new leadership transition is complete, LTG Vinh is likely to be one of the five Standing Members of the Central Military Commission (CMC) within the Party. Since I don't want to lose him as the designated hitter to deal with the us, I hope that may mean he'll continue on as Vice Minister and that this would be a step toward becoming Minister of Defense. It may be pie in the sky, but that's my hope.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
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Caution-Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/> >

In a message dated 3/7/2016 7:41:09 A.M. Eastern Standard Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- no note to Christine is necessary on my behalf -- her in basket is so full, I hate to even think of how she gets any time to

herself. She really trusts and relies on me keeping her informed when things go astray. Thanks again for your advice on how to lead the organization -- and "listen" to our long-serving civilians. I'll continue to do my best for the rest of this year.

r/Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com

[Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2016 2:15 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Mike, I wanted you to see/read my note to Christine, just affirming in my brief personal note the assessment you read and seemed to agree with earlier. Now if you can "just" set the example to your team of military officers that their own and the agency's, as well as the mission's, interests are best served by listening to and accepting (at least for serious consideration) the advice and counsel of long-serving, dedicated civilians, your life will get much less stressful. Welcome back, Ann

PS: When I say dedicated, I mean excluding the self-serving among the agency's civilians.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

From: (b)(6)@aol.com

To: (b)(6)@mail.mil

Sent: 3/6/2016 2:08:22 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

Subj: Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Christine,

I wanted you to see/read this long-overdue newsletter to get my assessment of where things stand from my perception, though admittedly not as well-informed as I would like. Mike deemed the content rated high and, in the ultimate compliment, even indicated he could simply have read my newsletter to The American Legion leadership at their Washington Conference. We shared the podium, and more or less tag-teamed to good effect.

February 11, 2016 <

Caution-Caution-Caution-<http://cepurl.com/bP6x71> > Newsletter

I promised you some time back I'd keep you informed, and I feel an obligation to do so. I sent this link as that is the most current, thorough assessment I can manage while juggling far too many balls in the air. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give

me a call, or I'll be glad to come see you if you prefer.

Mike is working hard, learning constantly, and trying to do it all, entirely too much for one person, as I can attest. In assessing his role to date, I remain confident he is the right man, in the right job, at the right time, though the ultimate outcome is still unclear. Challenges are real and continue, but he IS admirably capable, determined and committed. I'm doing all I possibly can to help, as is (b)(6) from a distance, of that you can be certain, and I am optimistic.

Best wishes to you and all in the forefront of our nation's defense. You are and others are in my thoughts and prayers, gravely concerned as are most thinking Americans. Thanks also for sending the USS Stennis, et al, into the South China Sea, an absolutely necessary signal in an increasingly worrisome situation.

Sincerely, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Mike,

Do you know?

MS

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 12:56 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

<(b)(6)@mail.mil>

Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;

(b)(6) USARMY DPAA FO (US) (b)(6)@mail.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: Repate Photos from this morning (U)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Thanks so much, and can one of you please tell me how many of the remains from Laos were represented in the transfer cases? (b)(6) will post the photos tomorrow with the following paragraph:

"These were photos taken at the April 6th DPAA transfer ceremony at Hickam AFB, HI, of remains jointly recovered in Laos during the just-completed JFA. The 140th JFA in Laos that began February 29th and continued until April 6th, ending with the transfer ceremony." The recovery teams were excavating sites in Houaphan, Xiang Khoang and Khammouan Provinces. These _____ unidentified remains, believed to be those of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for in Laos, have now been transferred to the DPAA Laboratory in Hawaii where they will be thoroughly examined and, hopefully, forensically identified. The League deeply appreciates the efforts of DPAA personnel who worked closely with Lao counterparts to recover these missing Americans. We also appreciate the support and assistance provided by the Lao Government on a humanitarian basis that made the recoveries possible."

Thanks in advance, and please convey are sincere appreciation to all hands.
Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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9586/> Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 4/7/2016 3:08:45 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- pictures from 16-3 LA (Laos) return yesterday. Dignified,
respectful, well done by team as always. Thanks (b)(6)

Vr, Mike

Please visit our website at Caution-http://www.dpaa.mil/

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:20 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG
USARMY DPAA
FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: Repate Photos from this morning (U)

Sir,

I share with you photos of this mornings Dignified Transfer that was
conducted on Hickam AFB. During today's ceremony, there were
challenges with
the weathers gust of high winds going from 25 to 40 mph. Our troops
never
faltered, and did a superb job executing with great respect and
dignity
throughout the ceremony. Enjoy the pic's and have a good evening.

HOO-AH!

V/R

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

590 Moffett St., Bldg 4077

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853

(Comm): 808-448-4500, ext (b)(6)

(DSN): 315-448-4500, ext (b)(6)

(BB): (b)(6)

(b)(6)@mail.mil

"FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE"

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 22 Apr 2016 13:24:50 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] NO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

Sir, Ack all.

VR, Mark

Original Message
From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 3:07 PM
To: Livick, Todd S Sr CIV (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] NO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

Team --

Not sure how this info gets to families before any remains/identifications even begin -- but it's dangerous, and sets a bad precedent with families, and they then are invariably disappointed with it turns out we don't make an ID. We leak like a sieve, and should reinforce with our folks our ROE.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:28 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Holland, Thomas D (Dr. (ST-SES)) CIV DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6)@mail.mil; (b)(6) CIV DPAA LAB (US)
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

You all needed to know that the word is out on recovery of what COULD BE some remains of Daniel Thomas, and obviously is being widely distributed. My suggestion, if asked, is simply to say of course we all hope so, but until the Lab is able to thoroughly analyze the osseous material, there is no way to know whether they are remains from Daniel Thomas or Donald Carr, as both were in the incident.

Mike Helm also called me and he did NOT say his cousin was ID'd, just that they were all thrilled that what could be Daniel's remains were recovered, along with his ID tag and that digging continues. Just wanted you to know how widely the interim results are out.

I view this is good, in a way, and an opportunity for DPAA to fully explain the ID process, as it NOW exists, little of which is known to most families or veterans, much less the general public. There may be media inquiries, so please use this as a "kicker" to link the media into explaining publicly what should be better understood. Best to all, and safe travel to those on the road or in the air, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families

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Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: [b](6)@columbus.rr.com
To: [b](6)@aol.com
Sent: 4/21/2016 10:18:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: FW: Letter.

Ann: Just received this message – I believe from [b](6) formerly with Legion POW/MIA Committee in Ohio. You can see the large distribution network he has! I'm sending it to you because it seems remains of Daniel Thomas may have been ID'd. Love [b](6)

From: [b](6) [Caution-mailto:[b](6)@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:28 PM

(b)(6)



(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Subject: Letter.

You know how some people said why do we still care about our POW MIA well this letter i got from our past National commander Mike Helm today make my day so next time somebody ask tell them there was famy waiting 40 years for a answer and they got it

So o lie said thank you for caring and your support for are POW MIA

Hey my beautiful lady i just got this email from past .National commander

National
Commander Mike Helm

(b)(6) wanted you to know that they have recovered one of my cousin's dog tags and some remains that they have sent to Hawaii. They continue to dig. It will be some time before this issue is resolved but this is the best the family has heard in over 40 years. Thanks for keeping the pressure on. His name is Daniel Thomas USAF.q

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 6.

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 11 May 2016 15:27:35 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: Re: Remarks of Ambassador Vinh at VN War Symposium, Austin, TX

Sir,
Agree, the remarks are fine!

All very sad.....

VR, Mark

Original Message
From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 4:09 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: RE: Remarks of Ambassador Vinh at VN War Symposium, Austin, TX

Can't win for losing

Displeased at the WH, displeased with the Vietnamese Ambassador's comments (Legacy of War), and displeased with Ambassador Osius' letter... If only one of us could someday get it marginally right....

BTW -- my perspective, the attached remarks are thoughtful and wonderful.

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 5:58 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Remarks of Ambassador Vinh at VN War Symposium, Austin, TX

As promised, attached are the remarks Ambassador Vinh delivered in Austin on April 28th. I wanted you to see his incoming note, responding to the League invitation, as well as my comments regarding his remarks. Too often, the ongoing accounting effort is lumped into the "legacies" definition and that shouldn't occur.

It diminishes the honor and importance of DPAA's and its predecessors' noble effort to account for and return missing personnel, something that all should recognize as a matter of respect for those who serve their nations and the families who support them. In relative terms, Ambassador Vinh is of a younger generation in the Foreign Ministry, so a bit sensitive education is helpful.

You'll note in his remarks some appreciation for "anti-war" elements, and that may help explain why he was the only speaker who did not receive a standing ovation, but from my assessment, it had relatively little "cadre-speak" and hostile rhetoric was negligible. His assessment of the future sounds about right, though TPP is in danger of failure due to our own chaotic political process. I guess we'll see.

I hope all goes well at the White House meeting on Thursday and see no reason why it wouldn't, as it is

simply a courtesy to bring in interested parties to more or less brief on the intentions for the President's visit, but I don't mind saying I was disappointed in the White House release this morning.

Best to all and have a good evening, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/> >

Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> >
Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us
Sent: 5/10/2016 4:56:24 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Ambassador PQVinh

Dear Vinh, and good afternoon. I'm so pleased to hear from you. Thanks so much for the personal confirmation accepting our invitation to the Annual Dinner and we very much look forward to having you and your wife with us again.

In the near future, I'll send over the names of the nine Vietnamese personnel whose lives were lost on that tragic mission April 7 2001 while on a helicopter survey flight over incident sites. We're asking you to read their names from the head table podium, and General Milley will read the names of the seven Americans lost that fateful day, plus two others lost on December 15, 1973, also working on this humanitarian mission.

I very much appreciate your sending over your remarks delivered at the Vietnam War symposium at the LBJ Library in Austin. Most everything you raised was applaudable and demonstrated the national effort your country has undergone postwar, to the credit of both your government and people. It is a positive report and one that you should be proud to deliver on behalf of your country.

In reading through the text, and always conscious of sensitivities on the part of all parties, I winced at your inclusion of our bilateral cooperation to account for missing personnel as one of the "legacy issues" of the war. Although clearly US personnel became missing during that long ago conflict, I respectfully suggest that accounting for all who serve their nations could more accurately and honorably be defined as the ongoing humanitarian obligation of all nations.

We have actively advocated the need for US support to address the negative impact of unexploded ordnance and remediation of dioxins in the soil. This support, now quite substantial, was advocated in a spirit of humanitarian reciprocity, not out of guilt or dwelling on responsibility for wartime actions. To do the latter would not be well-received by the American people, especially our Veterans. We've earned their support for providing substantial assistance on this separate humanitarian basis.

I am very optimistic that President Obama's visit to Vietnam will have the same positive impact on our

bilateral relationship as your General Secretary's visit last year. In my view, that visit was a resounding success and, frankly, an example of something I doubted I would ever experience. I'm so glad that both governments recognized the League's fundamental role in bringing our two countries together and am confident that this upcoming visit will further add to the comprehensive bilateral relationship that continues to expand.

We are in an exciting evolution and pleased that you are here to be Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States at such a critical time. Please extend my very best wishes to many whom I've grown to admire as outstanding representatives of your country, worthy of the positions they have been entrusted to fulfill. Of course I'm referring to people you know, especially DPM/FM Minh, Ministers To Lam and Vinh, Ambassadors Quang and Ba Hung, and many others who have contributed significantly to our bilateral relationship over the years.

Enjoy your visit in Vietnam and travel safely.

Respectfully and warmest regards, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
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<facebook.jpg>Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >
<twitter.jpg>Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 5/10/2016 11:23:46 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us < Caution-mailto:phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us > writes:

Dear Ann,

Thanks for the email and in particular for the invitation to the Annual Dinner. I have put it in my calendar and will be joining you and colleagues on this occasion.

I enclose herewith my remarks at the Austin event, on the VN-US relations.

I'm so much sorry for the delay in responding to you, as I've been traveling.

Next week, I'll be back to Vietnam for the visit of Pres Obama. Surely, that will further strengthen our relations in all areas, including in dealing with war legacy issues.

My best regards

Pham Quang Vinh
Ambassador of Vietnam to the U.S.
Tel: (202) 861-0737
1233 20th St. N.W. # 400
Washington D.C. 20036

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Sir,

Glad to have a discussion. Will coordinate with you first to decide on left and right limits of what we want to talk about.

VR, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 5:53 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;
Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;
Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Cc: Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Sumpter
Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: FW: For Your Consideration

Mark --

AMG is clamoring for us to publish our criteria for putting a case on the MEL, and putting into writing how we decide which cases get investigated/recovered. Wouldn't doing so cause us MORE work (and lots more cards/letters)? Let's discuss sometime this week.

Vr, Mike

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] For Your Consideration

I do understand, Mike, and am NOT advocating release of any specific, war-by-war, \$\$\$, but the criteria for selection and scheduling on the MEL.

I absolutely agree you should not, nor will we, publish the numbers. The war-by-war policy/procedure for scheduling excavations/recoveries is my intent, NOT the numbers, but it will help reduce the impatient inclination to go to a Member of Congress to get political intervention, except by the small percent of Vietnam War families focused solely on their own case.

I know what a drain those congressional inquiries can be, and it isn't fair to DPAA as a whole, much less to you. Publication of criteria on which to base scheduling decisions can help alleviate such pressures, that was the purpose of the suggestion. At least think on it a while. Later, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
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Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-13656493
9586/ > Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-mailto:[REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] For Your Consideration

Good morning, Mike,

As we all anticipated, impatience is growing and will continue to grow in the Vietnam War community as additional assets and resources are required for WWII remains recovery and an "ID-counting" mentality that still seems to motivate some, especially in the Lab. This is somewhat understandable since successful IDs are their sole measurement of success. Cases that have been on the Master Excavation List (MEL) for many, many years are still waiting. In our view, the priority for scheduling should NOT be influenced by political factors, including Members of Congress, but such pressures will increasingly be inevitable.

Families must have total confidence in the integrity of the process, as well as the people implementing it; therefore, I encourage you to determine the priorities for scheduling excavations based on DPAA's reality and in terms that all can and will understand and accept as logical, at least eventually, in the best interest of the overall mission. I cannot express that same hope for the WWII and Korean War families as they all appear more focused on their own individual cases.

I haven't sent this note or the article below to the families, or even the board as yet, but perhaps you might consider a solution, clearly spelled out, to separate accounting processes and priorities for each war. As related to the Vietnam War, the initial assurance on which confidence was built was directed from the top, and more recently by former Secretary

Hagel's direction to "build on the existing strengths" and implement the "complete reorganization" using that direction as a guideline.

I very much appreciate the budget figures and usage of operational funds you showed me in confidence, but to knowledgeable family members and veterans long involved, it is looking increasingly like what was working for Vietnam War accounting, that admittedly would NOT be applicable to WWII remains recovery, is being abandoned in favor of boosting the ID count. That rings much too closely to the Vietnam War media use of "body count" as applied to KIAs, often on both sides.

As in all instances, the decision is yours to make and, if you wish, I'll be more than happy to contribute to the process, quietly of course, either in person or by editing from afar, and welcome back, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
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Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

Family of Monett's Cpt. Wolfe wants remains returned Tuesday,
April 12, 2016, THE MONETT TIMES By Melonie Roberts
reporter@monett-times.com

(Photo)<Caution-Caution-Caution-<http://www.monett-times.com/photos/25/76/44/2576445-L.jpg>>

Valerie Wolfe, daughter of Thomas Wolfe, the Air Force pilot from Monett who was shot down and killed in Laos in 1966, is pictured with Wolfe's former Air Force roommate and friend, Zack Pryse. Melonie Roberts reporter@monett-times.com Daughter believes review will not occur until 2020

Valerie Wolfe was just nine months old when her father, Air Force Cpt. Thomas Wolfe, a pilot, was shot down and killed in Laos in 1966.

She is on a campaign to compel the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to keep its promise to bring her father Caution-Caution-Caution-home.

"My father volunteered for duty in southeast Asia," Wolfe said. "He was there a matter of months before he was killed. Originally listed as MIA, missing in action, that status was soon changed to MIA/BNR, missing in action, body not recovered, due to the official determination that no one could have survived the loss incident."

Zack Pryse, Wolfe's friend and former roommate, described the incident from letters he received from pilots in another aircraft that had

observed the crash.

"Tom wanted to see where he thought he had spotted an anti-aircraft gun a few days before," Pryse said. "Chuck Dudley [the pilot] was wounded, but he fought it all the way in. The navigator bailed out on the left side, but he got out too low. He deployed his 'chute, but landed in a bamboo thicket.

"I think Tom tried to grab the yoke. The plane bucked up but then went in. I think Tom fell out. The left engine hit the ground and the plane caught fire."

There was no rescue mission deployed as it was determined no one could have survived the crash.

The Wolfe family has, for years, kept in contact with military officials in an effort to have the crash site, identified in 1999, excavated and the remains of all three pilots returned to their families.

While the site was approved for excavation in 2006, no effort has been made by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the military branch tasked with those efforts, to begin.

At each subsequent family update, those same officials would give, for various reasons, an extended five-year timeline before excavation could begin. The first delay on was cited for the possibility of unexploded ordinance making the site unsafe for excavation. Additional attempts to determine the status of her father's case were met with the response that the site had been recommended for excavation, but no other specific information as to why no action was being taken.

"We have attended family updates, written to our casualty officer, requested review information and provided DNA information," Wolfe said. "We have done whatever was asked of the family in a cooperative effort to enhance further progress toward remains recovery."

But one thing they didn't know, until 2012, was a part of the criteria in determining which sites to excavate was based on family involvement.

"Neither my sister nor I wanted to believe that our level of caring was being assessed as a criteria of who they should go looking for overseas. We found out in 2015 that it was, and that the box as a family had not been checked, even though we had kept in regular, consistent contact for decades."

And while her father's case remains near the top of the list, new cases are being added all the time.

"In actuality, my father's case is falling further away from selection, not moving closer, due to a new cluster policy, in which sites geographically located close to one another are prioritized to speed up the process," Wolfe said. "The likelihood of a serious review of my father's case will not occur until 2020."

For Wolfe, that is too long.

"Time is not on our side," Wolfe said. "The longer they wait, the less likely there will be recoverable remains. I was nine months old when my father was killed. I am 50 now. We have been waiting a very long time."

The motto of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is "Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise."

Wolfe now thinks it time -- past time -- for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to keep its promise to bring her father home. Caution-Caution-Caution-home.

Those interested in joining the campaign to bring Cpt. Thomas Wolfe home may write to Sen. Roy Blunt, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510, Caution-Caution-Caution-www.blunt.senate.gov < Caution-Caution-Caution-<http://www.blunt.senate.gov> / > , or call 202-224-5721; Sen. Claire McCaskill, 730 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510, Caution-Caution-Caution-www.mccaskill.senate.gov < Caution-Caution-Caution-<http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov> / > or call 202-224-6154; Rep. Billy Long, 1541 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515 or call 202-225-6536.

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Tracking all - thanks (b)(6). No issues.....he stays there.

MS

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) USARMY DPAA VM (US)
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 1:22 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Latest DRAFT 47th Annual Meeting Program

Sir,

Good afternoon. (b)(6) will be conducting the Field Forensic Review 16-3 VM on 19-24 June. He also requested that he stays in country while (b)(6). His reasons for not attending the Annual Meeting are both personal and work.

Very respectfully,

(b)(6)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 12:26 AM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US)
Cc: (b)(6) USARMY DPAA VM (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Latest DRAFT 47th Annual Meeting Program

Fellers,

???????????????? what say ye

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 3:41 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Latest DRAFT 47th Annual Meeting Program

Mark --

I know (b)(6) - really nothing I can do about that. Pls
update me on (b)(6) non-availability
-- I assume it's mission related?

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 4:07 PM
To: Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV
DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US); (b)(6)
(b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US)
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US);
Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Holland, Thomas D (Dr.
(ST-SES)) CIV DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Latest DRAFT 47th Annual Meeting Program

This is the latest version, dated today, for the annual meeting program, now having adapted to the
unwelcome loss of both (b)(6) and (b)(6). The rearrangement of time and personnel on Friday,
June 24th, by raising the profile and time of (b)(6) and (b)(6) is the most significant change. It
is also the best scenario I can devise to cover the core of mission-related interest to the Vietnam War
families.

All participants are confirmed, other than Ben Rhodes, NSC staff, covering the President's just concluded
visit to Hanoi and Saigon/HCMC where the lack of significant reference to the accounting effort was, to
put it nicely, stunning. Of course it may be as a result of the usual media bias toward anything related to the
Vietnam War accounting effort, having never recovered from earlier false theories that this mission was an
obstacle to normalization, rather than the useful bridge it actually was. Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the
Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Sir,

Got it. I'm tracking (b)(6) attending....will see what the deal is on the other.

VR, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2016 2:14 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Request

Mark -- I'm not even sure who (b)(6) is -- will he be value added? Pls speak with (b)(6) and see if (b)(6) is available and attending. Thanks --

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:01 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re:

Please review and ensure that whomever is not (??) in charge of what used to be LSEL knows that it would be helpful if (b)(6) and (b)(6) were present to both present and talk with the families, including during their case reviews. I'd say it is especially important this year since the entire structure was changed and LSEL no longer works as an important element of the accounting mission, but for the very Lab that tried for years to eliminate LSEL's role. That is another uncomfortable fact that need not be raised so long as we all recognize the contributions that non-biological analysis can make to the families in terms of understanding their loved ones' loss circumstances. Have a good evening, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths

Chairman & CEO

National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22041

703-465-7432

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Facebook <

Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/>

> Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 5 Jun 2016 02:15:50 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: UPDATE: June 4, 2016 - CORRECTED

it's looking funner by the day :)!

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Re: UPDATE: June 4, 2016 - CORRECTED

Gotta love this...wait till I tell everyone we have to shift our focus. 'Promise' of 3-5 years?? Not sure where that came from.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2016 7:21 PM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: UPDATE: June 4, 2016 - CORRECTED

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

UPDATE: June 4, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is now **1,619**. Most recently accounted for is LCDR Frederick P. Crosby, USN, listed as KIA/BNR, North Vietnam, on 6/1/65. No information is yet available on his recovery date, but his remains were identified on 5/25/16. Also recently confirmed as accounted for was Major Dean A. Klenda, USAF, listed as MIA, North Vietnam, 9/17/65, recovered 12/8/14, and identified 12/30/14, but only recently announced. Prior to that release, the most recent was SFC Alan L. Boyer, USA/Special Forces, listed as MIA 3/28/68, Laos, and identified 3/16/16. This brings the total accounted for to **964** since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,027**. Of the 1,619 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,262 (VN-464, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

47th ANNUAL MEETING: June 22-25, 2016, Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. Registration is now closed. DoD again authorized **COIN Assist** travel for family members to attend, and attendance is up. **Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work** will Keynote the Opening Session, and **Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley** will speak at the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner and join **SRV Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh** and **League Advisor (b)(6)**

(b)(6) to participate in a special Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony, this year honoring the American and Vietnamese military personnel who lost their lives on an April 7, 2001, helicopter mission seeking answers on our missing men. Also of special interest will be the **Deputy Director-Designate of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Ms. Melissa Drisko**, who will address the families, supported by DIA's team of specialists known to all as the Stony Beach Team. This team, comprised of nine highly skilled personnel, focuses solely on the Vietnam War accounting effort, with first priority on Last Known Alive (LKA) cases and live sighting reports.

There is also considerable anticipation of a comprehensive report from **Director Mike Linnington** on his first full year since assuming the reins as **Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)**, supported by many DPAA officials. All are likely looking forward to hearing what has occurred, changes and improvements made, and his plans for further implementing his promise one year ago to sustain DPAA's priority on Vietnam War accounting for at least the next 3-5 years. Family members who have not yet provided a **DNA sample for comparison** are strongly urged to do so. Check with your Service Casualty Office to determine eligibility.

US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIAs HOLDS PLENARY SESSION:

After a lapse of over ten years, the USRJC finally held plenary discussions May 22-25 at the Pentagon. This lack of official contact, much less substantive discussions, can be attributed primarily to on-again, off-again bilateral tensions and lack of high level support by both governments for resuming joint humanitarian efforts. During this lengthy period, various scenarios were in play to terminate the Presidential Commission and replace that special communication channel with routine diplomatic contacts. That effort failed for many reasons, not least the strong opposition to such a move by the League and the major national Veteran organizations. All are closely watching to see what is reported from these most recent talks, not yet reported to the families or the veterans, but anticipated shortly. The plenary was led on the Russian side by General Colonel Vostrotin, a national hero in the Russian Federation, and on the US side by General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret).

Advancing the Plenary, and following coordination with General Foglesong and with interagency approval, DPAA Director Linnington traveled to Moscow February 8th to meet with the Russian Co-Chairman, to propose the date and agenda. There is cautious optimism that the work of the USRJC will be renewed and restored, especially since the Russian Federation named its new Chairman and opened an office in their Embassy in Washington, DC. Recognizing it was past time to get beyond the endless delays that have plagued work of the USRJC, the League welcomes and appreciates these new initiatives by leaders in both countries and looks forward to increased efforts and accounting results. Earlier, Director Linnington also visited several European countries and senior US officials in the European region who will be contributing to the effort to conduct WWII recoveries.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITED THE PRC AND SOUTH KOREA: Recently, Director Linnington traveled to the PRC and South Korea. No specific information has yet been shared on the outcome; however, the League urged him to raise the need for PRC responsiveness not only on the known PRC controlled POW camps during the Korean War, but archival records that surely exist from PRC personnel who served during the Vietnam War, especially in communications units visited by the League Executive Director in 1982. The League welcomes and appreciates these efforts and is hopeful that PRC officials will at long last be responsive. Unfortunately,

immediately after the DPAA Director's visit, the PRC cancelled a field operation near the DPRK border, purportedly for security reasons.

AMG Comment: Sorry for the need to re-send; there was a mistake in the numbers and we always want to be precisely correct as numbers = names!

Ann Mills-Griffiths

Chairman & CEO

National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22041

703-465-7432

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Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >



Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 6/4/2016 6:50:36 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (b)(6)@aol.com writes:

UPDATE: June 4, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is now **1,619**. Most recently accounted for is LCDR Frederick P. Crosby, USN, listed as KIA/BNR, North Vietnam, on 6/1/65. No information is yet available on his recovery date, but his remains were identified on 5/25/16. Also recently confirmed as accounted for was Major Dean A. Klenda, USAF, listed as MIA, North Vietnam, 9/17/65, recovered 12/8/14, and identified 12/30/14, but only recently announced. Prior to that release, the most recent was SFC Alan L. Boyer, USA/Special Forces, listed as MIA 3/28/68, Laos, and identified 3/16/16. This brings the total accounted for to **965** since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,028**. Of the 1,619 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,262 (VN-464, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

47th ANNUAL MEETING: June 22-25, 2016, Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. Registration is now closed. DoD again authorized **COIN Assist** travel for family members to attend, and attendance is up. **Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work** will Keynote the Opening Session, and **Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley** will speak at the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner and join **SRV Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh** and **League Advisor (b)(6)** to participate in a special Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony, this year honoring the American and Vietnamese military personnel who lost their lives on an April 7, 2001, helicopter mission seeking answers on our missing men. Also of special interest will be the **Deputy Director-Designate of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Ms. Melissa Drisko**, who will address the families, supported by DIA's team of specialists known to all as the

Stony Beach Team. This team, comprised of nine highly skilled personnel, focuses solely on the Vietnam War accounting effort, with first priority on Last Known Alive (LKA) cases and live sighting reports.

There is also considerable anticipation of a comprehensive report from **Director Mike Linnington** on his first full year since assuming the reins as **Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)**, supported by many DPAA officials. All are likely looking forward to hearing what has occurred, changes and improvements made, and his plans for further implementing his promise one year ago to sustain DPAA's priority on Vietnam War accounting for at least the next 3-5 years. Family members who have not yet provided a **DNA sample for comparison** are strongly urged to do so. Check with your Service Casualty Office to determine eligibility.

US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIAs HOLDS PLENARY SESSION: After a lapse of over ten years, the USRJC finally held plenary discussions May 22-25 at the Pentagon. This lack of official contact, much less substantive discussions, can be attributed primarily to on-again, off-again bilateral tensions and lack of high level support by both governments for resuming joint humanitarian efforts. During this lengthy period, various scenarios were in play to terminate the Presidential Commission and replace that special communication channel with routine diplomatic contacts. That effort failed for many reasons, not least the strong opposition to such a move by the League and the major national Veteran organizations. All are closely watching to see what is reported from these most recent talks, not yet reported to the families or the veterans, but anticipated shortly. The plenary was led on the Russian side by General Colonel Vostrotin, a national hero in the Russian Federation, and on the US side by General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret).

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Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> >



Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Sir,

Don't know what she's ranting about! Never heard of, nor directed an initiative to KILL the LKA program. Have heard some discussions in the past about how to think and "strategize" about LKA's in the future - but nothing beyond that. Maybe somebody is gonna bring it up in the symposium, but this is not an agenda item.

As of Friday (and after personally working it with Reedy) - (b)(6) is the guy, not sure why this doesn't die???? I'm at the office now, I'll confirm (b)(6) and go direct with AMG.

VR, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2016 1:03 PM
To: (b)(6) DPAA AP (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;
Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;
Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Very Serious Concern

Mike - pls let me know what this is all about please.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2016 12:56 PM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Very Serious Concern

Ann, I haven't a clue what you're talking about. As usual, the workforce goes to you when leaders explore initiatives internal to their domains, before they come to me. There is NO (I say again, NO) investigations that I know of, and your questions on LKA have me scratching my head. Of course, since I know NOT what you speak, I can't take action.

Mark Spindler (who supervises the Lab) will have you a name soon.

Landing in HI soon...final approach.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2016 9:05 AM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Very Serious Concern

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike, when I first heard of the below plan, I refused to believe you would ever seriously consider such an ignorant proposal, but since your management team is proposing it, I'm obligated to send this email. I will say at the outset, I strongly urge that you not react defensively and launch another investigation into unauthorized "leaking" of UNCLASSIFIED information. To do so would be even more destructive, and enough damage has already been done to the Vietnam War-related analytic workforce you inherited, though much had occurred prior to your arrival.

I recently learned that there is an internal DPAA "initiative" being considered to terminate the Last Known Alive (LKA) program with deliberate action to declare all cases "fate determined" and end the policy of resolving them as highest priority cases. I understand this has been rumored internally for about ten days or so, but that there are plans to present this absurd proposal to you, Fern and BG Spindler during the time you are in Hawaii for the Operations Symposium.

The longstanding policy-directed priority on these and other discrepancy cases was carefully considered by the POW/MIA Interagency Group (in which I participated fully) and formalized by President Reagan, based on US evidence of the individual in captivity or alive on the ground in immediate proximity to capture by hostile forces. This priority policy was further reinforced by General Jack Vessey at a White House Press Conference in 1987, following a trip to Hanoi where he addressed circumstances surrounding specific LKA cases. It is supported in Congress and by all the major national veteran groups, and we have boxes of supportive speeches and congressional testimony over four decades.

This longstanding policy and the evidence to support it have repeatedly been provided to the Vietnamese and Lao, with agreements reached long ago between the US and each country. The results have been effective in prompting increased cooperation resulting in insights into the level of Vietnamese knowledge and ability to provide archival information and case resolution.

Secretary of Defense Hagel's directive to USDP Christine Wormuth, your temporary predecessor VADM Mike Franken and to you was to "build on the existing strengths, noting failure was not an option. It is no accident that 1,027 American personnel have been recovered and identified since 1973,

all but 63 since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. It was not accidental, but carefully structured to bring about the results thus far achieved.

The policy has been sustained over the years, not only surviving through some tumultuous years, but thriving to become the worldwide effort you inherited, with our full support and advocacy. This priority has been and is signaled to all - foreign and domestic - of the seriousness with which the US takes its responsibility to stand behind those who serve, the active-duty community and our veterans. The families would be crushed at the betrayal by DPAA and the blatant appearance of a write-off.

If word gets out beyond [REDACTED] and me, there will be dramatic results, media headlines, congressional hearings, rebirth of the "Rambo movement," the next Rolling Thunder would be on DPAA's doorstep and a complete loss of family member and veteran organization support.

It appears this "initiative" is from newly assigned personnel with no historical background on the issue, and isolated from consultation with those who do have accurate historical perspective. A cursory check with informed veterans within DPAA would have evoked astonishment. If this plan is pursued and not stopped, expect strong public opposition, and the League will have no choice but to seek support from those who share our principles, values and commitment to the accounting mission and the priority that has sustained this effort since 1981.

It is evident that some on your staff do not agree with the priority you placed on Vietnam War accounting. This is not the only indicator, the last being discussion of shutting down the detachments. There will be no confidence in DPAA's leadership, and the fallout will be disastrous. Of that you can be certain.

I urge this be stopped immediately and the message made very clear as to why, on substance and commitment from YOU, the Director, and promises you have made to the families and veterans, stakeholders all.

Respectfully, Ann

PS: Since we are nearing the printing deadline, your decision on who should represent the Lab at the annual meeting would be most helpful

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Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Ann,

You may have mistakenly referred to (b)(6) as "Frank" because you probably just heard a Sinatra tune, had not yet heard back from me about dinner - and subconsciously got me and Sinatra confused.....happens with me all the time:)

Thank you for the invitation - I'll be there, looking forward to it. Unfortunately (b)(6) needs to stay here as we have a household of visiting kids and relatives.

See you soon, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:02 AM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Cc: (b)(6) USAF DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program - TIMED (U)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Wonderful, Fern, and please tell (b)(6) not Frank, that I'm practicing his name over and over and over. I was talking to my friend (b)(6) this morning to try to understand why I continue to see him as Frank, and the specifics escape me, but it has something to do with association to respect, but the association is too vague. I can't even promise I won't mess up again, but it won't be for lack of effort.

See you all soon. Ann

PS: Todd. We have the DPAA list from (b)(6) for attending, and both you and (b)(6) are on it, but we don't yet have the DPAA dinner list. I'm confident the dinner will be sold out with no seats available going into the meeting. That means we're getting close, so ASAP, please. It saddens me when "new" family members too often don't know about Twilight Tattoo at Ft. Myer, the dinner and its cost, or the USMC Barracks opportunities, due to varying SCO letter content. Some SCOs omit sending the League Registration Form, or leave off page two, which has blocks to check for the workshops as well. This year, the Navy's was the worst, sad for me to admit. It would be helpful to the families if DPAA decided to restore SCO letter coordination with the League so that all contained the same basic, relevant information.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

In a message dated 6/14/2016 7:22:29 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann,
Thanks for all below/attached. (b)(6) will attend the dinner with me. The League meeting has been the topic of discussion in our home for the past month!

Talk to you soon.

FSW/
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Principal Director, DPAA DC Office
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 10:07 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG

USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd
S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program -
TIMED

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Thanks so much, Mike, for the quick and supportive reply. All things moving forward well, and I'll get back to you on times during which the board could meet, greatly appreciating the offer. I hasten to add, it will NOT be before the Thursday dinner, but I'm thinking during the DPAA Workshop: Maximizing Your Benefit from DPAA's Web site, 2:45 - 3:45 PM on Friday, June 24th. By the way, over 55 registered attendees have already signed up for this workshop, very encouraging. I will confirm that after checking with the Board members. Again, my thanks, and I do believe this will be a very useful, informative meeting. Best to all and good night, Ann

PS: Your check will be viewed as a donation to the overall effort since, to us, you are an invited guest, as is (b)(6) and as are Fern and Frank, and Mark Spindler.

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In a message dated 6/13/2016 8:36:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- thanks for the attached program. The League meeting is very important to our mission, and sharing accomplishments/areas-for-improvement/way ahead for the agency will be my theme, and I am looking forward to the healthy discussion throughout the discussion. I am making every attempt to remain on site as long as possible daily -- but other events are pressing a bit.

The Operations Symposium was productive, as was the Directorate "back-briefs" of their Action Plans to accomplish what was directed in the Global Campaign Plan, and OPLAN (yet unsigned). I'll sign the OPLAN soon, after incorporating discussion points from this past week (which I'm confident you know about already). Vietnam War is again prioritized for '17/'18 for all the reasons you and I know. I will discuss that at the 47th meeting with the Vietnam War families in a macro presentation (NO slides). I am available to your board prior to, or after the conference.

Todd is in coordination with CSA on the Pentagon Hallway dedication -- believe that is all on track, although not firmed up yet, awaiting Army completion of the Army Birthday events tomorrow -- one event at a time. We know it'll be wonderful. Program, DPAA MC, you/Chief speaking -- all good. Also in contact with DSD speechwriter on his draft comments -- want it focused appropriately in SEA/Vietnam War accounting/commitment and perhaps a flavor of US shift to the Pacific and how our mission helps. I do not have his remarks yet.

Added in CAPS some comments below. Good to be back home in DC.

Please visit our website at Caution-Caution-<http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 7:36 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program - TIMED

Mike and all,

I'm assuming, and hoping, you, Fern and all are back from the Ops Symposium held last week HQ in Hawaii and that all felt the time and effort was well spent for DPAA and the mission. YES, THANK YOU

Attached you'll find the final TIMED program for this year's meeting. The final (with tributes and without timing notations) is now at the printer and will be delivered in plenty of time for registration. If you would like a full copy of the final in advance of the meeting, please feel free to send someone over and we'll be glad to provide it. In fact, it is likely that (b)(6) or (b)(6) may be coming over sometime soon to deliver checks in payment for those DPAA personnel who wish to attend the 47th Annual Dinner and Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony. I'LL GET FROM (b)(6) -- THANKS FOR PROVIDING

On that subject, I do hope you and (b)(6), Fern and (b)(6), and Mark and, if in town, Mrs. (b)(6) will be our guests, including the invitation-only reception in the Crystal Room at 6:00 PM, prior to the dinner, at which time you'll receive your table seating and, if driving, a Hilton Parking pass. Please confirm for all ASAP since seating is already underway preliminarily. (b)(6) AND I WILL ATTEND ALL SOCIAL EVENTS -- AND PAY FOR EACH. THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING HER IN THE PROGRAM INVITATION.

You'll be pleased to know that we've been in regular touch with General Milley's office in regard to advance security requirements and will be following up soon with the final list of VIP guests, bios and other details. EXCELLENT -- HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE EVENT -- WE (AS WELL) ARE IN CONTACT WITH HIS OFFICE FOR THE UNVEILING IN THE PENTATGON AT 1430 HRS ON 23 JUN.

I think you'll also be pleased to learn that our team of Sergeants-at-Arms from Idaho and Nevada were delighted with our suggestion to be in official "uniform" only when required, such as the beginning of Opening Session and when on duty at the Annual Dinner. During all other sessions, they will be dressed in white "polo-type" shirts, with our POW/MIA logo on the pocket and "Sergeant-at-Arms" stenciled over the pocket, much like many of the people on our field teams wear when conducting operations. THANK YOU FOR THIS -- EVERYONE WILL FEEL RIGHT AT Caution-Caution-HOME.

In addition, once sessions begin, the Sergeants-at-Arms will be much less visible, seated just inside the several doors to prevent attendees from using other than the door designated for entry and exit.

Hopefully, these steps will ensure none present feel at all "intimidated" as earlier suggested and, as you would surmise, all are really great people from middle America with the inherent values expected.

If you have any questions or I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to ask, and I look forward to receiving the advance copies of the briefings once coordinated and cleared, so that we can print them in the necessary quantities. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE BRIEFINGS -- BUT KNOW THEY'RE IN PRODUCTION NOW.

This is going to be a larger than usual meeting, and all seem to be expecting great things. Hopefully, you'll agree, as you stated last year, that League annual meetings are critically important to the mission. ABSOLUTELY AGREE.

Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 13 Jun 2016 01:13:08 +0000
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US)
Subject: Re: Latest League mtg agenda (U)

Would normally say yes, but will check with the boss to see if this will survive contact with AMG.

Original Message
From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US)
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 2:23 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: Latest League mtg agenda (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

General,
Got this from (b)(6) last week. We were going to try and swap (b)(6) out for (b)(6) due to (b)(6) not being the right guy to brief. Not sure if we are past the point of no return with AMG on changes. Do we just show up and let (b)(6) do the briefing?
s/f
Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (808) 448-4500 x-(b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6) DPAA AP (US)
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 2:54 AM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US); (b)(6) DPAA AP (US)
Subject: FW: Latest League mtg agenda (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Col Gann,
Latest League agenda, current as of last week. Friday Panel lists both (b)(6) and (b)(6) as presenters.
v/r,
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)

Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 8:40 AM

To: (b)(6) DPAA AP (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP
(US)

Subject: Latest League mtg agenda (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

I don't think she caught the humor.....

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 9:58 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>;
Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA FO (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program - TIMED (U)

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Thanks, Mark, and I've already apologized for my mental lapse, but have been practicing and still don't know WHY I have associated (b)(6) as being (b)(6) (b)(6) but as I stated, I'm practicing to get it right and WILL do so.
Thanks for the confirmation on dinner, and look forward to seeing you soon,
Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>

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9586/> Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 6/14/2016 2:02:05 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann,

You may have mistakenly referred to (b)(6) as "Frank" because you probably just heard a Sinatra tune, had not yet heard back from me about dinner - and subconsciously got me and Sinatra confused.....happens with me all the time:~)!

Thank you for the invitation - I'll be there, looking forward to it. Unfortunately (b)(6) needs to stay here as we have a household of visiting kids and relatives.

See you soon, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto (b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:02 AM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA
FO (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA
FO (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA FO (US)
(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program -
TIMED (U)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Wonderful, Fern, and please tell (b)(6), not Frank, that I'm practicing his name over and over and over. I was talking to my friend (b)(6) this morning to try to understand why I continue to see him as Frank, and the specifics escape me, but it has something to do with association to respect, but the association is too vague. I can't even promise I won't mess up again, but it won't be for lack of effort.

See you all soon. Ann

PS: Todd. We have the DPAA list from (b)(6) for attending, and both you and (b)(6) are on it, but we don't yet have the DPAA dinner list. I'm confident the dinner will be sold out with no seats available going into the meeting. That means we're getting close, so ASAP, please. It saddens me when "new" family members too often don't know about Twilight Tattoo at Ft. Myer, the dinner and its cost, or the USMC Barracks opportunities, due to varying SCO letter content. Some SCOs omit sending the League Registration Form, or leave off page two, which has blocks to check for the workshops as well. This year, the Navy's was the worst, sad for me to admit. It would be helpful to the families if DPAA decided to restore SCO letter coordination with the League so that all contained the same basic, relevant information.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org <
Caution-Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/> >

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In a message dated 6/14/2016 7:22:29 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann,
Thanks for all below/attached. (b)(6) will attend the dinner
with
me. The League meeting has the been the topic of discussion in our
home for
the past month!

Talk to you soon.

FSW/
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Principal Director, DPAA DC Office
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 10:07 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG
USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US);
Livick, Todd
S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program

TIMED

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verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of
all links
contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the
address to a
Web browser.

Thanks so much, Mike, for the quick and supportive reply. All
things moving forward well, and I'll get back to you on times during
which
the board could meet, greatly appreciating the offer. I hasten to
add, it
will NOT be before the Thursday dinner, but I'm thinking during the
DPAA
Workshop: Maximizing Your Benefit from DPAA's Web site, 2:45 - 3:45

PM on

Friday, June 24th. By the way, over 55 registered attendees have already sighed up for this workshop, very encouraging. I will confirm that after checking with the Board members. Again, my thanks, and I do believe this will be a very useful, informative meeting. Best to all and good night, Ann

PS: Your check will be viewed as a donation to the overall effort since, to us, you are an invited guest, as is (b)(6) and as are Fern and Frank, and Mark Spindler.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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In a message dated 6/13/2016 8:36:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- thanks for the attached program. The League meeting is very important to our mission, and sharing accomplishments/areas-for-improvement/way ahead for the agency will be my theme, and I am looking forward to the healthy discussion throughout the discussion. I am making every attempt to remain on site as long as possible daily -- but other events are pressing a bit.

The Operations Symposium was productive, as was the Directorate "back-briefs" of their Action Plans to accomplish what was directed in the Global Campaign Plan, and OPLAN (yet unsigned). I'll sign the OPLAN soon, after incorporating discussion points from this past week (which I'm confident you know about already). Vietnam War is again prioritized

for

'17/'18 for all the reasons you and I know. I will discuss that at the 47th meeting with the Vietnam War families in a macro presentation (NO slides).

I am available to your board prior to, or after the conference.

Todd is in coordination with CSA on the Pentagon Hallway dedication -- believe that is all on track, although not firmed up yet, awaiting Army completion of the Army Birthday events tomorrow -- one event at a time. We know it'll be wonderful. Program, DPAA MC, you/Chief speaking -- all good. Also in contact with DSD speechwriter on his draft comments -- want it focused appropriately in SEA/Vietnam War accounting/commitment and perhaps a flavor of US shift to the Pacific and how our mission helps. I do not have his remarks yet.

Added in CAPS some comments below. Good to be back home in DC.

Please visit our website at
Caution-Caution-Caution-<http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
[Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 7:36 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S

BG

USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US);
Livick, Todd
S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program

-

TIMED

Mike and all,

I'm assuming, and hoping, you, Fern and all are back from the Ops Symposium held last week HQ in Hawaii and that all felt the time and effort was well spent for DPAA and the mission. YES, THANK YOU

Attached you'll find the final TIMED program for this year's meeting. The final (with tributes and without timing notations) is

now at

the printer and will be delivered in plenty of time for registration. If

you would like a full copy of the final in advance of the meeting, please

feel free to send someone over and we'll be glad to provide it. In fact, it

is likely that (b)(6) or (b)(6) may be coming over sometime soon to deliver

checks in payment for those DPAA personnel who wish to attend the 47th

Annual Dinner and Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony. I'LL GET FROM (b)(6) -- THANKS FOR PROVIDING

On that subject, I do hope you and (b)(6) Fern and (b)(6) and

Mark and, if in town, (b)(6) will be our guests, including the

invitation-only reception in the Crystal Room at 6:00 PM, prior to the

dinner, at which time you'll receive your table seating and, if driving, a

Hilton Parking pass. Please confirm for all ASAP since seating is already

underway preliminarily. (b)(6) AND I WILL ATTEND ALL SOCIAL EVENTS

-- AND PAY FOR EACH. THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING HER IN THE PROGRAM INVITATION.

You'll be pleased to know that we've been in regular touch with

General Milley's office in regard to advance security requirements and will

be following up soon with the final list of VIP guests, bios and other

details. EXCELLENT -- HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE EVENT -- WE (AS WELL)

ARE IN CONTACT WITH HIS OFFICE FOR THE UNVEILING IN THE PENTATGON AT 1430

HRS ON 23 JUN.

I think you'll also be pleased to learn that our team of Sergeants-at-Arms from Idaho and Nevada were delighted with our suggestion

to be in official "uniform" only when required, such as the beginning of

Opening Session and when on duty at the Annual Dinner. During all other

sessions, they will be dressed in white "polo-type" shirts, with our POW/MIA

logo on the pocket and "Sergeant-at-Arms" stenciled over the pocket, much

like many of the people on our field teams wear when conducting operations.

THANK YOU FOR THIS -- EVERYONE WILL FEEL RIGHT AT

Caution-Caution-Caution-HOME.

In addition, once sessions begin, the Sergeants-at-Arms will
be much less visible, seated just inside the several doors to prevent
attendees from using other than the door designated for entry and exit.

Hopefully, these steps will ensure none present feel at all
"intimidated" as earlier suggested and, as you would surmise, all
are really great people from middle America with the inherent values expected.

If you have any questions or I can help in any way, please
don't hesitate to ask, and I look forward to receiving the advance copies
of the briefings once coordinated and cleared, so that we can print them in
the necessary quantities. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE BRIEFINGS -- BUT KNOW
THEY'RE IN PRODUCTION NOW.

This is going to be a larger than usual meeting, and all
seem to be expecting great things. Hopefully, you'll agree, as you stated
last year, that League annual meetings are critically important to the
mission.
ABSOLUTELY AGREE.

Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Facebook <

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Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 25 Jun 2016 01:12:59 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

Sir,
She won't want this in open forum!!!

Original Message
From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 8:19 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

FYI --

-----Original Message-----
From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 8:08 PM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

 Ann,

If I don't get offered/scheduled to speak to the board prior to 1700 hrs tomorrow, I will address the board publicly in front of the assembled audience in response to the first question tomorrow am during the Q&A (when I've got the mic).

I need to discuss 17/18 and correct the record from (b)(6) monologue, which contained many inaccuracies.

Thanks for accommodating.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 3:15 PM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

(b)(6) that's unfortunate. There were several areas I wanted to inform the Board about, so perhaps tomorrow after the Q&A?

Vr, Mike

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 12:13 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike,

With apologies for the short notice, the Board voted in our Wednesday afternoon meeting that we cancel our 2:45p meeting for today due to the anticipated time constraints and continuing meeting responsibilities, both for you and for us. We greatly appreciate your offer of your time and your support of our efforts here. Thank you.

(b)(6)

National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
208-859-3597

Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org>/ >

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From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 5 Jul 2016 20:58:49 +0000
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE (U)

Right!

Original Message
From: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 7:48 AM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Yep...I probably have same concerns which I could not express to you both via email. It's DIA decision to properly "shape" the SB mission to either allow them to continue to work independently (no change) OR change their "mission set" to be purely humanitarian.

DIA will have to step up and make a final decision.

FSW/
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Principal Director, DPAA DC Office
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----
From: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 1:44 PM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE (U)

Fern,
On leave this week. Will find time in the next day or so to contact you to talk. Have a few concerns regarding this e-mail. (b)(6) is in all week, as well as (b)(6)

MS

Original Message
From: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 5:05 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Ann,

Meeting with DIA did NOT happen. Apparently, it was not on her calendar so we will reschedule.

I'm getting ready to do a meet/greet with the U.S. Ambassador-Designate to Laos-Ms Rena Bitter. Her confirmation has not been completed but someone told her she should visit DPAA.

FSW/

Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Principal Director, DPAA DC Office
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420

(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, July 04, 2016 1:39 PM

To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)

Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE (U)

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Thanks for the reassurance, Fern, and I agree it would be helpful if the many accomplishments of SB were recognized, but invariably, when they locate a site or even locate and provide remains, it is the follow-up attribution that is recorded and known internally, i.e. a site confirmation, or a follow-up field recovery on a site discovered by SB due to interviews, research, etc.

I also know that in years past, to fight off the "territorial" inclinations, they did put together some comprehensive summaries of work accomplished resulting in contributions to the accounting mission, and I'm confident (b)(6) with input he receives via DIA channels) could put that together without too much difficulty, especially knowing that DPAA is in full support. At Mike's request for direct contact, (b)(6) had asked Mike more than once by email, noting that he was holding his comprehensive proposal to DIA leadership, pending confirmation that DPAA would welcome DIA/SB presence at Detachment 2. He had already confirmed space available at the Det, but that was while (b)(6) was the Acting Detachment Commander, but all were in support. And, as noted earlier, there was agreement by successive Ambassadors and surely there would be agreement now in view of the progressively improving mil-to-mil relationship and accompanying signals of movement in response to Vietnam's repeated appeals to expand the pace and scope of operations.

I love win-win-win solutions, especially as I'm about to go by taxi to Reagan National for my extended trip. Please let me know if I can help with anything and I hope things begin to sort themselves out productively. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO

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In a message dated 7/4/2016 1:10:55 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Thanks Ann,
Copy all below and I WILL continue to extend DPAA unfettered support for SB permanent stationing with DIA on Tuesday.

If DIA is considering not approving --aside from their internal regulatory/policy or political concerns-- I wonder if we need to show SB importance/contributions over recent years in providing case related info or coordination of lateral turnovers that have led to actual recoveries/identifications? It would be harder for DIA to argue against results-producing operations. It might be helpful if the SB guys could pull these metrics together and provide to us?

Enjoy your time with the family!

FSW/
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Acting Director, DPAA
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2016 3:59 PM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Fern, I meant to call you yesterday while in the office, but time got away from me, not an unusual occurrence these days, so I'm back at it, trying to accomplish a few things to tie up loose ends.

I depart tomorrow at 5:05 PM for San Diego, and will initially spend time with my daughter and family there, before flying on to the Bay Area to see my eldest brother and family, then to Cambria for a couple of days with life-long friends, then on to Pismo Beach for a Mills Reunion, before returning to the Bay Area and flying back to San Diego for a couple of days before flying back to DC on July 27th. Throughout, I'll be available on my cell phone, (b)(6) and most if not all of the time by this email. Feel free to call at any time.

I'm very concerned that someone with DPAA is thinking along the lines outlined below, namely that the PRC and DPRK might be sensitive to learning that DIA's well-known, long-recognized Stony Beach Team is intended to PCS to Hanoi, as we already have in Laos and Cambodia. Of course that is absurd, but I'm hoping you can bring an end to this during your conversation on Tuesday with (b)(6) and, hopefully, Melissa Drisko, directly and without filters.

To hear that anyone in DPAA should be asserting "caution" is needed lest the PRC and DPRK object to or be overly sensitive to "intelligence assets" being PCS'd to Hanoi, he/she should get a grip on reality. The key player in future Vietnam War accounting IS the SRV, and they have indicated they are on board, know the nature and objectives of Stony Beach, and have NO problem with their being permanently in Hanoi, so long as the outward signals are directly related to the accounting mission/DPAA, just as I've repeatedly and faithfully reported to DoD/DPAA and its predecessor organizations. DIA is simply looking to DPAA, as the primary DoD agency responsible, for concurrence. Successive US Ambassadors have been on board and supportive, even giving up State and other billets in Hanoi to get SRV approval, but it was a bit too early from them at that time. NOW, is the time, due to agreement by both governments to continue to increase the bilateral relationship, including mil-to-mil, so the opportunity is definitely here, and the signals by moving now are completely within current broader policy, as they are priority on the accounting mission.

I sincerely hope you, as Acting Director, don't allow DPAA to be the reason this long-sought plus-up doesn't go forward as planned; that would be tragic, a self-inflicted wound for no substantive reason.

Obviously, DPAA can use the relatively cost-free additional assets to augment investigations in Vietnam, can be attributed to USG increasing the "pace and scope" the SRV has consistently requested since 2009, and DIA/SB's plan is to plus-up Vietnam coverage, with an adequate number of Vietnamese-speaking specialists. The question becomes, what is there to lose? It certainly won't mean any less PRC cooperation, likely quite the opposite, and it definitely would not have an adverse impact on the ZERO cooperation currently provided by the lunatic running the North Korean people into the ground.

You wanted to wait until Mike was gone before we talked, and I understand his last day in the office was June 30th, though on terminal leave until July 18th, perhaps to get moved and resettled. As you know, I'm willing to help you and Mark in any way possible, as I was Mike, but I think you're more secure in yourself than he was or ever will be, or so is my observation to date. I was very pleased to see the deadline for applications on the Director position extended until July 15th, an additional 15 days, though of course I have no idea who has applied, or will, just know that it will take a self-confident, intelligent, committed person to have any chance of success, and that is ONLY if he/she is self-confident and intelligent enough to listen and learn from knowledgeable civilians, plus build the trust necessary to succeed in restoring workforce and family member/veteran confidence.

Mark, I'm copying you because I feel you, as Deputy Director, also need to be fully aware, in case you're asked separately. Were I in your position, I would not want to be blind-sided, so I'm sure you don't either. You also feel free to call whenever you wish; I'm disappointed more than you can possibly know that my planned "exit strategy" went by the wayside with Mike's resignation, taking all my hopes and plans for writing a long-planned book on the history of our POW/MIA accounting efforts. That story needs to be told and will be all the more interesting written by the only female, non-government participant in the POW/MIA Interagency Group, with a TOP SECRET clearance, working with senior US officials to

develop the strategy and move toward normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam, as well as with Laos and Cambodia. It hasn't been boring, that's for sure, but I'm deeply saddened over what has occurred, knowing Mike's sudden departure means I'm not yet free to step back/out.

Let me know how I can help and I'm there. Sincerely and respectfully, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@mail.mil, (b)(6)@mail.mil, (b)(6)@dodiis.mil
CC: (b)(6)@mail.mil
Sent: 7/2/2016 12:37:17 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths

As cautioned earlier, and the potential danger/damage grows, as this Mickey Bergman obviously is in communication with the DPRK delegation to the UN. (b)(6) goes back to the early 1980s, and he does make contact with foreign governments which do their best to use him to their advantage. Here it is again, and I advise you bring this to Fern's and Mark Spindler's attention, NOT that they should communicate with (b)(6) the Richardson people nor the DPRK official, but so that others at the NSC and State can be prepared, as well as Dave Shear, ASD/APSA and now Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy (or some such title).

If you prefer that I handle this, let me know, but clearly DPAA "leadership" would be unaware of the historical record on this. I have to talk with Fern anyway before I leave town on the 4th due to absurd discussions going on about the pros and cons of Stony Beach working out of the Detachment 2 office (in addition to their "real" office in the DATT's office). While I have no clue about the impetus/rationale, or lack of the latter, involved in this discussion, perhaps some are unaware that SB has been embedded in all field operations since 1992, their mission IS the accounting for Vietnam War missing, especially augmentation of DPAA's (and predecessors') collection of information on LKA and other discrepancy cases, archives, interviewing, etc. IF one just looked at the signals to the DPRK, PRC, Russia and others, they already know and have long known who SB is, who they work for and why, plus the Vietnamese have spelled out their welcome so long as they have the "front" of working within the DPAA spaces.

Of course that doesn't even consider the positive signals being institutionalized in the interest of both the US and SRV that the military-to-military relationship has been and is continuing to expand, to the benefit of regional security and stability, in particular the signals to the PRC and DPRK. One would think those engaged realize this. Arguments to the contrary should be carefully scrutinized for possible self-serving objectives, also recognizing that SB is the only USG asset still focused solely on Vietnam War accounting. Any move to restrict rather than expand and reinforce their integration, would be extremely negative for DPAA. That would be especially true after all the efforts made and Hanoi's positive responses, as well as their repeated appeals to expand the pace and scope of US efforts, PCS of Stony

Beach into Vietnam now can be viewed favorably and noted as adding to the US accounting effort.

It's that simple, at least in my view, and feel free to share this with Fern and Mark Spindler, but clearly, there is an absence of informed, experienced capability in the Policy Plans Directorate, not that John Unangst's departure had anything but a positive impact. Later, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

Facebook < Caution-Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >

Twitter < Caution-Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com
Sent: 7/2/2016 10:54:52 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Fwd: U.S. Missing In Action - Korean U.S. POW/MIA Effort Must Take Center Stage

(b)(6):
B/Copy:
Progress !
(b)(6)

Hi (b)(6),

Thank you for reaching out. My name is Mickey Bergman and I run the Richardson Center for Governor Richardson.

I met yesterday with Kwon and he indeed told me about your outreach.

I will give you a call on Tuesday to discuss further.

Thank you,
Mickey

Sent from my iPhone

Mickey Bergman
@mickeybergman

On Jul 2, 2016, at 8:20 AM, "(b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com > " <(b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com > > wrote:

Dear Former Ambassador. & Gov. Bill Richardson:

As directed by Mr. Kwon, DPK - Korea, we are seeking your help as well in obtaining special permission for our U.S. DPAA JFI teams to re-enter Korea.

Thank you and we look forward towards further discussion and in reaching our goals in recovering all 5,300 that died in captivity there during the Korean War.

Thank you.

Mr. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

USA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-Caution-mailto (b)(6)@gmail.com >

<legion_display_big_lowres.jpg>

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

Ann,

How come your working from your vacation spot - what's up with that!!!! :)

Amb Clune seems very confident that both Ben Rhodes and Secretary Kerry will SPECIFICALLY set the conditions with the Lao to favorably accept (or at least address and acknowledge) our request/need for base-camping and increase in personnel cap prior to the POTUS visit. The play here is to use the visit to entice the Lao to demonstrate greater cooperation in our efforts - and not "disappoint" our government requests on this historical visit.

Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 4:10 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Upcoming Kerry Visit & Planning for early September (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Ann,

FSW/
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Acting Director, DPAA
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: , [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 9:19 PM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Upcoming Kerry Visit & Planning for early September

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hello Fern and Mark,

I hope all is well in each of your domains, and am looking forward to the update on July 28th. At that time, however, I understand that Secretary Kerry will be in Vientiane conducting advance talks in anticipation of the President's early September visit.

Understanding that Ben Rhodes is currently in o4r imminently arriving in Vientiane, I'm hopeful that he iis recognizing the fundamental role the acco9untingh mission has played in the bilateral relationship, much more so on a continuing basis than even with Vietnam or Cambodia.

Toward that objective, I'd appreciate your thoughts and recommendations to staff as to what specifically will be raised and in what context? Certainly, the new PM is well-versed and familiar with the entire history of this reality, as are most in the Lao leadership.

Thanks in advance for your response, and best to all in both locations. As ever, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22031
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org >

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 25 May 2016 16:06:53 -0400
To: Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US)
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Holland, Thomas D (Dr. (ST-SES)) CIV DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Latest DRAFT 47th Annual Meeting Program
Attachments: 47thAnMtgDrft_5-25-16_TIMED.pdf

This is the latest version, dated today, for the annual meeting program, now having adapted to the unwelcome loss of both (b)(6) and (b)(6). The rearrangement of time and personnel on Friday, June 24th, by raising the profile and time of (b)(6) and (b)(6) is the most significant change. It is also the best scenario I can devise to cover the core of mission-related interest to the Vietnam War families.

All participants are confirmed, other than Ben Rhodes, NSC staff, covering the President's just concluded visit to Hanoi and Saigon/HCMC where the lack of significant reference to the accounting effort was, to put it nicely, stunning. Of course it may be as a result of the usual media bias toward anything related to the Vietnam War accounting effort, having never recovered from earlier false theories that this mission was an obstacle to normalization, rather than the useful bridge it actually was. Best to all, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >*

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

***National League of Families
of
American Prisoners & Missing
in Southeast Asia***

DRAFT 5/25/16



47th Annual Meeting

***June 22-25, 2016
Hilton Crystal City Hotel
Arlington, Virginia***

Board of Directors

Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board, Virginia

(b)(6) Idaho

(b)(6) Secretary, Texas

(b)(6) Treasurer, Nebraska

(b)(6) Florida

(b)(6) Michigan

(b)(6) Kentucky

Annual Meeting Chairman

(b)(6)

Assistant Chairmen

(b)(6)

Committee Chairmen

Annual Dinner & Registration

Boutique

Commemorative Program

Communications

Credentials Distribution

Credentials Verification

Orientation

Resolutions

Sergeants-at-Arms

Special Events

(b)(6)

Lacy Rourke

(b)(6)

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

BADGES: All attendees, except uniformed military officials, must wear a visible, color-coded badge on the lanyard provided at registration for entrance into all League-hosted and Service-hosted events, including off-site events. ANY alteration to a badge will result in revocation and denial of admittance.

White – League (voting) family members

Blue – non-League family members

Green – US officials

Yellow – family members attending only DoD briefings

Tan – League associate members

Grey – concerned citizens

Red – media

INFORMATION AND PRESS: Located in the **Virginia Ballroom Foyer, Plaza Level**. Direct inquiries to Communications Chairman Lacy Rourke (b)(6) @gmail.com or call Hilton Crystal City (703) 418-6800 and ask for the League Office.

DoD OFFICES: Vietnam War investigators and analysts will again be available in the Service Casualty Offices throughout the League's meeting to support individual Case File Reviews with families. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to share information with these specialists, preferably NOT in conflict with critical government briefings, the legal justification for DoD-provided transportation. US officials will be present by noon on Wednesday, June 22nd. All Service Casualty Offices are located on the 1st floor:

USA

USN/USMC/Civilian

USAF

DPAA

Blue Ridge Room

Shenandoah Room

Skyline Room

Luray Room

Individual Case File Reviews will be held in these locations from noon to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please try to schedule reviews at times outside of sessions during which critical information is presented. Instead, ask for early morning, lunch or dinner breaks.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Newcomer Orientation: There will be an important informational session in the Patrick Henry Board Room, First Floor, on Wednesday, June 22nd, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. First-time attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Twilight Tattoo: Thanks to support from the Vietnam War Commemoration, Army-provided bus transportation to the Ft. Myer Twilight Tattoo will begin boarding at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22nd, for those credentialed. The program is from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at which time buses return to the Hilton.

The **47th Annual Meeting Dinner** will be preceded by a no-host reception in the Virginia Ballroom Foyer on Thursday, June 23rd, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Virginia Ballroom and conclude at 9:00 p.m.

Workshops: Two specialized workshops will be held in the Richmond and Roanoke Rooms, Lobby Level, on Friday, June 24th, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Service Hosted Luncheons will be held Friday, June 24th, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Virginia Ballroom, Plaza Level:

USA
USN/USMC/Civilian
USAF

Washington Room
Adams Room
Madison Room

Workshop: You are urged to attend a special workshop, **Maximizing Benefit from DPAA's Website**. Specialists will give registered attendees guidance on how to get the most in terms of useful information, helpful in preparation for the future family-member-accessible Case Management System. This forum will be in the Commonwealth Ballroom, Lobby Level, on Friday, June 24th, 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

United States Marine Corps Evening Parade: Participation is limited to the first one hundred attendees with authorized badges. The performance at the historic USMC Barracks at 8th and I Streets is Friday, June 24th; buses will begin boarding at 6:30 p.m.

League-Hosted Farewell Reception will be held Saturday, June 25th, in the Crystal Room, Plaza Level, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

BOUTIQUE: The League Boutique will open in the Old Dominion Board Room, Plaza Level, on Wednesday, June 22nd, at 3:00 p.m. and during posted hours throughout the meeting. There will be a Silent Auction prior to the 47th Annual Dinner.

DISPLAYS: Vietnam War Commemoration, Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) displays are located in the Virginia Ballroom Foyer, Plaza Level, available for public review by noon on Wednesday, June 22nd.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS: To ensure availability at the start of the Business Session, Saturday, June 25th, 2:00 p.m., resolutions must be submitted in writing to Resolutions Chairman (b)(6) by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24th. Resolutions not prepared in advance may still be introduced on the floor.

BUSINESS SESSION: The League Business Session, to be held June 25th, 2:00 p.m., in the Virginia Ballroom, is open to all credentialed attendees. Only dues-current Family Members (white badges) are eligible to vote.

DNA TESTING: Family members who have not provided a sample for DNA comparison are encouraged to do so; check with your Service Casualty Office on the First Floor to determine eligibility.

EMERGENCIES/CELL PHONES: In case of emergency, call the Hilton Crystal City Hotel operator. All phones must be silenced during all sessions, including the 47th Annual Dinner.

SMOKING & VAPOR CIGARETTES: These are strictly prohibited in meeting rooms. There are posted smoking areas outside the Hilton Crystal City Hotel.

DRESS CODE: The dress for the meeting sessions is business casual, or Military Class B, and for the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner, the dress for ladies is cocktail attire and, for men, suit and tie or Military Class A.

ACCESS: With appropriate credentials, all are eligible to participate. *Must purchase dinner ticket(s) to attend. **League Family Members ONLY are eligible to vote; all are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

3:00 PM 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION & CREDENTIALS DISTRIBUTION	Virginia Ballroom Foyer Plaza Level
4:00 PM 5:00 PM	ORIENTATION FOR NEW ATTENDEES	Patrick Henry Board Room First Floor
5:30 PM	Board Buses to Fort Myer	Hilton Hotel Rear Entrance Lobby Level
6:00 PM 8:30 PM	TWILIGHT TATTOO Fort Myer Ceremonial Field	
8:45 PM	Board Buses for Hilton	

Thursday, June 23, 2016

7:15 AM 8:45 AM	REGISTRATION & CREDENTIALS DISTRIBUTION	Virginia Ballroom Foyer Plaza Level
9:00 AM 11:30 AM	OPENING GENERAL SESSION	Virginia Ballroom, Plaza Level
	<u>Call to Order</u> <i>Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, MIA Sister Chairman of the Board of Directors, Presiding</i>	(2 min)
	<u>Presentation of Colors</u> <i>POW*MIA Elko (NV), Boise Valley, Magic Valley & Pocatello (ID) Awareness Associations</i>	(5 min)
	<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> <i>Mrs. (b)(6) MIA/RR Sister & Board Member</i>	(2 min)

Invocation (3 min)
Ms. (b)(6) *MIA Daughter & Board Member*

"America the Beautiful" (5 min)
Ms. (b)(6) *Underwater Archeologist*
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

In Memory & Honor (5 min)
Ms. (b)(6) *MIA Daughter & Board Secretary*

Keynote Remarks: **The Honorable Robert O. Work** (20 min)
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Unveiling of National POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster (5 min)
Deputy Secretary Work & Ms. Mills-Griffiths

Presentation of League Awards (20 min)

Title, Post-Vietnam Trip, TBD
Mr. Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor (Invited) (20 min)
National Security Council Staff, White House

The Long Road to Today (20 min)
Mr. (b)(6) *Deputy Director*
Outreach & Communications Directorate
DPAA, Hawaii

A Glimpse into the Future (20 min)
Mr. (b)(6) *Senior League Policy Advisor*
Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council, 1981 – 1989

Assessing Today's Reorganization (20 min)
Ms. Mills-Griffiths

11:30 AM
1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM
3:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION – NATIONAL POLICY

Virginia Ballroom

Ms. Mills-Griffiths, Presiding

Today's Mission, Priority & Objectives

(30 min)

Mr. Michael Linnington, Director

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs

(20 min)

General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF, (Ret)

Operational Perspective Worldwide

(20 min)

BG Mark Spindler, USA, Deputy Director

DPAA, Hawaii

Facilitating Family & Veteran Engagement

(20 min)

Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Staff Director

DPAA, Washington, DC

Strategic Partnerships – Update

(20 min)

Dr. Thomas Holland, Director, Strategic Initiatives

DPAA, Washington, DC

3:00 PM
4:00 PM

FROM THE VETERANS' PERSPECTIVE

Virginia Ballroom

Mr. (b)(6)

Special Operations Association, Washington Liaison

Mr. (b)(6)

Executive Director & Assistant Adjutant General, VFW

Major General James T. Jackson, USAF (Ret)

Director, Vietnam War Commemoration

4:00 PM
6:00 PM

DINNER BREAK PREPARATION

Boutique 4:00 – 4:30 PM

Old Dominion Ex. Board Room, Plaza Level

6:00 PM

NO-HOST RECEPTION

Virginia Ballroom Foyer

Special Boutique items will be on display for Silent Auction

7:00 PM

***47th ANNUAL DINNER & COMMEMORATIVE
CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY**

Virginia Ballroom
Plaza Level

Welcome

(2 min)

Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, MIA Sister, Chairman of the Board

Presentation of Colors, National Anthem & Service Medley
*Armed Forces Color Guard, Military District of Washington
United States Army Band's Army Voices*

(15 min)

Missing Man Honors Table

(10 min)

Mr. (b)(6) League Veterans Advisor

Invocation

(5 min)

*Father Paul K. Hurley, MG, CHC, USA
Chief of Chaplains, USA*

Dinner

(20 min)

Introduction of Special Guests

(15 min)

Ms. Mills-Griffiths

Remarks:

**General Mark A. Milley, USA
Chief of Staff, United States Army**

(20 min)

Presentation of League Distinguished Service Award

(10 min)

Special Music

*Ms. (b)(6) & SSgt (b)(6) USMC
Vietnam War Commemoration*

Candlelight Ceremony Honoring Vietnam War POW/MIAs, (20 min)
8 Americans & 10 Vietnamese Who Died Working to Account for Them

*USA, USMC, USN, USAF Service Casualty Candle Lighters
Roll Call of Personnel Honored – Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh,
General Milley & SGM (b)(6) USA*

9:00 PM

Benediction

(5 min)

Father Hurley

Friday, June 24, 2016

8:30 AM
11:30 AM

GENERAL SESSION

Virginia Ballroom
Plaza Level

Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, Presiding

Options for Applying Advanced Underwater Technology

Commodore (b)(6) USN

(30 min)

*Commander, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Two
Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Ft. Story, Virginia*

*Ms. (b)(6) Historian/Underwater Archeologist
DPAA, Hawaii*

(15 min)

DIA's Role in the POW/MIA Accounting Mission

*Ms. Melissa Drisko, Deputy Director-Designate
Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)*

(15 min)

Augmenting DPAA's Investigation Process

DIA Stony Beach Panel

(60 min)

Mr. (b)(6) Stony Beach Program Manager, DIA Headquarters

Mr. (b)(6) DIA Stony Beach Specialist, Vientiane, Laos

Mr. (b)(6) DIA Stony Beach Specialist, Hanoi, Vietnam

Mr. (b)(6) DIA Stony Beach Specialist, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mr. (b)(6) DIA Stony Beach Specialist, Bangkok, Thailand

Private Sector Panel

(60 min)

Mr. (b)(6) League Intelligence & Research Advisor

Mr. (b)(6) Researcher, Vietnam Intelligence Analyst

Mr. (b)(6) Imagery Analyst

Mr. (b)(6) Researcher, Aircraft Analysis

11:45 AM
12:45 PM

WORKSHOPS

Commonwealth Ballroom, Lobby Level

Pursuing an MIA Case – Your Role

Richmond Room

Ms. (b)(6) Chairman

Dealing with Ambiguous Loss

Roanoke Room

Ms. (b)(6) Chairman

Mr. (b)(6) Workshop Leader

1:00 PM 2:30 PM	SERVICE HOSTED LUNCHEONS	Virginia Ballroom, Plaza Level
	USA USN/USMC/Civilian USAF	Washington Room Adams Room Madison Room
2:45 PM 3:45 PM	DPAA WORKSHOP	Commonwealth Ballroom, Lobby Level
	<u>Maximizing Your Benefit from DPAA's Website</u>	
4:00 PM 6:00 PM	GENERAL SESSION	Virginia Ballroom, Plaza Level
	<i>Ms. Mills-Griffiths, Presiding</i>	
	<u>Asia & Pacific Regional Approach</u>	(30 min)
	<i>Col Michael Gann, USMC, Director, Asia Pacific Directorate DPAA, Hawaii</i>	
	<u>Today's Vietnam War Accounting Process</u>	(30 min)
	<i>Mr. (b)(6) Asia Pacific Directorate DPAA, Hawaii</i>	
	<u>Analyses in Support of Policy & Operations</u>	(30 min)
	<i>Mr. (b)(6) Asia Pacific Directorate DPAA, Washington, DC</i>	
	<u>Technological Advances as Part of the ID Process</u>	(30 min)
	<i>Lt Col Alice Briones, MD, USAF Chief Deputy Medical Examiner & Director, DoD DNA Registry</i>	
6:30 PM	Board Buses to 8 th & I <i>Space is limited to the first arrivals; all must have badges.</i>	Lobby Level
8:30 PM	UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS EVENING PARADE <i>USMC Barracks, 8th & I Streets, SE, Washington, DC</i>	
10:00 PM	Buses return to Hilton Crystal City Hotel	

Saturday, June 25, 2016

9:00 AM
12:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION

Virginia Ballroom
Plaza Level

Ms. Mills-Griffiths, Presiding

Department of Defense Q&A Panel

Department of Defense presenters will respond to questions from family members and, time permitting, veterans and others, covering any and all subjects raised in prior sessions.

12:00 PM
2:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM
5:00 PM

****LEAGUE BUSINESS SESSION**

Ms. Mills-Griffiths, Presiding

From the League Office

(15 min)

Ms. (b)(6) *League Administrator*

Treasurer's Report/Annual Audit

(15 min)

Mr. (b)(6) *MIA Brother, League Treasurer*

Resolutions for Consideration

(60 min)

Mr. (b)(6) *MIA/RR Son, Resolutions Chairman*

Open Discussion

(30 min)

Presentation, by Alvin Townley, Author

(30 min)

DEFIANT: The POWs Who Endured Vietnam's Most Infamous Prison, the Women Who Fought for Them, and the One Who Never Returned

6:30 PM
8:00 PM

LEAGUE-HOSTED FAREWELL RECEPTION

Crystal Room
Plaza Level

2015/2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(b)(6)

MIA Daughter
Sarasota, FL

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org

(b)(6)

MIA Daughter, Secretary
Austin, TX

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org

Ann Mills-Griffiths
MIA Sister, Chairman of the Board
Arlington, VA
(703) 465-7432

(b)(6)@aol.com

(b)(6)

MIA Brother, Treasurer
Lincoln, NE

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org

(b)(6)

MIA/RR Sister
Troy, MI

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@gmail.com

(b)(6)

Boise, ID

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@aol.com

(b)(6)

MIA Daughter
Hopkinsville, KY

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org

LEAGUE OFFICE

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 465-7432

(b)(6)

(703) 465-7432

(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org

Lacy Rourke
Document Administrator
(703) 465-7432

(b)(6)@gmail.com

(b)(6)

Assistant Document Administrator
(703) 465-7432

(b)(6)@gmail.com

With appropriate credentials, all are eligible to participate.

***Must purchase dinner ticket(s) to attend.**

****League Family Members ONLY are eligible to vote; all are welcome to attend.**

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #20818

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 28 Apr 2016 13:30:28 -0400
To: Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Additional Historical Documents of Interest
Attachments: NSC-WA.Times_12-10-1986.pdf, RTC.to.Perot_9-9-1986.pdf, RTC.to.VVA-Nat'l_11-22-1985.pdf, RTC-McFarlane.re.Perot-Undated.pdf

These weren't available until today, so felt you all could benefit from also ingesting them. Especially note the WA Times article on "wipe-out" of the 46-member NSC staff, versus the roughly 400 in today's NSC staff?? Later, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >



Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >



Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

red to buy purported POW videotape

Defense Department hasn't closed books on MIAs

The U.S. Defense Department, although unable to confirm any reports of Americans being prisoner since the fall of Saigon in 1975, keeps an open mind on the question of prisoners of war.

Although we have thus far been unable to find out that Americans are still detained against will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility," the Defense Department has stated.

The Defense Department says that of 881 "first-hand live sighting reports," 136 are "under continuing investigation."

In July, Vietnamese officials agreed to investigate live sighting reports of Americans missing in action and allow joint on-scene investigations with U.S. experts.

President Reagan pledged in July to "apply every resource we can to achieve the fullest possible accounting" of American servicemen

of the Vietnam War era who are still missing in Southeast Asia.

U.S. and Vietnamese officials have met seven times to discuss the issue of more than 2,000 Americans missing in action since the Vietnam War.

The Hanoi government agreed in March 1983 to try to resolve the MIA issue within two years.

Perot said. "It was just a tactic to embarrass the North Vietnamese into changing treatment of their prisoners, which they did."

When the POWs were released, and the nation turned its back on the returning soldiers, Perot said for and organized parties and parades to celebrate their homecoming. Later, he hired hundreds of the young men at Electronics Data Systems Corp.

Since then Perot has stayed in contact with families of those missing in action.

"My biggest disappointment is that we never got all the prisoners back from Vietnam," he said in a recent interview. "I know there are still guys over there, but we need proof. These guys in Washington are sitting on their hands about the MIA's. We know they're there, they know they're there, everybody knows they're there, but they have this mindset about talking about it because they think it's the ultimate hostage problem."

and other evidence of live Americans and other allied POWs being held in Southeast Asia," he wrote.

Affidavit signed by "Obassy" was provided in conjunction

Smith's lawsuit said that, a dealer in precious metals, had access to border and cen-

regions of Laos where free agents showed him "sites or camps which had male Caucasian Asian prisoners — some in cages — who were heavily

guarded by Vietnamese."

Smith said he had met "Obassy" last January in Cyprus and had seen a four-hour videotape of men, handcuffed and chained, being marched down a road. "The prisoners were described — as I saw them — as American and Korean," Smith said.

Until recently, Gregson was in jail in Singapore on a fraud charge.

The Defense Department lists 2,441 Americans who did not return from the conflict in Southeast

Asia. The Defense Intelligence Agency lists 881 cases of alleged sightings of live Americans being held prisoner since the fall of Saigon in 1975. The agency says that of those sightings, 136 cases are unrefuted, with the rest disproven.

Perot first became involved in the POW issue in December 1969 at the behest of the Nixon administration. In an effort to embarrass the North Vietnamese into improving treatment of the prisoners of

war, Perot spearheaded a national movement to collect mail, clothes and medical supplies, hoping to fly two Boeing 767's into Hanoi.

He spent \$4 million on the project, and although he was refused entry, Perot said he received \$60 million worth of media attention focused on the plight of the POW.

"I never cared if the public thought I was a funny guy trying to deliver Christmas presents,"

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 5 May 2016 17:35:51 -0400
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); (b)(6)
(b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths

You're most welcome, Mike and I'm optimistic about the President's visit, thus the importance of the meeting in the Roosevelt Room on May 12th. I do hope your schedule will allow it and that is why I called (b)(6) early this morning.

I still have a few invitation letters not yet sent due to far too much on my plate, but otherwise, things seem to be proceeding very well, for which I'm thankful. Even all of the volunteers are lined up and ready to roll, so at this point, all seems on track.

I'll be sure to send over Vinh's remarks when I get them.

Best to all, have a great evening, Ann

PS: Fern was an excellent "stand-in" at the Lao Embassy last Saturday, and all seemed to enjoy meeting and talking with her, as much as she did with them, a definite asset for DPAA and the mission.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >



Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >



Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 5/5/2016 4:56:36 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- thanks for sharing, and for your leadership in preparing the entire NSC/DOS/WH for the POTUS visit later this month. I agree -- it is a critical visit, and SRV is our most critical partner in the accounting mission. I look forward to spending time with the Ambassador (and other Ambassadors) at the conference/candlelight dinner. I trust all the support and requested speakers are lining up -- if anything is askew, pls let me know directly.

I too would love to see the Ambassador's Austin remarks if available. Thanks.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto (b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 9:06 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)

Cc: (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US) (b)(6)

CIV DPAA PPS (US)

Subject: Fwd: Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Mike & All, I wanted you to see my policy-loaded email to the Vietnamese Ambassador, along with my letter of invitation related to his attendance, as well as participation in the Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call or email, and best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us
Sent: 5/4/2016 3:49:40 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Good afternoon, Vinh,

I hope this note finds you well and am confident you are as busy as ever. If not too much of an imposition, I wanted to ask you for a copy of your presentation to the Vietnam War Symposium, recently held in Austin, Texas. (b)(6) the MIA daughter whom you met who serves on our Board of Directors, indicated she was quite impressed with your remarks; thus, I'm eager to read them myself.

The article below is also encouraging, as are the stockpiles of tanks and other armaments, in demonstrating the increasing military to military cooperation in the context of our ever-improving and expanding bilateral relationship. It is certainly a clear reminder of how we have come over the decades since the end of the war and my initial interaction with your leadership in 1982.

President Obama's upcoming visit, like General Secretary Trong's last year, provides opportunities which none of us should allow to pass without maximizing the extent to which both sides are cooperating. In my view, there is a solid basis for optimism about the future of relations between our two countries, and I fully recognize the important role the POW/MIA mission has played in that evolutionary process.

We clearly share the hope that the President's visit will be constructive and useful in moving our two countries further forward on a broad range of issues, including on our accounting cooperation. Toward that objective, please convey to your leadership my hope that Vietnam will propose or commit to a renewed and strengthened accounting effort, further expanding what we have worked together to achieve. I am confident such a proposal or commitment would be very well-received by our President. It

would also be welcomed by all in our country, whether family members, veterans or members of both countries' military services.

We look forward to having you with us again this year for our 47th Annual Meeting Dinner on June 23rd and sincerely hope you'll agree to participate in the special commemoration, as outlined in the attached letter of invitation. The original is en route via US Postal Service, but I wanted you to have my letter ASAP to get it onto your official schedule. Call or send me a note if you have any questions.

So much has happened of late, including the many changes in your leadership. On that subject, I would very much like to send a letter of appreciation to former Prime Minister Dung for the leadership he showed in building bilateral cooperation during critical years. Since I don't know how to reach him by directly by mail or email, and if you agree, I'd appreciate your willingness to assure its receipt by forwarding a letter to him. If acceptable, I'll write such a letter forthwith.

Finally, if your schedule permits and you have time for lunch sometime soon, I would enjoy a chance to meet and catch up a bit, so please let me know. Perhaps one day next week?

Respectfully and with warm regards, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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Facebook < Caution-Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> >

Twitter < Caution-Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

Carter: 'Yes' To Arms Sales To Vietnam; DoD Won't Elaborate < Caution-Caution-<http://breakingdefense.com/2016/04/carter-yes-to-arms-sales-to-vietnam-dod-wont-elaborate/> >

By SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG JR. < Caution-Caution-<http://breakingdefense.com/author/sydney-j-freedberg-jr/> > on April 29, 2016 at 11:50 AM

Defense Secretary Ash Carter with his Vietnamese counterpart in 2015<Caution-Caution-<http://breakingdefense.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/03/SecDef-Carter-signs-mil-to-mil-with-Vietnamese-150601-D-NI589-961-1024x683.jpg>>

Defense Secretary Ash Carter with his Vietnamese counterpart in 2015

WASHINGTON: One word from Defense Secretary Ash Carter yesterday opened the door to US arms sales to Vietnam, a former enemy turned potential ally against a rising China. The administration has tiptoed towards easing the ban on lethal weapons sales ever since Vietnamese president Truong Tan Sang met with Obama in 2013 <

Caution-Caution-<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/07/25/remarks-president-obama-and-president-truong-tan-sang-vietnam-after-billa> > , but Carter's statement goes farther at a critical time, on the eve of Obama's first visit to Vietnam.

It was an exchange so brief and muted I had to listen to the audio half-a-dozen times and check with sources before I could believe Carter had really said something so momentous, yet apparently so casually. At yesterday's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Sen. Dan Sullivan showed a map revealing how Chinese fighters could potentially strike throughout the South China Sea, the northern Philippines, and Vietnam. SASC chairman John McCain — a former prisoner of war in Hanoi turned advocate of reconciliation — followed up with this question to Carter: "You would support lifting restrictions on provision of weapons to the Vietnamese?"

Carter's response? "We've discussed this in the past, and I appreciate your leadership in that regard, Chairman, and yes."

That final "yes" is the figurative bombshell that might let the US sell literal bombshells to Vietnam, which has fought multiple wars and skirmishes with its ancient enemy, China, since the US withdrawal in 1973.

"Assuming he [Carter] has a green light from the White House, this is a genuine shift," said Patrick Cronin, director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. "The Obama administration went halfway in this direction when it announced a partial lifting of the ban; this would go all the way if Congress lets it happen."

"An unfettered arms sales policy toward Vietnam would give strategic weight to America's rebalance to Asia," continued Cronin, a longtime advocate of such sales. < Caution-Caution-<http://www.wsj.com/articles/fontaine-cronin-the-case-for-u-s-arms-sales-to-vietnam-1405443723> > "The timing is crucial, given that China is stretching its influence over the South China Sea in advance of the international tribunal ruling (on China's territorial dispute with the Philippines) and President Obama is preparing for his first visit to Hanoi."

Besides the strategic symbolism of the US standing with Vietnam — which has already agreed to US Army stockpiles of humanitarian supplies on its soil — arms exports could assist Vietnamese operations to secure their airspace and waters against Chinese intrusion.

"Drones are an interesting possibility," said Dean Cheng of the Heritage Foundation. So are long-range radars and other intelligence-gathering tools, and perhaps helicopters for maritime patrol and resupply of island outposts.

"What they don't need, for example, is M-16 rifles," Cheng said. Vietnam's military is mainly equipped with robust Russian-made or similar equipment, he noted, and bringing in large quantities of maintenance-hungry American-made gear would require "opening up a new supply system in Vietnam, training an entire new logistical cadre."

"Their military infrastructure is built on Soviet tech," agreed Gregory Poling, head of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The administration is therefore looking at those areas where Vietnam doesn't have much of a current capability—long-range air patrol, Coast Guard, radar, etc.—not fighter jets and the like."

In the longer term, added Cronin, "completely lifting the ban on lethal arms sales sets up the possibility of genuine co-production of defense arms in the years and

decades ahead. Joint production is far more likely to be sustainable and serious than simply transferring excess military hardware."

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 6 May 2016 10:29:04 -0400
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Black, Sheila G (Shelly) Col USAF (US) (b)(6) (b)(6) DPAA FO (US) (b)(6) DPAA FO (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Case categorization

Sounds fine, and look forward to seeing you in your office this time, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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703-465-7432
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Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 5/6/2016 10:05:47 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- of course, I'll meet face to face to listen to your concerns directly. I did read your memo -- and believe staff articulated things clearly, but perhaps not to your satisfaction.

(b)(6) -- schedule another office call with Ann please. End of next week in our spaces.

Please visit our website at Caution-http://www.dpaa.mil/

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Cc: (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern
O SES DPAA FO (US); Black, Sheila G (Shelly) Col USAF (US); (b)(6)
(b)(6) DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) DPAA FO (US);
(b)(6) CIV DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO
(US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Case categorization

Good morning, Mike, and thanks for the feedback.

You're more than welcome on taking time to interact and try to contribute to the categorization process. I appreciate my views being considered by your staff, though regret your ultimate decision.

I have confidence in the integrity and commitment of the analytic community that determines categorization; therefore, my greatest concern since becoming aware of the April 2015 language was the families' perceptions of DPAA, families of all wars, not "just" the Vietnam War. That concern has been only marginally alleviated by removing "impractical" from the deferred categorization.

I respectfully disagree with your belief that deleting "deferred" from the list of categories would require DPAA to "throw everything out, and start (again), anew." Deleting "deferred" would have meant analysis of only one category of cases, many of which are the roughly 5,300 Korean War cases in the DPRK. As to WWII, I understood from your staff that the majority have not yet been reviewed and placed into categories, understandable considering the volume.

I fully agree that categorization is internally helpful and necessary for DPAA, especially in establishing priorities to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness, but the importance to the individual families cannot be overstated. As each one is hoping and praying for accountability in their lifetime, DPAA's categorization is crucial. All are impacted; thus my concern over their perception of DPAA. Nevertheless, the decision was yours to make and the consequences are yours to defend.

I also regret that there was no face to face discussion before you reached a final decision, though recognize you were returning from your NEA Asia trip when the staff discussion occurred.

Onward, best to all, and have a great weekend, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-
miafamilies.org/ >

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

In a message dated 5/6/2016 5:40:37 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Good morning Ann,

As mentioned in my earlier note today, I huddled with the P&P/OC team to discuss specifics of case management after your visit to our spaces last week -- thanks for making the time to do so and offering perspectives on behalf of the Vietnam War families. After reviewing, I've agreed to modify the wording of the case categorization memo to better reflect the accounting community commitment to our mission, and not have words that could be misconstrued as cavalier or perceiving 'inconvenience'. Unfortunately, due to the 2-year time/effort that went into arriving and binning our cases, I am reluctant to start that process all over again, and throw everything out, and start (again), anew. Coupled with case categories being designed primarily for the internal use of our researchers and analysts within DPAA (and being quite dynamic), as circumstances change as new evidence arises.

I've decided to retain the "deferred" (pursuit) category, however it will now read: "deferred cases are assessed to have no new and/or viable leads, or site access." Concur with deleting "field operations impractical" -- not appropriate. Really has nothing to do with impracticality (if such a word) -- more about access/information.

I look forward to explaining these categories if you'd like and hand out the memos at the summer conference.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) USAF DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US)
Subject: FW: E-Copy of case categorization meeting with Ms. Mills-Griffith (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Mr. Linnington,

Sir, paper copy is in your box, but electrons are available as needed. Edits made in coordination with (b)(6).

v/r, (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US)
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 12:29 PM
Subject: E-Copy of case categorization meeting with Ms. Mills-Griffith (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Sir,

Per our discussion this AM, please find attached an electronic copy of the minutes

from the case categorization meeting that was held with Ms. Mills-Griffiths last Thursday, 28 April 2016.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 7 May 2016 16:54:08 +0000
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) DPAA PPS (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA RA (US); Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Information re: Russia's Ability to Provide Relevant Information
Attachments: Russian.Article_5-6-2016.docx

Team - I'll read on monday. Cheers!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, May 7, 2016 9:40 AM
To: (b)(6)@sbcglobal.net; Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPMO (US); (b)(6)@gmail.com; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EM (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA RA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA RA (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6)@yahoo.com; (b)(6)@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Information re: Russia's Ability to Provide Relevant Information

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Doc, Mike and all,

Attached is a translation by (b)(6) that I consider very interesting and was confident you would as well, especially with the first USRJC plenary in over a decade taking place later this month.

Of course, former Soviet Union involvement in the Vietnam War is well known, just as is PRC involvement, but I'd never seen such detailed information related to their ongoing support, as well as direct relationship to closely monitoring US aircraft carriers, bases and aircraft. Of course that last highlighted paragraph sparks specific interest and may also be picked up by others here in the US, not as quickly as (b)(6) was on it, with complete translation the day after publication.

I don't know who in the agency or elsewhere is monitoring the Russian publications, but whomever that is, I hope someone engaged in supporting the POW/MIA accounting mission is in close touch and tasking is in place.

Thanks this latest information, (b)(6) and best to all, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041*

703-465-7432

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organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

Dat Viet newspaper, 06 May 2016, accessed 06 May 2016 at <http://baodatviet.vn/quoc-phong/ho-so/giai-mat-tau-ca-lien-xo-nam-tsb-my-giup-viet-nam-3307703/>

Friday, 06 May 2016, 1858 hours

Declassifying the Soviet “Fishing Trawlers” Monitored U.S. Aircraft Carriers to Help Vietnam

During our resistance war against the Americans, hundreds of Soviet “fishing trawlers” made voyages to Vietnam to monitor the bombers being launched by U.S. aircraft carriers. An article on the Sputniknews website describes the contributions made by Soviet reconnaissance and intelligence to help Vietnam during the war against the United States. This article is based on top-secret documents about these activities that Russia has partially (but not completely) declassified after half a century.

Even though all of the information on this subject is not available, today there is sufficient information to say that Soviet military intelligence personnel helped to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and helped to protect hundreds of installations and facilities from being destroyed by aircraft based on U.S. aircraft carriers. One example of this is the “missile ambush” tactic used against American aircraft by Soviet specialists, and later by the Vietnamese missile officers that the Soviet specialists had trained. Back then, the missile units could not be kept constantly on combat alert throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Vietnamese missile forces and their Soviet advisors had to carry out the very difficult task of moving their air defense missile systems to ambush positions at locations where U.S. aircraft might penetrate North Vietnam’s airspace. During those years, people were not just filled with respect; they were positively amazed at the level of accuracy displayed in the choices of times and locations for these missile ambushes. U.S. aircraft flew into the missile kill-zones as soon as they violated Vietnamese airspace. Today no one is surprised by this any longer, but everyone is truly respectful of the work done by the Soviet Union’s spies. Vietnam’s missile troops received timely reports on the number of U.S. aircraft taking off from aircraft carriers and from the airbase on Guam and on the timing and location of upcoming airstrikes. These reports were collected and supplied by Soviet reconnaissance vessels that were constantly present in the area.

Beginning in 1964, 17 small and medium-sized Soviet fishing trawlers were modernized and equipped with the most modern electronic equipment available at that time. However, the outward appearance of these vessels was not altered and they looked just like scientific research vessels or fishing trawlers!

For example, Soviet hydrographic vessels sailed from Pier 37 in Vladivostok Harbor manned by personnel wearing civilian clothing and equipped with fishing nets and cranes. However, these were not simple fishermen. These were reconnaissance vessels that were sent to monitor the locations from which U.S. aircraft took off to fly bombing missions against targets in North Vietnam.

The voyages of these Soviet reconnaissance vessels took them to the Pacific Ocean, where the U.S.'s Anderson Air Force Base was located on the island of Guam, six hours flying time from Vietnam, or to the Gulf of Tonkin, where U.S. aircraft carriers were operating. Over a ten-year period, Soviet reconnaissance vessels conducted a total of 94 reconnaissance voyages, each lasting for three or four months. A total of approximately eight thousand personnel personally participated in these operations or indirectly supported them.

The commander of one ocean squadron, Captain Dmitry Lukash (Ship's Captain First Class), said that the vessels in his squadron were constantly present near U.S. aircraft carriers both in and outside the Gulf of Tonkin to monitor the flights of the fighters, reconnaissance aircraft, and electronic warfare aircraft. Sometimes they got very close to the American aircraft carriers, within just 100 meters, close enough to be able to read the identifying numbers painted on individual aircraft on the aircraft carrier's deck.

As soon as American aircraft began to be raised to the flight deck, the trawlers immediately reported that fact to Soviet Navy Headquarters staff and a quick warning was passed to Vietnam. One Soviet reconnaissance vessel was also constantly present in the waters about three miles off of the airbase on Guam and it also carefully monitored the number of aircraft that had taken off, which direction they were headed, how many aircraft returned to the base, and whether or not any of them had been hit and damaged. This information was immediately reported to Moscow and Hanoi. Because of this, Vietnam always knew when U.S. aircraft had been hit and crashed into the ocean and when aircraft had been damaged and was informed of these facts before the U.S. put out any information on these incidents.

In fact, with regards to U.S. aircraft that were hit and crashed at sea, Soviet spies and technical specialists dove to the bottom of the sea and recovered hundreds of U.S. military documents and technical diagrams that were marked "secret" and sent these materials back home to Moscow. [Emphasis added by translator]

By Huy Binh

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 9 May 2016 13:35:23 -0400
To: (b)(6)@mail.mil (b)(6) CIV DPAA LAB
(US) (b)(6) DHA RESEARCH-DEV (US)
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); Holland, Thomas D (Dr. (ST-SES)) CIV DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: The defense secretary wants his scientists to travel. They've been ground...

(b)(6) and All,

The web site address for this useful article is: Caution-<http://wpo.st/rGvY1> < Caution-<http://wpo.st/rGvY1> > , though I'm hoping things have eased up a bit. This article provides good TPs to reinforce the need for Lab conference participants, presentation of papers, etc.
Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> >



Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 11 May 2016 19:06:36 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com'
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Remarks of Ambassador Vinh at VN War Symposium, Austin, TX

Ann -- thanks for forwarding, really wonderful remarks by the Ambassador. I understand your commitment to separating POW/MIA Accounting from "legacy of war" issues, but find it hard to challenge the Ambassador, when our own government (DoD, DOS, et al) used that terminology in regular discussions with SRV on POW/MIA accountability, Dioxin, UXO, and other "post war" issues. Something we'll all have to work on, for sure.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 5:58 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) DPAA STRATEGY (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Remarks of Ambassador Vinh at VN War Symposium, Austin, TX

As promised, attached are the remarks Ambassador Vinh delivered in Austin on April 28th. I wanted you to see his incoming note, responding to the League invitation, as well as my comments regarding his remarks. Too often, the ongoing accounting effort is lumped into the "legacies" definition and that shouldn't occur.

It diminishes the honor and importance of DPAA's and its predecessors' noble effort to account for and return missing personnel, something that all should recognize as a matter of respect for those who serve their nations and the families who support them. In relative terms, Ambassador Vinh is of a younger generation in the Foreign Ministry, so a bit sensitive education is helpful.

You'll note in his remarks some appreciation for "anti-war" elements, and that may help explain why he was the only speaker who did not receive a standing ovation, but from my assessment, it had relatively little "cadre-speak" and hostile rhetoric was negligible. His assessment of the future sounds about right, though TPP is in danger of failure due to our own chaotic political process. I guess we'll see.

I hope all goes well at the White House meeting on Thursday and see no reason why it wouldn't, as it is simply a courtesy to bring in interested parties to more or less brief on the intentions for the President's visit, but I don't mind saying I was disappointed in the White House release this morning.

Best to all and have a good evening, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >

Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us
Sent: 5/10/2016 4:56:24 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Ambassador PQVinh

Dear Vinh, and good afternoon. I'm so pleased to hear from you. Thanks so much for the personal confirmation accepting our invitation to the Annual Dinner and we very much look forward to having you and your wife with us again.

In the near future, I'll send over the names of the nine Vietnamese personnel whose lives were lost on that tragic mission April 7 2001 while on a helicopter survey flight over incident sites. We're asking you to read their names from the head table podium, and General Milley will read the names of the seven Americans lost that fateful day, plus two others lost on December 15, 1973, also working on this humanitarian mission.

I very much appreciate your sending over your remarks delivered at the Vietnam War symposium at the LBJ Library in Austin. Most everything you raised was applaudable and demonstrated the national effort your country has undergone postwar, to the credit of both your government and people. It is a positive report and one that you should be proud to deliver on behalf of your country.

In reading through the text, and always conscious of sensitivities on the part of all parties, I winced at your inclusion of our bilateral cooperation to account for missing personnel as one of the "legacy issues" of the war. Although clearly US personnel became missing during that long ago conflict, I respectfully suggest that accounting for all who serve their nations could more accurately and honorably be defined as the ongoing humanitarian obligation of all nations.

We have actively advocated the need for US support to address the negative impact of unexploded ordnance and remediation of dioxins in the soil. This support, now quite substantial, was advocated in a spirit of humanitarian reciprocity, not out of guilt or dwelling on responsibility for wartime actions. To do the latter would not be well-received by the American people, especially our Veterans. We've earned their support for providing substantial assistance on this separate humanitarian basis.

I am very optimistic that President Obama's visit to Vietnam will have the same positive impact on our bilateral relationship as your General Secretary's visit last year. In my view, that visit was a resounding success and, frankly, an example of something I doubted I would ever experience. I'm so glad that both governments recognized the League's fundamental role in bringing our two countries together and am confident that this upcoming visit will further add to the comprehensive bilateral relationship that continues to expand.

We are in an exciting evolution and pleased that you are here to be Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States at such a critical time. Please extend my very best wishes to many whom I've grown to admire as outstanding representatives of your country, worthy of the positions they have been entrusted to fulfill. Of course I'm referring to people you know, especially DPM/FM Minh, Ministers To Lam and Vinh, Ambassadors Quang and Ba Hung, and many others who have contributed significantly to our

bilateral relationship over the years.

Enjoy your visit in Vietnam and travel safely.

Respectfully and warmest regards, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

<facebook.jpg>Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >

<twitter.jpg>Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 5/10/2016 11:23:46 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us < Caution-mailto:phamquangvinh@vietnamembassy.us > writes:

Dear Ann,

Thanks for the email and in particular for the invitation to the Annual Dinner. I have put it in my calendar and will be joining you and colleagues on this occasion.

I enclose herewith my remarks at the Austin event, on the VN-US relations.

I'm so much sorry for the delay in responding to you, as I've been traveling.

Next week, I'll be back to Vietnam for the visit of Pres Obama. Surely, that will further strengthen our relations in all areas, including in dealing with war legacy issues.

My best regards

Pham Quang Vinh
Ambassador of Vietnam to the U.S.
Tel: (202) 861-0737
1233 20th St. N.W. # 400
Washington D.C. 20036

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 16 May 2016 14:57:56 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] For Your Consideration

I'm putting this to bed this week.....

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 10:57 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] For Your Consideration

Good morning Ann -- I'm available to discuss at your convenience.

Vr, Mike

P.S. I've read these articles, and met with SEN Blunt on Thursday about the Wolfe Case. I also explained to the Senator the long MEL (some MANY years longer than Wolfe), costs affiliated with Vietnam War efforts, need for additional resources as we've gotten cut from FY'15. Actually, Vietnam families should not/NOT be growing impatient in additional resources being REQUIRED for WWII activities, as the WWI efforts have been pretty benign to date. As I showed you, WWII efforts/costs are less than 1/5th of the cost of Vietnam War efforts (projected in FY'17: \$6.8M (both Europe/Pacific) vs \$32.8M in Vietnam Countries), yet produce 4 times the # of identifications, closure, and field recoveries as does the missing from Vietnam.

Vr, Mike

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] For Your Consideration

Good morning, Mike,

As we all anticipated, impatience is growing and will continue to grow in the Vietnam War community as additional assets and resources are required for WWII remains recovery and an "ID-counting" mentality that still seems to motivate some, especially in the Lab. This is somewhat understandable since successful IDs are their sole measurement of success. Cases that have been on the Master Excavation List (MEL) for many, many years are still waiting. In our view, the priority for scheduling should NOT be influenced by political factors, including Members of Congress, but such pressures will increasingly be inevitable.

Families must have total confidence in the integrity of the process, as well as the people implementing it;

therefore, I encourage you to determine the priorities for scheduling excavations based on DPAA's reality and in terms that all can and will understand and accept as logical, at least eventually, in the best interest of the overall mission. I cannot express that same hope for the WWII and Korean War families as they all appear more focused on their own individual cases.

I haven't sent this note or the article below to the families, or even the board as yet, but perhaps you might consider a solution, clearly spelled out, to separate accounting processes and priorities for each war. As related to the Vietnam War, the initial assurance on which confidence was built was directed from the top, and more recently by former Secretary Hagel's direction to "build on the existing strengths" and implement the "complete reorganization" using that direction as a guideline.

I very much appreciate the budget figures and usage of operational funds you showed me in confidence, but to knowledgeable family members and veterans long involved, it is looking increasingly like what was working for Vietnam War accounting, that admittedly would NOT be applicable to WWII remains recovery, is being abandoned in favor of boosting the ID count. That rings much too closely to the Vietnam War media use of "body count" as applied to KIAs, often on both sides.

As in all instances, the decision is yours to make and, if you wish, I'll be more than happy to contribute to the process, quietly of course, either in person or by editing from afar, and welcome back, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

Family of Monett's Cpt. Wolfe wants remains returned Tuesday, April 12, 2016, THE MONETT TIMES
By Melonie Roberts reporter@monett-times.com

(Photo)<Caution-<http://www.monett-times.com/photos/25/76/44/2576445-L.jpg>>
Valerie Wolfe, daughter of Thomas Wolfe, the Air Force pilot from Monett who was shot down and killed in Laos in 1966, is pictured with Wolfe's former Air Force roommate and friend, Zack Pryse. Melonie Roberts reporter@monett-times.com Daughter believes review will not occur until 2020

Valerie Wolfe was just nine months old when her father, Air Force Cpt. Thomas Wolfe, a pilot, was shot down and killed in Laos in 1966.

She is on a campaign to compel the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to keep its promise to bring her father home.

"My father volunteered for duty in southeast Asia," Wolfe said. "He was there a matter of months before he was killed. Originally listed as MIA, missing in action, that status was soon changed to MIA/BNR, missing in action, body not recovered, due to the official determination that no one could have survived the loss incident."

Zack Pryse, Wolfe's friend and former roommate, described the incident from letters he received from pilots in another aircraft that had observed the crash.

"Tom wanted to see where he thought he had spotted an anti-aircraft gun a few days before," Pryse said. "Chuck Dudley [the pilot] was wounded, but he fought it all the way in. The navigator bailed out on the left

side, but he got out too low. He deployed his 'chute, but landed in a bamboo thicket.

"I think Tom tried to grab the yoke. The plane bucked up but then went in. I think Tom fell out. The left engine hit the ground and the plane caught fire."

There was no rescue mission deployed as it was determined no one could have survived the crash.

The Wolfe family has, for years, kept in contact with military officials in an effort to have the crash site, identified in 1999, excavated and the remains of all three pilots returned to their families.

While the site was approved for excavation in 2006, no effort has been made by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the military branch tasked with those efforts, to begin.

At each subsequent family update, those same officials would give, for various reasons, an extended five-year timeline before excavation could begin. The first delay on was cited for the possibility of unexploded ordinance making the site unsafe for excavation. Additional attempts to determine the status of her father's case were met with the response that the site had been recommended for excavation, but no other specific information as to why no action was being taken.

"We have attended family updates, written to our casualty officer, requested review information and provided DNA information," Wolfe said. "We have done whatever was asked of the family in a cooperative effort to enhance further progress toward remains recovery."

But one thing they didn't know, until 2012, was a part of the criteria in determining which sites to excavate was based on family involvement.

"Neither my sister nor I wanted to believe that our level of caring was being assessed as a criteria of who they should go looking for overseas. We found out in 2015 that it was, and that the box as a family had not been checked, even though we had kept in regular, consistent contact for decades."

And while her father's case remains near the top of the list, new cases are being added all the time.

"In actuality, my father's case is falling further away from selection, not moving closer, due to a new cluster policy, in which sites geographically located close to one another are prioritized to speed up the process." Wolfe said. "The likelihood of a serious review of my father's case will not occur until 2020."

For Wolfe, that is too long.

"Time is not on our side," Wolfe said. "The longer they wait, the less likely there will be recoverable remains. I was nine months old when my father was killed. I am 50 now. We have been waiting a very long time."

The motto of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is "Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise.

Wolfe now thinks it time -- past time -- for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to keep its promise to bring her father Caution-home.

Those interested in joining the campaign to bring Cpt. Thomas Wolfe home may write to Sen. Roy Blunt, 260 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510, Caution-www.blunt.senate.gov < Caution-<http://www.blunt.senate.gov> > , or call 202-224-5721; Sen. Claire McCaskill, 730 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510, Caution-www.mccaskill.senate.gov < Caution-<http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov> > or call 202-224-6154; Rep. Billy Long, 1541 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515 or call 202-225-6536.

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 16 May 2016 23:51:59 -0400
To: Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA LAB (US) (b)(6) CIV (US) (b)(6) (b)(6) CIV DPAA LAB (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: 47th Annual Meeting

Thanks, Ed, and I'll get back to you; it is far too late this evening, but I do appreciate your note and am sorry (b)(6) can't make it, but understand there is a health issue of some kind and I do wish you, (b)(6) well and total positive ability to deal with it. Thanks and I'll be in touch. I had suggested (b)(6) because she has such an easy ability to relate to the families and be understood, all positive. Do you have a recommendation since I'm confident all are qualified to address the general subject. Best to all, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

In a message dated 5/16/2016 9:11:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Dear Ann:

I see that you are requesting Dr. (b)(6) to speak on Friday 24 June at the upcoming annual meeting. Unfortunately, Dr. (b)(6) *WILL NOT* be available for travel, and I wanted to offer you the choice of other individuals to speak in (b)(6) stead. Dr. (b)(6) (Lab Director), Dr. (b)(6) (Deputy Lab Director - Offutt), and Dr. (b)(6) (Manager) are all available during the time frame of the Annual Meeting. If you have a preference, please let me know so that individual can start the process of requesting travel orders and constructing a slide presentation.

I see that you wanted Dr. (b)(6) to speak on "Understanding the Identification Process." We can, of course accommodate this, but if you wanted something else, please let me know.

Very Respectfully,

Edward A. Reedy, Ph.D., M.D.
CAPT, MC, USN
Science Director and Medical Examiner
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
590 Moffet Avenue, Bldg 4077
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96853
808-448-4500 X(b)(7) (Office)
808-448-4589 (FAX)
(b)(6) (Mobile)

"Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."
- attrib. William Gladstone (1809-1898)

Dolor hic tibi proderit olim

The DPAA Mission: To provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. "Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise!"

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 19 May 2016 15:37:28 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: May 19, 2016

STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: May 19, 2016

1,620 Americans are now listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War: Vietnam - 1,263 (VN-465, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7. (These numbers fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains. Highest priority is accounting for Americans last known alive. US intelligence indicates some Americans known to be in captivity in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were not returned at the end of the war. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that these Americans could still be alive, and the US Government should not rule out that possibility.

Vietnam established comprehensive wartime and post-war processes to collect and retain information and remains; thus, unilateral efforts by them offered significant potential. Vietnam has since taken many unilateral actions that are welcome and appreciated, plus announced that there are no obstacles to full cooperation. Recently, Vietnam has increased implementation of commitments to provide long-sought archival records with relevant, case-related information, thanks in part to improvement of working-level efforts, but primarily due to increased bilateral relations across the board. The early 2015 League Delegation brought commitments that offered real promise for increased success. First undertaken in northern Vietnam in 1985, joint field operations have dramatically changed and are now much more effective. Vietnamese officials are participating with greater seriousness and professionalism, achieving increased results, including both US-led Joint Excavation Teams and Vietnamese Recovery Teams (VRTs), led by Vietnamese and supported by a few US personnel. This formula allows a greater number of teams to "increase the pace and scope of field operations," as requested by Vietnam during discussions since 2009. Due to increased military-to-military cooperation, US Navy assets are now allowed to participate in underwater survey and recovery operations, when requested. These steps, long advocated by the League, are now coming to fruition and are reportedly are raised by US officials at all levels.

After a rough period, joint field operations in Laos are now increasingly productive, even though more difficult than elsewhere. Accounting efforts had slowed due to Lao Government inflexibility, attempting to over-price payment for helicopter support and denying permission for ground transport to accessible incident sites. Laos is now showing greater flexibility, earlier having increased the number of US personnel permitted in-country, now allowing ground transport to accessible sites, and has renewed a business license to a foreign company to provide reliable, small helicopter support. When helpful, Vietnamese witnesses are also allowed to participate in joint US-Lao operations. DIA's Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist is assigned full time in-country; however, his efforts are impeded by Lao reluctance to permit him to operate outside the confines of scheduled DPAA field operations. Also, despite strong

support from, and interventions by, US Ambassador Dan Clune, a border dispute with Cambodia that was ongoing when the League Delegation visited over a year ago continues to impede recovery operations in that area. The League urges officials in Laos and Cambodia to temporarily set aside their political disagreement and work trilaterally with the US to proceed on this humanitarian recovery.

Related to DIA's Stony Beach Team, one Cambodia specialist works full time at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, and research and field operations in Cambodia have received excellent support. Two Stony Beach personnel have for years rotated on temporary duty in and out of Vietnam, collecting information via archival research and interviews of potential witnesses. Vietnam was long ago requested to permit, and is still reportedly considering, permanent status for these two POW/MIA specialists. Successive US Ambassadors have strongly supported this important move, but increases in bilateral military relations should be sufficient to overcome any reluctance. The US Ambassador to Laos continues to support full use of the Lao specialist. It is hoped that the expanded bilateral relationships with Laos and Vietnam will mean positive decisions on challenges facing this mission. The Stony Beach specialists are sorely needed to augment the investigation process while witnesses are still living and able to facilitate locating incident sites for follow-up DPAA recoveries.

The greatest obstacles to increased Vietnam War accounting efforts are too few qualified scientists and unreliable funding that has caused US cancellation of scheduled operations, thus sending negative signals to foreign counterpart officials, especially in Vietnam. Since over 80% of US losses in Laos and 90% in Cambodia occurred in areas where Vietnamese forces operated during the war, Vietnam's expanded provision of helpful records, improved and increased archival research, interviews and field operations are the core means to expand accounting for Vietnam War missing personnel.

POW/MIA STATISTICS

Live Sighting statistics provided by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Live Sightings: 1,996 first-hand live sighting reports have been received since 1975, none recently. 1,941 (97.24%) were resolved: 1,340 (67.13%) equated to Americans previously accounted for (i.e. returned POWs, missionaries or civilians detained for violating SRV codes); 45 (2.25%) correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sightings of civilians still unaccounted-for; 556 (27.86%) were determined to be fabrications. The remaining 55 (2.76%) unresolved first-hand reports are the focus of continuing analytical and collection efforts: 48 (2.40%) concern Americans reported in a captive environment; 7 (0.35%) are non-captive sightings. The years in which these 55 first hand sightings occurred are listed below:

	Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2013	Total
	36	3	1	14	1	55

Accountability: At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted-for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered. **As of May 19, 2016, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency lists 1,620 Americans as missing and unaccounted-for, 80-90% of them in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese operated during the war. A breakdown by year of recovery for the 963 Americans accounted for from Vietnam War-related losses since the end of the war in 1975 follows:**

1965-1974	War years: (recently identified)	2
1974-1975	Winding down USG effort	28

1976-1978	US/SRV normalization negotiations	47
1979-1980	US/SRV talks break down	1
1981-1985	1st Reagan Administration	23
1985-1989	2nd Reagan Administration	168
1989-1993	George H.W. Bush Administration	128
1993-1997	1st Clinton Administration	326
1997-2001	2nd Clinton Administration	57
2001-2004	1st George W. Bush Administration	64
2004-2008	2nd George W. Bush Administration	62
2008-2012	1 st Obama Administration	48
2012-2016	2 nd Obama Administration	9

According to the DPAA Lab, unilateral SRV repatriations of remains with scientific evidence of storage have accounted for less than 200 of the 655 from Vietnam; two were mistakenly listed as KIA/BNR in Vietnam in 1968, but remains were actually recovered at that time. All but seven of the 265 Americans accounted for in Laos since the end of the war have been the result of joint recoveries. Six were recovered and turned over by indigenous personnel from Laos and one from Vietnam. In addition, three persons identified were recovered in Vietnam before the end of the war. There follows a breakdown by country of the 963 Americans accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Vietnam	655	Laos	265
China		3	
Cambodia	40		


An additional 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, for a grand total of 1,026. These Americans were accounted for by unilateral US effort in areas where the US could gain access at that time, not due to government-to-government cooperation with the post-war governments of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

For the latest information, call the League's Office (703) 465-7432 or log onto the League web site: [Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org) < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

NATIONAL COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN ELIGIBILITY #10218

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 23 May 2016 12:02:47 -0400
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc:

(b)(6)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Dinner June 23rd

Thought you'd want to see/read this reply from Mrs. (b)(6). I know you all wish that DoD could have offered to pay their airfare, if not airfare and accommodations, but regardless, I'm sure all appreciated the intent, and several will be attending. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
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Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@guardianinsgroup.com
Sent: 5/23/2016 11:31:20 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Dinner June 23rd

Dear Mrs. (b)(6)

Your note is deeply appreciated by those of us who will always remember the service and sacrifice of those who perished in that tragic incident on April 7, 2001. Having flown on those old Russian-built helicopters, as I have so many times over the years, I'd always dreaded the possibility that anyone might lose his life trying to fulfill our nation's promise to account as fully as possible for our missing loved one. That horrific prospect hit us hard, obviously not in the same way it did you and your children and the other families.

It was my honor to speak at the Memorial Service held here in DC at the Fort Myer Chaple, along with Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and it was one of the most difficult tasks I've been asked to do in nearly 40 years of leading the National League of POW/MIA families.

We are sorry that you can't be with us, but please know we'll be thinking of you and your family, as we will all of those so sadly impacted that day 15 year ago last April 7th.

With condolences and gratitude,

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
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Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

In a message dated 5/23/2016 10:45:50 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org writes:

From: (b)(6) [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@guardianinsgroup.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2016 3:02 PM
To: (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org
Subject: Dinner June 23rd

Ms. (b)(6)

I received the invite for the ceremony and dinner that is honoring the 8 American personal that lost their lives on April 7, 2001. It was very heartwarming that organizations are still remembering and honoring all those we have lost. I wish I was able to attend this function in honor of (b)(6) (b)(6) service and sacrifice. The mission was very important to him.

I am unable to attend due to travel logistics at this time since I am living in Arizona.

Please give my sincere appreciation to those who are hosting this event. My children and myself are grateful of the support throughout the years in keeping our hero (b)(6) memory alive.

Sincerely-





(b)(6)

(b)(6)

I am an Independent Agent searching the market place for the best interest of my clients, not insurance companies. My goal is to maximize your protection and minimize your cost!

"we've got you covered" - auto, home, life, health and commercial insurance -



 < Caution-http://www.linkedin.com/pub/(b)(6) >
 < Caution-http:(b)(6) >  < Caution-
https://www.facebook.com/(b)(6) > 

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 27 May 2016 11:11:38 -0400
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years!

Your reply thus far is VERY good and offsets the "faux rage" that (b)(6) consistently tries to exploit, as is his way, instead of working quietly to accomplish the shared objective. Thanks for this, and when you send to all those in the "sent to" and "copy to" lists, he had many if not all of them twice. Most all directly from the DPAA Conference Call listing, sorry to say. Again, my thanks, and it was sent not at all because I believed it, but because if you hadn't seen it, you needed to, all of you in my distro. Best, Ann

PS: At some point after the annual meeting, let's talk strategy to deal with the DPRK issues and how we can garner support that is rational and informed. I definitely believe the US/DPAA can gain the upper hand on that, and all in credit to DPAA's ability to utilize the "separate humanitarian" mission that, in reality, isn't.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >*

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

In a message dated 5/27/2016 10:08:04 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- (b)(6) -- thanks for your insights

I'd seen it, and appreciate your forwarding. Since the article is undated, I assume he wrote it years ago. (b)(6) expressed similar outrage at DPAA publicly in Austin at our FMU, and even when John Byrd gave him a detailed answer as to why we simply don't disinter and ID, (b)(6) retort was, "sounds like a bureaucratic government answer to me".

Too many specifics to note -- but I'll probably write to all on the CC line next week, once I get a few more details. For instance, X-5588 WAS ALREADY DISINTERRED in 2013 and the identity was not one of the men [REDACTED] suggests in his editorial below, and it is still under analysis. 6 more Korean War unknowns were disinterred from the punchbowl 10 days ago, and identifications are under way for all 6 (good clavicle data available). Of course, [REDACTED] knows we have already exhumed 111 of the 866 Korean War unknowns, accounting for 59 servicemen and the rest under continuing analysis. Seven additional Korea disinterment packets are in staffing now, and we will look into each of the X-files he mentions.

One thing folks like [REDACTED] discount in their outrage (well noted by [REDACTED]) is that they presume to know what happened and/or apply their present day frustrations to those that were most impacted by the loss. A case in point is a WWII loss we recently investigated involving the loss of a Navy fighter pilot who was killed when his Hellcat (along with three other Hellcats) were shot down by Japanese fighter in the last dogfight of WWII -- a very famous dogfight for the Navy. The family had been told by a Japanese researcher that the remains of their relative had been located at the time of loss and buried in a cemetery and the family asked that we go get them.

We did thorough research, and from the IDPF determined the Japanese had indeed gone to the crash site at the time of loss and located the pilots remains and buried them in their local temple. However, the REST OF THE STORY is that the remains were recovered from the temple in 1946 by an Army Graves Registration Team. The remains consisted only of the upper torso, but the Army made an identification based on all eyewitness testimony as well as the uniform and aircraft wreckage that the locals had found which all belonged to the missing pilot had been recovered with the remains. The Navy consequently met and briefed the parents on the identification and the mother asked that they be buried as an unknown. Needless to say, the cousins were quite surprised when [REDACTED] informed them of these events and decisions.

I think some often presume to know what folks WERE thinking decades ago or what information they had been provided without a true understanding of the complexities involved. Some also like the attention that comes with faux rage, and publicly holding the government accountable. We'll do our best to deal with it all, and remain focused on the mission at hand.

Please visit our website at Caution-<http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com [Caution-mailto:[REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 9:50 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); [REDACTED] CIV DPAA EC (US); [REDACTED] CIV DPAA EC (US); [REDACTED] CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: [REDACTED] CIV DPAA AP (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years!

I am assuming you all may have received this from others, but if not, you needed to

have it and know the extensive distribution, plus be able to get the information and references analyzed. Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com
To: (b)(6)@gmail.com

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Sent: 5/25/2016 8:06:30 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years!

Feel free to copy, publish, excerpt as you need,

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Network

Serving more than 4,200 family members

Cell (b)(6)

(b)(6)@gmail.com

(b)(6)

Caution-Caution-www.koreanwarpowmia.net

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 6 Jun 2016 08:06:46 -0400
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Lab Presentation

Thanks very much, Mark, and I hope all goes well and productive for your Ops Symposium.
Best to all, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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703-465-7432
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*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

In a message dated 6/5/2016 10:39:03 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann,

Dr (b)(6) will do the Lab presentation.

R, Mark

Deputy Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Off: (808) 448-4500, ext (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@mail.mil

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 5 Jun 2016 23:03:09 +0000
To: (b)(6) DPAA AP (US); Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Very Serious Concern

Mike - pls let me know what this is all about please.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2016 12:56 PM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Very Serious Concern

Ann, I haven't a clue what you're talking about. As usual, the workforce goes to you when leaders explore initiatives internal to their domains, before they come to me. There is NO (I say again, NO) investigations that I know of, and your questions on LKA have me scratching my head. Of course, since I know NOT what you speak, I can't take action.

Mark Spindler (who supervises the Lab) will have you a name soon.

Landing in HI soon...final approach.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2016 9:05 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Very Serious Concern

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike, when I first heard of the below plan, I refused to believe you would ever seriously consider such an ignorant proposal, but since your management team is proposing it, I'm obligated to send this email. I will say at the outset, I strongly urge that you not react defensively and launch another investigation into unauthorized "leaking" of UNCLASSIFIED information. To do so would be even more destructive, and enough damage has already been done to the Vietnam War-related analytic workforce you inherited, though much had occurred prior to your arrival.

I recently learned that there is an internal DPAA "initiative" being considered to terminate the Last Known Alive (LKA) program with deliberate action to declare all cases "fate determined" and end the policy of resolving them as highest priority cases. I understand this has been rumored internally for about ten days or so, but that there are plans to present this absurd proposal to you, Fern and BG Spindler during the time you are in Hawaii for the Operations Symposium.

The longstanding policy-directed priority on these and other discrepancy cases was carefully considered by the POW/MIA Interagency Group (in which I participated fully) and formalized by President Reagan, based on US evidence of the individual in captivity or alive on the ground in immediate proximity to capture by hostile forces. This priority policy was further reinforced by General Jack Vessey at a White House Press Conference in 1987, following a trip to Hanoi where he addressed circumstances surrounding specific LKA cases. It is supported in Congress and by all the major national veteran groups, and we have boxes of supportive speeches and congressional testimony over four decades.

This longstanding policy and the evidence to support it have repeatedly been provided to the Vietnamese and Lao, with agreements reached long ago between the US and each country. The results has been effective in prompting increased cooperation resulting in insights into the level of Vietnamese knowledge and ability to provide archival information and case resolution.

Secretary of Defense Hagel's directive to USDP Christine Wormuth, your temporary predecessor VADM Mike Franken and to you was to "build on the existing strengths, noting failure was not an option. It is no accident that 1,027 American personnel have been recovered and identified since 1973, all but 63 since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. It was not accidental, but carefully structured to bring about the results thus far achieved.

The policy has been sustained over the years, not only surviving through some tumultuous years, but thriving to become the worldwide effort you inherited, with our full support and advocacy. This priority has been and is signaled to all - foreign and domestic - of the seriousness with which the US takes its responsibility to stand behind those who serve, the active-duty community and our veterans. The families would be crushed at the betrayal by DPAA and the blatant appearance of a write-off.

If word gets out beyond [REDACTED] and me, there will be dramatic results, media headlines, congressional hearings, rebirth of the "Rambo movement," the next Rolling Thunder would be on DPAA's doorstep and a complete loss of family member and veteran organization support.

It appears this "initiative" is from newly assigned personnel with no historical background on the issue, and isolated from consultation with those who do have accurate historical perspective. A cursory check with informed veterans within DPAA would have evoked astonishment. If this plan is pursued and not stopped, expect strong public opposition, and the League will have no choice but to seek support from those who share our principles, values and commitment to the accounting mission and the priority that has sustained this effort since 1981.

It is evident that some on your staff do not agree with the priority you placed on Vietnam War accounting. This is not the only indicator, the last being discussion of shutting down the detachments. There will be no confidence in DPAA's leadership, and the fallout will be disastrous. Of that you can be certain.

I urge this be stopped immediately and the message made very clear as to why, on substance and commitment from YOU, the Director, and promises you have made to the families and veterans, stakeholders all.

Respectfully, Ann

PS: Since we are nearing the printing deadline, your decision on who should represent the Lab at the annual meeting would be most helpful

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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703-465-7432

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Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> >



Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 7 Jun 2016 09:05:35 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Deadlock At Shangri-La: Is There A Way Forward? – Analysis

Deadlock At Shangri-La: Is There A Way Forward? – Analysis



South China Sea. Source: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Wikipedia Commons.

BY EURASIA REVIEW < CAUTION-
[HTTP://WWW.EURASIAREVIEW.COM/AUTHOR/ADMIN/](http://www.eurasiareview.com/author/admin/) > JUNE 7, 2016

By Sandip Kumar Mishra*

The discussions at the 15th Asian Security Summit (3-5 June 2016), popularly known as Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore were indicative of the existing deadlock among the countries about Asia's future security architecture. Overall, the discussions were quite pessimistic. The two most important players in the regional politics – the US and China – openly alleged each other on the issues of escalations in the South China Sea as well as the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) system on the Korean peninsula.

US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter warned China that it was at the risk of 'erecting a Great Wall of self-isolation' if it continues its current policies in the region. Carter criticised the Chinese military buildup in the region and said he

hoped that “this development doesn’t occur because it will result in actions being taken both by the United States, and actions being taken by others in the region that will have the effect of not only increasing tensions but isolating China.” Japan too made stern statements about Chinese activities in the South China Sea.

In response to the China’s claim that the US and Japan are ‘outsiders’ in the region, Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said no country could be ‘outsider’ when it comes to regional stability. Responding to the US’ stern words, the Chinese representative at the Dialogue, Deputy Chief of General Staff, People’s Liberation Army, Admiral Sun Jianguo, claimed sovereignty in the region and said China “had no fear of trouble.” He claimed “we were not isolated in the past, we are not isolated now, and we will not be isolated in the future.” He suggested countries, indirectly indicating towards the US, to come out of the ‘Cold War mentality’.

Similarly, on the issue of THAAD, the US defense secretary claimed that the issue of THAAD deployment would be raised during his discussion with the South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo. Another defence official of the US even claimed that the US and South Korea would make a ‘public announcement’ about the deployment of a THAAD unit. However, in his bilateral talks with the South Korean defense minister, the Chinese representative Sun Jianguo warned South Korea that “it would destabilize the Asia Pacific region.” Sun said that it would “infringe China’s strategic interests.” Although, South Korea responded by stating that “China is overestimating THAAD” and that his country has “the will to allow THAAD deployment,” in another statement, he denied the US defence secretary’s claim that Seoul would discuss the issue during his meeting with Carter in Singapore.

Actually, it seems that the US and China are not ready to compromise and accommodate each other's security concerns and a game of 'staring at each other' is going on. In the sidelines of the Summit, defence ministers of the US, Japan and South Korea held a trilateral dialogue and stressed their collective efforts to pressurise North Korea via UN resolution 2270 – passed in March 2016 after the fourth round of North Korean nuclear and missile tests. The leaders representing Washington, Seoul and Tokyo were in agreement that a diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang is fruitless, and demanded more cooperation with Beijing towards the implementation of UN Resolution 2270. It is interesting to note that China appears to be moving in an entirely different direction. Just a few days before the Shangri-La Dialogue, Chinese President Xi Jinping met North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong in Beijing. This is an important departure from Xi's approach towards North Korea after he assumed office in 2013. Previously, he had avoided any direct high level contacts with Pyongyang but now there are speculations that he may have a summit meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the coming months.

Thus, the intensity of the contest in the regional politics was demonstrated at the Shangri-La Dialogue. Although around 500 defence and diplomatic officials and experts from 52 countries, including defence ministers from 23 countries participated in the dialogue, the contest between the US and China was clearly the main theme of the conference.

Unfortunately, a 'third opinion' remains almost ineffective in the process.

Washington and Beijing are scheduled to hold their annual high-level Strategic and Economic Dialogue (6-8 June 2016) in Beijing. Hundreds of US and Chinese officials will conduct further discussion on regional issues. The US Secretary of State John Kerry, the US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, China's State Councilor Yang Jiechi, and China's Vice Premier Wang Yang will to

participate in the dialogue. However, it appears that both the parties are not ready to budge from their respective positions.

Thus, the 2016 Shangri-La Dialogue showed that great power contests are going to overwhelm peace and security concerns of other countries. It is high time to ask if the great powers of the region remain adamant on the stubborn positions, would not it be correct to articulate a 'third opinion'? In the cacophony of contests that seems improbable; but if countries like India take the lead in articulating such an 'opinion', it would be a positive move for regional security and would also enhance India's stature and position in regional politics.

*** Sandip Kumar Mishra**

Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, & Visiting Fellow, IPCS.

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 7 Jun 2016 13:42:40 -0400
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] HI Senate Passes S.R.22 - re: Flying League POW/MIA Flag
Attachments: HI-.Senate.Res..22_3-3-16.pdf

This is some great historical perspective, and shows the level of support in the State of Hawaii, and only one provision, (RESOLVED clause at the bottom of page 3) is slightly off established practice in most, if not all, states, that is: if the US and, State of HI flags are flown on the same halyard, the POW/MIA flag is to be flown directly under the flag of the State of Hawaii, rather than under the US flag. As a result, if on one halyard, our POW/MIA flag will pertain only to those still missing from the State of Hawaii, rather than all

Nevertheless, good for the State of Hawaii, just FYI, and please share. Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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703-465-7432
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Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

MAR 03 2016

S.R. NO. 22

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ORDER THAT WHENEVER THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES IS FLOWN ON A PERMANENT FLAGPOLE IN FRONT OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES' POW/MIA FLAG SHALL BE FLOWN ON THE SAME HALYARD.

1 WHEREAS, in 1971, Mary Helen Hoff developed the idea for a
2 national flag as a reminder of the United States servicemembers
3 who, like her husband, Navy Commander Michael G. Hoff, were
4 Prisoners of War or Missing in Action; and
5

6 WHEREAS, by the end of the Vietnam War, the United States
7 Department of Defense listed more than two thousand, five
8 hundred servicemembers as Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in
9 Action (MIA); and
10

11 WHEREAS, in 1979, the United States Congress and President
12 James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. proclaimed the first National
13 POW/MIA Recognition Day to acknowledge the servicemembers'
14 families' concerns and symbolize the steadfast resolve of the
15 American people to never forget the men and women who gave up
16 their freedom while protecting ours; and
17

18 WHEREAS, in 1982, the National League of Families' POW/MIA
19 flag became the only flag other than the flag of the United
20 States to fly over the White House in Washington, D.C.; and
21

22 WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States Congress passed P.L.
23 101-355, which designated the POW/MIA flag as "the symbol of our
24 Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as
25 possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and
26 unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty
27 for their families and the Nation"; and
28

29 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 105-
30 85) created 36 United States Code section 189a, which addressed
31 the display of the POW/MIA flag; and



S.R. NO. 22

1
2 WHEREAS, while 36 United States Code section 189a was
3 repealed, the operative language of that section was recodified
4 into 36 United States Code section 902, which requires the
5 POW/MIA flag to be displayed at the United States Capitol, the
6 White House, the building of the office of the United States
7 Secretary of Defense, each major military installation, and
8 other specified locations on six designated days: Armed Forces
9 Day, the third Saturday in May; Memorial Day, the last Monday in
10 May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National
11 POW/MIA Recognition Day; and Veterans Day, November 11; and
12

13 WHEREAS, 36 United States Code section 902 requires the
14 POW/MIA flag to be displayed at the federal World War II
15 Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans
16 Memorial, and the medical centers of the United States
17 Department of Veterans Affairs on any day that the flag of the
18 United States is flown; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Section 5-18.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, enacted
21 in 2010, requires the POW/MIA flag to be flown on the grounds of
22 the State Capitol on the same six designated days listed in 36
23 United States Code section 902, and allows the POW/MIA flag to
24 be flown directly under the flag of the United States if the
25 flag of the State of Hawaii is on a separate halyard from the
26 flag of the United States; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Section 5-18.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows
29 but does not require the POW/MIA flag to be flown on the grounds
30 of the State Capitol building on other days; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the flag of the United States and the flag of the
33 State of Hawaii currently displayed in front of the State
34 Capitol building are on separate permanent flagpoles; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the State's Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorial,
37 dedicated on the grounds of the State Capitol in 1994, honors
38 the four hundred fifty-four Hawaii servicemembers in the Korean
39 War and the three hundred twelve Hawaii servicemembers in the
40 Vietnam War who were killed or missing in action; and
41



S.R. NO. 22

1 WHEREAS, the State's Eternal Flame, dedicated in 1972,
2 stands directly across the street from the flags displayed at
3 the State Capitol, and burns as a tribute to the men and women
4 of Hawaii who have served in our armed forces in the defense of
5 freedom and liberty; and

6
7 WHEREAS, neither the State's Korean and Vietnam Veterans
8 Memorial nor the Eternal Flame display the POW/MIA flag on a
9 year-round basis; and

10
11 WHEREAS, more frequent displays of the POW/MIA flag in
12 front of the State Capitol building would further remind Hawaii
13 residents of the servicemembers who were never able to return
14 home; now, therefore,

15
16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
18 that the Governor of the State of Hawaii is requested to order
19 that whenever the flag of the United States is flown on a
20 permanent flagpole in front of the State Capitol building, the
21 National League of Families' POW/MIA flag shall be flown on the
22 same halyard; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as long as the flag of the
25 United States and the flag of the State of Hawaii that are
26 displayed in front of the State Capitol building are flown on
27 the different halyards, the Governor is requested to order that
28 the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag be flown directly
29 under the flag of the United States; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the flag of the
32 United States and the flag of the State of Hawaii that are
33 displayed in front of the State Capitol building are flown on
34 the same halyard, the Governor is requested to order that the
35 National League of Families' POW/MIA flag be flown directly
36 under the flag of the State of Hawaii; and
37



S.R. NO. 22

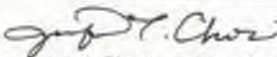
1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Adjutant General;
3 the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services; and the
4 Chairman of the Board of the National League of Families of
5 American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.
6
7
8

OFFERED BY: _____



I hereby certify that this is a full, true, and
correct copy of the original filed in this office.

Dated: APR 07 2016


Assistant Clerk of the Senate
State of Hawai'i



All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 13 Jun 2016 22:06:45 -0400
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program - TIMED

Thanks so much, Mike, for the quick and supportive reply. All things moving forward well, and I'll get back to you on times during which the board could meet, greatly appreciating the offer. I hasten to add, it will NOT be before the Thursday dinner, but I'm thinking during the DPAA Workshop: Maximizing Your Benefit from DPAA's Web site, 2:45 - 3:45 PM on Friday, June 24th. By the way, over 55 registered attendees have already signed up for this workshop, very encouraging. I will confirm that after checking with the Board members. Again, my thanks, and I do believe this will be a very useful, informative meeting. Best to all and good night, Ann

PS: Your check will be viewed as a donation to the overall effort since, to us, you are an invited guest, as is (b)(6) and as are Fern and (b)(6), and Mark Spindler.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >*

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

In a message dated 6/13/2016 8:36:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- thanks for the attached program. The League meeting is very important to our mission, and sharing accomplishments/areas-for-improvement/way ahead for the agency will be my theme, and I am looking forward to the healthy discussion throughout the discussion. I am making every attempt to remain on site as long as possible daily -- but other events are pressing a bit.

The Operations Symposium was productive, as was the Directorate "back-briefs" of their Action Plans to accomplish what was directed in the Global Campaign Plan, and OPLAN (yet unsigned). I'll sign the OPLAN soon, after incorporating discussion points from this past week (which I'm confident you know about already). Vietnam War is

again prioritized for '17/'18 for all the reasons you and I know. I will discuss that at the 47th meeting with the Vietnam War families in a macro presentation (NO slides). I am available to your board prior to, or after the conference.

Todd is in coordination with CSA on the Pentagon Hallway dedication -- believe that is all on track, although not firmed up yet, awaiting Army completion of the Army Birthday events tomorrow -- one event at a time. We know it'll be wonderful. Program, DPAA MC, you/Chief speaking -- all good. Also in contact with DSD speechwriter on his draft comments -- want it focused appropriately in SEA/Vietnam War accounting/commitment and perhaps a flavor of US shift to the Pacific and how our mission helps. I do not have his remarks yet.

Added in CAPS some comments below. Good to be back home in DC.

Please visit our website at Caution-<http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 7:36 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Final 47th Annual Meeting Program - TIMED

Mike and all,

I'm assuming, and hoping, you, Fern and all are back from the Ops Symposium held last week HQ in Hawaii and that all felt the time and effort was well spent for DPAA and the mission. YES, THANK YOU

Attached you'll find the final TIMED program for this year's meeting. The final (with tributes and without timing notations) is now at the printer and will be delivered in plenty of time for registration. If you would like a full copy of the final in advance of the meeting, please feel free to send someone over and we'll be glad to provide it. In fact, it is likely that (b)(6) or (b)(6) may be coming over sometime soon to deliver checks in payment for those DPAA personnel who wish to attend the 47th Annual Dinner and Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony. I'LL GET FROM (b)(6) -- THANKS FOR PROVIDING

On that subject, I do hope you and (b)(6) Fern and (b)(6) and Mark and, if in town, Mrs. (b)(6) will be our guests, including the invitation-only reception in the Crystal Room at 6:00 PM, prior to the dinner, at which time you'll receive your table seating and, if driving, a Hilton Parking pass. Please confirm for all ASAP since seating is already underway preliminarily. (b)(6) AND I WILL ATTEND ALL SOCIAL EVENTS -- AND PAY FOR EACH. THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING HER IN THE PROGRAM INVITATION.

You'll be pleased to know that we've been in regular touch with General Milley's office in regard to advance security requirements and will be following up soon with the final list of VIP guests, bios and other details. EXCELLENT -- HE IS LOOKING

FORWARD TO THE EVENT -- WE (AS WELL) ARE IN CONTACT WITH HIS OFFICE FOR THE UNVEILING IN THE PENTATGON AT 1430 HRS ON 23 JUN.

I think you'll also be pleased to learn that our team of Sergeants-at-Arms from Idaho and Nevada were delighted with our suggestion to be in official "uniform" only when required, such as the beginning of Opening Session and when on duty at the Annual Dinner. During all other sessions, they will be dressed in white "polo-type" shirts, with our POW/MIA logo on the pocket and "Sergeant-at-Arms" stenciled over the pocket, much like many of the people on our field teams wear when conducting operations. THANK YOU FOR THIS -- EVERYONE WILL FEEL RIGHT AT Caution-HOME.

In addition, once sessions begin, the Sergeants-at-Arms will be much less visible, seated just inside the several doors to prevent attendees from using other than the door designated for entry and exit.

Hopefully, these steps will ensure none present feel at all "intimidated" as earlier suggested and, as you would surmise, all are really great people from middle America with the inherent values expected.

If you have any questions or I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to ask, and I look forward to receiving the advance copies of the briefings once coordinated and cleared, so that we can print them in the necessary quantities. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE BRIEFINGS -- BUT KNOW THEY'RE IN PRODUCTION NOW.

This is going to be a larger than usual meeting, and all seem to be expecting great things. Hopefully, you'll agree, as you stated last year, that League annual meetings are critically important to the mission. ABSOLUTELY AGREE.

Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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Facebook < Caution-Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> > Twitter < Caution-Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 22 Jun 2016 07:22:05 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Vietnam's Love-Hate Relationship With China: A Historical Explanation – OpEd

Vietnam's Love-Hate Relationship With China: A Historical Explanation – OpEd

BY SAAG < Caution-

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/author/saag/> > JUNE 22, 2016

By V. Suryanarayan*

China had always been and would continue to be a key point of reference to the foreign policy makers of Southeast Asian countries, especially for Vietnam. Sharing land and maritime boundaries with China, Vietnam, from very early times, had been profoundly influenced by its giant neighbor in the north. It has shared cultural traditions; in fact, Prof. Arnold Toynbee, in his monumental book, *Half the World – The History and Culture of China and Japan*, includes Vietnam, along with Japan and Korea, in the East Asian world. At the same time, the proud and heroic Vietnamese had been intensely nationalist; they had always resisted China's hegemonistic designs. According to perceptive Southeast Asia watchers, Vietnam will be the bulwark against Chinese expansionism in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam, as we know it today, came into existence on the eve Asia's European age. Historically this country had several independent kingdoms. The first was the Indianised kingdom of Funan. We do not know its real name, Funan is the name given by Chinese historians. It

continued to exist from the first century AD to the Sixth century AD. It was located in the Mekong delta of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The second, which was also an Indianised kingdom, was Champa, the Chinese name for it was Lin Yi. It existed between 2nd and 17th century AD. It extended over the southern and central coastal regions of Vietnam. The people of Champa, known as the Chams, were highly Hinduised. There are still 200,000 Hindus in Vietnam. The Author had the good fortune to meet a Hindu Cham delegation in the World Hindu Conference held in New Delhi few years ago. They were very keen to establish contacts with Hindu religious organizations in India to foster and promote their Hindu identity.

The Vietnamese originally lived in the Red River delta in the northern part of Vietnam. They developed their agricultural skills and became prosperous. Their rulers developed a good administrative system. But their curse was China, the northern neighbor. The expansionist Chinese rulers sent military expeditions to the South and brought Nam Viet under Chinese control. What is more they imposed Chinese culture on them and sinicised them.

The Chinese conquest of Nam Viet took place in the second century BC and it continued till 967 AD. The thousand years of Chinese domination was characterised by frequent uprisings by the Vietnamese and brutal military reprisals by the Chinese army. The Important elements of Chinese culture- the Mandate from Heaven, Chinese script, Confucian values and the institution of Mandarinate – were introduced in Vietnam. But it was not blind imitation; the Vietnamese retained some of the indigenous characteristics. Unlike other Southeast Asian countries, which followed Theravada form of Buddhism, Vietnam followed the Mahayana form. It got mingled with Confucianism and Taoism and a syncretic religion known as Tan Giao came into existence. As far as script is concerned, till the Vietnamese script was romanised in the 17th century, Vietnamese adopted the Chinese characters. The Vietnamese also copied the centralized system of administration and gradually extended their sway over the whole country. In that process the people of the county were Vietnamised.

Suspicion of Chinese designs is a recurrent theme in Vietnamese history. While adapting the Chinese culture the Vietnamese, with extra-ordinary courage, resisted the Chinese army.

Andrew Forbes quotes a Vietnamese martial song sung by the Vietnamese guerrillas: “Fight to keep our hair long, fight to keep our teeth black, fight to show that the heroic southern country can never be defeated”.

Nayan Chanda, in his book *Brother Enemy*, mentions an interesting incident. Even during the height of the war against the United States, when China’s support was very crucial, the Vietnamese zealously guarded their cultural traits. In October 1972, the American scholar George M. Kahin visited Vietnam. He was very keen to find out the extent of religious freedom. He participated in a well attended mass in a catholic church in Hanoi. Soon after, his Vietnamese host asked Prof. Kahin, “Would you like to see something of our religion?” Kahin accepted the invitation and was taken across a bridge to a temple in an island in Hanoi’s Hoan Kiem Lake. In that temple there were three altars, one to Buddha, one to God of Earth and water and a third dedicated to Tran Hung Dao, the General who defeated the Chinese Mongol army in the 13th century. Upon enquiring Prof. Kahin came to know that there were half a dozen shrines in Hanoi where Vietnamese paid homage to heroes and heroines, such as Le Loi and Trung sisters, who had fought against Chinese invaders.

The Author cannot resist the temptation to narrate the heroism of the Trung sisters who committed suicide after resisting the Chinese invaders in the first century AD. The Trung sisters – Trung Trac and Trung Nhi – were daughters of a powerful Vietnamese landlord, who lived in the first century AD. Vietnam was under the rule of the Han dynasty; the Vietnamese women enjoyed more freedom than their Chinese counterparts. China was governed by Confucian values where women occupied a lower place. Feeling oppressed by the Chinese rule, the Vietnamese were exhorted to revolt and the Trung sisters organized a rebellion and formed an army of 80,000 men and women. They won back the territory conquered by the Chinese. In 42 AD the Chinese forces returned to recapture the territory. The Vietnamese fought hard, but were to be defeated. According to popular belief, the Trung sisters decided to take their own

lives in the traditional manner of jumping into the river and drowning. The Trung sisters became symbols of Vietnamese resistance. Temples were later built in their honour and the people of Vietnam celebrate their memory every year with a national holiday.

Ho Chih Minh was a great friend of China, he was well versed in Chinese history, culture and language; but, at the same time, as a keen student of history, he was also deeply sensitive to the threat posed by China to Vietnamese freedom. After the Second World War when the French colonialists wanted to re-establish their dominance over Vietnam, few Vietnamese nationalists wanted to use the Kuomintang forces as a buffer against the French Army. Ho Chih Minh, according to Andrew Forbes, cautioned his Vietminh colleagues and asked them to draw the right lessons from history. To quote Ho Chih Minh, “The last time the Chinese came, they stayed a thousand years. The French are foreigners. They are weak. Colonialism is dying. The white man is finished in Asia. But if the Chinese stay now, they will never go. As for me, I prefer to sniff the French shit for five years, than to eat Chinese shit for the rest of my life”.

Vietnam’s relations with the outside world, including China since the proclamation of independence on September 2, 1945, has undergone several twists and turns. Since the focus of my paper is on Vietnamese history before the Second World War, I shall not dwell on the important developments that took place during the three Indo- China wars and in subsequent years.

I would like to conclude the essay with a quotation from the well known scholar Andrew Forbes who aptly sums up Sino- Vietnamese relations. Andrew Forbes quotes from a novel, Fried Gold, written by the famous Vietnamese novelist Nguyen Huy Thiep. To quote: “The most significant characteristics of this country are its smallness and weakness. She is like a virgin girl raped by Chinese civilization. The girl concurrently enjoys, despises and humiliated by the rape”.

**Dr. V. Suryanarayan was Founding Director and Senior Professor, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras.*

SAAG < Caution-<http://www.eurasiareview.com/author/saag/> >

SAAG is the South Asia Analysis Group, a non-profit, non-commercial think tank. The objective of SAAG is to advance strategic analysis and contribute to the expansion of knowledge of Indian and International security and promote public understanding.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 21 Jun 2016 21:48:56 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com'; Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: RSVP: National League of POW/MIA Families 47th Annual Meeting

Ann -- have you corresponded back?

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 5:43 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: RSVP: National League of POW/MIA Families 47th Annual Meeting

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Surely he means the dinner, right? And he is not canceling for the Opening Session? Isn't it bad enough that he is hosting a dinner inviting all ASEAN Ambassadors during the very time of the League's 47th Annual Meeting Dinner? I sure hope his office is just declining the dinner, but believe you might want to check, or would appreciate it. Thanks in advance, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
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Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >
Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

From: (b)(6)@sd.mil
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
CC: (b)(6)@mail.mil, (b)(6)@sd.mil
Sent: 6/21/2016 2:57:43 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: RSVP: National League of POW/MIA Families 47th Annual Meeting

Thank you for inviting Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work to speak at the subject event 23 June 2016. Unfortunately, he has to regret.

V/r,
(b)(6)
Confidential Assistant Deputy Secretary of Defense
(b)(6)

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 25 Jun 2016 02:09:40 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Knowles, Catherine S (Cathy) CIV DPAA GC (b)(6)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

Ann, that's fine. I'll address my thoughts/issues in public at the Q&A. Thanks for trying to accommodate none the less.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 9:09 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Knowles, Catherine S (Cathy) CIV DPAA GC (US); (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

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Mike, I have no ability to poll the board until tomorrow morning at the League officials' meeting at 7:15 AM. I will have an answer to you by the end of that session. As is evident from the 8:19 PM text I just received from (b)(6) you have also asked him to intervene for a short meeting with the board but, as I mentioned earlier, tomorrow's schedule is completely taken up with previously scheduled sessions and meetings until 8:15 tomorrow evening.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >*

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

In a message dated 6/24/2016 8:08:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

(b)(7)/Ann,

If I don't get offered/scheduled to speak to the board prior to 1700 hrs tomorrow, I will address the board publicly in front of the assembled audience in response to the first question tomorrow am during the Q&A (when I've got the mic).

I need to discuss 17/18 and correct the record from (b)(7)(C) monologue, which contained many inaccuracies.

Thanks for accommodating.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 3:15 PM

To: (b)(6)@aol.com

Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com

Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

(b)(7)(F) that's unfortunate. There were several areas I wanted to inform the Board about, so perhaps tomorrow after the Q&A?

Vr, Mike

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 12:13 PM

To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Cc: (b)(7)(F)@aol.com

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Friday meeting with League Board

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike,

With apologies for the short notice, the Board voted in our Wednesday afternoon meeting that we cancel our 2:45p meeting for today due to the anticipated time constraints and continuing meeting responsibilities, both for you and for us. We greatly appreciate your offer of your time and your support of our efforts here. Thank you.

(b)(6)

National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22041

(b)(7)(F)

Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 2 Jul 2016 16:50:20 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Update: July 2, 2016

UPDATE: July 2, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is still **1,618**. Most recently accounted for was **Colonel Patrick H. Wood, USAF**, listed as MIA on 2/6/67, North Vietnam, remains returned on 12/14/15, and identified 2/29/16. Just prior to this was **LCDR Frederick P. Crosby, USN**, listed as KIA/BNR, North Vietnam, on 6/1/65, remains returned 12/14/15, and identified on 2/17/16, but not announced by DPAA until 5/25/16. Also recently confirmed as accounted for was **Major Dean A. Klenda, USAF**, listed as MIA, North Vietnam, on 9/17/65, recovered 12/8/14 and identified 12/30/14, but also only recently announced by DPAA. Prior to that release, the most recent was **SFC Alan L. Boyer, USA/SF**, listed as MIA 3/28/68, Laos, recovered 6/16/98, and identified 3/16/16. This brings the total accounted for to **965** since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,028**. Of the 1,618 still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR), 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,261 (VN-463, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

DPAA DIRECTOR RESIGNS: LTG Michael S. Linnington, USA (Ret), named as DPAA Director in June, 2015, abruptly resigned on June 16th to accept a position as CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project, an NGO headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. There had been considerable anticipation of hearing a comprehensive report on his first full year since assuming the reins at DPAA. All were looking forward to learning what has occurred, changes and improvements made, and plans for further implementing his promise a year before to be DPAA Director for at least ten years and his commitment to sustain DPAA's priority on Vietnam War accounting for at least the next 3-5 years. This unexpected reversal of his pledge changed the environment dramatically; however, all present for the League's 47th Annual Meeting (see below) were courteous and attentive to Mr. Linnington's explanation on the reasons for his abrupt departure.

LEAGUE POSITION: In response to Mike Linnington's June 16th emailed announcement, the following statement was released by Ann Mills-Griffiths, League Chairman of the Board & CEO:

"Almost exactly a year ago, at our 46th Annual Meeting, DPAA Director Mike Linnington gave the families and veterans his word that he would be with this mission 'for the long term, at least ten years.'" His unexpected resignation came as a shocking reversal. Emails and calls since the announcement expressed understandable frustration and anger, but we've been through many disappointments since 1992 and know the long-serving dedicated civilians have been the core of accounting efforts for years. We trust them to continue as they have, in the

interest of all. This latest episode will bring greater, even more unified determination to move forward, on that you can rely."

PRESIDENT VISITS VIETNAM: On a trip to Vietnam from May 22-25, President Obama met with senior Vietnamese officials. During a press conference concluding his official meeting, he stated, *"On behalf of the American people, including our veterans, I want to thank the government and the people of Vietnam for the many years of cooperation to account for Americans missing in action – solemn efforts that we'll continue together."*

US-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION (USRJC) ON POW/MIAs HOLDS PLENARY SESSION:

After a lapse of over ten years, the USRJC finally held plenary discussions May 22-25 at the Pentagon. This lack of official contact, much less substantive discussions, can be attributed primarily to on-again, off-again bilateral tensions and lack of high level support by both governments for resuming joint humanitarian accounting efforts. During this lengthy period, various scenarios were in play to terminate the Presidential Commission and replace this special presidentially-established communication channel with routine diplomatic contacts. Those efforts failed for many reasons, not least the strong opposition to such a move by the League and the major national veteran organizations. Those most directly impacted are eager to see momentum return to the work of the USRJC, a viable channel for engaging Russia and the former states of the former Soviet Union.

The plenary was led on the Russian side by General Colonel Vostrotin, a national hero in the Russian Federation, and on the US side by General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret). A report published on May 26 by DPAA stated, *"...the USRJC was re-energized to make further progress in each of the four conflicts' working groups. All agreed to expand archival research opportunities in both countries. The US side declared that they will continue work to find information on the 264 servicemen Russia lists as MIA from its LONG involvement in Afghanistan. The US also indicated it will increase efforts to help the Russian side determine what happened to its missing citizens from other past wars and conflicts."* VFW Executive Director and Assistant National Adjutant Bob Wallace and League Chairman of the Board & CEO Ann Mills-Griffiths attended social functions hosted by the two delegations, one at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA, another at the Russian Cultural Center, hosted by the Russian Chairman, and a closing reception at the VFW's Headquarters on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

ADVANCING THE PLENARY: Following coordination with General Foglesong, and with interagency approval, then DPAA Director Linnington traveled to Moscow on February 8th to meet with the Russian Co-Chairman, General Colonel Vostrotin, to propose the date and agenda for the plenum. The League is cautiously optimistic that the work of the USRJC will be renewed and restored, especially since the Russian Federation named its new Chairman and opened an office in their Embassy in Washington, DC. Recognizing it was well past time to get beyond the endless delays that have plagued the Commission's work, the League welcomes and appreciates these new initiatives by leaders in both countries and looks forward to increased efforts and accounting results. While traveling, Mr. Linnington also visited several European countries and senior US officials in the region who are now contributing to the effort to conduct WWII recoveries.

FORMER DPAA DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO THE PRC AND SOUTH KOREA: Former Director Linnington also traveled to Beijing and Seoul. No specific information was shared on the discussions or their outcome, but shortly after the talks concluded, the PRC cancelled a long-planned field recovery mission near their border with North Korea (DPRK) purportedly for security reasons. Mr. Linnington also visited Seoul and held talks with officials there, renewing longstanding ties with South Korean officials who continue to support US accounting efforts, even building their own "DPAA-equivalent" agency, with the experienced advice and counsel of DPAA's Deputy Director Outreach & Communication, (b)(6) retired Army LTC and

former Commander and Deputy Commander of the Central Identification Laboratory, absorbed into JPAC in 2003.

Prior to his trip, the League urged Mr. Linnington to raise the need for responsiveness by Beijing, not only on the known PRC-controlled POW camps during the Korean War, but on records that surely exist related to PRC personnel who served during the Vietnam War. Specifically requested were archival documents related to communication units in the Vieng Xai/Sam Neua cave complex in northern Laos visited by the League Executive Director in 1982. The League recognizes the need for PRC cooperation to account for US personnel lost during both the Vietnam and Korean wars, hoping that new initiatives will be undertaken without extensive delay, and is hopeful that PRC officials will at long last be responsive.

47TH ANNUAL MEETING HELD LAST WEEK: Despite Mr. Linnington's unexpected resignation and the last-minute withdrawal of Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, replaced by **Acting Under Secretary for Personnel & Readiness Peter Levine**, as the Opening Session Keynote Speaker on June 23rd, the 47th Annual Meeting was the largest and most productive in years. It included the 47th Annual Meeting Dinner & Commemorative Candlelight Ceremony in which **Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley** was the speaker. His supportive, meaningful remarks inspired all present, as did his participation, along with **Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States H.E. Pham Quang Vinh**, in reading aloud the names of 16 American and Vietnamese personnel who lost their lives on April 7, 2001 in a tragic helicopter accident while on a mission to account for our missing. Some of their families were honored guests at the dinner. **League Senior Policy Advisor (b)(6)** read the names of men still missing and unaccounted-for whose loved ones were present. At the Opening Session, Mr. (b)(6) presented remarks – fully coordinated with and supported by League Chairman of the Board and CEO Ann Mills-Griffiths – assessing DPAA's first year as a DoD agency. His fair, objective, critical observations held the rapt attention of family members, veterans and all US officials present. The full text of (b)(6) remarks is available on the League's web site, [Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org) < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>, as are nearly all official presentations, though former DPAA Director Linnington again had nothing in writing. The incoming **Deputy Director of DIA, Ms. Melissa Drisko**, spelled out DIA's full and continuing support for its Stony Beach Team of specialists, now the only US Government unit focused solely on Vietnam War accounting, primarily on Last Known Alive (LKA) cases, interviewing witnesses, collecting relevant archival material and augmenting DPAA investigation capabilities, including those of DPAA Detachments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. A full report of the 47th Annual Meeting will be included in the upcoming League Newsletter.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/>>



Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies>>

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 3 Jul 2016 15:58:55 -0400
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths - SENSITIVE

Fern, I meant to call you yesterday while in the office, but time got away from me, not an unusual occurrence these days, so I'm back at it, trying to accomplish a few things to tie up loose ends.

I depart tomorrow at 5:05 PM for San Diego, and will initially spend time with my daughter and family there, before flying on to the Bay Area to see my eldest brother and family, then to Cambria for a couple of days with life-long friends, then on to Pismo Beach for a Mills Reunion, before returning to the Bay Area and flying back to San Diego for a couple of days before flying back to DC on July 27th. Throughout, I'll be available on my cell phone, (b)(6) and most if not all of the time by this email. Feel free to call at any time.

I'm very concerned that someone with DPAA is thinking along the lines outlined below, namely that the PRC and DPRK might be sensitive to learning that DIA's well-known, long-recognized Stony Beach Team is intended to PCS to Hanoi, as we already have in Laos and Cambodia. Of course that is absurd, but I'm hoping you can bring an end to this during your conversation on Tuesday with (b)(6) and, hopefully, Melissa Drisko, directly and without filters.

To hear that anyone in DPAA should be asserting "caution" is needed lest the PRC and DPRK object to or be overly sensitive to "intelligence assets" being PCSd to Hanoi, he/she should get a grip on reality. The key player in future Vietnam War accounting IS the SRV, and they have indicated they are on board, know the nature and objectives of Stony Beach, and have NO problem with their being permanently in Hanoi, so long as the outward signals are directly related to the accounting mission/DPAA, just as I've repeatedly and faithfully reported to DoD/DPAA and its predecessor organizations. DIA is simply looking to DPAA, as the primary DoD agency responsible, for concurrence. Successive US Ambassadors have been on board and supportive, even giving up State and other billets in Hanoi to get SRV approval, but it was a bit too early from them at that time. NOW, is the time, due to agreement by both governments to continue to increase the bilateral relationship, including mil-to-mil, so the opportunity is definitely here, and the signals by moving now are completely within current broader policy, as they are priority on the accounting mission.

I sincerely hope you, as Acting Director, don't allow DPAA to be the reason this long-sought plus-up doesn't go forward as planned; that would be tragic, a self-inflicted wound for no substantive reason.

Obviously, DPAA can use the relatively cost-free additional assets to augment investigations in Vietnam, can be attributed to USG increasing the "pace and scope" the SRV has consistently requested since 2009, and DIA/SB's plan is to plus-up Vietnam coverage, with an adequate number of Vietnamese-speaking specialists. The question becomes, what is there to lose? It certainly won't mean any less PRC cooperation, likely quite the opposite, and it definitely would not have an adverse impact on the ZERO cooperation currently provided by the lunatic running the North Korean people into the ground.

You wanted to wait until Mike was gone before we talked, and I understand his last day in the office was June 30th, though on terminal leave until July 18th, perhaps to get moved and resettled. As you know, I'm willing to help you and Mark in any way possible, as I was Mike, but I think you're more secure in yourself than he was or ever will be, or so is my observation to date. I was very pleased to see the deadline for applications on the Director position extended until July 15th, an additional 15 days, though of course I have no idea who has applied, or will, just know that it will take a self-confident, intelligent, committed person to have any chance of success, and that is ONLY if he/she is self-confident and intelligent enough to listen and learn from knowledgeable civilians, plus build the trust necessary to succeed in restoring workforce and family member/veteran confidence.

Mark, I'm copying you because I feel you, as Deputy Director, also need to be fully aware, in case you're asked separately. Were I in your position, I would not want to be blind-sided, so I'm sure you don't either. You also feel free to call whenever you wish; I'm disappointed more than you can possibly know that my planned "exit strategy" went by the wayside with Mike's resignation, taking all my hopes and plans for writing a long-planned book on the history of our POW/MIA accounting efforts. That story needs to be told and will be all the more interesting written by the only female, non-government participant in the POW/MIA Interagency Group, with a TOP SECRET clearance, working with senior US officials to develop the strategy and move toward normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam, as well as with Laos and Cambodia. It hasn't been boring, that's for sure, but I'm deeply saddened over what has occurred, knowing Mike's sudden departure means I'm not yet free to step back/out.

Let me know how I can help and I'm there. Sincerely and respectfully, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >



Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >



Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@mail.mil, (b)(6)@mail.mil (b)(6)@dodis.mil
CC: (b)(6)@mail.mil
Sent: 7/2/2016 12:37:17 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Important Message from Ann Mills-Griffiths

As cautioned earlier, and the potential danger/damage grows, as this Mickey Bergman obviously is in communication with the DPRK delegation to the UN. (b)(6) goes back to the early 1980s, and he does make contact with foreign governments which do their best to use him to their advantage. Here it is again, and I advise you bring this to Fern's and Mark Spindler's attention, NOT that they should communicate with (b)(6) the Richardson people nor the DPRK official, but so that others at the NSC and State can be prepared, as well as Dave Shear, ASD/APSA and now Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy (or some such title).

If you prefer that I handle this, let me know, but clearly DPAA "leadership" would be unaware of the historical record on this. I have to talk with Fern anyway before I leave town on the 4th due to absurd discussions going on about the pros and cons of Stony Beach working out of the Detachment 2 office (in addition to their "real" office in the DATT's office). While I have no clue about the impetus/rationale, or lack of the latter, involved in this discussion, perhaps some are unaware that SB has been embedded in all field operations since 1992, their mission IS the accounting for Vietnam War missing, especially augmentation of DPAA's (and predecessors') collection of information on LKA and other discrepancy cases, archives, interviewing, etc. IF one just looked at the signals to the DPRK, PRC, Russia and others, they already know and have long known who SB is, who they work for and why, plus the Vietnamese have spelled out their welcome so long as they have the "front" of working within the DPAA spaces.

Of course that doesn't even consider the positive signals being institutionalized in the interest of both the US and SRV that the military-to-military relationship has been and is continuing to expand, to the benefit of regional security and stability, in particular the signals to the PRC and DPRK. One would think those engaged realize this. Arguments to the contrary should be carefully scrutinized for possible self-serving objectives, also recognizing that SB is the only USG asset still focused solely on Vietnam War accounting. Any move to restrict rather than expand and reinforce their integration, would be extremely negative for DPAA. That would be especially true after all the efforts made and Hanoi's positive responses, as well as their repeated appeals to expand the pace and scope of US efforts. PCS of Stony Beach into Vietnam now can be viewed favorably and noted as adding to the US accounting effort.

It's that simple, at least in my view, and feel free to share this with Fern and Mark Spindler, but clearly, there is an absence of informed, experienced capability in the Policy Plans Directorate, not that John Unangst's departure had anything but a positive impact. Later, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >



Facebook < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/ >



Twitter < Caution-https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies >

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com
Sent: 7/2/2016 10:54:52 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Fwd: U.S. Missing In Action - Korean U.S. POW/MIA Effort Must Take Center Stage

(b)(6):

**B/Copy:
Progress !**

(b)(6)

Hi (b)(6)

Thank you for reaching out. My name is Mickey Bergman and I run the Richardson Center for Governor Richardson.

I met yesterday with Kwon and he indeed told me about your outreach.

I will give you a call on Tuesday to discuss further.

Thank you,
Mickey

Sent from my iPhone

Mickey Bergman
@mickeybergman

On Jul 2, 2016, at 8:20 AM, "(b)(6)"@gmail.com <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)"@gmail.com > "> "(b)(6)"@gmail.com <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)"@gmail.com > > wrote:

Dear Former Ambassador. & Gov. Bill Richardson:

As directed by Mr. Kwon, DPK - Korea, we are seeking your help as well in **obtaining special permission** for our **U.S. DPAA JFI teams to re-enter Korea.**

Thank you and we look forward towards further discussion and in reaching our goals in recovering all 5,300 that died in captivity there during the Korean War.

Thank you.

Mr. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

USA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)"@gmail.com <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)"@gmail.com >

[<legion_display_big_lowres.jpg>](#)

[<A Call For Help 001.jpg>](#)

<A Call For Help 001.jpg>

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 3 Jul 2016 22:17:14 -0400
To: (b)(6) CIV USARMY HRC (US); (b)(6) CIV USAF AFPC (US); (b)(6) CIV USMC MARFORPAC (US); (b)(6) CIV USN COMNAVPERSCOM (US)
Cc: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NOK Registrants for League An Mtg. Who Did NOT Pick Up Credentials
Attachments: GBObadges-NOT.Picked Up_47thAnMtg_6-2016.docx

For years note, the League has listed those who signed up to attend the League's annual meetings, at which USG briefings are given, by law, and I'm not at all sure that each of you in the DoD's Casualty Offices have accurately made note that such individuals are violated the strictures of Congressionally authorized COIN Assist transportation for the purpose of listening to USG briefings. The law is clear, yet some NOK continue to take advantage of this benefit and do NOT feel at all obliged to listen to the official briefings. As a result we are again providing a list of such individuals and would hope that at long last a comparison would be done to exclude, in the future, such people as are purposely defying the intent and structures of the law designed as a privilege for MIA families to have such access. The list is attached. If anyone of this list actually was given the privilege of traveling at taxpayer expense to have such information and failed to fulfill his/her obligations in this regard, I would request that the Service Casualty Offices so inform NOK and make clear that each/all are prohibited from such travel in the future. To do otherwise jeopardizes the COIN Assist program. I look forward to your responses, and thanks in advance, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

(b)(6)

Colonel Warren Leroy Anderson, USA
April 26, 1966 North Vietnam
South Carolina

(b)(6)

Colonel Joseph C. Austin, USAF
March 18, 1967 North Vietnam
New York

(b)(6)

E4 Douglas R. Blodgett, USA
April 19, 1968 South Vietnam
Virginia

(b)(6)

E4 Douglas R. Blodgett, USA
April 19, 1968 South Vietnam
Virginia

(b)(6)

Colonel Herbert O. Brennan, USAF
November 26, 1967 North Vietnam
Virginia

(b)(6)

Colonel Herbert O. Brennan, USAF
November 26, 1967 North Vietnam
Virginia

(b)(6)

LCpl Albert Brigham, USMC
December 14, 1966 South Vietnam
Texas

(b)(6)

SGM Raymond L. Echevarria, USA
October 3, 1966 South Vietnam
North Carolina

(b)(6)

Major Robert H. Mirrer, USAF
January 17, 1971 South Vietnam
New Jersey

(b)(6)

LTJG Terence M. Murphy, USN
April 9, 1965 China
Washington, DC

(b)(6)

Lt Col Henry M. Serex, USAF
April 2, 1972 South Vietnam
California

(b)(6)

Lt Col Charles R. Connor, USMC
October 28, 1968 South Vietnam
Pennsylvania

(b)(6)

Major Eugene P. Beresik, USAF
May 31, 1968 North Vietnam
California

(b)(6)

Colonel Herbert O. Brennan, USAF
November 26, 1967 North Vietnam
Florida

(b)(6)

Lt Col William F. Mullen, USMC
April 29, 1968 Laos
Virginia

(b)(6)

Lt Col William F. Mullen, USMC
April 29, 1968 Laos
Virginia

(b)(6)

Captain Victor A. Smith, USAF
January 17, 1969 Laos
Virginia

(b)(6)

Colonel Howard H. Smith, USAF
September 30, 1968 North Vietnam
Texas

(b)(6)

Lt Col John F. Stuart, USAF
December 20, 1972 North Vietnam
Indiana

(b)(6)

E4 Douglas R. Blodgett, USA
April 19, 1968 South Vietnam
Virginia

(b)(6)

CW3 William P. Milliner, USA
March 6, 1971 Laos
Kentucky

(b)(6)

CPL Imlay S. Widdison, USA
May 12, 1968 South Vietnam
California

From: Gardner, Gregory L CIV USARMY HRC (US)
Sent: 6 Jul 2016 15:17:25 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6) CIV USAF AFPC (US) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CIV USMC MARFORPAC (US) (b)(6) CIV USN COMNAVPERSCOM (US)
Cc: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG
USARMY DPAA FO (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] NOK Registrants for League An Mtg. Who Did
NOT Pick Up Credentials

Ann,

Thanks - Army has reviewed each case. We have quite a few families that drive and do not use COIN.

Sincerely,

Greg

Greg Gardner
Chief, Past Conflict Repatriations Branch (PCRB)
Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC)

Personal Line: (b)(6)
Team Line: (800)892-2490
(b)(6)@mail.mil

U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
ATTN: CMAOC/PCRB
1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE DEPT #450
FORT KNOX, KY 40122-5405

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2016 10:17 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV USARMY HRC (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6)
CIV USAF AFPC (US) <(b)(6)@us.af.mil>; (b)(6) CIV USMC MARFORPAC (US)
<(b)(6)@usmc.mil>; (b)(6) CIV USN COMNAVPERSCOM (US)
<(b)(6)@navy.mil>
Cc: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Spindler,
Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA
(US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
<(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NOK Registrants for League An Mtg. Who Did NOT Pick Up Credentials

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For years now, the League has listed those who signed up to attend the League's annual meetings, at which USG briefings are given, by law, and I'm not at all sure that each of you in the DoD's Casualty Offices have accurately made note that such individuals are violating the strictures of Congressionally authorized COIN Assist transportation for the purpose of listening to USG briefings. The law is clear, yet some NOK continue to take advantage of this benefit and do NOT feel at all obliged to listen to the official briefings. As a result we are again providing a list of such individuals and would hope that at long last a comparison would be done to exclude, in the future, such people as are purposely defying the intent and structures of the law designed as a privilege for MIA families to have such access. The list is attached. If anyone of this list actually was given the privilege of traveling at taxpayer expense to have such information and failed to fulfill his/her obligations in this regard, I would request that the Service Casualty Offices so inform NOK and make clear that each/all are prohibited from such travel in the future. To do otherwise jeopardizes the COIN Assist program. I look forward to your responses, and thanks in advance, Ann

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The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

From: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 20 Jul 2016 02:09:39 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Upcoming Kerry Visit & Planning for early September (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

FSW/
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush
Acting Director, DPAA
241 18th St S. (Suite 800)
Arlington, VA 22202-3420
(703) 699-1120
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: , [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 9:19 PM
To: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Upcoming Kerry Visit & Planning for early September

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hello Fern and Mark,

I hope all is well in each of your domains, and am looking forward to the update on July 28th. At that time, however, I understand that Secretary Kerry will be in Vientiane conducting advance talks in anticipation of the President's early September visit.

Understanding that Ben Rhodes is currently in o4r imminently arriving in Vientiane, I'm hopeful that he iis recognizing the fundamental role the acco9untingh mission has played in the bilateral relationship, much more so on a continuing basis than even with Vietnam or Cambodia.

Toward that objective, I'd appreciate your thoughts and recommendations to staff as to what specifically will be raised and in what context? Certainly, the new PM is well-versed and familiar with the entire history of this reality, as are most in the Lao leadership.

Thanks in advance for your response, and best to all in both locations. As ever, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22031

703-465-7432

Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org> >

You....the National League of Families have become in bedded with those who command the power and strength to quash the truth.
Very sad.

(b)(6)

cc: Judicial Watch

A Call For Oversight Involving the American Legion's State's Screening Committee

July 22, 2016

A Resolution For The Families of the Missing In Action to locate, Recover, Identify and Return to their families once and for all.

To: (b)(6)
From: (b)(6) - POW/MIA Chair - (b)(6)
Subject: A Resolution For Change & Improvement
Re: Calling For Change within The State's Screening Committee

Today we submit the following resolution whose goal is to see that the American Legion and the State Screening Committee must provide a time frame of no less than (30) business days to review any resolution placed upon the table.

Whereas; As of this date there is no oversight involving the American Legion's screening committee.

Whereas; We ask that a minimum of (30) business days turn around be adopted in order to further allow for the members who have authored and submitted their resolution ---to revise their resolution for re-submission purposes.

Whereas; Consideration is given to further resubmit a first time refused resolution and to further allow for the process to be fair and balanced in giving the members a true voice rather than being made to wait another year's time to resubmit.

Whereas; The current screening committee rules are broken and have failed the members for year with no recourse but to wait another year's time to revise and resubmit.

Whereas; Knowing full well with documented evidence (on file with the U.S. DoD) that the Vietnamese government sat on the remains for years of captured POW's while also preparing these same stored remains kept underground with a key chemical applied to keep them from Deteriorating.

Whereas; The U.S. DoD failed to secure the most recently requested documents/field reports generated by the U.S. JFI (Joint Field Investigate Dept. Accounting Agency teams) via Freedom of Information Act Request placed just this spring of 2016. Still pending....

Be It Resolved; That today any refused resolution cannot be revised in time after denial by the state's screening committee. Therefore maintaining a breach of justice against the members.

Be It Resolved; That the time frame of no less than (30) business days be included to allow time by the members to revise and resubmit their resolution.

Be It Resolved; That at all working levels of the American Legion's which involves the Post/District/State Committee--be supplied a copy this resolution for consideration in no less than (30) business days and approve same.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the Post 541 POW/MIA 2016 resolution submitted as is was ~~slow walked~~ by this year's screening committee and allowed to die out while being held back by correctness and external pressure.

(b)(6)

A Call For Oversight Involving the American Legion's State's Screening Committee

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In conclusion, there is no doubt that the Post 541 POW/MIA 2016 resolution submitted as is was **slow walked** by this year's screening committee and allowed to die out while being held hostage from a form of political correctness and external pressure.

(b)(6)

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July 22, 2016

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(b)(6)

correctness and external pressure.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com > >

To: POW Network <info@pownetwork.org < Caution-mailto:info@pownetwork.org > >; hanoi
<hanoi@state.gov < Caution-mailto:hanoi@state.gov > >; hdqs
<hdqs@illegion.org < Caution-mailto:hdqs@illegion.org > >; info
<info@judicialwatch.org < Caution-mailto:info@judicialwatch.org > >; (b)(6)
<(b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > >

Sent: Fri, Jul 22, 2016 4:17 pm

Subject: National League Of Families Needs To Fold Up It's Tent - Stop Attacking The Vietnam Veterans Military Organizations and More.....

(b)(6)
Past U.S. Based NGO To Vietnam (89' - 2001')
11th Engineers-Vietnam Revisited, 89, Ltd
(b)(6)

July 23, 2016

Mr. Pham Binh Minh
Deputy Prime Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
No 1 ton That Dam
Da Dinh District
Hanoi, Vietnam

Amb. Pham Quang Vinh
Vietnam Embassy
Public Information Officer
Washington, D.C.

**Re: Follow Up to May 11, 2016 Letter Sent
Former Wartime POW Camp Site Locations
DIC cases and More**

Your Excellency:

Not too long ago we wrote to you seeking confirmation as to those Americans that died in captivity (**Died In Captivity**) cases while being housed in the many former **POW campsite locations in North Vietnam** (see mapping attached).

Once more these are the same **U.S. POW's that died** at the hands of the **Cuban interrogators** that remain at large --while **still wanted** for these war crimes to this day.

Most importantly we are fully aware of the **U.S. remains being unearthed, stored while chemically treated** for below ground storage. This was detected by our DPAA Hawaii based Lab technicians in the past. Yet, why have the National League of Families POW/MIA never come forward here with this old information you ask? Because they believe that they are part of the U.S. Govt's Dept. of Accounting Agency.

(b)(6)

We are also aware of the closeness going on with many other U.S. based NGO's such as the **National League of Families POW/MIA**. Sadly, they too have --become part of the cover up & problem. It's called over identification. This is what almost wiped out a WWII AF Bomb group by --continued denial.

Page Two
Letter to Vietnamese Officials
US & SRV

Sadly again this same organization took **it upon themselves** to torpedo a recent 2016' submitted **POW/MIA resolution** produced by the current Ninth District POW/MIA Chairman of the American Legion here in Illinois. Yet again they, Ms. Griffiths enjoys being guided and protected by the Pentagon as well.

When a group of Vietnam combat veterans --legally seek help from the USG to include the Dept. of Defense --one must not be played against the middle. **It's time for the National League POW/MIA to fold up their tent.**

We are still attempting to **confirm these grave site locations** within these same areas. Please advise at your earliest.

In closing we once again look forward to your full cooperation while my country ponders the high grade weapons now promised to you by

(b)(6)

Cc: U.S. Ambassador Ted Osius - Hanoi, Vietnam



DPA
FIELD
RPTS
STILL
MIA
H

From: ,
Sent: 23 Jul 2016 11:41:28 -0400
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Charles A White
Attachments: image001.jpg, White-Zumar.pdf, MIA_CAP.pdf, MIA_CAP.pdf, Arias_Ray_Individuals.pdf, B_unknown.pdf, Richesson_Franklin_dbrf.pdf, Richesson_Franklin_dbrf.pdf, B_unknown.pdf, Arias_Ray_Individuals.pdf, MIA_CAP.pdf, FSC414 00007.pdf

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Just FYI, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22031
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org >

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) @gmail.com>
To: (b)(6) @usocentralfloida.org>
Cc: 'Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US)' (b)(6) @mail.mil>; 'Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)' (b)(6) @mail.mil>; 'Ann Mills Griffiths' (b)(6) @aol.com>; bousle19 (b)(6) @comcast.net>; (b)(6) @msn.com>; info <info@pownetwork.org>; (b)(6) @yahoo.com>; (b)(6) @yahoo.com>
Sent: Sat, Jul 23, 2016 7:09 am
Subject: Charles A White

White was known to be a POW in Camps 3 and 5. He died in Changsong. During Operation Glory, N-14278 remains was returned with Whites Name, rank, and service number on it. Our government claimed that forensic study U-1010 determined that the remains was not White. Other similar situations have eventually confirmed IDs for previously denied remains.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) [Caution-mailto (b)(6) @usocentralfloida.org < Caution-mailto (b)(6) @usocentralfloida.org? >]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2016 8:38 PM

To: Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US) (b)(6)@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil > >
Cc: Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US) (b)(6)@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil > >; Ann Mills Griffiths (b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > >; (b)(6)@comcast.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@comcast.net > >; (b)(6)@msn.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@msn.com > >; info@pownetwork.org < Caution-mailto:info@pownetwork.org > >; (b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com > >
Subject: FW: FW: LOCAL CONNECTION: Ohio Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (U)

Good Friday Evening Mr. Livick!

SSG Duus's media release today on Cpl. White does not seem to have confirming documentation on the 'Recently Accounted For' list found on the DPAA website. Is this due in part to web master posting delays, my inability to search or perhaps just an oversight?

I am going to make an assumption, Todd, that these remains (Cpl. White's) have been around awhile (1990's or earlier, 1954, perhaps due to the stated fact that Cpl. White died in captivity) waiting on technology to catch up and since the DPAA Medical Examiner *recently* signed off on the identification, should not Cpl. White's reported identification fall into proper chronological order based on ME's signature date on the website listing?

As we have discussed, this case, like many before it, has not come to the light of day until a media release is initiated by Public Affairs, on average, 8-10 days prior to scheduled services.

As we have discussed, there seems to be a lack of transparency and sense of urgency when it comes to DPAA notifying the American public on the identification of remains. This is not an intentional act, I am sure, but merely staff trying to interpret/follow orders/policy/procedures as they are directed. This issue – public notification – screams the need for an updated policy/procedure with emphasis on clarification, continuity as well as consistency. The DoD has notified the public of combat & non-combat casualties as soon as the next of kin has been notified and we both know that public notification often occurs before the remains even arrive at Dover. I know there is a way for DPAA to match or exceed the notification time line goals set by its parent Department.

I know we agreed to bring this issue to the monthly conference call next week, Todd, and I am hoping you will have taken advantage of the lead time and surprise us with an announcement that DPAA will initiate new policy and procedures to update the Public (at minimum the Family, Military and Veteran Organizations that participate in the monthly conference call) on remains identified within a period of time (24-48 hours) after the Family has been notified.

I hope the new policy/procedures puts time restraints on the DD 2064 report flow from the ME to CSO and then CSO to PNOK with a goal of a maximum allowable time of 168 hours, seven (7) days. This would allow the public notification to occur at a maximum of 8-9 days after the ME has confirmed the ID. A bonus to your 'surprise' would be you noting it will be implemented in full before the end of August 2016.

I do look forward to response, Todd.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

National Co-Chairman
HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN, Inc.

(b)(6)

- Home

- Mobile

[Caution-www.honorreleasereturn.com](http://www.honorreleasereturn.com) < [Caution-http://www.honorreleasereturn.com/](http://www.honorreleasereturn.com/) >



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-
-
-
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Sent: 22 July, 2016 18:00

To: (b)(6)@usocentralfloida.org < Caution-mailto(b)(6)@usocentralfloida.org >

Subject: Re: FW: LOCAL CONNECTION: Ohio Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (U)

-
[Am I missing something? CANNOT find him on the DPAA list. Find obits, etc but not DPAA.](#)

-
[On 7/22/2016 4:52 PM, \(b\)\(6\) wrote:](#)

[Welcome HOME, Cpl. White!](#)

-
From: Duus, Kristen L SSG USARMY DPAA EC (US) [Caution-mailto(b)(6)@mail.mil < Caution-mailto(b)(6)@mail.mil >]

Sent: 22 July, 2016 14:20

Subject: LOCAL CONNECTION: Ohio Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Dear editor,

The family of Army Cpl. Charles A. White, 20, of New Lexington, Ohio, unaccounted for from the Korean War, asked us to send you today's news release (attached) on the identification of his remains.

He will be buried July 29 in New Lexington, Ohio.

On December 3, 1950, White was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, when his company's position was overrun by the Chinese Communist Forces near Huksu-ri, North Korea. Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that White died in captivity at Prisoner of War Camp 1, Changsong, North Korea, in 1951. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared White deceased as of May 12, 1951.

His (b)(6) is available for interviews if you would like to contact her, at (b)(6)

The Department of Defense has the attached photo of White on file.

~Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise~

SSG Kristen Duus
Chief of External Communications
Public Affairs NCOIC- D.C. Directorate
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
241 18th Street South, Suite 800
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 699-1420

Attached Message

From (b)(6)@gmail.com>
To (b)(6)@columbus.rr.com>
Cc (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@zoominternet.net; (b)(6)@charter.net
Subject Charles White & Alfred Buie
Date Wed, 27 Mar 2013 12:59:35 -0400

Yes, (b)(6)

We met, or at least talked, back on January 13, 2010 about (b)(6) Charles who was captured on the same day as Alfred Buie.

You were copied on this email in order to help families communicate, especially when their loved ones were part of the group missing from the same unit at the same time. Over the years, we have learned that we often learn more from each other than from our government. You may have documents in your possession that mention Buie.

Buie is listed MIA, but there is evidence that he was captured and may have been with Charles in captured status.

As you recall, I am the one who mentioned to you that remains N-14278 from Changsong originally had Charles name associated with it, but either those remains were eventually matched to someone else . . . or still remain unconfirmed for Charles. My notes indicate that as of 1/14/2010, these remains were in the Punchbowl cemetery.

For more information, I would suggest contacting (b)(6) at (b)(6) or (b)(6)@us.army.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@us.army.mil > and request:

- * Field search Case for the 12/03/1950 incident which may be FSC414.
- * Debriefing reports of Marshall Robinson RA15266644, Frank Richesson 15424845, Billy Easley 18173329, Michael Giannini, John c Johnson 15259749. These are located at NARA II RG319 Entry A1 134-E ARC 1167244
- * a Formal Request to have remains N-14278 exhumed from the punchbowl for DNA, dental, & clavicle testing
- * DNA Sample kit
- * Invitation to upcoming DPMO meeting

Please copy me on what you learn and I will help you get answers.

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Network
404-394-6930

(b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >

(b)(6)

Caution-www.koreanwarpowmia.net < Caution-http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net >

From: (b)(6) Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@columbus.rr.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@columbus.rr.com? >]

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:06 PM

To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Buie, Alfred R. (MIA)

Mr. (b)(6)

I think that you may have contacted the wrong family. All of this inf. describes (b)(6) except his name is Charles A. White..

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 11:23 AM
To: (b)(6)@charter.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@charter.net >
Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > ;
(b)(6)@zoominternet.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@zoominternet.net > ;
(b)(6)@columbus.rr.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@columbus.rr.com >
Subject: RE: Buie, Alfred R. (MIA)

(b)(6)

Thanks for responding with your email address.

As you may already know, 29 men went missing from G Company, 7th infantry regiment on 12/03/1950.

Only two were labeled killed-in-action, though my research indicates that one of them, Lt Wallace may have died at Chongsong as a prisoner on 5/18/1951

Another 5 were labeled POWs and evidence indicates that all five died in enemy hands.

That leaves us with 22 men who were labeled MIAs, including Alfred Buie. Yet evidence from my research indicates that Alfred Buie, William Frank, & Ray Schaffer were POWs.

Particularly, (b)(6) Alfred is on the MIA/CAP report (spreadsheet previously sent) as being reported on by Earnest Charles. That means that someone in the military determined that the 545 Report of Death signed by Earnest Charles did indeed describe Alfred Buie instead of 'Buick'. There is a "debriefing report" from Earnest Charles located in the National Archives.

If you haven't already please contact (b)(6) at Army Casualty 800-892-2490 or (b)(6)@us.army.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@us.army.mil > and request:

* IDPF 293 for Alfred Buie RA14346743

- * Field Search Case for his incident which is at the top your DPMO summary sheet and may be FSC414
- * Debriefing report of Earnest Charles located in box 83, RG 319 Entry A1 134 E ARC 1167244 National Archives College Park MD
- * Assistance in contacting other family members of those who went missing from the same unit on the same day (3 of which are copied on this email)
- * DNA sample kit
- * invitation to next DPMO family meeting
- * Camp list of permanent camp 5 to see if any possible misspellings might match Buie

Please copy me on what you receive, and I will help you decipher the content.

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

(b)(6)
(b)(6) Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Network
(b)(6) @gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >
(b)(6)
Caution-www.koreanwarpowmia.net < Caution-http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net >

From: (b)(6)@charter.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@charter.net > [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@charter.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@charter.net >]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 4:25 PM
To: (b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >
Subject: FW: Buie, Alfred R. (MIA)

----- Begin forwarded message -----

Subject: Buie, Alfred R. (MIA)

Date: 3/25/13 7:43:38 PM

From: (b)(6)@charter.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@charter.net >

To: (b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >

Mr. (b)(6)

I was out of town when the information you sent me in the mail arrived concerning (b)(6) (b)(6) PFC Alfred R. Buie. If I understand this correctly this is saying that there was a returned POW who saw (b)(6) in a POW camp at some point. I had heard this once before somewhere in my research. Do you have any other information on this you could guide me to? If I need to call you during the day please let me know. If you could contact me directly my number is (b)(6) with any additional information, or e-mail (b)(6)@charter.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@charter.net >). Thanks much--(b)(6)

Attached Message

From (b)(6)@gmail.com>
To (b)(6)@columbus.rr.com
Subject Charles A White
Date Tue, 21 Apr 2015 18:15:13 -0400

Just wanted to be sure, (b)(6) . .

. . . that you have all the docs from my research.

I hope by now you have contacted Army Casualty 800-892-2490 and requested debriefs of Billy Easley, Nichola Giannini, John Johnson, Frank Richesson, and Marshall Robinson who were known to have mentioned Charles in the debriefs. Also there was a question about remains N-14278 which had Charles name on it when returned in 1954.

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Network

Serving more than 4,200 family members

Cell (b)(6)

(b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >

(b)(6)

Caution-www.koreanwarpowmia.net < Caution-http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net >



That every way ends



Roster of Victims whose names are mentioned in statements from U.N. POW Returnees

Name	Serial Number	Rank	Type of Incident	Source of Information
White Charles A.	RA 15296548	Pfc.	Death From Mistreatment	Franklin D. Richesson
Woodson Ralph	RA 18335548	Sgt.	Torture	Charles Edward Massie
Woolford William L.	ER 33723258	Cpl.	Death From Mistreatment	1st Lt. Bailey
Wilson William D.	A00735720	Maj.	Torture	Lt. J.G. De Masters
Winters William W.	O-0942161	Lt.	Death From Mistreatment	Capt. Kutys
Wright William J.	AF 00941586	Lt.	Mistreatment	Lt. William J. Wright
Wright Vernon L.	A01910299	Lt.	Torture	Lt. Col. Zacherle
Yarrish Gerald V.	RA 11194666	Cpl.	Death From Mistreatment	1st Lt. Taegue
Zumar Charles	RA 13335462	Pvt.	Death From Mistreatment	Capt. Radowszewski

BRITISH

Name	Type of Incident	Source of Information
Ahearn Jerry	Death From Mistreatment	1st Lt. James Slavrakes
Aldrich James	Death From Mistreatment	Maj. Shirey
Cabrow Henry	Torture	Lt. Henry H. Osborne
Craig Bobby	Death From Mistreatment	Cpl. Preece
Lyons Edward	Death From Mistreatment	Lt. Col. Paul Liles
Gabriel Henry	Death From Mistreatment	Lt. Conley Clarke

NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	GRADE	DUTY BRANCH	CONTROL BRANCH	RACE	COMPONENT	CAT. TERM	SUB UNIT	A B	MOS	C	D	E	F	G
• WHITE LEE, JOHN N	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	ER	1625	4742			6
— WHEELING, CHARLES	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1234	1817			1
— WHISLER, WILLIAM	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1929	6543			6
• WHITACAE, FRED DOUGLAS	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	US	4607	2147			1
— WHITE, BILLY	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1438	3503			6
• WHITE, CHARLES A	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	ER	5501	9277			1
— WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1307	9894			2
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	ER	1327	8387			5
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1433	7443			5
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	ER	5302	0014			5
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	ER	1428	3420			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1528	6644			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1542	4845			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1811	3536			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1871	5723			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1528	6644			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1723	3173			1
• WHITE, DELBERT LLOYD	9416251719	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	REDR 10	RA	1835	0014			1

2. d. The identity and location of other persons who observed the incident:

The men who told us about this incident were PsW who came from the Bean Camp. There was a fellow named Chelli (fnu) (phonetic), whose home was in Pennsylvania. He was from the 24th Regiment, and was an Italian fellow about 5'9" in height and weighed about 140 pounds. Also, there was a guy named Aldrich Boyd (phonetic), who was about 5'11", weighed 140 pounds, from the 24th Regiment, and I believe he was from North Carolina.

- e. A map or sketch or coordinates, indicating the place where the incident occurred:

N/A

- f. Additional information which would help in the investigation of the incident:

N/A

3. Do you know of any US prisoners who died or disappeared while in captivity? Do you know the circumstances? Had any of them made propaganda against the United States?

Hammonds, who I have named and described previously, was taken out of Camp #1 and I never saw him again.

Friday (phonetic) (fnu), died in 1952. He was in my Company. He became ill and they could have taken him to the hospital, but they didn't. He had dysentery and they just left him in the camp until he was almost dead then they took him to the hospital where he died the next day. The only medicine they gave him was some kind of a white powder, but it didn't help him. I believe Friday's home was in Indiana.

There was also a PW named White (fnu) who died in PW Camp #1. He also had dysentery. I believe his home was in Ohio.

The Chinese often took PWs from Camp, usually at night, but I don't know where they were being transferred. These were usually the reactionaries or PsW who were giving the Communists trouble at Camp. Just before the armistice I guess they took about 20 reactionaries from our camp. Some of these were:

Leedal (phonetic), (fnu), about 5'10", middle finger missing. He was from Chicago. I don't remember anything else about him with the exception that he tried to escape at one time.

Mitchell, Charles. He was from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was about 5'7" in height, chubby build, had brown hair, light complected and was in the 31st Regiment before being captured.

William Abbott. He was with the 31st Regiment, 7th Division before being captured. He came from Ohio; was about 5'7" in height and weighed about 140 pounds; light complected and had been wounded in the back.

There was another PW, (fmu) Harrison, who they took out of Camp separately and we never knew what happened to him. He had gotten into a fight with another PW. Some of the Chinese used to like Harrison and I thought they had taken him out of camp for his own protection. Harrison had been friendly with a Chinese Platoon Leader. Harrison was about 5'9" in height, had a round face; I never knew very much about him

Additional PsW who died in camp: (they were all buried on a hill near Camp, which was called Boot Hill. It was unmarked until 1953, when they started making grave markers and then they did mark the graves.)

Clyde Clayton. I believe he was from the 31st Regiment and his home was in Ohio or Oklahoma. He was a First Sergeant. He was small, about 5'6" in height and was about 42 years of age. His hair was turning grey. The cause of his death is unknown to me.

Swarmar (phonetic) (fmu), a 1st Sergeant from the 31st Regiment. He was in his early forties, was about 5'10" and was tall and had a light complexion. He had been heavy; however, I don't recall any other details about him other than he died from dysentery.

White (phonetic) (fmu) who died from dysentery. He was about 5'9" tall, weighed about 150 pounds and was around 20 years of age. He was originally from Ohio.

Pete Nordike (phonetic). He was about 5'10" and weighed around 160 pounds, light complected. He had beri-beri, I believe.

There were some other PsW who died; however, I do not recall any of their names.

4. In describing the atrocities in answers to Questions #1, #2 and #3, state whether the atrocities occurred in PW Camps, hospitals, or PW movements; the apparent reasons, if any, why acts were committed, and if the atrocities consisted of any of the following acts:

a. Executions:

The PsW mentioned previously who were shot during their march to PW Camp #1. These were the only executions that I know of.

b. Beatings:

I don't know of any.

c. Starving: (amount in comparison to that given the guards)

No one starved except that some of them were sick and couldn't eat the food they gave us and these men died.

d. Torture of any sort?

None that I know of.

K4 153 B-1

Guarding us were Chinese soldiers. There were guards at all road intersections within the camp (that would make nine (9) in our company alone and there were seven (7) companies); two (2) would be located in a cornfield just in back of the camp, and at night there would be four (4) or five (5) walking around in each company area. I couldn't estimate how many were stationed there altogether.

Living conditions were very bad in the camp, and never got better until the Spring of 1953. March and April of 1951 were the hardest for us. I know of twenty-five (25) deaths during this period, mostly in my company, so I figure there were many more within the camp. Deaths at this time were caused by dysentery, beri beri, and stomach trouble. I think it was trying to get used to the bad food we were eating. At this time the wounded and sick were put in two (2) large buildings we called the "Death House". The place was filthy and had rotten floor boards. There was a doctor, but all the sick and wounded got was a pill. The doctor had no medicine. I can only remember the names of three (3) now who died: They were:

Sherman (first name unknown)	- 7th Division, 32nd Regiment,
	"A" Company (1st Sgt)
White (first name unknown)	- 3rd Division, "I" Company
John First	- 2nd Division, 38th Regiment,
	Hq. Company

All three (3) died of stomach disorders or malnutrition. I nursed John FIRST for awhile, and he seemed to be getting better. He died after being taken to the "Death House".

The food was very bad. Our diet consisted primarily of rice, soy-beans, barley, potatoes, and very bad pork. The pork was kept over extended periods without refrigeration and was wormy. In 1953 our food began getting somewhat better. We received some candy and sugar and a bottle of beer on Christmas Day of 1952. We also received cigarettes in 1953. We knew the diet wasn't adequate because we all suffered from night blindness. On 21 July 1953 I got ptomaine poisoning from some canned beef I ate. I was the only one affected to the best of my knowledge. By this time the hospital had been cleaned up and was furnished with beds and white sheets. The hospital was now manned by a woman surgeon, two (2) male doctors, and some Chinese assistants.

We had two (2) types of uniforms, winter and summer. The winter uniform issue consisted of one (1) pair of cotton padded pants, one (1) cotton padded coat, and rubber shoes, like our American sneakers.

During the stay at this camp I buried my best buddy, who died of dysentery, in the manner mentioned above. This type burial was all that was allowed. His name was Charles A. ~~White~~ White and his home was in the vicinity of Newark, Ohio.

POW/Br

Approximately 700 American men were repatriated from this camp.

I was released on 14 August 1953 and rode to Panmunjom where I was freed.

Rg 153 box 5

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of February 19 54
at Coshocton, Ohio Route #5
(Place) (Address)

Carroll A. Stairs
CARROLL A. STAIRS
Captain, CE
Summary Court Officer

Franklin D. Richerson

- 1 Incl
1. Sketch of Camp #1

SECURITY INFORMATION

Roster of Personnel from 7 th Inf Regt who are KIA, MIA, POW, on 3 Dec 51 (cont'd)

NAME	ASN	RANK	ORGAN	STATUS
Winkler, Donald T	RA32667191	Cpl	G Co	3 1
ODonnell, Edward F	RA20251810	Pfc	H 3	61
Olman, Edward C	US55019581	Pv 2	F Co	61 POW P-5
Owens, Robert L	RA25193730	Pfc	G Co	61
Parrish, Earnest B	RA13320524	Sgt	F Co	61
Perrella, William P	RA13344996	Pfc	G Co	61
Rinkes, Kenneth M	RA13347514	Pfc	F Co	61
Rose, Herman	RA14364347	Pv 2	G Co	61
Rose, Paul E	RA13343889	Pfc	G Co	61
Schaffer, Raymond P	RA17197109	Cpl	G Co	61 POW P-5
Sealy, Hoyt L	O-0958290	1 Lt	F Co	61
Shaw, James P	RA44146318	Pv 2	G Co	61 DIE P3
Sneed, George F	O-0948865	1 Lt	F Co	61 KIA
Smith, Bernard L	RA19368855	Pv 2	HM	61
Sneed, William C	RA16328288	Pv 2	G Co	61
Sprock, Alvin	US46084148	Pv 2	G Co	61 RMC
Stough, August F	RA17899487	Pv 2	F Co	61 RMC
Thompson, Hjalmer E	RA19361779	Pfc	G Co	61
Wallace, Robert J	O-1685527	1 Lt	G Co	61 DIE P3
White, Charles A	RA15296548	Pfc	G Co	61
Williams, Jim E	RA06312801	Pfc	H Co	7 RMC
Barber, James H	ER14213336	Pv 2	G Co	7 RMC
Richesson, Franklin	RA15424845	Pfc	G Co	7 RMC
Ryan, John E	ER17254455	Pfc	F Co	7 RMC 9

7th Infantry Regiment

4 December 1950

F.S. #414

Boyle, Earl B	ER 37522629	Pv 2	F Co	6
Caldwell, Thomas T	RA 36255536	Cpl	MD	6
Foreman, Doyle	RA 18291454	Pv 2	F Co	3 SHIPPED
Friday, James F	RA 11168253	Cpl	MD	10 DIE P50QMG
Monaco, Paul	RA 31330711	Sgt	MD	6
Mooney, Custer F	RA 38685144	Cpl	MD	6

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 29 Aug 2015 16:26:21 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: SOG Aviators Disgraced

Interesting article from a very reliable author, published in SOFREP, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #20818*

Sent: 8/26/2015 1:34:06 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: SOG Aviators disgraced

It took a while, but, here's the story on bureaucrats removing 11 words from the PUC
issued to SOG April 4, 2001 at Ft. Bragg.



Government Bureaucrats Insult SOG Aviators

John Stryker Meyer

Aviators flying support during the secret eight-year war in Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam had their heroic efforts erased by a small federal government agency in 2013, SOFREP has learned.

During that top-secret **cross-border war** fought from 1964 to 1972, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy aircraft supported Green Berets and their indigenous counterparts running reconnaissance and other classified operations deep behind enemy lines under the aegis of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group, or simply SOG.

The secret war was a high-risk security operation hidden from the press, the public, most members of Congress, as well as the family members of special operations forces who ran these top-secret missions. SOG operated outside the normal chain of command, answering directly to the White House and a key staff member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

So secret were these missions, it took 29 years after SOG's closure in 1972 for these warriors to be recognized publicly for their extreme courage, sacrifice, and tremendous losses. This official recognition finally came in the form of the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC), the unit award for valor, equivalent to the Distinguished Service Cross—our nation's second highest individual award for valor, second only to the Medal of Honor.

The SOG PUC was presented in a public awards ceremony held on April 4, 2001 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. That PUC was awarded to SOG personnel "for extraordinary heroism" by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White. In the written narrative of that award, it explained why SOG units received it "for extraordinary heroism, great combat achievement, and unwavering fidelity while executing unheralded top-secret missions deep behind enemy lines across Southeast Asia."

The narrative named a few Air Force units that supported SOG: the 1st Flight Detachment, the 15th Air Commando Squadron, the 15th, 20th, and 90th Special Operations Squadrons, and the South Vietnamese Air Force's 219th Special Operations Squadron. It also cited Navy SEAL operations along the coast of North Vietnam under the command of the U.S. Navy Advisory Detachment based in Da Nang, one Navy EC-121 aircraft and crew based in Saigon, and Marine Corps personnel assigned to SOG headquarters staff in Saigon and Da Nang.

After describing many of the SOG missions performed by these warriors during the secret war, the citation turned briefly to acknowledge the unnamed air units that supported the ground troops:

"Supporting these hazardous mission were Special Operations Group's own United States and South Vietnamese Air Force transport and helicopter squadrons, along with U.S. Air Force

forward air controllers and helicopters units of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines Corps. These courageous aviators often flew into and through heavy fire to extract Special Operations Group operators from seemingly hopeless situations, saving lives by selflessly risking their own."

But it didn't name any of the Army or Marine Corps units.

The insult to SOG aviators

During the eight-year war, numerous American helicopter units flew these high-risk missions across the fence into enemy territory supporting SOG teams. Hundreds were killed and wounded supporting these missions. Some units, such as the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion, the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the Muskets of 36-C from the Americal Division, the 176th Aviation Company, and Marine Corps Huey gunships and Cobra gunships from HML-367 (Scarface) to name but a few were assigned to fly SOG missions regularly. However, they and dozens of other aviation units that supported SOG were not mentioned by name in the PUC citation or narrative.



This is a Marine Corps UH-1E flown by Marine aviators of HML-367 (call sign Scarface) during the eight-year secret war.

Over time, airmen from these and other units went back to the Army seeking to have their military records reflect their time serving in the deadly SOG missions. In reaction to the aviators and crew members seeking just recognition, bureaucrats from the Army Human Resources Command—Award and Decorations Branch took an extreme measure: They had a new general order written and approved in 2013.

Under General Order 2013-07, the following words were removed from the original General Order 2001-25: "...and helicopters units of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines Corps." That was the only mention of Army and Marine helicopter units who fought so valiantly during the secret war.

"The U.S. Army Center of Military History requested that Army Human Resources Command—Awards and Decorations Branch make an administrative clarification by removing the phrase, 'and helicopter units of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps,'" said Ray Gall, public affairs officer for the Army's Human Resources Command. "This phrase generated numerous requests for the award's amendment since the award's approval because numerous aviation unit elements were on call to support MACV-SOG on a rotational basis," he added. "These units were neither part of MACV-SOG nor formally attached or assigned to it, and are therefore ineligible for inclusion on the PUC. The PUC recognized only the organic elements and formally attached or assigned units."

He said service members not mentioned in the PUC narrative "would be recognized for their efforts in their own unit awards and individual decorations." Many of the units that supported SOG 40-plus years ago no longer exist, and the ones that are operational today are deployed or in training for present-day assignments.

The PUC change was carried out quietly and surreptitiously without any notification to the handful of surviving SOG veterans or aviators, nor to SOG personnel who helped write it and who took it up the chain of command 15 years ago for review prior to it being approved. Retired Maj. John Plaster, the key author of the PUC, and MG Ken Bowra—both of whom ran SOG reconnaissance missions—assisted in getting the first PUC approved. Both men said they were not notified prior to

the new 2013 PUC being issued. They learned about the redaction from a SOFREP correspondent.

In a recent interview with Plaster, he said, "I never heard from anyone about this change and I certainly don't understand how anyone can change it and why anyone would change it."

Reaction to this bureaucratic slap in the collective face to Army and Marine Corps aviators who supported SOG missions drew immediate and heated reactions.

"Let me get this straight," said Douglas L. "The Frenchman" LeTourneau, who ran SOG recon missions from September 1968 to September 1969 and had his recon teams saved numerous times from attacking enemy forces by Army and Marine aviators. "Some stinking, REMF bureaucrat, for the sake of bureaucratic expediency, went to the trouble to get an Army general order written and approved that removed 11 words from our PUC to make their lives easier while insulting every aviator who served on a SOG mission. From this administration, I'm not surprised."

Attorney James R. Moriarty flew three tours of duty in Vietnam with **Marine Corps VMO-2** gunships, which supported SOG missions in Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam. He said, "Many of the most courageous and successful missions of the Vietnam War were conducted in secret by Special Forces soldiers and indigenous personnel operating in SOG missions across the fence. Because these missions took place in Laos and Cambodia, at great distances from conventional supporting troops, artillery, or naval gunfire, the air assets assigned to SOG took on an even more important role in supporting these brave men.

"The forefront of these air assets included Army and Marine helicopter squadrons, whose men bravely and at grave risk of loss of their own lives provided transportation, gun and rocket support, communications and, most of all to a desperate team trapped by the enemy, extraction and a return to base, sometimes in body bags. The enormous success of SOG in Southeast Asia simply could not have taken place without this support, and for some bureaucrat to come back decades after the

war to remove the scant recognition these Army and Marine aviators received in the initial award of this PUC is beyond acceptable.”

Green Beret Mike Taylor ran SOG recon and company-sized missions into Laos and Cambodia and was a forward air controller over SOG areas of operations for more than 18 months. Few in SOG had more experience working with air assets assigned to SOG than Taylor, who retired as a lieutenant colonel and is presently chairman of the Special Operations Association's POW/MIA Committee.

“I cannot comprehend any reason whatsoever that some anonymous, unnamed bureaucrat in the Army Board of Military Corrections, safe and warm in his cubicle in Alexandria, Virginia, forty-plus years after the war, would be moved to remove ‘helicopter units of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps’ from the SOG PUC,” said Taylor. “Certainly, no information came to light between the original award in 2001 and the amendment in 2013 to indicate that those brave, valiant, and selfless warriors did not, in fact, ‘support’ our ‘hazardous missions.’ They were essential to our mission accomplishment and, more personally, our survival.”

There are many corrections that the board might have made, Taylor said, pointing out that SOG is misnamed as “Studies and Observation Group” and, repeatedly, as “Special Operations Group” throughout. “But, such criticisms are insignificant,” he said. “The petty, small-minded deletion of the Army and USMC helicopter units is not. It is egregious. In fact, there are aviation assets that should be added to the narrative, such as the terrific support we received from the A-1 Skyraider units associated with MACV-SOG.”

Jeffrey J. “Crash” Makool was a crew chief with A Company “The Comancheros” of the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion based out of Phu Bai. That unit’s primary mission was supporting SOG teams across the fence in Laos. Makool, who served from 1970–71, survived two helicopter crashes with The Comancheros supporting SOG missions in Laos when his choppers were gunned down by enemy fire.

“I was on the ground with SOG Green Berets twice when my chopper got shot out from underneath me. It was terrifying for me,

*and the Special Forces recon men were fearless. When my second bird crashed, my helicopter landed on top of me, knocking me unconscious. I'll never forget it, waking up to Walter Martin. The tall Green Beret lifted the burning chopper off of me before the aviation fuel that was leaking on me ignited. It's a total disgrace to every aviator who served in SOG and to those who never returned. I'm totally disgusted with the Army, the military, and our f***** government to denigrate us in such a manner. I have the original PUC hanging on my wall; it means I have all the love and respect from the men of MACV-SOG."*

Jack Tobin, president of the 10,000-member Special Forces Association said he was going to report this "bureaucratic disgrace" to the command staff of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command at Ft. Bragg and the Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB.

Rick Estes, president of the Special Operation Association, which was formed 39 years ago by SOG recon men and expanded to include aviators and other special operations forces including Navy SEALs, Marine Corps **Force Reconnaissance**, and Air Force Pararescuemen, added, "It's simply beyond my comprehension why anyone would tamper with the PUC awarded to SOG in 2001. It's nuts. It's wrong."

Taylor concluded, "This was such an unnecessary insult. What was the intent of this amendment? What did it accomplish? Shame on everyone involved in the initiation, approval, and publication of Department of the Army General Order 2013-07."

As chairman of the SOA's POW/MIA Committee, Taylor noted that today, there are approximately 260 aviators who remain listed as missing in action in Laos. At least 105 of them died in support of the eight-year secret war. Additionally, in Laos alone, there are 51 SOG Green Berets still listed as MIAs.

Every aviator and Green Beret interviewed by SOFREP agreed that removing those 11 words from the original 2001 PUC heaped the greatest insult upon the dead, the men killed in action during SOG missions.

Featured image: One of the few units mentioned in the PUC awarded to SOG in 2001 was the South Vietnamese Air Force's 219th Special Operations Squadron which flew support for SOG during the entire eight-year secret war. Here, 219th pilot Capt. Nguyen Van Tuong, fellow pilots, and his crew chief stand in front of a Sikorsky H-34 at the SOG Quang Tri, S. Vietnam launch site in the fall of 1968 prior to inserting a SOG recon team into a target across the fence in Laos. The team is aboard the aircraft.

About the Author



John Stryker Meyer is an author and U.S. Army Special Forces combat veteran of service in covert reconnaissance who served two tours of duty running recon with the Studies and Observations Group, also known as MACV-SOG. Meyer has authored two books: *Across The Fence: The Secret War in Vietnam -- Expanded Edition*, and *On The Ground: The Secret War in Vietnam*, that he co-authored with fellow SOG recon Green Beret John Peters. *On the Ground* is only available as an e-book.

Read more: <http://sofrep.com/42766/government-bureaucrats-insult-sog-aviators/#ixzz3jwIgLLTw>

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 29 Aug 2015 17:41:30 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: The Vietnam-US-China Triangle: New Dynamics And Implications – Analysis



President Barack Obama and Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, talk while waiting for the press to enter prior to delivering statements following their bilateral meeting in the Oval Office, July 7, 2015. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

The Vietnam-US-China Triangle: New

Dynamics And Implications – Analysis

By Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Saturday, August 29th, 2015

By Le Hong Hiep*

CPV General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong's recent visit to Washington has been praised by both sides as a "historic" landmark in bilateral relations (The White House, 2015). However, in order to gain a more nuanced evaluation of the visit's significance, the visit needs to be considered within the broader regional context, and against the backdrop of recent changes in the Vietnam-US-China triangle.

This paper seeks to analyze the new dynamics in this triangular relationship and their implications. By adopting a three-level analysis approach, it will examine three of the most important factors at the systemic, national and sub-national levels which currently shape the relationship from a Vietnamese perspective.

These factors are the increasing strategic competition between the US and China, the level of strategic trust between Vietnam and the two powers, and Vietnam's domestic political and economic developments.

The paper is divided into four sections. The first three analyze the mentioned dynamics, while the final section discusses possible implications for the region.

The paper argues that new dynamics in the triangle are conducive to the improvement of Vietnam-US relations while unfavourable for Ha Noi's ties with Beijing. Vietnam's relations with the US will therefore improve significantly, while its relations with China will suffer significant setbacks. However, these trends may still be constrained by traditional factors shaping Vietnam's foreign policy, such as ideological considerations and Vietnam's wish to maintain a balance between the two great powers.

SYSTEMIC LEVEL: INTENSIFYING STRATEGIC

COMPETITION BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA

US-China strategic competition is on the rise, and the two countries seem to be heading towards a Cold-War style rivalry, characterized by an intense contest for zones of influence and, to a lesser extent, for military supremacy. The only difference is that outright confrontation is deliberately being avoided, at least for the time being, due to their complex interdependence in many realms.

China's determination to expand its footprint worldwide and to challenge American primacy through its military buildup and such initiatives as the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB), the One Belt – One Road (OBOR) project, or the building of massive artificial islands in the South China Sea, shows its departure from Deng Xiaoping's mantra of "tao guang yang hui" (hide our capabilities and bide our time). The Chinese leadership, especially under Xi Jinping, seems to have come to believe that while China's power has come of age, that of the US is declining. They are confident that it is now time for China and its people to aspire for the "Chinese Dream", and to forge a new international order more conducive to

its interests and commensurate with its rising power. Such aspirations, however, have raised concerns not only in Washington, but also in regional capitals, including Ha Noi.

Meanwhile, Washington's determination to preserve its global primacy, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, has informed its hardening stance against Beijing. To most observers, US key regional initiatives, such as the strategic rebalancing to the Western Pacific and the Trans-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement, all have been launched with China as the hidden primary target. The US has also worked quietly to expand and strengthen its network of regional allies and partners to gain a strategic upper hand over China.

Against this backdrop, Southeast Asia has emerged as an arena for the two powers' strategic competition. Vietnam, in particular, has become a natural target for both powers' diplomatic manoeuvres.

After the Haiyang Shiyu (HYSY) 981 oil rig crisis in 2014, China tried to restore its relationship with Vietnam by inviting CPV General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong to visit Beijing in April 2015.

China accorded Mr. Trong the highest level of protocol with a 21-gun salute. During the visit, while trying to address tensions over the South China Sea, the two sides also put an emphasis on economic cooperation. They agreed to establish two working groups on infrastructure development and financial cooperation (BBC Vietnamese, 2015; Voice of Vietnam, 2015). These agreements seem to serve China's purpose of promoting the AIIB and its renminbi internationalization project, but Vietnam also stands to benefit.

For example, the two sides agreed to include Vietnam's northern port of Hai Phong in China's Maritime Silk Road initiative (Nikkei Asian Review, 2015). In addition, three major infrastructure projects that may receive Chinese funding, namely the Lao Cai-Ha Noi-Hai Phong high-speed railway, the Lang Son-Ha Noi highway, and the Mong Cai-Ha Long highway, were also discussed (Voice of Vietnam, 2015). More offers may also be made by China during President Xi's visit to Ha Noi later this year.

On the part of Washington, its efforts to deepen ties with Ha Noi have also brought about positive results. These efforts are focused on both

economic and strategic aspects. On the economic front, Washington has been successful in securing Vietnam's participation in the TPP even when the agreement contains "sensitive" provisions, especially regarding labour rights and Vietnam's state-owned enterprises. The increase in bilateral trade and US investments in Vietnam has also cemented the economic foundation of bilateral ties and further consolidated the US position as a key economic partner of Vietnam. 1 Meanwhile, Washington's attempts to forge a closer strategic relationship with Ha Noi led to its pledge in 2013 to provide US\$18 million for Vietnam to purchase patrol vessels, and its decision in October 2014 to partially lift its ban on lethal weapon sales to the country. Broader frameworks for bilateral strategic cooperation have also been set up. The two sides concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on defence relations in 2011, which was later supplemented by a "Joint Vision Statement" announced in June 2015. The enhanced defence cooperation with the US certainly makes Vietnam-US relations more comprehensive than Vietnam-China relations. Ha Noi currently has no meaningful defence and strategic ties with Beijing due to the South China Sea disputes.

Given the rising strategic competition between the two major powers, it is in Vietnam's interest to maintain a balance between them. However, such an option is becoming harder for Vietnam to pursue. Due to China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea, Ha Noi finds it increasingly difficult to promote its relationship with Beijing but more comfortable, even necessary, to forge a closer relationship with Washington. And while the strategic interests of Vietnam and China become increasingly incompatible, those between Vietnam and the US have converged steadily, for which Washington's deepened involvement in the South China Sea disputes is a case in point.²

Therefore, while Vietnam is open to diplomatic manoeuvres by both Washington and Beijing, the South China Sea disputes and China's increasing assertiveness tend to push Ha Noi further away from Beijing and closer to Washington.

NATIONAL LEVEL: STRATEGIC TRUST BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE TWO GREAT POWERS

The increasing level of mutual trust between Vietnam and the US perhaps embodies the most important development in bilateral relations in recent years.

Since bilateral normalization in 1995, the CPV's suspicion of US intentions to subvert its regime has been a major obstacle to the development of bilateral ties. For example, official documents of the Party have long identified "peaceful evolution" by "hostile forces" as one of the major threats to regime security. In 2009, the Secretariat of the CPV's Central Committee issued Directive 34-CT/TW on "stepping up the fight against the scheme of 'peaceful evolution' in the fields of culture and ideology". A follow-up document prepared by the CPV's Central Department of Propaganda and Education guiding the implementation of the Directive identified some US initiatives as part of its "peaceful evolution" scheme against the regime. Specifically, the document argued that the US wish to send volunteers of the Peace Corps³ to Vietnam

signified its plan to sow the seeds of a “color revolution” in the country. Meanwhile, US education assistance, such as the Vietnam Education Fund (VEF) and the Fulbright Economic Teaching Program, was seen as a disguised tool to “transform” Vietnam politically by producing a generation of pro-American and pro-Western intellectuals.⁴

However, by 2015, such perceptions seem to have subsided. During Mr. Trong’s visit to Washington in July, Vietnam granted a license for the establishment of the Fulbright University Vietnam, which is an outgrowth of the Fulbright Economic Teaching Program and partly funded by the US Department of State. The university is reported to adopt American curriculums and enjoy a greater level of autonomy than its Vietnamese counterparts (Thanh Tuan, 2015). Meanwhile, during his first-ever visit to the US in March 2015, Minister of Public Security Tran Dai Quang confirmed that Vietnam would allow the U.S. Peace Corps to operate in the country (Vuving, 2015). And last but not least, to many observers, the most important indication of the growing trust between the two countries is the expansion and deepening of military cooperation.

The enhanced level of mutual trust results from efforts by both sides, especially the US commitment to respect the VCP's domestic political interests. For example, in the Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and President Truong Tan Sang which established the bilateral comprehensive partnership in 2013, the two sides underscored that they would respect "each other's political systems" (The White House, 2013). The same commitment was also repeated in the Joint Vision Statement during Mr. Trong's visit to the US (The White House, 2015).

Vietnamese leaders' lessened paranoia about the US "peaceful evolution" may also have derived from their changed perception of the threats and interests presented by a deepened Vietnam-US relationship. While the "peaceful evolution" is a vague threat that may never actualize, stronger ties with Washington offer tangible immediate benefits such as trade, investment, and military cooperation. These factors contribute to Vietnam's economic performance and its better position vis-à-vis China in the South China Sea. From the Vietnamese leadership's perspective, Washington's warm reception of Mr. Trong also indicated that the US acknowledged the VCP's

rule in Vietnam, which ultimately boosts the CPV's domestic political legitimacy. These considerations further weaken their perception of the US as a threat to the regime.

Contrary to the positive developments in Ha Noi's ties with Washington, its relationship with Beijing is suffering from an increasing trust deficit. This largely results from China's growing assertiveness and coercion in the South China Sea.

Especially, the HYSY 981 oil rig crisis in 2014 dealt a major blow to Vietnamese leaders' confidence in their Chinese counterparts and deepened their perception of the China threat. China's massive artificial island building in the Spratlys right after the oil rig crisis, during a time when the two sides were supposed to be mending their relations, caused the strategic trust between the two countries to further deteriorate.

It is no coincidence that the CPV has recently tolerated an increasingly anti-China discourse in the official media. Major media outlets now regularly carry news reports, op-eds and commentaries that directly criticize China's expansion in the South China Sea. The

commemoration of military clashes between the two countries, such as the 1974 Paracels battle, the 1979 border war, the 1984 Vi Xuyen battle, or the 1988 naval clash in the Spratlys, was once a taboo but is now allowed. To a certain extent, Vietnam's increasing overture to the US as well as Japan and India also indicates its declining trust in China.

In other words, Vietnam's "balance of trust" between China and the US now tips in the latter's favor. This is a gradual yet significant shift. After the Tiananmen crackdown in 1989, for example, some Vietnamese leaders believed that "no matter how expansionist it is, China remains a socialist country",⁵ and that Vietnam should "join hands with China at any cost to protect socialism, repulse the United States and other imperialist forces" (Co, 2003, pp. 31-32). This belief led the Vietnamese leadership to consistently pursue normalization with China despite the 1988 Spratlys naval clash that happened shortly before that.⁶ Today, such thinking has become irrelevant. The CPV's regime has consolidated itself after three decades of reforms under Doi Moi, and Vietnam's international status has also improved significantly, giving Ha Noi more room to resist Beijing's pressures. More importantly, China's rise

and its growing coercion in the South China Sea have forced Ha Noi to appeal to nationalism, which serves as an increasingly important pillar in its current legitimation strategy. As such, it is national interests rather than ideological considerations that now dictate the country's foreign policy making. Such a shift also tends to play in Washington's favour at the expense of Beijing's.

SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL: VIETNAM'S DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Vietnam's economy has been experiencing a slowdown since 2008. Specifically, from 2008 to 2014, the country registered an average annual GDP growth rate of 5.8 per cent, significantly lower than the 7.6 per cent achieved in the 2000-07 period. Against this backdrop, Vietnam has been aggressively pursuing free trade agreements (FTA), including the TPP, not only to boost exports and attract more foreign investment, but also to provide an impetus for domestic economic reforms, especially regarding SOEs. The TPP, with such regulations as the "yarn forward" rules of

origin,⁷ is also expected to reduce Vietnam's trade deficit vis-à-vis China and its heavy dependence on the northern neighbour for material imports.⁸ As a result, if the TPP comes into effect, although China may remain Vietnam's top economic partner for the foreseeable future, its relative importance to Vietnam will be reduced by the expected deepening of economic ties between Ha Noi and Washington.

Politically, China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea and bilateral tensions over the disputes have caused nationalist sentiments in Vietnam to run high. For example, in a 2014 survey carried out by the Pew Research Centre, while three-quarters of Vietnamese surveyed (76%) expressed a favourable opinion of the US, China was viewed by respondents as the greatest threat to the future of the country, and a majority of them (84%) worried that the South China Sea disputes could lead to a military conflict (Pew Research Center, 2015a).

Similarly, according to another survey released on 23 June 2015, nearly three-quarters of Vietnamese respondents (74%) said it is more important to be tough with China on territorial disputes than it is to

have a strong economic relationship (17%) with their neighbour to the north (Pew Research Center, 2015b).⁹ Against this backdrop, Vietnamese leaders will be tempted to appeal to nationalist sentiment to stay popular. To put it a different way, while Vietnamese leaders would not wish to be seen openly as “pro-China” or “pro-America”, carrying the latter tag may be less damaging, or even prove favourable in certain cases, to their political standing.¹⁰

Another domestic development that may have important implications for Vietnam’s future relations with both China and the US is the CPV’s 12th national congress and the election of its new leadership next year. In preparatory congress documents released for party members’ preview and comments, the South China Sea disputes have been specifically described as being “complex, intense and highly unpredictable” (phức tạp, gay gắt và rất khó lường).¹¹

The documents also acknowledge that “the protection of national sovereignty and territorial integrity [...] is facing many difficulties and challenges”. Such views imply the CPV’s growing awareness of the threats that the South China Sea

disputes present for the country. They may also lead to a harder stance by Vietnam on the issue in the future, which possibly includes, among other things, a continued strategic alignment with the US.

In terms of leadership transition, if Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung becomes the new CPV General Secretary,¹² Vietnam's relations with the US may enjoy another boost. Mr. Dung, who routinely presents himself as a nationalist leader, has publicly spoken out against China's expansion in the South China Sea on numerous occasions, including the famous statement that Vietnam will not trade its sovereignty and territorial integrity for an "illusionary friendship" [read: with China] (VnExpress, 2014). The rather liberal domestic agenda under his premiership also resonates better with Washington than Beijing.¹³ Moreover, his family members' personal connections with the West in general and the US in particular may also positively influence his view on the US as well as Ha Noi's relations with Washington.¹⁴ In case some person other than Mr. Dung takes over the CPV's helm, the factors analyzed above will still likely cause him or her to lean more towards the US.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGION

New dynamics in Vietnam's relations with China and the US have important implications for not only the two powers, but also the broader region. For China, this trend means that its South China Sea strategy is backfiring. Its artificial island building in the Spratlys, in particular, is deepening the perception of the "China threat" not only in Ha Noi but also in many other regional capitals. Beijing's preference for "hard power" over "soft power" will further undermine its moral authority and ultimately hurt its legitimacy for regional leadership. Its worsened relationship with Vietnam and the region's growing suspicion of China's strategic ambitions are cases in point. Now with China's artificial islands completed, the chances of restoration of mutual trust between Ha Noi and Beijing will diminish. However, China's willingness to conclude a legally binding Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and its strict self-restraint from coercive measures may still help. On the contrary, escalatory actions such as militarizing the artificial islands and establishing an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the South China Sea will do irreparable damage to China's

relations with Vietnam as well as the whole region. Beijing's fear of a US-led strategic encirclement will then become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For the US, this is the right time to accelerate its rapprochement with Vietnam. The growing trust between Ha Noi and Washington, Ha Noi's deepened suspicion of Beijing, and Vietnam's domestic conditions provide the right catalysts for Washington to engage Ha Noi in a more meaningful and substantive relationship that best serves the national interests of both countries. The most important rule for the US to observe is to continuously nurture mutual trust by fully respecting Vietnam's political system and assuring Vietnamese leaders that the US will always take Vietnam's interests into consideration in any negotiation with China.¹⁵ Further steps to promote bilateral strategic relations such as helping Vietnam to enhance its maritime capacity, engaging Vietnam in US-led regional security initiatives, or completely removing the outdated ban on lethal weapon sales to the country should be considered. In terms of human rights, to be fair, there are many things Vietnam should improve, but it has indeed made considerable progress over the past few years. Therefore, while Washington,

for various reasons, may want to maintain pressures on Ha Noi's human rights record, it should not allow the issue to impede bilateral strategic cooperation. A harsh stance on the issue may backfire as it will encourage Ha Noi to use the issue as a bargaining chip in its dealings with Washington.

Dynamics in Vietnam-US-China relations also reflect key currents in regional geopolitics, most notably regional countries' strategic (re-)alignments to deal with China's rise, and the intensifying major power competition, especially between the US and China. However, it would be naïve to believe that Vietnam's relations with the US are driven only by the China factor. Other important mutual interests, such as trade, investment, or education cooperation, are also involved.

At the same time, Vietnam's relations with China will not completely be dictated by the South China Sea disputes, and economic cooperation with China still matters greatly for Ha Noi. Therefore, Vietnam's strategic re-alignment with the two major powers will continue to be an incremental transformation rather than a paradigm shift,

depending largely on Ha Noi's perception of the China threat in the South China Sea. To hedge against possible consequences of over-relying on Washington, Ha Noi will also seek to deepen its ties with other major countries in the region, especially Japan, India and like-minded ASEAN partners. The outcomes of such efforts, again, will largely be determined by how regional countries perceive the China threat, a puzzle to which China itself holds the answer.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of new dynamics in the Vietnam-US-China triangle suggests that, at least in the short run, Vietnam's relations with the US enjoy strong prospects for further development, while its relations with China will suffer significant setbacks.

These new dynamics, however, may still be constrained by traditional factors shaping Vietnam's foreign policy. For example, while ideological considerations may be becoming less relevant in Vietnam's foreign policy making, they still matter.¹⁶ Similarly, although the coming leadership transition bears some implications for

Vietnam's foreign relations, one should not exaggerate the individual role of Vietnamese political leaders, be it Prime Minister Dung or anyone else, in the making of the country's foreign policy. Vietnam's China and US policies will continue to be collectively determined by the CPV Politburo, which makes any policy changes regarding the two powers subject to thorough deliberations, and hence gradual rather than radical. Moreover, although the geopolitical gravity currently tends to push Vietnam away from China towards the US, such a trend is still constrained by Vietnam's long-standing wish to maintain a balance between the two powers.

About the author:

***Le Hong Hiep** is Visiting Fellow at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. He is currently on research leave from his lectureship at the Faculty of International Relations, Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City.

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Notes:

1 For example, Vietnam's exports to the US in 2014 amounted to US\$28.66 billion, accounting for almost 20 per cent of the country's total exports. By 2014, the US had also become the seventh largest foreign investor in Vietnam, with the stock of registered capital reaching more than US\$10 billion.

2 While the US involvement is seen by Vietnam as an important counterweight to China's growing power and unchecked ambitions, the US considers its involvement as a means both to strengthen ties with Vietnam and other ASEAN claimant states, and to protect its long-standing interests in the South China Sea, especially freedom of navigation and over-flight.

3 The Peace Corps is a government-run volunteer organization established in 1961. More information about the organization is available at <<http://www.peacecorps.gov/about/>>

4 The full text of the document (in Vietnamese) is available at: <<http://www.viet-studies.info/kinhte/DeCuongTuyenTruyen.pdf>>

5 Such a judgement is controversial. The Tiananmen crackdown did not necessarily show that China was “a socialist country”. It may simply have indicated the Communist Party of China’s determination to safeguard their rule.

6 During the clash, China destroyed three Vietnamese naval vessels and killed 64 Vietnamese sailors. That same year, China established for the first time its presence in the Spratlys by occupying a number of features there.

7 The rules require Vietnam to use a TPP member-produced yarn in textiles in order to receive duty-free access to TPP member markets. As China is not a TPP member, while Vietnam depends heavily on China for yarn and textile materials, the TPP has prompted a surge of foreign investment in Vietnam’s textile industry. In the long run, such developments may help reduce Vietnam’s imports of textile inputs from China.

8 In 2014, China accounted for 29.6 per cent of Vietnam’s total imports, and Vietnam ran a trade deficit of US\$28.96 billion vis-à-vis China (General Department of Customs, 2014)

9 The surveys’ sample size is 1,000, but the Center

does not specify its composition or respondents' background. More information about the surveys' methodology is available at:

<http://www.pewglobal.org/international-survey-methodology/?year_select=2015>

10 For example, Mr. Trong's visit to America has been perceived positively by the public, including the overseas Vietnamese communities, and helps improve his personal image. Unconfirmed reports reveal that President Truong Tan Sang and National Assembly Speaker Nguyen Sinh Hung may also visit America later this year.

11 Even documents of the 11th Congress (2011) did not mention the South China Sea disputes specifically, but used the generic term "territorial and maritime disputes" instead.

12 Dung is now the strongest candidate to become the next CPV General Secretary. For an analysis of Vietnam's forthcoming leadership transition, see Hiep (2015).

13 For example, in the economic realm, Dung promoted SOE reforms, deregulation and equitization, and sought to expand the country's international economic integration through FTAs. Politically, he called for a greater level of democracy for the country, stating that "democracy is an objective trend in the evolutionary process of

human societies” (Vietnam Government Portal, 2014). Dung also proposed a law on demonstration, which was received positively albeit with some suspicion, by the country’s democracy and human rights activists.

14 Dung’s son-in-law is a Vietnamese American businessman, and all his children were educated in the West (specifically the US, Switzerland, and the UK).

15 Historical lessons have taught Vietnam to be cautious in promoting relations with one great power at the expense of another. The 1954 Geneva Accords or US inaction during China’s invasion of the Paracels in 1974 are two cases in which Vietnam’s national interests were betrayed by its allies. Vietnamese officials are currently very sensitive to the possibility of the US negotiating with China behind its back. For example, when Chinese officials boasted that China and the US were working to formulate a “new type of great power relations”, Vietnamese officials approached their American counterparts on many occasions for information and clarification.

16 For example, Mr. Bui The Giang, a senior official in the CPV Commission for External Affairs, cautioned that although Mr. Trong’s visit to America represents a “turnaround” in Vietnam-

US relations, it does not necessarily lead to a “turnaround in everyone’s thinking”. He therefore concluded that, due to differences in their political systems, there is still a long way for the two countries to go to further promote their cooperation in the future (Vietnamnet, 2015).

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Sent: 2 Sep 2015 07:56:37 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: News Related to Cambodia

France to Lend Maps to Cambodia Amid Dispute Over Vietnam Border



Var Kimhong speaks at a map-lending ceremony in Phnom Penh, Aug. 20, 2015.



Former colonial ruler France has agreed to lend a set of maps to Cambodia following a request from Prime Minister Hun Sen and amid a dispute over the demarcation of the Southeast Asian nation's border with neighboring Vietnam, officials said Tuesday.

France will hand over the maps—produced by its National Geographic Institute (IGN) prior to Cambodian independence in 1953—in a ceremony on Thursday, chairman of Cambodia's border committee Var Kimhong told a press conference in Phnom Penh, citing a letter from French President François Hollande.

The French maps will then be used to verify the 26 maps currently used by Hun Sen's government to demarcate the 1,228-kilometer (763-mile) border with Vietnam, he said, both of which use the same 1:100,000 scale.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) alleges that Hun Sen's government has ceded land to Vietnam based on its own set of incorrect charts, which adhere to a 1985 agreement signed by the two countries during Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

In Hollande's Aug. 31 letter, written in response to a July request by Hun Sen and obtained Tuesday by RFA's Khmer Service, the French president confirmed the decision to lend the IGN maps to Cambodia as part of a bid to resolve the ongoing dispute.

He commended Cambodia's "interest in demarcating the border according to international law with transparency," but added that Paris would "show no bias" on the issue as the former ruler of French Indochina—an area which comprised parts of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos until those nations won their independence following World War II.

"In order to resolve this conflict, the French Embassy in Phnom Penh will deliver a copy of the maps published by the IGN, which the institute has provided," the letter said.

"However, France would only consider sending map experts to assist in verification if the two relevant sides [Vietnam and Cambodia] make a joint request."

Verification process

Deputy chairwoman of Cambodia's border committee Koy Pisey told RFA that the French maps would "clear up the border issue" and urged the country's politicians to "stick to the facts" when using them to verify the government's own charts.

"When we receive the maps, we will reveal them to the public and we will verify our own maps," she said.

Ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) spokesman Chhim Phalvorun told RFA that if the verification ceremony shows the Cambodian and French maps are matched, it would dispel any allegations that the government is using incorrect charts.

"If the map is verified, we can resolve our internal issue," he said.

The government has invited five representatives each from the CNRP and from the royalist Funcinpec party, as well as Cambodia's lawmakers, to act as witnesses during the verification process.

But CNRP lawmaker Ou Chanrith, who will join a team of opposition witnesses, called on the government to allow more stakeholders to take part in the verification process, and said the "discussion must allow questions" from all sides.

Sok Touch, head of border research for the Royal Academy of Cambodia, told RFA that he would also take part in the verification process, adding that he expected it to put an end to the border dispute once and for all.

He urged Cambodia's politicians to "stop exploiting the border issue" for their own purposes and to "allow researchers to work on the case."

Hun Sen response

Hun Sen on Tuesday sent a letter to Hollande thanking him for the French maps, and stressing that his government is using "legal maps" to demarcate the border with Vietnam.

"I would like to inform His Excellency that there is no conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam over the maps because they are recognized by the two countries," he wrote, adding that the only dispute over the border is linked to internal Cambodian politics.

Hun Sen's letter follows a statement last week that the government would prosecute anyone who accused the government of using a fake map, according to *The Phnom Penh Post*.

Opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) Senator Hong Sok Hour was arrested on Aug. 15 and charged with treason for allegedly posting a phony section of the country's border treaty with Vietnam on social media.

The United Nations sent a set of 1964 maps delineating the border to Cambodia in early August based on a request from Hun Sen, who has also asked for maps from the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

After a two-hour verification process, the government declared that the U.N. maps matched its own, and that the matter was resolved.

Reported by RFA's Khmer Service. Translated by Samean Yun. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.

Cambodian Opposition MP 'Attends to Personal Affairs' in US Amid Fears of Arrest



Um Sam An at the Atlanta International Airport, Aug. 18, 2015.

 Photo courtesy of Um Sam An

An outspoken opposition lawmaker from Cambodia has arrived in the U.S. to "attend to personal affairs" amid fears of his arrest, after authorities detained a colleague over the weekend for posting a disputed diplomatic document online relating to the country's border with neighboring Vietnam.

Um Sam An, a member of parliament with the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) who holds U.S. citizenship, told RFA's Khmer Service Tuesday that he had arrived by flight in Atlanta and would soon continue on to Lowell, Massachusetts, where he owns a home.

"My trip to America is not an escape from Cambodia," he said, adding that he had traveled to the U.S. to meet with his wife and son, and to "attend to personal affairs."

Um Sam An said he had been invited to the U.S. on the invitation of the Cambodian-American community, and planned to “brief them on Cambodia’s current political situation and deliver an update on the country’s ongoing border dispute with Vietnam.”

The lawmaker said he plans to return to Cambodia within “one and a half months.”

Um Sam An earlier told RFA that he had gone into hiding and fled to Thailand after police arrested Senator Hong Sok Hour of the opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) on Aug. 15 from the residence of a lawmaker belonging to the CNRP.

Speaking from the border with Thailand on the day Hong Sok Hour was taken into custody, Um Sam An said he had decided to leave Cambodia after learning from local media and a fellow CNRP member that the government planned to arrest him next.

Spokesman for the Council of Ministers Tith Sothea told RFA Tuesday that no criminal proceedings had been initiated against Um Sam An, who has repeatedly accused the government of ceding land to Vietnam, which invaded and occupied Cambodia in 1979, by using incorrect maps to determine border demarcations.

But he didn’t rule out the possibility that the lawmaker might face charges in the future.

“He speaks out like this to serve his political purpose,” Tith Sothea said.

“We can’t guess his destiny—whether he will face the court or not. But no one should be above the law.”

Sam Oeun Sok, chief attorney at the AMRIN Law and Consultants Group, told RFA that simply expressing his opinion about the border dispute with Vietnam was “no reason to arrest Um Sam An,” adding that the lawmaker “didn’t commit any crimes.”

Interior Ministry spokesman Gen. Khieu Sopheak told RFA Tuesday that he had not received any information suggesting Um Sam An would be arrested.

Senator’s arrest

Prior to his arrest on Saturday, Hong Sok Hour had posted comments on social media claiming that an article of the 1979 Cambodia-Vietnam Friendship Treaty was meant to dismantle, rather than simply define, the border between the two countries.

He had also posted online two copies of the 36-year-old border agreement with Vietnam containing the article’s disputed wording.

During a graduation speech in the capital Phnom Penh last week, Hun Sen accused Hong Sok Hour of posting a “fake” copy of the treaty that could “endanger national security” and called for his arrest,

ordering the city's international airport to block him from leaving the country.

Hong Sok Hour, who holds citizenship in both Cambodia and France, has claimed he did not fake the disputed article, which he found online several years ago, and said he was willing to correct it if it was proven false.

On Sunday, Hong Sok Hour was sent to Prey Sar prison and charged with forging a public document, using a forged public document, and incitement to cause serious unrest for social security—which could carry a combined maximum prison sentence of 17 years, according to the *Phnom Penh Post*.

All 47 ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) members of the Senate approved Hong Sok Hour's arrest a day later, invoking an article in the constitution which calls for the removal of parliamentary immunity for any lawmaker "caught red-handed in a criminal act." SRP senators had boycotted the hearing.

Recent ban

On July 24, Um Sam An was banned from the National Assembly, or parliament, for 15 sessions and had his salary halved for two months after he was deemed to have "insulted" the legislature's president Heng Samrin with remarks posted to social media earlier last month.

The remarks accused Heng Samrin of refusing to forward to Hun Sen a July 6 letter demanding that the prime minister cease the demarcation process with Vietnam, which had been signed by several opposition members.

The National Assembly's legal council found Um Sam An in violation of the constitution, the civil servant status law, and internal rules of the legislature, and also ordered a record of his mistake to be broadcast and posted throughout his constituency in Siem Reap province.

Ruling party lawmaker Chheang Vun had earlier warned that Um Sam An's parliamentary immunity could be removed for the remarks he posted.

Um Sam An has led activists in inspections of roads and other infrastructure built by Vietnamese villagers in disputed territory, at least one of which led to clashes with Vietnamese near the border of Cambodia's Svay Rieng province at the end of June.

Reported by Morm Moniroth for RFA's Khmer Service. Translated by Sarada Taing. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432*

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 2 Sep 2015 08:18:43 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: Washington Contemplates The Chinese Military – Analysis

Washington Contemplates The Chinese Military – Analysis

By Published by the Foreign Policy Research Institute
Tuesday, September 1st, 2015

By June Teufel Dreyer*

After enduring much criticism for its tepid reaction to China's assertive behavior, there are signs that Washington is considering a stronger stance. For several decades, U.S. official publications had repeated what was, in essence, a mantra: the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is progressively improving its weapons and training, although it is decades behind the United States military. Implicit in the mantra was the assumption that the PLA likely always would be decades behind the US. This view also conveniently overlooked the reality that the Chinese military was unlikely to challenge the US globally, where the U.S. does possess a preponderance of power, rather than regionally, where it is stretched thinly.

One indicator of the change in tone occurred in April, when the Office of Naval Intelligence released its first unclassified report on the Chinese navy since 2009.[1] ONI predicted that, by the end of the decade, the PLA Navy (PLAN) will have completed its transition from a coastal force to one capable of multiple missions around the world, adding that PLAN had launched more ships than any other country in 2013 and 2014 with comparable increases planned for 2015 and 2016.

A major revelation of the ONI report was the first public acknowledgment that the ships of China's newest destroyers, the Kunming, or Luyang III (052D) class, are outfitted with new generation indigenous supersonic, vertically launched YJ-18 anti-ship cruise missiles. With a reported cruise range of as much as 180 kilometers and a terminal sprint range of 40 km at Mach 2.5-3.0 speeds as well as a sea-skimming flight capability and a command data link, the YJ-18 is extremely difficult to defend against.

The submarine fleet, ONI reported, has also been augmented, and is expected to number at least 70 by 2020. More capable models are being phased in: eight conventionally-powered Yuan class boats are being added to the existing twelve. Like the older Song class, the Yuan are capable of launching YJ-18 missiles, but have the added advantage of air independent power systems which enable them to increase the time they can stay submerged and hence render them harder to detect. In terms of nuclear submarines, Shang-class boats are replacing older Han-class SSNs, and the expected deployment of Jin-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines will

provide the PRC with its first credible at-sea second strike nuclear capability. The JL-2 ballistic missile that the Jin is equipped with has a range of approximately 4,598 miles. According to the U.S-China Economic and Security Review Commission, this gives the PRC the ability to conduct nuclear strikes against Alaska if launched from waters near China, against Alaska and Hawaii if launched from waters south of Japan; against Alaska, Hawaii and the western portion of the continental United States if launched from waters west of Hawaii; and against all 50 U.S. states if launched from waters east of Hawaii.[2] The Chinese air force is developing two stealthy fighters, the J-20 and J-31 which, however, are not expected to become operational for several years. If, as expected, existing issues can be resolved, the planes could present a serious challenge to fifth-generation U.S. fighters.[3]

Moreover, the ONI report noted, China's coast guard and maritime law enforcement fleets, which back up PLAN's missions, are larger than those of other claimants to disputed territories in the East China and South China seas—Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines—combined. China commissioned its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, in 2013, and a second carrier, to be entirely indigenously produced, is under construction. Advances are also being made in unmanned aerial vehicles and in cyberspying. In the latter, two separate breaches of U.S. government databases holding personnel records and security-clearance files exposed sensitive information about at least 22.1 million people, including not only federal employees and contractors but their families and friends.

In May, a month after the release of the ONI report, a second meaningful event occurred. Commander of the Pacific Fleet Admiral Samuel Locklear, who had been a leading candidate to succeed General Martin Dempsey as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was passed over in favor of General Joseph Dunford. Locklear's 2013 comment that he considered climate change to be the major security threat to the Asian-Pacific region had aroused widespread criticism. Locklear was believed to be echoing the Obama administration's views at the time so as to position himself for promotion. Presumably, those views had changed. Locklear, who had been lobbying for the Joint Chiefs job for some time, had applied for a delay in retirement so that he could be considered. Subordinates, requesting anonymity, described the admiral as "accepting the administration's near-mythical China narrative no matter how towering the evidence against it" and currying favor with Washington to the detriment of what, in their opinion, constituted prudent security policy.[4] Locklear's April 2015 testimony to a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program supports this opinion. Although the admiral did not repeat the climate change theory, his testimony did not dwell on Chinese aggression but rather advocated "continuous dialogue" and advised that "the U.S. will need more transparency and understanding of Chinese intentions in order to minimize friction and avoid miscalculation or conflict in the future." [5]

Also in May, a U.S. P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance plane accompanied by a CNN news crew flew over a disputed area which China has been expanding and broadcast to television audiences worldwide the warnings issued by PLAN to leave immediately.[6] Shortly thereafter, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, speaking at the inauguration of Admiral Harry Harris as new PACOM, stated bluntly, “There should be no mistake: the United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, as we do all around the world.”[7] In his keynote address to the annual Shangri-La Dialogue a few days later, Carter singled out China for criticism and again asserted the U.S. right of transit according to international law.[8] Adding substance to his words, newly appointed Commander of the Pacific Fleet Admiral Scott Swift joined another surveillance flight in July.[9]

In August, in a third indication of Washington’s increased willingness to admit the security threat posed by Beijing the U.S. Defense Department issued an Asia-Pacific Maritime Security Strategy. It noted that, despite claiming indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters and that it held “sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters as well as the seabed and subsoil thereof,” the Chinese government had left unclear the precise nature of its claims, including whether the PRC claims all the maritime area located within the line as well as all the land features therein. It had also unilaterally established an air defense identification zone (ADIZ) overlapping those of Japan and South Korea, and with more stringent regulations than other ADIZ. Whereas other claimants had sought to reclaim portions of what they consider to be their territories, China had as of June 2015 reclaimed more than 2,900 acres, amounting to 17 times more land in 20 months than all other claimants had for the past 40 years.[10] These assertive claims had led to a proliferation of dangerous incidents, including, in August 2014, a Chinese J-11 fighter crossing directly under and doing a barrel roll over an American P-8A Poseidon approximately 117 nautical miles east of Hainan Island—i.e., in international waters.

A subtext of the Defense Department document appears to be an administration effort to counter domestic criticism that there has been little substantive progress to implement what President Barack Obama, in a speech to the Australian parliament in November 2001, termed the pivot to Asia. The United States, the strategy document stated, has 368,000 military personnel in the Asia-Pacific region, more than a quarter of whom are west of the international date line. Over the next five years, the navy is to increase the number of Pacific Fleet ships outside U.S. territory by 50 percent; by 2020, 60 percent of naval and overseas air assets will be home ported in the Pacific. The Marine Corps presence will also be enhanced. Freedom of Navigation exercises have proceeded at an increased tempo, as have training and exercises with allies and partners. The 2014 iteration of the annual RIMPAC exercise was the largest on record, with 22 nations participating, including to a limited degree, China. U.S. marines have trained Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (SDF) units in such activities as retaking islands. New guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation will enable the US military and the SDF to work more closely together. In Indonesia, the April 2015 SEASURVEX exercise included a flight portion over the South China Sea for the first time. The annual joint U.S.-Philippine Balikatan exercise was the largest and most

sophisticated to date and, significantly, involved a territorial defense scenario in the Sulu Sea, with SDF personnel observing. High-level visits between U.S. and Indian leaders, the latter having territorial issues with China as well, have established the basis for closer defense ties. India and the U.S. conduct annual MALABAR exercises.

A semi-formal partnership among the United States, Australia, and Japan has existed for some time; in November 2014, President Obama, Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzō, and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott held their first trilateral meeting, agreeing to expand cooperation. Naval cooperation with Vietnam has been expanded; Singapore is to become the center of a regional maritime domain awareness network.

So far, these manifestations of increased concern fall into a category that might be called signaling. China has it turn signaled back, and the message is defiant. A defense white paper issued just before the Shangri-La dialogue began vowed a strong defense of China's sovereignty, security and development interests. Separately, a sweeping new national security law was passed, aimed as much at suppressing domestic dissent as external threats. Other new laws have extended the regulations on adapting civilian ships for military use, and the government began laying the diplomatic and legal foundations for establishing a base in strategically-located Obock, on the northern coast of Djibouti. A Chinese admiral warned that, if confronted with a threat in the South China Sea, his government would not hesitate to establish another ADIZ covering that area,[11] something Washington has been attempting to head off since Beijing's announcement of an East China Sea ADIZ two years ago. A contra-indication of the administration's resolve on China was the decision not to publicly blame Beijing for the hacking of Office of Personnel Management data,[12] as was its inclusion of China in RIMPAC 2015 despite strong congressional opposition.

It is not clear what actions Washington would take if, for example, the PLA should fire on an American surveillance plane flying within the area China insists is within its territorial waters. It is also unclear how much United States' actions in defense of freedom of navigation in the area are backed by neighboring states, even those who have expressed the most anxiety about the PRC's encroachment on what regard they regard as their territories. Countries both large and small are reluctant to take actions that might anger China. Many of these countries also hold military drills with China.[13] Corruption and mismanagement in some countries mean that aid given for the improvement their militaries is wasted.[14] And there is domestic opposition to joining with the United States to protect their islands. For example, one day after Philippine Foreign Ministry Voltaire Guzman requested American help to protect resupply boats to disputed territories, currently being interdicted by Chinese ships, Xinhua quoted former Filipino president Joseph Estrada as accusing the United States of interfering in the internal affairs of his country and opposing its military deployment in the South China Sea.[15] When, in 2007, Beijing as well as the Indian left wing registered dissatisfaction with the presence of Japan at the MALABAR exercises, India subsequently declined to invite Japan, although it has been invited to the 2015 iteration. And, despite Indonesian defense officials' complaints that China claims part of

Indonesia's Riau Islands Province, the country's foreign ministry has stated that there is no territorial issue between the two countries.[16]

Given the ambivalence among many of its allies and partners in the region about protecting their claims, it would be unwise for the United States to do more than insist, as it has since at least 2010, that that all disputes be settled through peaceful negotiation. At the same time, to protect its own interests as well as those of allies and partners, Washington must continue to forcefully back its assertions that it will not countenance the interdiction of freedom of navigation.

Whereas a decade ago U.S. policy aspired to draw China in as a responsible member of the international community, it now seems to have decided on a more minimal goal: to prevent China from disrupting the security of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. There are no easy solutions. Should the deceleration of the PRC's economic growth impede its aggressive activities, that may do more than any actions by Washington to mitigate current tensions.

About the author:

***June Teufel Dreyer** a Senior Fellow in FPRI's Asia Program as well as a member of the Orbis Board of Editors. She is Professor of Political Science at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. Her most recent book is *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition* (ninth edition, 2014). Her current project is a book on Sino-Japanese relations, under contract to Oxford University Press.

Source:

This article was published by FPRI

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 2 Sep 2015 12:23:17 -0400
To: (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org (b)(6)
DPAA EC (US); Slaughter, Holly N Lt Col USAF DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@mac.com (b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6)
(b)(6)@bhs.idaho.gov; (b)(6)@gmail.com
Subject: Google Alert - POW/MIA

The hits on nationwide POW/MIA-related activities is building and will continue to do so, thankfully, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #20818

From: googlealerts-noreply@google.com
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 9/2/2015 12:04:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Google Alert - POW/MIA



POW/MIA

Daily update - September 2, 2015

NEWS

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 3 Sep 2015 21:48:02 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: President: Vietnam value ties with neighbours

President: Vietnam value ties with neighbours

President Truong Tan Sang on September 2 received Lao Vice President Bounnhang Vorachith and Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An, who led delegations to join Vietnam's celebrations of the 70th National Day and August Revolution.



President Truong Tan Sang (R) meets with Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An.

At the meeting with the Lao Vice President, President Sang expressed the deep gratitude of the Vietnamese Party, State and people to the Lao Party, State and people for their whole-hearted support over the years.

The two leaders said they are pleased with the development of the Vietnam-Laos relationship and cooperation on all fronts, including the recently signed trade agreements which set a target for two-way trade of 2 billion USD this year, as well as numerous high-ranking delegation exchanges.

They agreed to push ahead with negotiations to sign a protocol on the Vietnam-Laos border lines and national markers and an agreement on the bilateral border gates management regulations before the end of the year.

Meeting with the Cambodian Deputy PM, President Sang highlighted the long traditional friendship between Vietnam and Cambodia as well as the joint efforts of the two people in their struggle for independence and freedom.

The President said Vietnam will continue to build on its solidarity and cooperation with Cambodia. On her part, Deputy PM Men Sam An conveyed greetings from the Cambodian King and leaders to Vietnam on the historical anniversary.

On behalf of the Cambodian leaders and people, the Deputy PM expressed thanks to the Vietnamese people, volunteer soldiers and mothers for helping Cambodia escape the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime in 1979 and revive the country.

The two sides were unanimous that the two countries should further strengthen their solidarity and mutual cooperation and support to deserve the sacrifice of generations of Vietnamese and Cambodian people as well as to meet the aspiration of both peoples, thus contributing to peace, stability and development in the region and the world as a whole.

VNA

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org*

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

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From: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US)
Sent: 24 Nov 2015 17:10:13 +0000
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

She has far better intel than I have.

CHRISTOPHER S. FORBES, COL, U.S. Army
Euro/Med Regional Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
COMM: (b)(6)
BB: (b)(6)
DSN: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 09:22 AM
To: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Chris, I've been meaning to reach out to you and have been so swamped, the prospect had fallen by the wayside, and I apologize.

I'm hoping you might be willing to visit our office and have lunch so we can talk. I'm sure someone has mentioned our intense interest in and support for restoring/renewing the work of the USRJC, and I think it would be beneficial for us to chat and develop a unified partnership in that direction.

Please check your schedule and let me know your thoughts. I hope we can meet just after Thanksgiving and before the League's Board of Directors arrives December 4th. In the interim, best wishes and I sincerely hope all is going well, especially for the "huddle" now occurring. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
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703-465-7432
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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 7 Sep 2015 18:22:21 +0000
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); McKeague, Kelly K Maj Gen USAF DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: In preparation for your trip to SEA..... (U)
Attachments: Delegation.Trip.Report.2015.pdf

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

(b)(6) (and (b)(6)):

Ann's notes from the League's trip last year -- will help inform your team's prep for my visit in November. Hope you both had a great weekend.

Vr, Mike

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@mail.mil, (b)(6)@mail.mil
CC: (b)(6)@mail.mil
Sent: 9/5/2015 3:11:07 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: In preparation for your trip to SEA.....

Kelly and Mark, I thought this trip report from the League Delegation earlier this year would be helpful in understanding the latest policy-level discourse and commitments from senior officials, most of whom I am assuming will be meeting with Mike when he goes later this year, still presumably in November.

All three governments have a way of being responsive to the League, knowing we'll pass it to the right levels in a unified effort, despite us having no "chain of command" requirements. In fact, that has proven to be precisely why they make commitments to the League.

Of course this is nothing new to you, Kelly and (b)(6) but likely is to you, Mark. I'm finishing up letters today to Lao DPM/FM Thongloun Sisoulith, and Vietnamese DPM/FM Pham Binh Minh (son of former SRV DPM/FM Nguyen Co Thach, a "pioneer" on the Vietnamese side of the US-SRV rapprochement, plus mentor to many others now in senior positions). The plan is to ensure both receive the letters prior to your arrival in country, as well as help set the stage for Mike's first visit in November.

I'll be thinking of you during your trip, hoping and praying for a productive visit in each country, as well as positive outcomes. SRV Vice Minister of Defense Sr. LTG Vinh is due here in DC later this month, and I'm hosting a lunch to introduce our new Director to the SRV Ambassador as well. The environments seems well-positioned for some serious forward movement. Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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TRIP REPORT: LEAGUE DELEGATION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

January 20 – February 10, 2015

Summary: League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths, Vice Chairman (b)(6) and Senior Policy Advisor (b)(6) comprised the League Delegation that represented all the Vietnam War POW/MIA families, as well as the interests of working level US officials and our nation's veterans, in meetings with US and foreign officials in Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand from January 23 – February 10th. Our schedule was thoughtfully coordinated by then JPAC Policy & Plans (b)(6) to whom we express sincerest appreciation.

The League is especially grateful to our Senior Policy Advisor, (b)(6) who has served in this position since retiring from the Army in January, 1989, the very day he left his key position (after a record eight years) as Director of Asian Affairs on President Reagan's National Security Council staff. Trained as a Thai Foreign Area Officer (FAO) with unparalleled knowledge, experience and friendships across Southeast Asia made him invaluable to the League, to the success of the POW/MIA accounting mission, with commitment amply demonstrated since 1981. After hours of conversations and briefings by the League and dedicated US officials then in place, he developed the Reagan Administration's "10-point strategy" to resolve the issue and never stopped pushing. He and his wife, (b)(6) have attended every annual meeting since 1981, though his early participation was official. He took the issue seriously, understood the families' perspective and, despite unwarranted attacks, set about implementing President Reagan's assigned priority. This League Delegation was the 5th since he assessed Vietnam's cooperation and decided he could, in good conscience, return to Vietnam. The significant results achieved since priority was raised in 1982 are in large part due to the efforts of (b)(6) to whom all the POW/MIA families owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

US Ambassadors, Deputy Chiefs of Mission and Embassy staff members, Detachment Commanders and staff, and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach Team specialists participated in all official discussions. The League appreciates the briefings from those most directly engaged with counterpart governments in all countries visited, as we did their support during working-level meetings and calls on senior officials.

Following several meetings at US Embassy Bangkok, including with US Chargé d'Affaires Patrick Murphy, DIA's Stony Beach Program Chief (b)(6) and Lao/Thai specialists (b)(6) and (b)(6) Detachment 1 Commander (b)(6) Deputy Commander (b)(6) USA, and Cambodia specialist personnel (b)(6) the Army Attaché, and others on the Country Team, the Delegation first traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for discussions with US Ambassador Bill Todd and his Country Team.

In Cambodia, meetings were held with Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister of Interior (MOI) Sar Kheng, President of the National Assembly Heng Samrin, General Moeang Samphan, Secretary of State in the Ministry of National Defense (MND), and MOI Secretary of State and Permanent Vice Chairman of the Cambodian POW/MIA Committee Sieng Lapresse, before flying by helicopter to Koh Tang, island site of an ongoing effort to recover personnel still unaccounted-for from the 1975 USS Mayaguez incident, including three Marines left behind alive.

The next stop was Vientiane, Laos, for discussions with US Ambassador Dan Clune and his Country Team before visiting three of four ongoing field recoveries, a completed and closed site, and returning to the Lao capital. Discussions were held with DPM and Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Thongloun Sisoulith, Vice Minister of National Defense (MND) Lieutenant General (LTG) Chansamone Chansylath, President of the Lao National Veterans Federation Brigadier General (BG) Somphone Keomixay and Ambassador Khouanta Phalivong, Director General of MFA's Americas Department and head of the Lao POW/MIA Team, comprised of MFA, MND and Ministry of Public Security (MPS) officials.

Always central to many of the League's overall goals, Vietnam was the final stop. Detailed discussions took place with the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP), the accustomed prelude to senior policy-level discussions with Vice Minister of National Defense (MND) Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh, Vice Minister of Public Security (MPS) To Lam, and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Ha Kim Ngoc Ngoc, all of then known to the League from past years.

Mrs. (b)(6) and Mrs. (b)(6) accompanied their husbands and, along with DIA's Stony Beach Program Chief (b)(6) visited (by road and boat) one of the field recovery sites in Laos. The ladies also attended several social events in each country and added significantly to the Delegation's efforts by their presence. As is customary since 2003, expenses for individual travel and accommodations, as well as most meals, were voluntarily paid by the participants, for which the League expresses sincere appreciation. In each country, the ladies, aided by the Chairman, purchased locally crafted items to raise funds for the League at this year's Annual Meeting Boutique, a very successful side-event, chaired by League State Coordinator (b)(6) assisted by Mrs. (b)(6)

We are also grateful for the support extended by the Washington, DC-based Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian Ambassadors and their Embassy staffs. For many years, League Delegations have received courtesy visas prior to departure; a gesture of significant respect for the League and our mission, and this year was no exception. The League Chairman and Office Administrator (b)(6) met over lunch with long-serving Lao Ambassador Seng Soukhathivong while his staff worked to accomplish issuing the visas. The Royal Cambodian Embassy was equally accommodating, though Ambassador Hen Hem was ill, so we met with Special Assistant to the Ambassador Peang Gafour. Finally, special appreciation and a warm welcome are extended to Vietnam's new Ambassador to the US Pham Quang Vinh. He has tough shoes to fill with the return to Hanoi of his predecessor, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong, a uniquely talented individual who delivered stirring, thoughtful remarks at the League's 44th Annual Meeting Dinner in June 2013 and was very successful as his Nation's Ambassador to the United States.

Cambodia: Consistently cooperative for decades, Cambodia continues to provide the highest level of support and assistance, responding positively to all requests. Failure to achieve answers in recent years has been due to US-imposed legal obstacles to operations, budget shortages and scheduling glitches. As a result, the primary focus in Cambodia is to express the families' and our nation's appreciation for their willingness to assist all POW/MIA accounting efforts on a humanitarian basis.

We first called on US Ambassador to Cambodia Bill Todd, a talented asset and advocate for all US interests and, in our case, specifically on the accounting mission. He and his Country Team, including long-serving DIA Stony Beach Cambodia specialist (b)(6) were informative and helpful in briefing the Delegation on all aspects of US objectives in Cambodia, including the level of humanitarian assistance and support through USAID and the NGO community, the increase in military-to-military cooperation, bilateral and multilateral efforts on mutual concerns, such as addressing international terrorism, narcotics and human trafficking, etc. (b)(6) Commander of Detachment 1 in Bangkok, also leads POW/MIA operations in Cambodia and was supporting us throughout our visit.

League delegations over many years have been received at the highest levels in the Kingdom of Cambodia, including by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamony and long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen though, on this visit, these two leaders were out of the country. In Phnom Penh, we met with His Excellency Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly, DPM/MOI Sar Kheng, Secretary of State in the MND General Moeang Samphan, and Permanent Vice Chairman of the Cambodian POW/MIA Committee Sieng Lapresse, who also serves as Secretary of State in the MOI. Due to a death in his family, we were unable to meet with long-time friend General Pol Saroeun, Commander in Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Chairman of the Cambodian POW/MIA Committee.

The League Delegation expressed appreciation for Cambodia's decades of cooperation and the expectation that US funding and personnel would become more stable and predictable, plus likely increase as a result of the complete reorganization now ongoing. We thanked them for their total support and integration of the DIA Stony Beach Team specialist and stressed the fact that Cambodia continues to lead all countries in providing support and assistance. We asked them to try to ensure that sensitive border conflicts with the Lao and Vietnamese are not permitted to interfere with humanitarian cooperation, as had just occurred on the Lao-Cambodia border, causing cancellation of a field recovery in a border province. Though believed to be a localized action by uniformed border guards, Cambodian officials expressed concern and their intention to follow-up with the Lao. They also stressed continuing commitment to do whatever was needed for however long to help the US account for our missing personnel.

We were flown by helicopter to the USS Mayaguez excavation site in Koh Tang, an island off the southern coast of Cambodia. During this field visit, we also saw long-serving POW/MIA Committee Deputy Chairman LTG Kem Channee. We deeply appreciated this opportunity, facilitated by Detachment 1 Commander (b)(6) (b)(6) and his specialists. Senior Lab archeologist (b)(6) on his 66th field recovery as scientific leader, demonstrated his customary leadership and professionalism, motivating all involved with his commitment, positive attitude and commendable skill. All were impressed with the breadth and scope of the recovery and deeply appreciated the tremendous support and assistance provided.

Laos: We were met at Wattay International Airport by Detachment 3 Commander (b)(6) and long-time Casualty Resolution Specialist (CRS) (b)(6) plus other Det 1 staff facilitating our arrival through customs. Discussions in Vientiane with US Ambassador to Laos Dan Clune and his Country Team were most helpful throughout the visit. Ambassador Clune and (b)(6) graciously hosted the League Chairman and the Childresses for the first three nights at their official residence, site of a lovely reception in the League's honor they hosted for many Lao and US officials. The Country Team meeting, broad in scope, highlighted the need for renewed US efforts to increase the effective US Aid for International Development (USAID) program, a big component of longstanding efforts to demonstrate humanitarian reciprocity.

The Delegation's initial in-country mission was to visit three of four ongoing field recoveries and one site previously completed and closed. After flying commercially on Lao Aviation to Savannakhet, we drove with Detachment 3 Commander (b)(6) to Xekong and overnights at the base camp, the Xieng Khoang Hotel. We flew by helicopter to three recovery sites, received briefings, touring each and talking with the military teams and scientists, archeologists and anthropologists, all of whom were most impressive and committed, despite the difficulties faced.

We also surveyed a completed and closed site involving a reported burial location of a discrepancy Last Known Alive case. We all were extremely impressed by the scope and extent of this repeat recovery effort, symbolic to us of the extent to which US specialists go to account for US personnel still missing and unaccounted-for, whether an aircraft incident or a case of someone captured, held and reported to have died and been buried, perhaps the most difficult of sites to successfully locate and recover. While no additional remains were located during this follow-up recovery, it was meaningful to see firsthand the extraordinary effort made on this case, circumstances too often necessary.

At all of these sites, the League donated family size mosquito nets to village-level Lao officials, symbolic of additional nets, purchased by the League, that will be delivered by US field teams to Lao people helping with field recoveries in the various areas we visited. This small humanitarian gesture was meant to demonstrate the League's continuing support for humanitarian assistance, an initiative begun by the US Government in the early years of the Reagan Administration and long since expanded.

The level of support and assistance provided by (b)(6) and his team throughout our time in Laos, but especially as we flew by helicopter and traveled by road and boat (in the case of the ladies and DIA's Stony Beach specialist) to the field sites was extraordinary and deeply appreciated. We also were inspired by the dedicated field personnel with whom we were privileged to spend some time, including Lao personnel who were with us throughout. These mostly senior US enlisted personnel knew precisely why they were there, working in difficult locations under often dangerous circumstances, eating primarily self-transported food when in the field, more or less on the run between shifts. We are most grateful for their efforts and those of their leaders, military and civilian.

Following our return to Vientiane, significant discussions were held with Lao Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Thongloun Sisoulith, raising points related to operational requirements necessary to be more efficient and effective in achieving accounting results, and again clarifying the role and status of DIA's Stony Beach specialist in Laos. We briefly explained the ongoing reorganization of the US accounting community and expressed optimism that formation of the new Defense agency would help ensure full and predictable funding for field operations. To move cooperation forward, we urged the Lao Government to: 1) initiate another internal search for relevant records, few as they may be due to wartime circumstances, and request Vietnam's assistance in providing relevant records on incidents where their troops operated during the war; 2) agree to an increase, as needed, in the number of US personnel allowed in-country simultaneously, to conduct field operations; 3) approve more US teams to operate from additional base camp locations near remote incident sites, when needed and requested, to expedite accounting results; 4) reassess and reduce imposed requirements for Lao escorts (security personnel) to help reduce costs; 5) raise an unnecessarily restrictive 8:00 p.m. curfew on US team participants; and 6) increase flexibility and participation by DIA's Stony Beach in the investigation process. (Though assigned in Laos for over five years, with prior Lao agreement on increased flexibility within and outside of Joint Field Activities (JFAs), imposition of excessive escort and advance notice requirements continue to impede cost-effective, small team investigations, as initially and repeatedly proposed and long understood. Our dismay over this practice was cited as unbecoming in today's environment.)

Related to all these points and suggestions, the League noted changed and changing circumstances in Laos, with freedom of movement by NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) and traveling tourists, no escort/security requirements imposed, etc. Given prior successes with Vietnam in 2011 and earlier in raising archival research in a detailed format, we provided a compelling reference summary of archival documents that the Lao should be able to locate, in Vientiane or Hanoi, and provide to the US or, at a minimum, produce a reasonable explanation as to why the archival documents might be unavailable. (All of the above points were raised in significant detail at an earlier "roundtable" discussion with working-level officials who grasped the proposals and agreed to raise them with their superiors, including focus on the small-team concept for Stony Beach-led investigations.)

DPM Thongloun's positive reaction was notable, as was his reasoning in responding that all of these issues warrant a closer look to see what the Lao Government can recommend to solve such challenges. He recognized the difficulties of the archival document issue and indicated willingness to communicate with Vietnam, noting that unlike the Lao, the Vietnamese had the wartime ability to report and retain documents. He committed to looking closely at the current situation and how the proposed changes could be accommodated, stressing the importance of archives to reach the fullest possible accounting.

The DPM noted that security needs can be unpredictable, based on local understanding and acceptance, but pledged to look at the guard/escort requirements and step-by-step improvements. The Minister recognized the urgency in working to resolve any border issues so as not to adversely impact joint field operations and agreed to contact Cambodian officials. He expressed understanding of the small-team proposal related to the DIA Stony Beach investigations and indicated that the arrival of the new Stony Beach specialist in the spring will provide an opportunity to review the concept and look for ways to overcome any obstacles.

It was clear that DPM Thongloun recognizes some of the restrictive measures of the past need to be modified, and changes for the better need to come with the ever-improving bilateral relationship. It is also evident that the loss of two key Lao national security officials in 2014 severely impacted the leadership of the Ministries of Defense and Public Security, leaving both with newly appointed senior officials who may or may not be permanently assigned in these positions. We are hopeful our visit will help them to better understand the history of our joint efforts over many years.

The gap caused by losing two such highly placed national security officials in the same helicopter accident is understandable and the situation is still in flux, possibly shifting to generational changes as in other areas. Time will tell but, in the interim, the Lao had an opportunity to respond further on all issues raised by the League during the semi-annual POW/MIA Consultations held February 20th in Vientiane by DPAA's Interim Deputy Director Major General Kelly McKeague, USAF. (In these consultations following our return, the Lao responded in some areas, i.e., lifting unrealistic curfew restrictions, affirmed flexibility in permitting small team Stony Beach investigations outside of the Joint Field Activities, and agreed to reassess their archival holdings and communicate with Vietnam on their holdings that may be helpful but, as expected, deferred other matters for higher level consideration and decision.)

While, it seemed little short of miraculous to expect positive responses in such a short time (less than a month), shortly before the League Delegation's arrival Ambassador Clune had sent the DPM/FM a very effective, succinct letter laying out some of these same concerns. The impact of a unified position by DoD, State and the League prompted some progress and, if DPM/FM Thongloun can manage to persuade the Lao leadership to react positively in other respects, it would be most welcome and mutually beneficial. DPM/FM Thongloun's openness, warmth and receptiveness during discussions were welcome, encouraging, and revealed vision in looking to the future with cautiously optimistic realism.

Minister of Posts & Telecommunications (former Lao Ambassador to the US) Hiem Phommachanh and his wife, Kanika, retired senior official in the Lao MFA, hosted a luncheon in the League Delegation's honor at the lovely new Landmark Hotel in Vientiane, during which much on POW/MIA accounting was discussed. The Minister's current, challenging portfolio covers expanding telecom interconnectivity with neighboring countries, cybersecurity, and the issue of national telecom interface with worldwide networks/telecommunication.

Substantive discussions were also held with the Deputy MND LTG Chansamone Chanyalath and with President of the Lao National Veterans Federation BG Somphone Keomixay, the first such meeting by the League with a Lao official in charge of Veterans Affairs. BG Somphone indicated he looks forward to meeting any veteran delegations that may come to Laos and showed great familiarity with US-Lao accounting efforts, expressing his full support. The same basic points on POW/MIA accounting issues were raised in each meeting, though the focus for specific issue-related matters was during discussions with DPM/FM Thongloun, the ranking Lao official, and Ambassador Khouanta Philavong and the interagency specialists who participated in roundtable discussions.

Vietnam: Going into discussions with senior Vietnamese officials, a more cooperative attitude was evident, a positive spirit of mutual collaboration to address and solve any problems that exist and to seek solutions to new challenges. Due to 2013 discussions in Washington, DC, on the sidelines of bilateral US-SRV Defense Dialogue, it was clear that initiatives to expand bilateral and multilateral POW/MIA accounting cooperation would be given positive consideration. This was in keeping with Vietnamese proposals – to the League since 2009 and repeatedly since to the League and US officials – to expand the pace and scope of field operations and overall cooperation. US responsiveness to Vietnamese proposals had been sporadic at best and undermined perceptions of US seriousness in the minds of many, domestically and internationally. As a result, we looked forward to positive, thoughtful discussions with officials in the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP), the coordination point within the SRV Government for all POW/MIA accounting-related matters, followed by meetings with senior Vietnamese officials.

We were met upon arrival on February 3rd at Noi Bai International Airport by Detachment 2 Commander (b)(6) (b)(6) and long-time Casualty Resolution Specialist (b)(6) transported to the Hilton Hanoi L'Opera Hotel where we were met by DIA's Stony Beach Team Vietnam specialist (b)(6).

The following morning, US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius hosted a Country Team Briefing at his residence in downtown Hanoi, after which we returned to the Hilton, prior to departure for the VNOSMP's Office at the Ministry of Defense where extended, very positive and detailed discussions were held with Director Mr. Tran Thanh Tam and interagency members of the VNOSMP. In addition to specific requests, we briefly explained the ongoing reorganization of the US accounting community and expressed optimism that formation of the new Defense agency would help ensure full and predictable funding for field operations.

This substantive discussion was followed by an office call with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ha Kim Ngoc, known to the League from earlier years in MFA and VNOSMP, with significant experience dealing with Americans during his tenure at the United Nations. A lovely dinner that evening was hosted by Mr. Nguyen Ba Hung, MFA's Americas Director and former head of the VNOSMP, also very well known to the League from prior VNOSMP chairmanship and other MFA assignments; he was the Consul General in San Francisco prior to returning to Hanoi.

The first formal meeting on Thursday, February 5th, was with Mr. To Lam, Vice Minister of Public Security (MPS) at the Ministry's External Affairs Office. Again, Vice Minister To Lam was familiar to the League from our call in 2011, also at the Ministry. This important session was followed by the all-important meeting with Senior Lt. General Nguyen Chi Vinh, Vice Minister of National Defense (MND) and he was also known to us. (In addition to the League Delegation in 2011, the League Chairman had met with LTG Vinh in 2014 when he was in Washington, DC, for the Defense Dialogue with the US Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs (ASD/APSA), a position since assumed by former US Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear.)

The same points were raised at all meetings, in greater detail with the VNOSMP, and a hard copy was left to ensure there were no misunderstandings, though interpretation support was outstanding, whether by (b)(7)(F) or a Vietnamese official. We first recognized how far things had come since cooperation was seriously begun in the early 1980s, noting that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the first joint recovery in Vietnam, cooperation that served as a bridge leading to normalization of the bilateral relationship celebrating the 20th anniversary this year. We expressed sincere gratitude to the government and people of Vietnam for the humanitarian assistance that has brought answers and peace of mind to several hundred American families and the continuing improvements that are making today's efforts even more efficient and effective.

In light of the increasingly close partnership between our countries and the ever-expanding political, economic and military relationship, we noted it is increasingly hard to explain to the families and veterans why there would be any remaining obstacles to full, open cooperation. Thus, in light of current circumstances, we noted we are urging both countries to intensify cooperation – both unilateral and joint – before more immediate family members as well as case-related witnesses, pass away.

Specifically, we asked Vietnam to 1) waive the 100-person limit on US personnel allowed for each JFA when the need arises or additional personnel unexpectedly become available; 2) approve more than two recovery teams operating in one province simultaneously, when justified on a case-by-case basis; 3) approve the two DIA Stony Beach Team Vietnam specialists for permanent relocation to Hanoi; 4) renew and expand unilateral research to other-than-military archives and provide long-requested documents on last-known-alive and other discrepancy cases in Vietnam and in areas of Laos and Cambodia where Vietnamese forces operated during the war; 5) locate and provide the remains, or remains fragments, of US personnel who died while in Vietnam's control that have not yet been returned and are unlikely to be recovered jointly.

Responsiveness at all levels was positive, both generally and specifically, with clear affirmation of commitment and willingness to renew archival research, noting it has become routine since 2011 and will continue. The Vietnamese noted they had provided 82 documents since the League's last visit and that some archives are not filed by POW/MIA as a topic, thus are more difficult to locate. They added that they will accept the Lao cases for ideas on how to search their archives and will work with the Lao, if asked. They affirmed their intention to continue the unilateral Vietnamese Recovery Team (VRT) concept, jointly tested and determined to be very productive and less costly. They offered to expand the VRT process to take on more and more difficult cases if the US wishes to do so.

They noted that from the initial list of 34 restricted cases, there are now only two sites still in that category, both off shore and too sensitive for joint operations in the current environment. (Unspoken were concerns over dissension in the South China Sea.) The Vietnamese agreed to further increase the pace and scope of operations, adding that both sides must prepare personnel for expansion, citing the US need for more team leaders, linguists, archeologists and anthropologists, noting their need to train Vietnamese personnel to develop skills necessary for conducting advance negotiation and coordination with provincial officials. They added that we, collectively, must not lose effectiveness.

They also opined that the remaining cases in Vietnam are increasingly difficult and pose significant risks to all personnel, asking that the League convey this concern over health and safety to US officials. We replied by stating our view that the US Government was not legally permitted to offer health insurance protection, as previously requested, but that safety of Vietnamese and Americans on the joint teams was also highest priority to the US side.

Related to longstanding, repeated US requests for acceptance of the two Stony Beach specialists on a permanent basis, Vice Minister of Public Security To Lam indicated he saw no problem with them working in the MIA office and, after hearing that they don't work for the Detachment, but to augment the Detachment's investigations, the Vice Minister indicated that the Stony Beach visas could be extended (1 year vs 3 months) as an interim step while this was further considered. (Ultimately, this will be resolved at a higher level, but the attitude for consideration was positive.)

Vice Minister of Defense Senior LTG Vinh agreed to increase cooperation and look closely at all initiatives discussed with the VNOSMP and raised to Vice Minister Ngoc and Vice Minister To Lam. He asked for greater assistance by the US to locate remains of their servicemen and, in particular, asked the League to help spread the word about our collective efforts. He mentioned having traveled with SRV President Truong Tan Sang to the US in 2013 and meeting with veterans group representatives at that time, an opportunity he viewed as invaluable to increase understanding between the veterans in the two countries. He also expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance the US has provided to help ameliorate the dangers of unexploded ordnance and damage suffered from Agent Orange, especially in the Da Nang area that was heavily impacted. We provided suggested archival locations in the US on which Vietnamese researchers could focus and pledged to notify the major national veterans organization, through League channels, of their impending visit and need for assistance in this area.

Personal Reflections of Vice Chairman of the Board (b)(6) written February 4, 2015 and raised in concept during the VNOSMP meeting: My father, (b)(6) MIA/remains returned, flew 94 missions over North Vietnam before his RF-4C crashed evading hostile fire. The last two days, I've been privileged to be on a field visit to 4 field Recovery sites in Savannakhet Province, Laos. As we were transiting to the sites via ground vehicles and helicopters, I was struck by the thought that I was witnessing the same terrain and environment my father saw as he executed his missions from Northeast Thailand into North and, perhaps, South Vietnam.

I could see the majestic mountain ranges with formidable karst formations. I stood under the jungle canopy, sometimes in double and triple thickness. Looking up from the ground and down from the helicopter as we flew, I could appreciate how someone on the ground could hear and almost see a rescuer, but not be seen by him. I saw the smoke and haze and clouds that could hide an entire mountain range blocking line-of-sight-style radios and rescue beacons. I appreciated how easy it was to hide deadly, radar-guided anti-aircraft missiles and artillery in the dense foliage and rocky terrain. I could only imagine the desperation of wounded crewmen in badly damaged aircraft trying to get back to the safety of Thailand through this deadly landscape.

The province we visited was directly on the Ho Chi Minh trail which was used by the North Vietnamese Army to supply combat missions into South Vietnam and support the Viet Cong already there as well. Two of the sites we visited were other RF-4C losses. Of the four crewmembers on these two aircraft, two were accounted for and the other two are still missing in action, with a presumption of death. Both incidents were similar to my father's circumstances of loss; both resulted in high speed impacts with considerable destruction of the aircraft.

Fortunately for our extended family, my father's remains were recovered by the NVA, initially buried, later exhumed, stored, then unilaterally repatriated and identified. My father was afforded proper burial with full military honors. The effort we witnessed was to affect the same for these two unreturned US veterans. I also saw brave, dedicated US service personnel who volunteer to work in harsh and uncomfortable conditions, away from home for months, searching for their missing comrades. Most weren't even born when these men fought and died. They are all heroes.

As I rode in the van and in the helicopter, I thought to myself, as Dad was flying over this country, he probably could not have imagined in his wildest dreams that his oldest son would someday be driving in that same country looking for missing Americans. With indescribable irony, I can only imagine that he was thinking of his family, but those thoughts would have been back at home in Idaho, certainly not in Laos.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 30 Sep 2015 11:52:46 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

Thanks Ann --

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:27 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

Mike, although I'll fill in any questions later, following are key points from the one-hour meeting.

I first thanked him and their leadership for the forward-leaving tech talks on September 17th, including the suggestion to move more rapidly than FY17-18 to expand operations in the central provinces, the offer to explore any options the US thinks might improve the process, and urging more use of unilateral SRV personnel to conduct operations, as well as the commitment for an answer on SB by end of the year. Vice Minister Vinh was very pleased with the rundown and my question as to their suggestions on what kind of assistance they would like to have to support their recoveries, and said, in abbreviated form:

1) There are no restrictions on our willingness to cooperate on this mission, jointly or unilaterally, and no longer restricted areas, but that in the past the USG responsiveness had been slow. I assured him I recall very well their 2009 request to increase the pace and scope of operations, but noted it is a new day, a new agency with you at the helm, and that I was confident we'd all be seeing an expansion. I also noted that an additional factor was your intention to form partnerships with private organizations/companies to provide assistance, especially on WWII, and gave them the example of the Tarawa remains recovered by History Flight and repatriated while I was in HI, noting that such could help alleviate the pressure of the additional mandate of WWII remains recoveries, without additional personnel, but also other areas where such support might be needed to augment achieving objectives.

2) They would welcome underwater recoveries along the coastline, later clarifying there are sensitivities about large USN vessels in some areas, but there are options, such as smaller USN equipment and working from SRV and private vessels. In response I said this is very welcome reiteration of what he'd earlier said and that I'd talked with Deputy PACOM and PACFLT CO, both favorable and looking forward to expanding the military relationship by working more closely on this mission. I added that I was confident you also were supportive and I am hoping that discussions could soon progress, but that decisions on such matters were entirely up to you, DoD, PACOM, etc. and their responsiveness to any USG proposals.

3) He noted they realize that recovery of their losses was their responsibility, Vietnamese killed in Vietnam, but mentioned possibly some form of DoD's DNA "matching" kit and underground detection (ground penetrating radar?) to locate remains in unknown locations, possibly training for use of specialized equipment and historical research to locate US records that might have locating information, but importantly, to seek personal artifacts that are very meaningful to the families who lost loved ones. He cited the recent TV documentary that was done in connection with the 40th anniversary of the reunification of their country and the end of the war, and the 70th anniversary of their national independence, an important year.

4) He mentioned Stony Beach and again said he has no problem with them coming to Vietnam and working on this issue with the US and SRV teams, and that he really didn't care what they did before or who they worked for, so long as their focus was strictly on the MIA issue. When I asked for clarification, stating that they work for DIA, have specialized training, cultural sensitivity, languages, sole mission to investigation and interview leads developed by analysts to help resolve cases, but they don't work for the Detachment. I noted that DIA's specialists in SB are permanently assigned in Laos and Cambodia, at the USEMB, but not in Vietnam and that it seemed illogical and said that is one reason I was disappointed that his schedule didn't have time for him to meet with DIA Director LTG Stewart, he smiled and nodded, saying it is "too soon" at present, but that he had been in charge of all military intelligence for 10 years and he has no problem with the background of anyone working on the issue, so long as they were working with the Detachment and VNOSMP.

5) There was also extensive discussion (due in no small part, in terms of extension) to Rick Weidman, VVA on Agent Orange Dioxin and past efforts to do with scientific survey to determine the differences in birth defects between children born of southern (exposed) women and northern (unexposed) women since most eat basically the same diet, have similar lifestyles, so the results would be enlightening, etc., etc., Vinh said there are three areas that are the most toxic, Da Nang, where the US has been of significant assistance, some \$84 million and a "model" of how best to ameliorate the toxic conditions in the environment, but also Phu Cat Air Base and Binh Hoa Air Base, both not yet treated and in very bad condition. He also noted it will take 100 years to clean the environment to where there is no danger to succeeding generations, etc. There was also a specific appeal to all of us to talk with our elected officials to help them understand the importance of such assistance on a humanitarian basis, but made very clear that even if there was no assistance in these areas, they would continue to cooperate fully on the American MIA issue.

Interestingly to me, since I'd never hear it, is that Vice stated he is the head of the national steering committees dealing with both UXO and Agent Orange, and it is clear he cares deeply about doing his best to address and get support for addressing both issues, just as he does getting artifacts to families and recovering and returning remains to families.

(b)(6) whom I introduced as having known longer than any, at least 40 years of knowledge and commitment, thanked Vice Minister Vinh for the expanded cooperation that was evident and his commitment to continue doing more. Bob Wallace also thanked him and pledged also to take his concerns to House and Senate Members. Rick Weidman thanked the Minister, and committed to conveying his message to relevant MCs. Vinh invited us all to come to Vietnam and, of course, I noted Bob as coming regularly, usually when bring his Nat'l Commander, new each year. Vinh was very engaged, almost passionately expressive, and thanked me for coming and bring the guys with me. They also appreciated the opportunity and are in full support.

I'm too tired for more, but will add anything else I pick up from my notes, but wanted this to you before your meeting tomorrow morning, though most importantly, I hope you are feeling much better after a good night's rest. Hope to talk soon, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22041

703-465-7432

Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org<Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org>

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 25 Sep 2015 02:18:04 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Luncheon for Vice Minister Sr.LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh

FYI

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:14 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Fwd: Luncheon for Vice Minister Sr.LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh

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Mike, I've confirmed availability of Bob Wallace and (b)(6) the two most important from my standpoint and likely Hanoi's as well, but have you checked your schedule.

I noted below September 30th as preferable since that is best for Bob, and of course I want him/VFW there and Mike/Legion can make it either day. I'll get back to you as soon as I get word from the SRV Ambassador or Sr. Col Hung, the DATT. More to follow when available, but I sure wish (b)(6) was here, especially if Ba Hung is on the Vinh Delegation, as is likely.

I've asked (b)(6) if any of the Stony Beach guys have additional insights on the SRV Steering Committee 1237, presumably still led by Sr LTG Cong, as I know SB has long had interest in their military recovery operations. I know only their mission which is to locate and return unaccounted-for Vietnamese personnel, now evolving into attempts to identify, never missing, but known dead and many buried in unknown locations, including some as groups buried by US personnel.

Their actual needs may be very simple and easily addressed with perhaps training of historians, investigators and scientists, but this has been going on for some time and the circumstances have changed measurably. There are likely many options and variations that warrant some consideration, but certainly no immediate commitment, unless from the VSOs agreeing to publish an article, perhaps written by you, that could be publish in their national magazines.

That would be good exposure for all, and win-win-win scenarios are the best possible outcomes. Please get back to me, and thanks in advance, Ann

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through the Combined Federal Campaign, #20818

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@vietnamembassy.us, (b)(6)@vietnamembassy.us
CC: (b)(6)@yahoo.com, (b)(6)@gmail.com
Sent: 9/24/2015 5:50:13 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Luncheon for Vice Minister Sr.LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh

Mr. Ambassador,

I'm taking the liberty of again contacting you regarding the possibility of hosting a luncheon in honor of Vice Minister Vinh on September 29th, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., or September 30th, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., preferably the latter.

Knowing the demands that will be on you and the Vice Minister, it is not my intention to pressure you or your staff for a decision, but I wanted you to know that I have contacted the leaders of the VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Special Operations Association and Jewish War Veterans of America to confirm their availability. I have proposed the two dates and times, when most if not all will be available, and am doing the same with our new DPAA Director and others.

Ambassador Nguyen Ba Hung, in his role as Director of the VNOSMP, again requested consideration of ways in which the USG and VSOs might be able to assist your government's efforts to recover and identify remains of Vietnamese citizens killed and while serving your country. This subject was raised to Generals McKeague and Spindler on September 17th during Technical Talks in Hanoi. It was also raised during the League Delegation early this year, and I well recall Sr.LTG Cong's visit, in 2014 as I recall, during which he raised this same need.

As you likely know, we collected and provide to your government information from American veterans when General Vessey's was serving as Presidential Emissary in the later 1980s. My thinking now is that our new DPAA Director, LTG Mike Linnington, USA (Ret), our VSO leaders and I could gain greater understanding of your government's current thinking over informal discussion at lunch.

Please do let me know as soon as you have confirmed with officials in Hanoi whether either date/time can be accommodated in the Vice Minister's schedule and, hopefully, yours as well.

Respectfully, Ann

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In a message dated 9/23/2015 5:04:32 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (b)(6)@aol.com writes:
Attached is an electronic copy of my letter to Vice Minister Nguyen Chi Vinh that I hope he will receive before departure for Washington, DC, and the Defense Policy Dialogue with Ambassador Shear, Mr.

Linnington and others.

I am sincerely disappointed that the SRV leadership didn't see it mutually beneficial to respond positively to arrangements made for Vice MND Vinh to meet with DIA Director LTG Stewart, but retain optimism that such will occur soon, hopefully before the President's visit in November, as well as Mr. Linnington's that same month.

Should there be time on Sr.LTG Vinh's schedule on September 29th or 30th, I would be delighted to host a luncheon in his honor. I regret that I have no flexibility as to the date. I am committed to picking up my granddaughter at the airport in Norfolk and driving her to Murfreesboro, NC, for meetings there concerning a full university scholarship. I don't know who might be traveling with the Vice Minister, but would assume several officials, and would hope that you, Mr. Ambassador, might be able to join us, plus of course would invite some US officials to also join us, estimating 10-12 at most. I do realize how late this invitation is in the planning for this visit, so it not possible, I'll certainly understand and look forward to another such visit.

Thank you again for the lovely reception honoring your 70th National Day. It was delightful to again have an opportunity to see many friends and colleagues who share interest in positive bilateral relations between our two countries. I never cease to be amazed, however, at the lack of greater historical context on the part of some, and so well known to others.

I look forward to your reply and very best wishes.

Respectfully, Ann

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 1 Oct 2015 20:30:15 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: Key Points from Vinh Meeting (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann -- I'm sure you know this, but it's projected to flood throughout the week/weekend down there. Be safe! I'll call when you get back. Our daughter's baby is coming -- likely within the week.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 4:26 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

Thanks, Mike, glad it worked out. He is a good man to get to know and more later. (b)(6)
(b)(6) Best, and thanks again. Tell Christine I sent best wishes and prayers her way. Tough times! Ann

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 1, 2015, at 12:40 PM, Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
> (b)(6)@mail.mil> wrote:

>
> Ann - everything below was discussed (except support for SRV recoveries), and Vice Minister Vinh presented a folder of mementos from 1968 - letters from the family of a USAF POW, repatriated in 1973, and deceased in 1999. We're returning through AF Casualty Affairs to his widow and family.
>
> Today's close out meeting with USD(P) Wormuth was postponed until tomorrow (it was scheduled for 11:30 today). Lots going on with USD(P) and administration with ISIL, Russia, and Syria. I'll attend tomorrow, and let you know anything discussed in my area of responsibility.
>
> Minister Vinh committed to more in depth discussions when I visit SEA in Nov. We're in a good place in all areas with SRV, and his only 'regret' he mentioned is that more vietnamese and americans don't know how much we're doing together, and how closely aligned we are in our accounting responsibilities. As you mentioned below, Min Vinh noted there are no restrictions on where, how many, or make up of our teams, and they appreciated our noting their cooperation on archives.

> Vr, Mike

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:27 PM
> To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
> Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
> Subject: Key Points from Vinh Meeting

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 13 Oct 2015 11:59:51 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: Simple Suggestion

Ann -- we'll definitely get them replaced with ones more fitting. If not WHS money -- then ours!

Vr, Mike

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2015 4:32 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Simple Suggestion

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

It would seem appropriate that DPAA purchase two battalion size POW/MIA flags to display under the US flags at the Pentagon River Entrance Mall on National POW/MIA Recognition Day each year and the five other days required by law. The small size POW/MIA flags again used this year reflect very poorly on DoD, are embarrassing, especially in the presence of foreign officials, and do not accurately reflect the priority being given to the accounting mission in both personnel and resources.

This is an easy one, I'd think, especially since DPAA did it right at the new DPAA-West Headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, or so it seemed when they were raised. Even with the paperwork requirements likely required for any such action to occur, I would hope your team could get this underway now and, perhaps, the appropriate new POW/MIA flags could even be available by Veterans Day, November 11th.

Thanks in advance for your consideration on this, but I do think it is a matter of public diplomacy and image, in this instance very easily solved. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 13 Oct 2015 12:23:14 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: Questions from Ann M-G Prompted by Board Discussion

Hi Ann --

Unfortunately, funding has never been our issue as we perform our accounting mission. It's possible that could change, with increased access to field sites, costs inherent in Strategic Partnerships, and a new Case Management System. We underspent slightly last year, but we were very close to closing out the fiscal year having spent what was allocated. My goal is of course to spend every nickel we're given, and ask for more. Our LIMFAC has always been people: deployable teams to get out to sites/locations on our MEL -- of which there are many ready to be recovered.

Given ongoing efforts to cut budgets, reduce OSD personnel billets by 25% (including Defense Agencies), and mitigate expected cuts to the operational force, any "ask" for more people on our part will likely not go very far. In fact, I'm doing all I can to keep what we have now. My argument is we've already taken a PACOM cut of 20% over the past few years -- we can't take another. This month and next we'll see how far that argument goes.

Other responses below -- but should be expanded on face to face.

Vr,

Mr. Michael S. Linnington
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2300
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Questions from Ann M-G Prompted by Board Discussion

Mike, although disappointed that you will be unable to meet with them on December 5th, the Board had a couple of questions I couldn't really answer, so I said I'd following up.

- 1) Is the funding stated in the Defense Authorization Bill for FY16 (\$123,372 million) adequate for the expanded mission? (yes, but given it's our first year, we'll know in about 6 months as costs for strategic partnerships come to fruition, and our case management costs are known).
- 2) If yes, is there any danger that some % of the budgeted funds could be cut if an across the board cut is required? (yes -- negotiations are ongoing now -- it's a 50/50 proposition for DPAA -- I'm personally arguing against any further cuts....not delegating this to anyone lower than myself ("rank", makes a difference unfortunately).
- 3) Could the pace and scope of the Vietnam War accounting effort be expedited if additional funding was authorized and appropriated and more personnel were made available? (yes -- it's a very bad time to ask for more people/money -- until we can get our identifications much higher than the 80/year we're doing. If we find/identify 200 -- we'll have much stronger legs to stand on asking for more resources).

Obviously, there is always concern over the ability to sustain operations, especially when all are acutely aware of how fragile funding commitments can be.

4) Also, it was mentioned during the last DPAA Conference Call that DPAA had purchased some additional equipment for AFDIL to use in processing DNA, but what is the equipment purchased for use by AFDIL? (I was unable to tell them.) (2 Next Generation Sequencers: currently going through validation, and on line in a few months -- I'll send product information soonest....). As well as the science behind what it does for us).

Thanks in advance for your reply to what I assume easily answered questions.

I hope you are both enjoying a great Columbus Day weekend. Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Fri, 16 Oct 2015 00:47:59 +0000
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: AMG email FW: Ritter/Townley/Weissenback Case (U)
Attachments: smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Mike -- is this statement correct? If it is -- who told Ann this government information? It's why we should never provide the OPLAN to anyone outside the government -- sets unrealistic expectations.

From AMG: "I understand this was tentatively planned, or at least hoped-for, in FY15 when there was a bit of left-over funding, but the lack of Recovery Leaders prevented going forward."

Did we have a lack of RLs in 2015? If so -- I need to adjust my presentation and TPs.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:17 PM
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: AMG email FW: Ritter/Townley/Weissenback Case (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Generals,

For SA. I received this email yesterday and am crafting a carefully worded response that I will vet prior to sending. The site (1791) AMG is concerned about is listed as an alternate site for both the 16-3 and 16-4 VM missions. Site 1791 lies significantly outside the cluster of sites we are working for the JFAs. Also based on the information available, 1791 is ranked in the lower third (9/10) of all the planned alternate sites. BL as it stands right now there is little chance we will finish with the primary sites in time to switch to the alternates. If we do switch to the alternates, there is no chance we will get to 1791. Please let me know if you have any questions or additional guidance.

s/f

Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US)
Subject: (b)(6) Case

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

Mike, I understand that Case 1797 is currently not on the FY16 OPLAN and that during FY16, DPAA plans to cleaning up all of the OPEN sites except for two of them. Many of them have been open for many years. The location of Case 1791 is a northern province, and DPAA is going up north during JFAs 16-3LA and 16-4LA, but working three OPEN sites from two different base camps Xiangkhoang Province and Khammouan Province. Likely that won't allow time to go to Case 1791 in Oudomxai Province, off by itself.

I just had another exchange with (b)(6) and asked directly if he thought there was anything potentially useful still at the loss site for his father's case, (b)(6), in which (b)(6) and (b)(6) were also lost. He sent the following photos and affirmed that he does think there may be, plus it is a piece of cake to get there to survey and do a recovery.

Granted, there are few, if any, other cases in the area, but that shouldn't obviate the facts: it is accessible, has been on the excavation list for about 20 years, and it needs to be scheduled. Just because the NOK of (b)(6) are not trouble-makers and/or screamers shouldn't be a reason not to press forward.

My question is when? And if not FY16, why? It isn't right, or so it seems to me. And if this can get moved up in priority by (b)(6) writing letters to you, Mike, Christine, Secretary Carter, or even Senators Ayotte and McCaskill, then maybe they should go for it. None of them are getting any younger either, but (b)(6) and (b)(6) both went to Laos early last year and that is how they got the photos. They also met with (b)(6) and (b)(6) and I think were told well possibly as an "alternative" site, but that isn't very reassuring after already waiting since the site was located in 1997, some 18 years ago!!!

I understand this was tentatively planned, or at least hoped-for, in FY15 when there was a bit of left-over funding, but the lack of Recovery Leaders prevented going forward.

I can't imagine the Lao Government allowing, or even considering, a "strategic partner" to attempt recovery of this site, even though it is out there all alone. It was a road built by the Chinese that (b)(6) and (b)(6) took to get to the site early this year. And (b)(6) speaks Lao and has lived there. It is hard to know what to tell him and, with all the confusion, even I am uncertain on the decision-making criteria for case selection priority.

I sent this to you, Mike, as you're the Asia and Pacific Regional Director, and copied (b)(6) and (b)(6) because they know the families involved. (b)(6) talked with (b)(6) at the League's 46th Annual Meeting and knows that this case was being left off the FY16 plans. He also knows that I planned to send someone (didn't really say who) an inquiry about the rationale. (b)(6) is a quiet, contemplative and supportive guy, was on the League board for many years, but he is getting a bit impatient since he has waited so long for their turn. Let me know what you think, and any insights would be appreciated, but not distributed, translated perhaps, but not distributed without your express permission.

I'm sorry I didn't get to see and talk with you during your quick visit here recently and am pleased to help in any way you think I can, and wish you the very best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO

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From: (b)(6)@alcon.com
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 10/13/2015 4:58:28 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: two more pictures

Hi Ann, Thank you for the call and the help! This is the actual rice paddy where the plane crashed. Of course back then and in 1997 it was all trees. The bottom picture is where the "witness" said the plane hit. If you look at the rice stubble, you can see a bare spot or a lesser growth spot. This is due to soil contamination. I had a small metal detector and it was going off all over, just small pieces and such and nothing identifiable. The day I met the witness, he pulled a large piece of iron out of a trash pile. I thought it too large to be an airplane part, looked more like a 500 lb bomb casing. In hind sight, it could have been a piece of an engine block; they are usually iron. The witness said that people scavenged the area over the years for things to sell. The 105 mm shell casing that one kid showed to me was all corroded and not worth anything. That is why it was still there. My dad was carrying a mixed cargo but mostly 105-106 mm (white phosphorous rounds).

The witness also told me that he did visit the sight several days later and the Chinese troops would not let them near. He said they were busy digging into the site. They piled the debris just to the left in the top picture. It too had a lot of pieces in the dirt. Anyway, I have more pictures and such and (b)(6) certainly does. Again, we are not criers and ones to go banging on Congress doors and such. Maybe we should have.

Love, (b)(6)

Here are some pictures from this extremely difficult crash site to get to. Despite (b)(6) (b)(6) she was able to step out of our vehicle into this rice field on flat dry land. I don't think I broke a sweat and there were no rivers to cross or mountains to repel down. Why I even think they could land a helicopter there!! The "Chinese Highway" that we drove up on is just past the tree line.

(b)(6) my guide is the one in the light shirt in the bottom picture. The eye witness is the one he is talking to.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 20 Oct 2015 12:38:56 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: requests

Don't laugh...

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 8:27 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: requests

Hi Ann --

I'd like to be your POC for any inquiries on SEA research, investigations, recoveries, and identifications. My folks probably do not fully understand the importance of your 'asks', and won't put the proper thought/resources behind any answers provided. With your 40 years of commitment, you deserve me being your action officer, which you know I'll do my best to honor. I'd also like Mike Gann focused on supervising his subordinates -- the largest (by far) Directorate in DPAA.

Thanks for understanding Ann -- hope to talk with you later this week.

I'm heading to Johns Hopkins today to view some promising technology that assists in field recoveries: both on ground, and under water. Also meeting later this week with former 7th Fleet Cdr VADM Thomas and Dr (b)(6) - both of whom you know and have spoken to. I'll link up with ADM Swift when I get to Hawaii.

Vr, Mike

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 4 Nov 2015 21:49:39 +0000
To: Ann Mills-Griffiths; OsiusTG@state.gov
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) @yahoo.com; (b)(6) @yahoo.com
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Official letter of H.E Pham Binh Minh (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Thanks Ann --

Very productive visit on our end so far: Thailand, Cambodia, Laos (heading to field sites today/tomorrow), and then on to Vietnam Sunday after breakfast with US Ambassador Clune. Veterans Day in the field with our team.

Appreciate you setting conditions for success in SRV with your letter. We'll provide details of our visit soon as we return. Pace is hectic, and little time to write much now. Boarding a plane at 0530 -- hooah!

Vr, Mike

Michael S. Linnington, SES
Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2300
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Mills-Griffiths [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 2:35 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); OsiusTG@state.gov
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) @yahoo.com; (b)(6) @yahoo.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Official letter of H.E Pham Binh Minh

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike and Ted, I thought you might appreciate reading the letter I received yesterday, via email, from the SRV Embassy in DC, though by now it may have been delivered to the Embassy in Hanoi. Of course Dhe was responding to my early September letter before Kelly McKeague and Mark Spindler's visit to help preposition your visit, Mike.

I do hope all is well there. We've heard nothing, other than a brief DoD posting that Sec. Carter had met with the Lao Minister of National Defense in KL. Best to all, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
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Falls Church, VA 22031
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

-----Original Message-----

From: tiennguyen <tiennguyen@vietnamembassy.us>
To: (b)(6)@aol.com>
Cc: hoangvu <hoangvu@vietnamembassy.us>
Sent: Tue, Nov 3, 2015 4:31 pm
Subject: Re: Official letter of H.E Pham Binh Minh

Dear Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths I would like to send you the copy of the official letter of H.E Pham Binh Minh. The original will be delivered to MIA office in Ha Noi and to you in due course. All the best to you. Yours sincerely, Nguyen Van Tien Counselor, political Affairs Embassy of Viet Nam 1233 20th street, N.W #400 Washington D.C 20036 tel: (b)(6)

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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-----Original Message-----

From: tiennguyen <tiennguyen@vietnamembassy.us>
To: (b)(6)@aol.com>
Cc: hoangvu <hoangvu@vietnamembassy.us>
Sent: Tue, Nov 3, 2015 4:31 pm
Subject: Re: Official letter of H.E Pham Binh Minh

Dear Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths I would like to send you the copy of the official letter of H.E Pham Binh Minh. The original will be delivered to MIA office in Ha Noi and to you in due course. All the best to you. Yours sincerely, Nguyen Van Tien Counselor, political Affairs Embassy of Viet Nam 1233 20th street, N.W #400 Washington D.C 20036 tel: (b)(6)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 12 Nov 2015 01:59:30 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com'; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War.

Thanks Ann, will do. In Narita, boarding a flight to Dallas, home tomorrow afternoon.

Vr, Mike

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 09:15 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) DPAA OPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Slaughter, Holly N Lt Col USAF DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War.

This just came in from Rick Downes, MIA son, Korean War, and I recommend watching it, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
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through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com
Sent: 11/11/2015 6:48:05 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Subj: Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War.

On this day, our thoughts go to those veterans of the Korean and Cold Wars who we are still searching for. We hope you will watch this short video for the planned series Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War.

Caution-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6RkS-neLBU&list=PLu8guPhQX33AWNxr7PyYtaUCDRiszK7pw> < Caution-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6RkS-neLBU&list=PLu8guPhQX33AWNxr7PyYtaUCDRiszK7pw> >

Rick

Richard Downes, President
(Lt. Hal Downes, MIA)

Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs
P.O. Box 4194
Portsmouth, NH 03802
818.259.9950

Caution-www.coalitionoffamilies.org < Caution-
<http://www.coalitionoffamilies.org/> >

*He that hath found some fledged bird's nest,
may know*

*At first sight, if the bird be flown;
But what fair well or grove he sings in now,
That is to him unknown.
-Henry Vaughan*

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 19 Nov 2015 20:37:48 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@bellsouth.net
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA RA (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Fw: Request For Assistance

Dear (b)(6) Sir:

I've had my team look into the specifics on the case of Private Wilson, and although I'm concerned anytime I read that our government's accounting effort has been anything but responsive to families, I'm buoyed by learning from our team that we've been actively pursuing this case for several years, and has provided updates to Mr. (b)(6) Pvt Wilson's (b)(6) through the Army Service Casualty Office.

In 2012 and 2013, teams from our office made on-the-ground investigations of both the reported site where Pvt Wilson's light tank was destroyed, just outside the village of Landean, France, and the reported burial site of an unknown U.S. soldier in the southwest corner of the forest of Fougères. As you noted, a private organization, History Flight, has also conducted work on Pvt Wilson's case, and though they have yet to locate his remains, I understand they have developed some promising leads which we are developing now, with hopes of pursuing in the coming year. As we do, we will continue to keep PVT Wilson's family informed.

Please know that if our government (or any private organization with whom we are working) recovers the remains of any missing U.S. service member from any of our past conflicts, we will work to ensure a proper identification, repatriation, and burial with full military honors. Should Pvt Wilson's remains be identified, DPAA and the Army service casualty office would provide, at U.S. government expense, the honored burial for which he and his family have waited so long. PVT Wilson's family will surely NOT have to pay the private organization, or rely on the French to pay for these services.

In the event that Pvt Wilson's remains go undiscovered as a result of this most recent information, DPAA will continue to pursue all possible leads in our efforts to locate his remains.

Thank you for bringing this case to my attention. In addition to allowing me to verify internally that my team is coordinating effectively with History Flight, your inquiry made me aware of the need to contact Pvt Wilson's family to reaffirm our commitment to his case.

Army Strong!

Michael S. Linnington, LTG(ret), SES
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:33 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@bellsouth.net
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA RA (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Fw: Request For Assistance

(b)(6) Sir,

From one former Soldier to another, thank you for your note. I'll ask our analysts to look into this case immediately, and we'll be in touch. I'd ask you to tell the family to NOT pay any private organization to repatriate Pvt. Ronald A. Wilson, 36761382 -- that's our government's responsibility, one which we take very seriously.

Army Strong!

Mike Linnington, LTG(ret), US Army
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:37 AM

To: (b)(6)@bellsouth.net

Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Fw: Request For Assistance

Dear (b)(6)

I greatly appreciate your bringing this sensitive matter to my attention.

By copy of my reply, you are reaching the Director, LTG (R) Michael S. Linnington, USA, and Deputy Director, BG Mark Spindler, USA, of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). I can assure you that they and all in DPAA take very seriously the recovery of our deceased WWII servicemen, as they do the missing and unaccounted-for US personnel from the Vietnam, Korean and Cold Wars.

I do not know the current status of the specific case you raised, but I'm confident that one or both of these officers will be in touch directly or through one of their staff to respond more knowledgeably to your inquiry.

Although formed in 1970 to focus solely on achieving the fullest possible accounting for our loved ones missing from the Vietnam War, we are very proud that our determination was able to sustain the mission and see its evolution into DPAA, as directed by former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. As a result, over 600 US personnel today are engaged in the accounting mission, setting an example for the world that our country stands behind those who serve our country - past, present and future - including if captured or missing.

Best wishes to you and know that all of us realize what you and your generation of soldiers did for us and the western world during WWII.

Respectfully,

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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703-465-7432

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Dear Ms. Griffiths:

As an "old soldier" I still try to live by the Soldier's Creed, especially the following parts:

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I know you have read many of the recent stories about MIA Marines whose remains have been recovered on Kwajelin and Tarawa. Well, over the recent Veteran's Day weekend I received a very disturbing email from my late uncle's (SGT Paul J Bearden, KIA 23Jul1944) (b)(6) (Mr. (b)(6)) about the last remaining casualty of the 106th Cavalry Group in WWII whose remains were never recovered. The pertinent parts of that email follow:

"His name is Pvt. Ronald A. Wilson, 36761382. He was confirmed as KIA via witnesses in a tank just south of Landean (north of Fougères) on 2 August 1942. He was a member of F Company and, from what I can tell, 3rd Platoon. The 88mm struck the left tread from behind and the second round went through the engine and out right where was sitting as assistant driver. Photos are quite clear. The lieutenant's leg was badly injured. A tank came back and picked up the three and he was left as the tank started burning. Finally, 3 years ago, a woman reported that the partisans lived next door to her family in a house in the forest on a dead end road. She said the partisans brought his remains and buried them. Unfortunately, after all the work the POW/MIA caseworker put into this, and two trips by the team to France, JPAC has no interest that I am aware of. The caseworker was going to present the case in 2013 for JPAC action; however, the government shutdown and subsequent non-reorganization of JPAC (meaning they were to reorganize and did not, and then lost all interest) meant they gave up on the case--even after traveling to the burial site and talking to the witnesses. The (b)(6) contacted a private foundation and they have been doing the work--and will do the excavation. As far as I know the family will have to pay to bring him home or the French might take care of this. I do not think our government is interested in helping.

The (b)(6) contacted me shortly after (b)(6) and I started our search. And we have become very good friends. His name is (b)(6) and he will make any arrangements to have him brought home and buried. You can contact (b)(6) at (b)(6)@gmail.net. < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.net. > (b)(6) would welcome you contacting him. Phone is (b)(6) Pvt. Wilson's family could never find out what happened to him. They were not aware of the description of the event in the 106th Cavalry book--which is exaggerated based on local accounts. No Germans were killed that day. One of the two German gunners was slightly wounded and they rode a horse into the village the next day to find a doctor. They came back after the war to visit and thank the local doctor and people and much was learned from them.

(b)(6) and I were at Red's grave in 2008 when we learned that Pvt. Wilson's name was on the Wall of the Missing. I was really puzzled because I knew he was listed as KIA. So we started the search right away. I became so focused at (b)(6) grave that (b)(6) and the guide watched me for a long time--I had no idea that I stood there thinking for so long. It was quite emotional, as was Dowling's grave.

It has been confirmed that there is a body at the location. Excavation should be very soon. Every indication, including location near the tank, points toward Pvt. Wilson.

As far as I know JPAC has no role. (b)(6) will make burial arrangements. Either (b)(6) and the family pay to have him shipped home or maybe the French government will help. I wish I knew which congressman to complain to about the lack of interest by JPAC and our government since Sept. 2013."

Any assistance the ROA could provide in the recovery and return of PVT Wilson's remains would be greatly appreciated by this "old soldier," Mr. (b)(6) and the (b)(6) family.

Very Respectfully,

(b)(6)

BG(R) USA

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 24 Nov 2015 21:38:01 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Updated Board Regional State Coordinator List

Ann -- thanks as well for your comments throughout the call. I'd actually forgotten (b)(6) was omitted from earlier calls as directed by Sec Hagel -- we will have to think through how to keep him from monopolizing everyone's time at these important events. Thanks for the listing as well -- you'll get the trip report before others obviously, given our focus on SEA and the need to update your Board in person. I will try to speak slower in future calls -- it WAS a lightning round.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving -- my family is coming in from New Jersey tonight, and it's my (b)(6) -- heading home for cake/coffee now.

Vr, Mike

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 4:08 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Updated Board Regional State Coordinator List

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike and all, I thought you all might like to have the current list of League officials that we're again working to update, but it is current as of today.

Good job on the conference call briefing today. It almost seemed like a "lightning round" of activities, but clearly the workload and ongoing effort are massive, and deeply appreciated. I'm sorry the one caller tried to monopolize the conversation and even sorrier that he tried to take advantage of having allowed him back in after his exclusion by Secretary Hagel.

Best to all, and have a blessed, meaningful Thanksgiving. Sincerely, Ann

PS: I didn't mention that you were coming to our Board of Directors meeting on December 5th to prevent anyone thinking the League is being given special attention/favor, but we are looking forward to the

discussion and to meeting you, Fern.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 25 Nov 2015 14:12:59 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: discussions with Directors

Explosion heard -- I'm calling her in 30 minutes...

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 9:04 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: discussions with Directors

Good morning, Mike, and I'm sorry you mistook my intent as wanting to "provide direction/guidance" to the two active duty colonels you've entrusted with operational control of the accounting mission. I simply wanted to determine for myself, over conversation, if I like and trust them as people, so I could reassure the families.

You've certainly changed your mind a lot since you started six months ago, from encouraging me to talk with everyone at any time, to completely shutting off communication with anyone except you and, apparently, Mark and Fern. That ensures that the five people with leading roles, all new to the mission, can talk with each other without benefit of the wisdom that comes from experience, except perhaps as interpreted by you. That isn't transparency, Mike, that is insecurity prompting total control.

Call whenever, but that was my intent, in a nutshell. Sorry you don't have more confidence in me. Sadly, Ann

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In a message dated 11/25/2015 8:39:15 A.M. Eastern Standard Time (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- if you have a chance today, I'd like to talk through your intent to provide direction/guidance to our 2 most overworked leaders in DPAA: Mike Gann, and Chris Forbes. I've asked them to focus DOWN on running their organizations, and not get side-tracked with soliciting/receiving guidance from anyone other than me, and the 2 flag leaders in DPAA. I know this isn't what you want -- but it's the way it has to be for us to be effective.

Vr, Mike

Mr. Michael S. Linnington

Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2300

(b)(6)

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 3 Dec 2015 12:16:45 +0000
To: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US)
Cc: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot.....

It continues to amaze me the dialogue our people have with the League in advance of any decisions being made....

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 11:02 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot.....

The new Acting head of the Russian Embassy office dealing with USRIC issues, Maxim Alexyeev (sp?), is coming to our office early on Friday to look around, then he, (b)(6) and I, plus (b)(6) if he can make it, are going around the corner to The City Diner to chat.

The reason I asked him, and for that matter, Doc, is the longstanding agenda items of a League Delegation to Moscow that is to be discussed this weekend, though I'm thinking we may opt to delay timing a bit. As I told Maxim recently at dinner after a wonderful concert featuring Russian music, (b)(6) has a unique connection to Russia, and he is arriving early afternoon on Thursday, in anticipation of going over financial records related to his responsibilities as League Treasurer. (b)(6) US Marine Corps, became unaccounted-for in Laos on January 5, 1970, while flying an F4B mission during the Vietnam War.

(b)(6) is a very successful businessman-farmer from Nebraska who, during the Cold War years, worked with Armand Hammer to provide contracted support to the former USSR. I know little of the specifics, but it occurred to me that it could be useful, informative and a connection as we all learn more together, over an early breakfast discussion, before I have to get back to meet the HRR guys. This, too, just happened in the last 24 hours, and was confirmed late today. Things seem to be rushing forward even more quickly than usual. Later, Ann

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In a message dated 12/2/2015 10:51:18 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@aol.com writes:

Just wanted to let you know that today, Doc Foglesong accepted my invitation to meet with the League Board later on Saturday, since he'll be in town through the weekend and until he completes meetings with Commissioners on the Hill on Monday.

He is willing to debrief the board on his trip and share advice and knowledge related to our longstanding agenda item to consider a League Delegation to Moscow. I figured Doc could give some thoughts on timing and potential usefulness, or not, a more solid basis on which to consider such a step. It would be the first official League Delegation to reinforce the importance of the USRJC and its mission, now that the USRJC is at long last renewing/reinvigorating its effort to move forward.

I'll keep you posted on that, and also Jay Veith, our Intelligence and Research Advisor, is coming in to brief us on some progress he, Merle Pribbenow and an imagery analyst have been making. In this case, of course, all information and analysis is provided to your staff, and they are pretty confident they have found imagery on the cases of (b)(6) father, (b)(6) USMC, lost late in the war, 1972, when (b)(6) was a baby. It should be interesting and perhaps offer potential for your Strategic Partnership initiative, though we'll see.

Hope all is going well, look forward to receiving your detailed trip report and to having you and Fern with us on Saturday morning. Onward.....Ann

PS: Please do give some thought to developing topical positions that can be adopted by all and shared with the media, et al. Let me know if I can help.

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 3 Dec 2015 12:56:57 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com'
Cc: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot....

'Bosses' is the wrong word, 'sponsors'. More appropriate.

----- Original Message -----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 07:26 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com <(b)(6)@aol.com>
Cc: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot....

Ann -- of course, we should work together. I'm meeting with Forbes and (b)(6) at 0745 to get briefed on the USRJC efforts/proposal (I've delayed my trip to AFDIL), plans, etc. It's unconscionable to me they'd meet with you and your board (despite the leeway they have as Presidential Appointees) before their government bosses know what they're proposing. No thin skin -- I just have to work harder and find more hours in the day to know what's going on.

Fern and I will be alone Saturday.

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 7:21 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot....

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Mike, I haven't spoken to Doc at all, and that is precisely why I asked him to meet with the board since we need to know the details of what occurred. I only sent you the message of all that was planned in a spirit of partnership that you've said you're pursuing. Nobody asked me to tell you and I didn't have to share the increased scope of this important board meeting, but feel the importance of demonstrating mutual trust and confidence internally, and partnership and unity externally.

The years of turmoil and uncertainty surrounding USRJC appears to be coming to an end, and we all are

grateful and expectations are raised that finally things can and will move forward. Doc is a Presidential Emissary, appointed by the President and supported by DoD. Having worked with several such presidential appointees over the years, they do have some autonomy to make plans and move them forward. I'm thankful that is finally happening and know you'll be a solid, contributing Commissioner.

I believe the USRJC needs strong support, just as DPAA does, as mutually supportive entities, with plenty of work for all. I hope you agree and can have confidence that Doc would never pursue any approach with foreign governments without full coordination with you and others in leadership positions within the government.

I truly hope you will not take actions that undercut Doc, the USRJC, the League and/or (b)(6). He is awaiting "clearance" from his immediate bosses to join Friday's breakfast discussion. There is no reason for concern, so please trust that I would alert you should I see any, and have confidence in my judgement as you expect me to have confidence in yours. Respectfully, Ann

PS: Just so it is clear, only League officials, including our Advisor, Jay Veith, will be present when you and Fern come over on Saturday. For seating purposes, will anyone else be with you two?

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 3 Dec 2015 13:38:48 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com'
Cc: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot....

Ann, you completely missed my point. Too much for an email. I'll call this evening after I return from AFDIL.

Mike

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 08:30 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Forbes, Christopher S COL USARMY DPAA RA (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot....

Mike, I'm again disappointed in your knee-jerk reaction, or over-reaction, that appears to stem from an inclination to control everything, repeat everything, related to this mission. That is an impossibility for any leader of any organization or agency, public or private, commercial or nonprofit..

I believe the best any leader can do is lay out your vision for achieving the mission and select people who have integrity, good judgment and character, intellectual capacity, knowledge and experience or ability and willingness to learn, good judgment about people and their motivation, and loyalty, first to the mission, then to their bosses.

Yes, that's a tall order and precisely why I believe you are the right guy at the right time in the right job. That is saying a LOT, Mike, and you need to have confidence in me, not over-react. I learn something new about this mission and its implementation each and every day, including about people. You've encouraged me to reach out to your people, then signaled the opposite to them, asking for our confidence, then extended little in return.

I voluntarily sent the email to be inclusive and so you would NOT feel blind-sided. Your reaction demonstrates that my openness and confidence in you was misplaced. That is not a partnership, and it is very sad.

I hope you do not consider it inappropriate to be so honest in replying to your message. You added them to our exchange and cited actions by people with integrity whom I've known for years as taking actions that are unconscionable, your definition, not mine. Their "crime"? Working with me in a spirit of partnership and mutual trust.

Despite this latest episode, I remain optimistic that you can and will lead DPAA into the success I believe is achievable, and I hope you will consider my intentions and proven responsibility throughout the last 40 years. Respectfully, Ann

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In a message dated 12/3/2015 7:26:07 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Ann -- of course, we should work together. I'm meeting with Forbes and (b)(6) at 0745 to get briefed on the USRJC efforts/proposal (I've delayed my trip to AFDIL), plans, etc. It's unconscionable to me they'd meet with you and your board (despite the leeway they have as Presidential Appointees) before their government bosses know what they're proposing. No thin skin -- I just have to work harder and find more hours in the day to know what's going on.

Fern and I will be alone Saturday.

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 7:21 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Just a heads up, from Ann - One more thing I forgot....

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the board since we need to know the details of what occurred. I only sent you the message of all that was planned in a spirit of partnership that you've said you're pursuing. Nobody asked me to tell you and I didn't have to share the increased scope of this important board meeting, but feel the importance of demonstrating mutual trust and confidence internally, and partnership and unity externally.

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I believe the USRJC needs strong support, just as DPAA does, as mutually supportive entities, with plenty of work for all. I hope you agree and can have confidence that Doc would never pursue any approach with foreign governments without full coordination with you and others in leadership positions within the government.

I truly hope you will not take actions that undercut Doc, the USRJC, the League and/or (b)(6). He is awaiting "clearance" from his immediate bosses to join Friday's breakfast discussion. There is no reason for concern, so please trust that I would alert you should I see any, and have confidence in my judgement as you expect me to have confidence in yours. Respectfully, Ann

PS: Just so it is clear, only League officials, including our Advisor, Jay Veith, will be present when you and Fern come over on Saturday. For seating purposes, will anyone else be with you two?

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 5 Dec 2015 20:01:46 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: Board Meeting (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann -- thanks for allowing (b)(6) Fern, and I to spend a few hours with the National League of POW/MIA Families BOARD this morning. I'm sorry we couldn't stay for lunch -- but I'm working to get through some things prior to my trip tomorrow EARLY am. If there are areas of concern after you meet this afternoon, we're always available to reevaluate or refocus our efforts. Providing answers for Families is our highest priority, and we're reliant on your board's collective experience to help us do our best.

Vr, Mike

Michael S. Linnington, SES
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
2300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2300
(b)(6)

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Mon, 7 Dec 2015 22:22:45 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Korean War POWs' remains found in mass grave to be returned to family (U)
Attachments: smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann – of course, the story is wrong, and no one in Army Casualty told the family what was reported in the newspaper article.

CPL Stuck was a K208 recovery, recovered near Chonsung-ri as a battle loss (not a POW-captivity loss). All circumstantial/lab evidence leads to death 65 years ago (certainly not 20 years ago of starvation) – and I'm not sure where the fiction in the article is attributed. We'll fix the record with the media on return/funeral – there will obviously be many questions based on the fiction below.

Vr, Mike

Mr. Michael S. Linnington, SES
Director, DPAA
Washington, DC 20301-2300

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 6:17 AM
To: Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); (b)(6)@mail.mil
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (b)(6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Korean War POWs' remains found in mass grave to be returned to family

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Korean War POWs' remains found in mass grave to be returned to family

Published December 06, 2015

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Korean War Army corporal Kenneth Stuck (Clarence Stuck)

Remains found in a mass grave near a notorious POW camp in North Korea made an 83-year-old Pennsylvania man break down in sobs.

The remains belong to Army corporal Kenneth Stuck -- an MIA for 65 years.

"I can't wait until he comes home," Stuck's brother Clarence, of Manheim, told FoxNews.com Sunday.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command identified the remains last month through DNA testing.

"The Army casualty office called me and told me that 'we have your brother,'" Stuck said. "I had to pull over and call my son to tell him to come get me because my car was flooded -- with my tears."

Kenneth Stuck was declared missing on Nov. 2, 1950, during the Battle of Unsan, a devastating defeat for American and UN troops by Chinese forces in the North Pyongan province, according to LancasterOnline < Caution-http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/a-soldier-comes-home-remains-of-korean-war-veteran-mia/article_76c2370e-99e2-11e5-b60e-87ddb83096d9.html > . He was 24.

The enlistee's remains were found near the prisoner of war camp called Camp 5 at Pyoktong in a massive grave that contained the remains of some 322 POWs, the Pennsylvania news outlet reported Sunday.

Stuck told the news outlet his brother appears to have died of starvation. He says that's based on the condition of the remains, which also indicate that his brother died "maybe 20 years ago."

The remains are expected to be returned to Pennsylvania in the next few weeks.

Stuck said the VFW is preparing a marker for his brother's burial in a cemetery where Stuck said their parents are interned.

"He was the greatest buddy you could ever have," Stuck told LancasterOnline. "We were really close....I'm just glad he'll finally be Caution-home."

AMG Question: According to the article, Stuck told the news outlet his brother appears to have died of starvation. He says that's based on the condition of the remains, which also indicate that his brother died "maybe 20 years ago." If that is true, he would have had to survive some 30 years in captivity before his death. Having never heard of such, and wanting facts, can you tell us whether the remains recovered and identified did or did not reveal an accurate, or fairly accurate, date/year of death?

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 15 Dec 2015 19:42:46 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Response to Ann Mills-Griffiths

Thanks Ann -- I agree -- a select committee at this time would take us away from our important work ongoing. I appreciate The League and your support as outlined below.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Response to Ann Mills-Griffiths

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

This was good news, just received from HHR, and sent FYI, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@verizon.net
CC: (b)(6)@comcast.net
Sent: 12/15/2015 2:02:35 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Subj: Re: Response to Ann Mills-Griffiths

Thanks, (b)(6) and (b)(6)

It is great news to hear that HHR's position is in concert with the League's and, should we learn who is behind Representative Walker's action to introduce legislation to form yet another Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, I'll be glad to share that information. I hope you would do the same should you learn the origin.

Thanks for your good wishes to the families and I return them with our best wishes in return for a Merry Christmas and a New Year richly blessed with good health, great prosperity and much happiness in the year to come, 2016.

Sincerely, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
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In a message dated 12/15/2015 1:07:55 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@verizon.net writes:

Good afternoon Ann:

We received your email referencing Representative Mark Walker's plan to introduce legislation to create a new Select Committee. We agree with you that a committee at this point is out of phase with the changes taking place in the accounting effort. DPAA is coming together and just beginning to get their feet on the ground. We agree they need to have time to get their team on track, work on budgeting and hopefully demonstrate the ability of the new organization to attain a new level of accomplishment. A new Select Committee at this point would be a major distraction and could cripple DPAA's ability to focus their energy on important formative tasks.

We are interested in learning who is pushing the creation of this Select Committee at this time and hope they can be educated to better understand what is taking place in the Defense Department. While

whoever is working with Mr. Walker's office is probably well intentioned and trying to help, they are giving momentum to the law of unintended consequences. Their actions could undercut the hopeful and positive actions that are beginning to bud at DPAA.

Thank you for giving Honor-Release-Return, Inc. the League's perspective on this potential legislation. We are happy to be in total agreement with the League.

You and all of the families have our heartfelt wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to working with the National League of Families to bring productivity, happiness and increased answers about our missing service members to all who wait.

(b)(6) and (b)(6)

Co-National Chairmen of the Board

Honor-Release-Return, Inc.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@verizon.net, (b)(6)@comcast.net
Sent: 12/14/2015 6:25:05 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Subj: Question from Ann Mills-Griffiths

Good evening (b)(6) and (b)(6)

I'm attaching a measure that Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC, 6th District) plans to introduce. If you all are involved and advocating introduction, please know in advance that the League will strongly oppose formation of ANY Select Committee at this time. We feel it important for our new DPAA to be given a chance to succeed, and they need time, both to become better informed about historical perspective - what has worked and hasn't must be included - and put their strategy into practice.

I'm hoping you agree, having met with Mike Linnington just after you came to our office for our discussion. Please let me know your thoughts on this and, if this is something you've advocated, can you possibly walk it back to give DPAA a chance to succeed before undergoing an investigation that will take assets and resources away from the mission?

Thanks in advance for your consideration, and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a New Year richly blessed with good health, productivity and much happiness, plus increased answers about our missing men.

Sincerely, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 15 Dec 2015 22:58:53 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: POW/MIA Select Committee (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Hi Ann --

I was just speaking with some key staffers last night at a social function, and don't believe this will get traction -- but one never knows. You (and others) have more to say than us on this topic. As you state, a select committee will be a distraction to our mission and redundant, as I'm always available to go over and speak to Senators/Congressmen at any time.

We DO have a Forensic Science Academy. Space is allocated in Bldg 45 and Dr. (b)(6) is the Director, vs Dr. (b)(6). We have been training foreign nationals, to include MAKRI and the Malaysians most recently, and likely to conduct additional training for the VRTs and forensic scientists in Vietnam.

Vr, Mike

Mr. Michael S. Linnington
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Washington, DC 22202
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: POW/MIA Select Committee

Freddy Gessner, Deputy Director, National Security Division, The American Legion, needed a bit more rationale to including in his internal memo so that the Legion has a firm basis for rejecting another select committee at this time. I would suggest you consider having talking points ready as to why formation now would be an impediment, of course stressing how willing you always are to come over and brief on the Hill to any/all interested Members of Congress.

If this starts to build, I'll go to all the others major national Veteran groups to get them engaged, hopefully, unified behind total opposition. We'll see, Ann

PS: Do we still have a Forensic Science Academy, such as was established by Dr. (b)(6)? If not

currently, is there any consideration of restoring it for the purpose of training foreign specialists?

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)@legion.org
Sent: 12/15/2015 2:44:43 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Subj: Re: POW/MIA Select Committee

Freddy, the League's opposition to formation of yet another select committee at this point is based on the fact that major changes are still taking place in the accounting effort. The newly formed DPAA is coming together and just beginning to get its feet on the ground. The Director, LTG Mike Linnington, USA (Ret) needs to have time to get his team on track to demonstrate DPAA's ability to attain a new level of effort and results in terms of achieving increased accounting.

While closely watching relevant budget and personnel requirements as formative tasks are addressed, we've been assured there will continue to be expansion on the Vietnam War accounting mission as requested by the Vietnamese since 2009, with the US effort insufficient and inadequate until recently. With the the additional requirements related to WWII and Korean War remains recoveries, including hundreds buried as unknowns in the Punchbowl and elsewhere around the world, the workload on DPAA cannot be overstated.

A new Select Committee at this point would be a major distraction and could interfere, even severely impede, DPAA's ability to focus maximum attention and energy on important, immediate tasks as they move into full operational capacity by year's end. That is precisely what Director Linnington intends, and we are determined to do all we possibly can to support and facilitate DPAA's efforts, seeking additional budget appropriations if needed and even asking Congress to fence DPAA funding if necessary, though of course we hope that won't be required.

I hope this response is sufficient for your needs, but should you require further definition, please feel free to contact me. Suffice to say this mission needs another select committee like one needs a hole in the head. What we need is seriousness, integrity, transparency and realism in all communications with the families and our Nation's veterans. I strongly believe this is the last viable opportunity to really generate the answers we all seek. We now have the right guy, in the right position, at the right time, supported up his chain of command. With unified support and cautious optimism, carefully monitored by the League and our major national Veteran organizations, this opportunity can be maximized and significant progress really can bring answers for the families.

Thank you for asking for input to pass to your leadership, and please let me know if you need clarification on any points. Best wishes to you and all at the Legion Headquarters for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year that is richly blessed with good health, prosperity, happiness and peace.

As ever, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
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In a message dated 12/10/2015 2:30:41 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b)(6)@legion.org writes:

Understood.

Thanks, Ann.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [Caution-mailto (b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Gessner, Frederick (b)(6)@legion.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@legion.org>
Subject: Re: POW/MIA Select Committee

Freddy, I am in (b)(6) and return on Saturday night. Our position has been opposed to formation of yet another Select Committee on this mission. Now, it would likely would be strongly opposed to give our new DPAA time to get fully up and running. Please hold off and call me on Monday. Thanks, Ann

Sent from my iPhone
On Dec 10, 2015, at 12:38 PM, Gessner, Frederick (b)(6)@legion.org < Caution-mailto (b)(6)@legion.org > > wrote:

Ann

I want to hear from you before I take any actions with our legislative staff on this bill. It's being sponsored by Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC). Rep. Walker is looking for ways to do more for veterans and he believes this is one way of doing that.

I recall attending a press conference along with your executive director once before, with Michele Bachmann in support of this.

v/r

Freddy Gessner

Deputy Director, National Security Division

Phone (b)(6) Fax 202.861.003

< Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionhq> > < Caution-
<https://twitter.com/AmericanLegion> >

<POW-MIA Select Committee.pdf>

<Caution-<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/sig/embsig.jpg>>

<Caution-<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/sig/legion2.jpg>> < Caution-
<https://www.legion.org/> > <Caution-<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/sig/youtube.jpg>>
< Caution-<https://www.youtube.com/user/americanlegionHQ> > <Caution-
<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/sig/face.jpg>> < Caution-
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<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/sig/twitter.jpg>> < Caution-
<https://twitter.com/AmericanLegion> >

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 28 Dec 2015 21:22:25 +0000
To: Ann Mills-Griffiths; Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Signaling the importance given to border delineation.

Ann -- travel safely, and I hope you had a great holidays with your family as well. See you on your return -
- 2016 will be a good year, and we too are hopeful of DPAA's improved ability to perform the sacred responsibilities as expected of the families we serve. Vr, Mike

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Mills-Griffiths [[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)@aol.com](mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com)]
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Signaling the importance given to border delineation.

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Just FYI, and have a good day. I fly home tomorrow, and please feel free to let me know how I can help make 2016 the banner year we all hope to see, Ann

Vietnam, Cambodia inaugurate two border markers

Tuoi Tre News

Updated : 12/27/2015 10:43 GMT + 7

<Caution-<http://cdn.static.tuoiitre.vn/i/s500/2015/12/JNTMSWWD.jpg>> <Caution-

<http://cdn.static.tuoiitre.vn/i/s500/2015/12/JNTMSWWD.jpg>>

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (L) and his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen are pictured at the inauguration of border marker No. 30 on the morning of December 26, 2015.

Tuoi Tre

PrevNext

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Vietnam and Cambodia jointly held ceremonies in the Vietnamese provinces of Gia Lai and An Giang on Saturday to inaugurate border markers No. 30 and 275.

The ceremonies were attended by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and his Cambodian

counterpart Hun Sen, along with delegations of elite officials from the two countries.

Vietnam and Cambodia have achieved significant results in establishing the border markers between the two nations, PM Dung said in his speech at the inauguration of border marker No. 30 in Gia Lai, located in the Central Highlands, on Saturday morning.

The management of the border line separating Vietnam and Cambodia is based on the regulations promulgated in the agreements and treaties which were signed by the two governments, the premier added. The road connecting two checkpoints of the international border gates of Le Thanh, located in Gia Lai, and O Yadav in the Cambodian province of Rattanakiri was also opened to traffic during the ceremony.

The road, which will provide connection between localities in Vietnam's Central Highlands and eastern Cambodia, is expected to facilitate the development of the economy, tourism, trade, and investment of the two parties in particular and Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos in general, according to PM Dung.

Cambodian PM Hun Sen considered the inauguration of border marker No. 30 the result of Vietnam and Cambodia's long-term efforts.

He also hoped that the two countries would soon finish establishing all border markers in accordance with local and international laws, creating favorable conditions in the link between Vietnam, Cambodia and other member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Another ceremony was organized on the afternoon of the same day in An Giang to launch boundary marker No. 275.

"The inauguration of marker No. 30 and the road connecting two checkpoints of the Le Thanh-O Yadav international border gate, together with the launch of marker No. 275, marks the Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Committee on Land Border Demarcation and Marker Planting's completion of defining and building all key markers at 10 international border gates along the two countries' borderline," PM Dung said.

He also asked PM Hun Sen to together direct the joint committee to address existing issues and accelerate the completion of land border delimitation in order to build a boundary of peace, stability, cooperation and sustainable development.

<Caution-<http://static.tuoiitre.vn/2015/12/nkod4Vjm.jpg>>

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (R) and his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen are seen at the inauguration of border marker No. 275 on the afternoon of December 26, 2015. Photo: Tuoi Tre Like us on Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/tuoiitrenews> > or follow us on Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/tuoiitrenewsvn> > to get the latest news about Vietnam!

Ann Mills-Griffiths

Chairman of the Board

National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22031

703-465-7432

Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org> >

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 7 Jan 2016 21:26:08 +0000
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: Recent article in the January edition of American Legion Magazine on ...

Ann's take on LKA....

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 6:20 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Recent article in the January edition of American Legion Magazine on ...

Thanks for the article; it saved me time looking for it, and I'll get back to you on my thoughts and recommendations, if any.

I talked with (b)(6) and tried to cover some of the bases we discussed, largely because his memory of historically important events, processes and people is second to none. Also, he is in the midst of major sorting/storing retained archival materials for the book he and I hope to write, once you're successfully and comfortably on your way. (As noted earlier, my exit strategy.)

He and I are in full agreement on SB's origin, initial mission, evolution, utility today as value-added to DPAA, at no cost other than openness and coordination, rather than stove-piping as we've seen over the years. And, as related to working in the USEMBs, whatever the country, there is always the need to ensure that the DATTs and the Ambos understand that their primary mission must not be undercut or impeded by other requirements, though sometimes useful in expanding access and ease of acceptance. You may wish to call him to talk about Stony Beach, though I think I probably covered it fairly well, but as I was covering the subject, he came up with point after point. That means, he could likely add more to your understanding, if more is needed. For example, I failed to point out that much of SB's initial activity on the live POW aspects (b)(3):10 USC § 424 and other reporting coming along as the year moved forward.

I talked with (b)(6) about the Last Known Alive (LKA) cases and while talking I came up with a name that he agreed works well and is far preferable to the "Fate Determination Board" and that is the LKA EVALUATION BOARD. The key factor is to ensure that in language used to convey results, the old terminology doesn't creep back into the content, i.e. we have evaluated your son's case and determined his fate as no longer being LKA = WRONG! The language in explanation should be along the lines of "In analyzing all of the evidence collected over the last X investigations and reviews, our thorough assessment has concluded that your son/husband did not survive the incident and it is likely, due to the proximity to hostile forces, that his remains 1) were recovered and have not yet been repatriated, so will be the subject of sensitive discussions on the need for additional unilateral efforts; 2) were possibly buried in a nearby location and efforts to locate and recover them will ensue; or 3) will not be recoverable due to the following factors: a., b. and c. In other words, no further "fate determinations" on a presumptive basis, but careful analysis of accumulated evidence and circumstantial information leading to a solid conclusion, avoiding presumptions or determinations and, if unclear, the lack of clarity should be acknowledged, along with any options that may exist.

I also mentioned our discussion on the importance of the case coordination process and the HI-based operational support analysts need for the insights and knowledge available in the SEA team of specialists remaining in DC and vice versa to keep the DC-based analysts engaged in the "heart" of the issue, seeking

and obtaining answers for the families and helping account for these American veterans/colleagues and bring them Caution-home. (b)(6) felt strongly that the relationship between the operational support analysts and the macro-strategic analysts was crucial to best utilize assets and resources, as well as keeping the HI-based people on the right track and the DC-based people motivated for the right reasons and being part of the accounting process.

Generally on public diplomacy, it is hard to know where to start, but it was covered quite extensively in the earlier paper (b)(6) and I did on strategy.

Finally, while talking, (b)(6) asked if you had mentioned anything further on the follow-up letters you planned to send to Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian officials after your early December trip, specifically as related to your conversation regarding a comprehensive plan that the working level on both sides would put together for approval at your level and that of your counterparts. I told him I was clueless, that you mentioned nothing in this regard, nor had anyone sent me a draft for a "snake check," but that I raise the subject.

That's enough for now; I think I'll go home; it's been another long, but fruitful day. Have a good evening, Ann .

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 12 Jan 2016 15:22:16 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

Pls don't forward -- FYI only...

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 10:20 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

Ann -- all well taken, and considered in my announcing publicly. The number is 97: 52, 34, and 11. If I said 103, I mis-spoke and will correct in the paper summary of the phone call.

Yes, all IDs peer reviewed, yet, NOT all briefed to SCOs and/or families -- as you know, that can take months. Also understand The League's views on not chasing a number -- but most DoD/Congressional/VSO/MSO/Media that legislate/resource/hold-us-accountable "do" focus on all aspects of what we do -- including #'s of IDs. I/we can't run from that -- thus our 'balanced' approach to our mission, and effort across the portfolio.

Europe/Russia in Feb.

Vr, Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:47 PM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] SENSITIVE - PERSONAL FOR YOU

I'll pass the message to (b)(6) in fact just hung up talking with him and he thought I should send along a "personal for" note related to Lab ID's you announced last Thursday, during the DPAA Conference Call. I have no idea from whom you received the numbers of IDs for Calendar Year 2015, but you gave us 58 for WWII, 34 from Korean War, and 11 SEA (meaning Vietnam War). You indicated 97 for the year, but that adds up to 103, so there is a discrepancy that begs correction.

The larger issue, and one you may wish to question (without attribution to me) is whether all announced as ID's had in fact gone through the entire ID process, including peer review and approval, and provided to the PNOK. I've heard that process was not applied fully, meaning it would be premature and presumptive to announce them as ID'd. Therefore, you may have been put in the position of providing faulty, on at least unsubstantiated, information to the NGO, VSO and MSO community.

There has been far too much emphasis, therefore pressure, on the ID numbers, not specifically mandated by Congress, but still taken as a mandate by some in the community. Further, there is nothing that undercuts the legitimacy of official efforts more than unfounded accusations of false IDs and/or duplicity in the ID process. The League has NEVER bought such absurd accusations, nor have I personally, and has actively fought against acceptance, as well as those making such accusations. As I mentioned to you some time ago, the League commended CILHI when under greatest attack, and we're well aware of the damage caused by unproven accusations.

I hope you have a productive trip to St. Louise and am glad you went to NARA, but when is it that you

intend to launch for Europe? Travel safely, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 COLUMBIA PIKE, SUITE 100, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

September 23, 2015

Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh
Vice Minister of National Defense
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear General Vinh:

I hope this letter finds you well and assume you are preparing to again travel to our nation's capitol for the Defense Policy Dialogue next week. As we discussed when you visited Washington, DC, in July with the General Secretary, the atmosphere of bilateral cooperation between our two countries has never been better and there is, or was, every reason for optimism that continued expansion would ensure building on the solid basis thus far undertaken.

Therefore, it was with surprise and sincere disappointment that I learned earlier this week that what I had hoped would be cordial and fruitful discussions between you and Director of our Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and LTG Vince Stewart, USMC, would not be taking place as proposed.

All are looking at ways to further increase the pace and scope of operations, as initially proposed by your government in 2009. With the expanded political, economic and military-to-military cooperation that now exists, including what I understand is an initial program sharing mutually beneficial intelligence, there should no longer be any obstacle to increasing such cooperation, especially on this humanitarian mission.

As you know, I've long advocated increased bilateral military-to-military cooperation, strongly believing that our two governments can and should work together to expand ties and broaden understanding. One such area of importance to the accounting mission is to gain your government's approval for permanent stationing in Hanoi of our two DIA Stony Beach specialists. Time is running out to obtain the answers we seek to end the families' uncertainty. These two specialists, now rotating in and out on temporary duty status, need to be fully utilized in conducting the small scale investigations needed, accompanied by and in full coordination with your designated officials.

At Technical Talks held late last week in Hanoi, Ambassador Nguyen Ba Hung and other VNOSMP members suggested further increases in bilateral cooperation and committed to responding to this longstanding US request by the end of the year. Of course it was my hope that you would take the opportunity of your upcoming visit to inform General Stewart of your government's favorable decision.

Since you and he regrettably will not meet next week, I nevertheless hope that you will deliver that positive message during the Defense Policy Dialogue (DPD) with Ambassador Shear and our new DPAA Director LTG Mike Linnington, USA (Ret) previously described in my September 7th letter to DPM/FM Minh. I also sincerely hope that your leadership will re-consider and determine that increasing intelligence and national security cooperation is in the mutual interest of both countries, carefully as such a policy must be drawn.

Respectfully and very best wishes,

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO

Cc: Ambassador Ted Osius
Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh
Ambassador David Shear
Mr. Michael Linnington
LTG Vincent Stewart, USMC

From: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Sent: Wed, 25 Nov 2015 17:43:12 +0000
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths (U)
Attachments: smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

General,
For SA.
s/f
Mike

Colonel Michael J. Gann II
United States Marine Corps
Director, Asia/Pacific Region
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
Commercial: (808) 448-4500 x-(b)(6)
BlackBerry: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 6:44 AM
To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA OPS (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Note from Ann Mills-Griffiths

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Col Gann: Though I'm sure you are swamped with one "huddle" after another, I'd love a chance to chat if you have any openings on your schedule, including over breakfast, lunch, coffee, dinner, at any time.

Of course I mean not including the "DPAA Conference Call" this afternoon in which all may participate, but a more substantive chat without the uninformed "ears" of the massive number listening in and, on occasion, using things said out of context. That is the precise reason I say very little, if anything, during these calls, but appreciate the reasons why they were initiated.

Let me know what might be possible and I'll do my best to accommodate. In the interim, have a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving, and travel safely.
Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/> >

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 28 Oct 2015 15:42:28 -0400
To:

(b)(6)

Subject: Oregon Continues Strong Support: SHPD to host Nov. 6 flag-raising ceremony

SHPD to host Nov. 6 flag-raising ceremony

Posted: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 3:41 pm

The St. Helens Police Department invites the community to attend a POW/MIA flag raising ceremony on Nov. 6 at 9:45 a.m. in front of the St. Helens Police Department, 150 S. 13th Street.

The ceremony will be performed by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion posts. Twenty to 25 veterans are expected to attend. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

In May 2015, Governor Brown signed Oregon House Bill 2892 requiring all public buildings with an existing flag pole to display a U.S. flag, Oregon State flag and a National League of Families' POW/MIA flag during the hours when the U.S. flag is customarily displayed. This House Bill goes into effect January 2016.

St. Helens resident and former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant and Vietnam Veteran Douglas Walker donated two POW/MIA flags to the City of St. Helens for display at McCormick Park and St. Helens Police Department.

"We must never forget the hundreds of Americans still missing in action or held prisoner from the conflicts around the world where our Armed Forces have served to defend freedom and democracy," said Walker.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
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From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)
Sent: 26 May 2016 17:15:02 +0000
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US) (b)(6) (Dr.) CIV DPAA EM (US)
Subject: RE: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years! (U)

(b)(6) -- great insight. (b)(6) likes being spectacular, and doing his best to make the government look bad -- he's quite adept at it. Agree with below -- it would be great to offer a point by point rebuttal to ALL on the CC line below -- if that didn't take a ton of work.

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington
Director, DPAA, USD(P)
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 11:19 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)
Cc: Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) (Dr.) CIV DPAA EM (US)
Subject: RE: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years! (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Sir, one thing that some folks miss in their outrage is that they presume to know what happened and/or apply their present day frustrations to those that were most impacted by the loss. A case in point is a WWII loss (b)(6) and I worked which involved the loss of a Navy fighter pilot who was killed when his Hellcat along with three other Hellcats were shot down by Japanese fighter in the last dogfight of WWII -- a very famous dogfight for the Navy. The family had recently been told by a Japanese researcher that the remains of their relative had been located at the time of loss and buried in a cemetery and the family asked that we go get them. (b)(6) did some quick research and pulled the IDPF and it turned out that the Japanese had indeed gone to the crash site at the time of loss and located the pilots remains and buried them in their local temple. However, the rest of the story is that the remains were recovered from the temple in 1946 by an Army Graves Registration Team. The remains consisted only of the upper torso, but the Army made an identification based on all eyewitness testimony as well as the uniform and aircraft wreckage that the locals had found which all belonged to the missing pilot had been recovered with the remains. The Navy consequently met and briefed the parents on the identification and the mother asked that they be buried as an unknown. Needless to say, the cousins were quite surprised when I told them of these events and decisions.

I think some often presume to know what folks were thinking decades ago or what information they had

been provided without a true understanding of the complexities involved. Some also like to work in the medium of faux rage more than others. v/r (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US)

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 10:03 AM

To: Gann, Michael J Col USMC DPAA AP (US); Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)

Cc: Byrd, John E (Dr.) CIV (US); Reedy, Edward A CAPT USN DPAA LAB (US); (b)(6)

CIV DPAA AP (US); Livick, Todd S Sr CIV DPAA (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US);

(b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); Sumpter Winbush, Fern O SES DPAA FO (US)

Subject: Fwd: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years!

Mark, Mike, and Lab leaders:

I obviously don't have the situational awareness our analysts/NEA teams have on these cases, but if below is accurate, seems to make the case for disinterment under the new DoD thresholds. Welcome your thoughts/analysis. Some may already be disinterred or planning -- I just don't know, but we will need to be prepared to respond to the families/SEA conference in early August, and likely response as this article gets traction.

Please visit our website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

Fulfilling our Nation's Promise!

Mike Linnington

Director, DPAA, USD(P)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@gmail.com

To: (b)(6)@gmail.com

CC: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sent: 5/25/2016 8:06:30 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Article - ignoring the Obvious, for 63 years!

Feel free to copy, publish, excerpt as you need,

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

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Network Serving more than 4,200 family members Cell (b)(6)
(b)(6)@gmail.com

(b)(6)

Caution-www.koreanwarpowmia.net

Subject:

Attachments: smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Thanks (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA VM (US)

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 2:45 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Bringing Three Hero's Home (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

Hello Ms. (b)(6)

Thanks for your email. I don't see any information regarding your case attached to the email. Is there some information you would like us to analyze?

I have included DPAA's external affairs officers on this email. Since we here in Hanoi are field operators and may not have the latest information on every case, it is often better to contact someone like (b)(6) to make sure you get all the information you need. Your service casualty officer, (b)(6) (b)(6) should also have the most up to date information on your case.

Thanks again for your note.

Best Regards,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 3:36 AM

To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA VM (US)

Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org; (b)(6)@q.com;

(b)(6) CIV USMC MARFORPAC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Bringing Three Hero's Home

I am sending you information we had previously spoke about regarding three hero's buried 10 meters from the site of the 4th Regt. cemetery, located approximately 2 kilometers from the surgical station on Dong Top Mountain.

Same geographical area applies to an air crew member, case #1402, reported

buried near surgical station; case #0780, and my brother, case #0870.

I am referencing Header R 250044Z November 2008 Page35, paragraph D and Page36, paragraph E I am referencing Header R 232215Z December 2008 Pages 11, last sentence and Page14

I ask of you, please put the shovels in the dirt and bring my brother and these other hero's home.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) CIV (US)
Sent: Thu, 20 Aug 2015 18:18:13 +0000
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: FW: Summit View Middle School Honoring POW/MIAs (U)
Attachments: FullTeam&Cheerleaders.jpg, smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Sounds like a coach that really cares about his players.

(b)(6)
External Communications
Phone: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 7:09 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); McKeague, Kelly K Maj Gen USAF DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) DPAA EC (US); Slaughter, Holly N Lt Col USAF DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Summit View Middle School Honoring POW/MIAs

I sent this to all League officials, but should have copied you all so that you can see the efforts being made to educate the younger generation on the values represented by the accounting mission we pursue in partnership. We felt this was inspirational and wanted to share it with you those on your collective staff who do the hard work of pursuing answers for us all. Best, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board & CEO
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703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org <<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>>

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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sent: 8/19/2015 1:01:25 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Summit View Middle School Honoring POW/MIAs

HOME <<http://rcnky.com/>> / INDEPENDENCE <<http://rcnky.com/articles/independence>>

<http://rcnky.com/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/field/image/summitview_0.jpg?itok=kE7X5urK>

Premium Content

As School Changes, Coach Hopes to Bring Winning Ways to Summit View

<<http://ads.rcnky.com/api/index.php?out&a&2>>
TUE, 08/18/2015 - 12:26 RCN NEWSDESK

Change has arrived at Summit View Academy, the combined elementary and middle school in Independence. Academically, the school will emphasize science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) beginning this year.

Also new this year is Head Football Coach Bill McLeid, who hopes to end years of losing seasons. McLeid was a staff member at the middle school last year and took over as head football coach this season.

Changing what he called a losing culture required a lot of direct communication with potential players.

"For us, I went out and got a good amount of kids to come out and play football this year back in the spring and that kind of made some people uneasy because they didn't know what was going to go on at the school," McLeid told The River City News. "The football team remains, the school will be the same other than how they teach things and it's all systems go. One of the things that I do find, is that a lot of the kids don't come out to participate, so I made it a mission of mine to go into the school hallways and ask these kids to come out and play. I look them in the eye and say I want them to come play football for me, and that seemed to make a difference. I have 56 kids on the roster this year as opposed to 30 or less over the last three or four years, and they're having a great time."

The school intends on changing the mascot and team colors for the school over the course of the year, another step towards changing the losing identity.

"In terms of the team itself, it's been kind of a tough road for athletics at Summit View as a whole, really not a whole lot of success. A lot of losses, but some bright spots in there over the last four, five or six years from an athletic perspective. Football, not so much. It's been kind of a losing culture, so we have some things that we kind of need to focus on to try to change that. Why it happens to be that way, I really don't know based on the demographics of our school system," McLeid said. "One of the things that we are trying to focus on this year, not only being a fundamentally sound football team, but trying to focus on more on life, scholastic, what it takes to be a man of integrity, what it takes to be a productive citizen in

life, we're just trying to focus on a lot of things and wrap them all into one. If you know anything about football, it's probably one of the best sports to do that, because those life lessons are out there in the field every day. My coaching staff and I are trying to wrap all of that into one significant thing. I think it's starting to resonate with these guys."

One of those examples is demonstrated by the POW-MIA decal the team has added to its helmets this season to honor the Prisoners of War Missing in Action. The team also plans to visit the soup kitchens in Covington and Newport as one of its practice times to give community service to those in need.

http://i1276.photobucket.com/albums/y466/thercnews2/7th%20Street%20Fire/Willard%20Street%20Fire/summitview2_zpspxfq7cgg.jpg

Another element to the culture that McLeid intends to improve is building a relationship with the Simon Kenton football program since the high school receives many of its students from Summit View.

"I have a good relationship with Simon Kenton head coach Jeff Marksberry and with his help, we've tried to build that bridge. It's been wonderful. Jeff is a great guy, he's been a great help to me and my kids, he has allowed me to bring my team up there to the varsity field and practice with his varsity team and coached by his coaching staff and that really got my kids excited. I want these kids to see what the next level is and what's in store for them when they move on to the next level."

McLeid wants to see success on the field, but he's more concerned about molding quality young people into good citizens once they grow up.

"We want to win, but we want to do it the right way."

Written by Bryan Burke, associate editor

Photos provided

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Ann Mills-Griffiths
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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 24 Jan 2016 17:20:52 -0500
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: POW/MIA Update: January 24, 2016

UPDATE: January 24, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war is still **1,624**. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates and sometimes not even made. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 961. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,024**. Of the 1,624 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,266 (VN-467, VS-799); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to locations of loss. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

REPATRIATIONS OF REMAINS: On December 10th, remains that could be those of two US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, recovered during joint field operations in Laos were honored at a repatriation ceremony, attended by US Ambassador Dan Clune. On December 12th, remains believed to be those of four US personnel, also missing and unaccounted-for since the Vietnam War, were honored in a repatriation ceremony at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. Some were turned over by civilian Vietnamese and others were recovered during field recovery operations in Vietnam. The four remains were reviewed by Vietnamese and American forensic specialists who determined the potential for identification. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius was joined by specialists from DPAA's Detachment 2 and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) in honoring those repatriated. In remarks, Ambassador Osius reportedly expressed gratitude for the goodwill and increasingly efficient and effective cooperation being afforded by the Government of Vietnam. The League extends sincere appreciation to all – American and Vietnamese – for the policy and operational support and/or participation which contributed to this repatriation and looks forward to further expanding the level of effort that can lead to increased accounting results.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITS CAMBODIA, LAOS & VIETNAM: DPAA Director Mike Linnington recently made his first trip to the three most directly engaged Vietnam War countries. He first briefly visited Cambodia, then made official calls in Vientiane, Laos, and flew by helicopter to visit DPAA and Lao personnel conducting field operations. He returned to Vientiane before going on to Hanoi to meet with senior officials there. He also visited DPAA and Vietnamese teams conducting field operations in Vietnam before flying back to the US, arriving in time for a DPAA-hosted Family Update in Portland, ME, on November 14th. On December 5th, Mr. Linnington briefed the Board of Directors on this important, introductory visit that came at a

time of ever-increasing bilateral political, economic and military-to-military cooperation. More information will be provided when available.

GOOD Caution-news: DPAA has now invited representatives of responsible national Veteran organizations to attend and observe briefings at DPAA-hosted POW/MIA Family Updates around the country. The League deeply appreciates the decision to again include our Veterans in these meetings. Though often general in content, the briefings given are firsthand and provided by responsible US officials. Since DPAA is stressing the importance of outreach and transparency, DPAA-hosted Updates provide an opportunity for both.

GENERAL FOGLESONG VISITS MOSCOW: US Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret) traveled to Moscow to meet on November 9th with Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Valery Vostrotin. The two Co-Chairs outlined their hope of renewing and restoring the work of the USRJC and noted the importance of the new Russian Office of the USRJC located in the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Washington, DC. This important office was opened in July, 2015, and is headed by Maxim N. Alekseev, an impressive Russian official with a diverse background and record of experience. The League welcomes this new initiative and looks forward to working with Mr. Alekseev and senior Russian officials in Moscow. It is past time to press forward and end the seemingly endless delays.

ACCOUNTING RESULTS: Although the pace of joint field recoveries and investigations related to the Vietnam War has resumed a higher level, the Vietnamese, in particular, have repeatedly called for increasing the pace and scope of such operations, in fact since 2009. At present, the political climate, regionally and bilaterally with Vietnam, lends itself to expanding cooperation across the board. Contact your elected officials and ensure they understand that there must be full funding, with increases as needed, including on qualified personnel, for the new Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
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From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 8 Feb 2016 08:46:27 -0500
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: February 8, 2016
Attachments: Update_2-8-16.pdf

UPDATE: February 8, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war is still **1,624**. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 961. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,024**. Of the 1,624 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,266 (VN-467, VS-799); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

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DPAA LEADERS VISIT ONGOING FIELD OPERATIONS: During a quick visit to the region, US-Lao and US-Cambodian specialists conducting field operations were visited by **DPAA Deputy Director BG Mark Spindler, USA**, and DC-based **Principal Staff Director Fern Sumpter Winbush**. Although joint field recoveries and investigations related to the Vietnam War have resumed at a higher level, the Vietnamese, in particular, have repeatedly called for increasing the pace and scope of such operations, in fact since 2009. At present, the political climate, regionally and bilaterally with Vietnam, lends itself to expanding cooperation across the board.

REPATRIATIONS OF REMAINS: On December 10th, remains that could be those of two US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, recovered during joint field operations in Laos, were honored at a repatriation ceremony, attended by US Ambassador Dan Clune. On December 12th, remains believed to be those of four US personnel, also missing and unaccounted-for since the Vietnam War, were honored in a repatriation ceremony at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. Some were turned over by civilian Vietnamese and others were recovered during field recovery operations in Vietnam. The four remains were

reviewed by Vietnamese and American forensic specialists who determined the potential for identification. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius was joined by specialists from DPAA's Detachment 2 and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) in honoring those repatriated. In remarks, Ambassador Osius reportedly expressed gratitude for the goodwill and increasingly efficient and effective cooperation being afforded by the Government of Vietnam. The League extends sincere appreciation to all – American and Vietnamese – for the policy and operational support and/or participation which contributed to this repatriation and looks forward to further expanding the level of effort that can lead to increased accounting results.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITING MOSCOW: Following coordination with the US Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs (USRJC) General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret), and with interagency approval, DPAA Director Linnington traveled to Moscow February 8th to meet with Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Valery Vostrotnin. The focus is to propose the agenda and date for a USRJC Plenary Session later this year in Washington, DC. There is great hope of renewing and restoring the work of the Joint Commission, especially since the Russian Federation named its new Chairman and opened its new office, located in the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Washington, DC. This important office was opened in July of last year and is headed by Maxim N. Alekseev, an impressive Russian official with a diverse background and record of experience. Recognizing it was past time to get beyond the endless delays that have plagued work of the USRJC, the League welcomes and appreciates these new initiatives by both countries and looks forward to increased efforts and accounting results.

Director Linnington will also visit several European countries and US Ambassadors and US Military Commanders in the region, who will be contributing to the effort to conduct WWII recoveries.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
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**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

UPDATE: February 8, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war is still **1,624**. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 961. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to **1,024**. Of the 1,624 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,266 (VN-467, VS-799); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITS CAMBODIA, LAOS & VIETNAM: DPAA Director Mike Linnington recently made his first trip to the three most directly engaged Vietnam War countries. He first briefly visited Cambodia, then made official calls in Vientiane, Laos, and flew by helicopter to visit DPAA and Lao personnel conducting field operations. He returned to Vientiane before going on to Hanoi to meet with senior officials there. He also visited DPAA and Vietnamese teams conducting field operations in Vietnam before flying back to the US, arriving in time for a DPAA-hosted Family Update in Portland, ME, on November 14th. On December 5th, Mr. Linnington briefed the Board of Directors on this important, introductory visit that came at a time of ever-increasing bilateral political, economic and military-to-military cooperation.

DPAA LEADERS VISIT ONGOING FIELD OPERATIONS: During a quick visit to the region, US-Lao and US-Cambodian specialists conducting field operations were visited by **DPAA Deputy Director BG Mark Spindler, USA**, and DC-based **Principal Staff Director Fern Sumpter Winbush**. Although joint field recoveries and investigations related to the Vietnam War have resumed at a higher level, the Vietnamese, in particular, have repeatedly called for increasing the pace and scope of such operations, in fact since 2009. At present, the political climate, regionally and bilaterally with Vietnam, lends itself to expanding cooperation across the board.

REPATRIATIONS OF REMAINS: On December 10th, remains that could be those of two US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, recovered during joint field operations in Laos, were honored at a repatriation ceremony, attended by US Ambassador Dan Clune. On December 12th, remains believed to be those of four US personnel, also missing and unaccounted-for since the Vietnam War, were honored in a repatriation ceremony at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. Some were turned over by civilian Vietnamese and others were recovered during field recovery operations in Vietnam. The four remains were reviewed by Vietnamese and American forensic specialists who determined the potential for identification. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius was joined by specialists from DPAA's Detachment 2 and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) in honoring those repatriated. In remarks, Ambassador Osius reportedly expressed gratitude for the goodwill and increasingly efficient and effective cooperation being afforded by the Government of Vietnam. The League extends sincere appreciation to all – American and Vietnamese – for the policy and operational support and/or participation which contributed to this repatriation and looks forward to further expanding the level of effort that can lead to increased accounting results.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITING MOSCOW: Following coordination with the US Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs (USRJC) General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret), and with interagency approval, DPAA Director Linnington traveled to Moscow February 8th to meet with Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Valery Vostrotin. The focus is to propose the agenda and date for a USRJC Plenary Session later this year in Washington, DC. There is great hope of renewing and restoring the work of the Joint Commission, especially since the Russian Federation named its new Chairman and opened its new office, located in the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Washington, DC. This important office was opened in July of last year and is headed by Maxim N. Alekseev, an impressive Russian official with a diverse background and record of experience. Recognizing it was past time to get beyond the endless delays that have plagued work of the USRJC, the League welcomes and appreciates these new initiatives by both countries and looks forward to increased efforts and accounting results.

Director Linnington will also visit several European countries and US Ambassadors and US Military Commanders in the region, who will be contributing to the effort to conduct WWII recoveries.

War to 1,024. Of the 1,624 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam (VN-467, VS-799); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7.



LEAGUE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE ENTERING 2016: First, I want to wish each of you a New Year that is richly blessed with good health, happiness, prosperity and, for those of you seeking answers, an end to your uncertainties.

Secondly, I want to apologize for my inability to sustain regular reporting through the League Newsletter. I deeply regret that events and circumstances have precluded me from having time to devote to writing anything more than the electronic updates disseminated widely, posted on the League's web site (Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < <http://pow-miafamilies.us12.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=51e5e8572c5e3f07933bc7716&id=4ec168855a&e=6c955c>), Facebook page and Twitter, but not sent to your homes as they have been at least 12 times each year for decades. I take full responsibility for failing to communicate more effectively. However, though, admittedly, I could have chosen to report more regularly and omit the minutiae of monitoring events that were transpiring. For me, that meant no choice.

Challenges related to pursuing our shared accounting mission have multiplied beyond the wildest imagination. The pace and scope of changes within the US Department of Defense, as well as foreign governments with which we deal, are astronomical and demanding. My long involvement in the forefront of efforts for almost 40 years gives me a solid foundation on which to express this view. You deserve to know at this mid-point between the League's annual meeting what is taking place and what I think is reasonable to expect as we move through the year. With that apology and clarification as background, please consider the following as my semi-annual report to all League members and friends, in and out of government, and all those concerned.

The League's formation in May, 1970, started a movement that has grown far beyond its original intention. When formed, our single, three-fold objective was to achieve the accounting of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the MIAs, and the repatriation of recoverable remains of those who died serving our country during the Vietnam War. While this definition still represents the League objectives, the reality is that the accounting mission now encompasses all past wars and dramatically impacts today's Armed

Our quest for answers has changed A

Our POW/MIA flag is known nationally and internationally as representing A determination to account for those who serve our country and are captured, missing or are killed while serving and their remains can't be recovered at or near of loss. No longer is the scope limited to the relatively small number still missing Vietnam War. It now encompasses efforts to recover the remains of tens of thousands lost their lives in all wars and conflicts back to and including WWII. Recovery known to have died and been buried as "unknowns" in foreign countries and US cemeteries around the world is also an assigned

Thousands of the WWII unaccounted-for are known to have gone down in ships or hundreds on board in the middle of the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean. Clearly, the families of lost loved ones in such wartime tragedies roughly 70 years ago are not living with uncertainty concerning their loved ones' fates. Most such incidents were accidental burials at sea, and their families suffered the loss, knowing that their loved ones were serving the cause of worldwide freedom in a war for the future of humanity in which Americans participated and sacrificed. There was clear-cut victory at the end of WWII with no ambiguity such as the truce that halted, rather than ended, the Korean War.

Added to the WWII expansion is the challenge of accounting for over 7,000 Americans reportedly killed during the Korean War whose remains were not recovered, plus nearly 10,000 US personnel who were known to be POWs in camps then under PRC control. Put together, you begin to see the monumental task now facing our recently formed Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Not only is the challenge enormous, it is completely unmanageable unless and until policy decisions – now under consideration – are made to bring realism to the mission, as Congress has demonstrated

Horrendous as it is that the remains of thousands of Americans are unrecovered from the Korean War, most egregious is the fact that known captured US personnel have yet to be accounted for after roughly 60 years, though efforts were made during the 1980s and 1990s. That task is definitely on DPAA's agenda, difficult as are the national security and political circumstances to be overcome. And that is precisely where we are as we enter 2011.

REPATRIATIONS OF REMAINS: On December 10th, remains that could be those of four US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, recovered during joint US-Vietnam operations in Laos were honored at a repatriation ceremony, attended by US Ambassador to Laos, Clune. On December 12th, remains believed to be those of four US personnel, also missing from the Vietnam War, were repatriated to the United States.

unaccounted-for since the Vietnam War, were honored in a repatriation ceremony at International Airport in Hanoi. Some were turned over by civilian Vietnamese and others recovered during field recovery operations in Vietnam. The four remains were reviewed by Vietnamese and American forensic specialists who determined the potential for identification. US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius was joined by specialists from DPAA's Detachment 2 in Vietnam and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) in honoring those repatriated. In his remarks, Ambassador Osius reportedly expressed gratitude for the goodwill and increasingly effective cooperation being afforded by the Government of Vietnam. The League extended appreciation to all – American, Lao and Vietnamese – for the policy and operational support and participation which contributed to these repatriations and looks forward to further expansion of effort to increase accounting results.

VIETNAM'S GENERAL SECRETARY VISITS WHITE HOUSE: Unbelievable as it may seem, most in the Vietnam War generation, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong held discussions with President Obama at the White House on July 16. General Secretary was accompanied to Washington by very senior officials, including Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Vice Minister of National Defense Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Vice Minister of Public Security To Lam, and other senior Vietnamese officials with whom the League has met for years. The agenda during the General Secretary's visit was extremely full and included a luncheon at the State Department, hosted by Vice President Joe Biden, and a dinner reception in the General Secretary's honor, hosted by Vietnamese Ambassador Quang Vinh. League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths attended both events and met briefly with the General Secretary.

COMMEMORATING BILATERAL RELATIONS & INDEPENDENCE: On July 30th, Ambassador Vinh also hosted a reception at the beautiful US Institute for Peace to commemorate the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam. Also celebrat

the 70th anniversary of Vietnam's National Day and, not individually celebrated, but noteworthy, was the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Seldom referred to as significant for the accounting mission, 2015 was also the 30th anniversary of the first US military recovery effort in northern Vietnam.

SRV VICE MINISTER MEETS WITH LEAGUE & VSO LEADERS: Vietnam's Vice Minister of National Defense Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh met September 30th with League Chairman Board Ann Mills-Griffiths and senior American veteran leaders. At the League's meeting, participants included Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Executive Director Bob Wall, American Legion's National Security Commission Chairman Michael Schlee and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Executive Director for Government Relations Rick Weidman. We were there are no longer areas restricted to US specialists nor obstacles to impede expansive accounting effort, including use of US Navy

Vice Minister Vinh was in Washington, DC, for the Bilateral Defense Dialogue (BDD) at the Pentagon, led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia Pacific Security Affairs David S. The BDD, keeping with increased military-to-military relations, the BDD meets twice each year for comprehensive bilateral discussions on issues of mutual interest. DPAA Director Mike L. participates in the important BDD sessions.

PROSPECTS FOR ACCOUNTING SUCCESS: Vice Minister Vinh also had important meetings with members of the US Senate and House, with various officials in the Commerce and Defense Departments, Office of the US Trade Representative, and a session with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. These meetings all followed the significant, and historically symbolic, meeting of the General Secretary, referenced above. Bilateral US-Vietnam relations have vastly improved.

and continue to grow, all to the advantage of increasing POW/MIA accounting cooperation to an all-time high. Accounting efforts will expand further if the US succeeds in sustaining the Year 2016 (FY16) budget and the level of personnel needed to meet requirements; FY17 increases will be needed to maximize efforts to obtain answers before it is too late.

In mid-November, Mr. Linnington completed his first trip to the three key Vietnam War countries. He first briefly visited Cambodia, then made official calls in Vientiane, Laos, and flew by helicopter to visit US-Lao personnel conducting field operations. He returned to Vientiane before going to Hanoi to meet with senior officials there. Significant discussions were held with various interlocutors, including Vice Minister of National Defense (MND) Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh, Minister of Public Security (MPS) To Lam, as well as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) Ambassador Nguyen I. assigned for his third term in this key position. Mr. Linnington also met with Vietnamese military and visited joint US-SRV teams conducting field operations in Vietnam before flying back to the US.

On December 5th, the DPAA Director briefed the League Board of Directors on this initial introductory visit, and we are hopeful that this initial dialogue will deepen and lead to comprehensive unilateral and joint efforts with an increasingly cooperative Vietnam. In Laos, there is also reason to hope for increased flexibility and cooperation now that Laos has assumed Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). On January 12, Secretary of State John Kerry visited Laos in anticipation of a US-ASEAN summit in mid-February co-chaired by President Obama and his Lao counterpart at Sunnylands (the old Annenbergs) in Palm Springs, CA. In the fall, President Obama is due to be the first US President to visit Laos since the LPDR was formed in 1975.



During a quick visit to the region earlier this month, **DPAA Deputy Director BG Mark S. USA**, and DC-based **Principal Staff Director Fern Sumpter Winbush** visited US-Lao and Cambodian specialists conducting field operations in both countries.

CHAIRMAN'S OBSERVATIONS: DPAA Director Linnington, supported by his Deputy Principal Staff Director, appears to be moving in the right direction to meet expectations including increasing the number of identifications to reach the Congressionally-mandated goal of 200 per year. The expressed intent is to increase WWII recovery and identification efforts by contracting private sector specialists to augment DPAA's in-house ability to field and conduct research, investigation and recovery teams, while adding to DPAA's qualified scientific staff to increase the number of identifications.

This is especially important due to a key decision made by the Deputy Secretary of Defense to clarify DoD's policy on disinterring American Unknowns from cemeteries around the world. Disinterring these "unknowns" and identifying them will aid in reaching the higher number of identifications expected by Congress without impeding field operations, in particular those related to Vietnam.

Now that Vietnam has pledged there are no longer any sites restricted to joint team access, the pace of joint field recoveries and investigations related to Vietnam War missing personnel has recently resumed at a higher level. Evidence is mounting that Vietnam War accounting will be the core focus of the accounting mission going forward, precisely as DPAA Director Linnington pledged at the 46th Annual Meeting last June. Since the first of Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), DPAA has fielded 8 teams in Vietnam (1-Investigation Team [IT], 1 Residual Investigation Team [RIT], 5 Recovery Teams [RT], and 1 Vietnamese Recovery Team [VRET]), 7 teams in Laos (1 IT, 6 RTs) and 1 RT in Cambodia. There is every reason to hope that the promise made by the Vietnamese will be met and that the teams will come back to the United States with more information.

Since 2009, the Vietnamese have consistently raised the need for increasing the pace and scope of such operations. More recently, they have also urged expansion of the number of teams and engaging them earlier than FY17, if possible. It is crucial that there be no reduction in DPAA's budget or the number of personnel to enable overdue responsiveness to Vietnam's longstanding requests. Now is not the time, as occurred earlier due to budget constraints and sequestration, to pull back on fielding teams to accomplish the Vietnam War accounting. It is the League's hope that the current trend of moving ahead to increase

pace and scope will be sustained. The Vietnam War POW/MIA accounting mission is run out of time. That is our reality.

GENERAL FOGLESONG VISITS MOSCOW: US Chairman of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs (USRJC) General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret) traveled to Moscow to meet on November 9th with the Russian Co-Chairman, General Colonel Valery Aleksandr Vostrotin. The two Co-Chairs outlined their hope for renewing and restoring the work of the Commission and noted the importance of the new Russian Office of the USRJC located in the Embassy of the Russian Federation. This important office was opened in July of last year and is headed by N. Alekseev, an impressive Russian official with a diverse background and record of experience. The League welcomes the new initiative and looks forward to working with Mr. Alekseev and other Russian officials in Moscow. It is time to press ahead and get beyond the seemingly endless delays.

DPAA DIRECTOR VISITING MOSCOW: Following coordination with General Foglesong and with interagency approval, Mr. Linnington traveled to Moscow February 8th to meet with the Russian Co-Chairman General Colonel Vostrotin. The focus was to propose the agenda and discuss the USRJC Plenary Session later this year in Washington, DC. There is great hope of renewing and restoring the work of the Joint Commission, especially since the Russian Federation named a new Co-Chairman and opened its new office in Washington, DC. Recognizing it was past time to get beyond the endless delays that have plagued the work of the USRJC, the League welcomes these new initiatives by leaders in both countries and looks forward to increasing the number and quality of recoveries and accounting results. Director Linnington also plans to visit several European countries and meet with senior US officials in the region who will be contributing to the effort to conduct WWII recoveries.



DPAA DIRECTOR MOVING FORWARD! Since being named and sworn in as the first DPAA Director, just before the League's 46th Annual Meeting last June, Army LTG (F

Linnington has made quite an impact. Initially, he praised last year's meeting as pos-
valuable for him and the families since it featured speakers addressing a sophisticated
with 40+ years of experience. (At least this year, we won't have to endure the disaster
families and DPMO employees of the government attempting to take over the League's
meeting.) While always cautious not to overstate support for anyone named to a po-
responsibility in the POW/MIA accounting mission, it is no overstatement to recog-
Linnington's outstanding, varied back-

Important now are the several steps he has taken that reveal he is moving energetically
the directive issued by former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to "completely reorga-
POW/MIA accounting community. Recognizing that structural change is always rife wit-
and uncertainty, Mr. Linnington inherited reorganizational plans proposed by an interim le-
no longer involved; thus structural changes are still in

Dramatic changes are being made and, reportedly, are focused on adhering to Secretary
directive to "build on the existing strengths" of the accounting process. As a result, the
seems to be moving toward a complex structure geared to meet longstanding expectations
far, transparency has been less than pledged, but the League will continue to be c-
optimistic and work openly with DPAA, knowing the desired

Detachments 1, 2 and 3 will be retained in Bangkok, Thailand, Hanoi, Vietnam and Vientia-
reporting to new DPAA Deputy Director BG Mark Spindler, USA, who replaced Maj G-
McKeague, USAF, former JPAC Commander, and DPAA Deputy Commander from Janua-
year until his departure in August. General McKeague's honor, integrity and genuine cor-
to the mission are sorely missed; BG Spindler's seriousness in approach is applaud-
League is thankful that long-serving civilian specialists in all three Detachments, widely re-
as indispensable, are being extended in their positions and will continue to serve, thanks to
Linnington's intense

The Asia Pacific Regional Director is Col Mike Gann, USMC, responsible for all operatio-
Asia Pacific area, including the Vietnam War, Korean War and most recoverable WWI-
Roughly 90% of all unaccounted for US personnel worldwide were lost in the Asia Pacific
DPAA will retain its small Liaison Office to support operations in Europe, now under the su-
of Europe Mediterranean Regional Director COL Christopher Forbes, USA. The Joint Cor-
Support Directorate (JCSD) is included in the Europe Mediterranean Region. Due to requ-
to support the USRJC on POW/MIA Affairs, with its presidentially named Chairman,
Foglesong, JCSD has a unique, dual-hatted

There is also a very high priority being placed on the success of the Strategic Partnership



NEW DPAA FACILITY OPENS: A "Blessing & Dedication Ceremony" on July 27th officially opened the new Senator Daniel K. Inouye Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Center of Excellence. League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths represented the POW/MIA families by helping to cut the traditional lei. Following the formal raising and posting of permanently-lighted US, POW/MIA and State of Hawaii flags, and the Navy Chaplain invocation, Director Linnington spoke briefly and the late Senator Inouye's long-time Chief of Staff, Jennifer Sabas, provided an inspirational keynote address. Prayers and blessings by a native Hawaiian clergyman concluded with the PACOM Band playing the Military Service Songs, after which a reception was held in the front foyer of the new, incredible DPAA-VI Headquarters.

The League extends special appreciation to long-time civilian Johnnie Webb for his roughly 20 years of dedicated effort, fully supported by the League, to shepherd the new facility from preliminary design, countless re-designs and approvals, through to completion. Mr. Webb is a retired Army LTC, former Commander of the Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii (CILHI), previously Deputy to the JPAC Commander, and currently serves as DPAA's Interim Deputy Director of the Outreach & Communications Directorate, previously known as External Communications.

CHAIRMAN'S ASSESSMENT ON THE REORGANIZATION: *The League's vision is for DPAA to develop and carry out a viable process to more effectively and efficiently meet increased accounting objectives for missing US personnel and their families.* From January to June of last year, Mike Linnington and I talked many times in his advisory role to the Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth about the "complete reorganization" of the entire community. Mr. Linnington knows he has a very challenging road ahead to earn the trust of a dedicated, talented civilian workforce, as well as add the kind of people he is seeking and can depend on to move DPAA forward. He is moving forward and learning more than one would expect after such a short time on the job (six months).

At the League's 46th Annual Meeting, Mr. Linnington pledged he is in for the long haul. He knows it will take time, but asked for support, assistance and patience as he tackles the challenges. I'm confident that Mike Linnington IS the right leader, and this IS the right time. These are the best circumstances we, the POW/MIA families, have seen since 1992 to achieve the answers we have worked to achieve since the League was formed in 1972.

I attended LTG Linnington's retirement on June 17th and can personally attest to the esteem in which he is held by a broad cross-section of military and civilian personnel. From the lowest ranking to the highest, all seem to genuinely like, respect and admire him. It is our hope, prayer and expectation that he will work to achieve the objectives we share, and do so with honor, integrity, humility, dedication, energy, genuine caring and determination. That is all we can ask. All we should expect is his very best effort, and we will support him.

In my judgment, right now IS the accounting mission's last real chance to move forward with the priority needed, fully supported by State and DoD policy and resourced with funding and personnel required. If this ongoing effort does not succeed, I envision no future opportunities, precisely the reason we must ensure that DPAA Director Mike Linnington has all the support and assistance he needs from honest, caring, determined, knowledgeable people in the accounting community. He will also need our prayers, our full support and loyalty and confidence of all POW/MIA-related personnel, especially the former JPAC, DPMO and LSEL workforce now adjusting to being part of our new DPAA. Based on his experience and knowledge, they, too, must focus on what is now possible with this agency and its leader.

The League is grateful to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth for selecting Mr. Linnington. He is self-confident, but not afraid to ask questions, and is unafraid to be seen as learning. The accounting mission is complex, there is much to be learned and dangers persist. Many – in and out of government – are trying in every way possible to help him gain solid, objective insight.

Over the years, the League has participated in, endured and survived many US Government reorganizations, changes, commissions, internal and external investigations and committees. Some have been positive, some negative, all challenging. When a crisis occurs, it is usually not from malevolence. Most shortcomings have been the result of assigned personnel put into positions of responsibility who cannot be expected to have detailed knowledge of the mission and its history. Then, errors occur, the wheel is reinvented and, eventually, stabilization returns, but not necessarily with the conservation that brings increased progress. Much of this turbulence is unnecessary.

SEPTEMBER 18TH WAS NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY: The national ceremony was always impressive due to troops marching in formation on the Pentagon parade field, with the participation of the then by now former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey, USA. The speaker was Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter who stated in part, *"....we continue to improve our personnel accounting program and find new ways to meet one of our oldest and most important obligations..... Just as the lessons we learned in our 20th century wars helped us improve our accounting, we have cared for the wounded, the fallen, and their families during our recent wars...we are using 21st century methods to meet our commitments to those who served in World War I, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War, and remain missing.....We're looking to expand our work and our partnerships.....with private organizations and individuals....with academic and other partners to help account for our missing.....We're also harnessing new technology. Innovations and advances in forensic science will allow us to identify the previously unidentifiable remains of some of the fallen. And we recently opened a state-of-the art facility in Hawaii to help take full advantage of these new methods. And that's why we're using new communication channels to keep in touch with the families of the missing."* The League appreciates Secretary Carter's commitment to expand the accounting process utilizing the latest concepts, technological capabilities to expedite answers for the families, as we do the uncountable number of events and ceremonies held nationwide and around the world in support of our accounting mission.

MORE GOOD Caution-news: DPAA Director Linnington made the decision to invite representatives of responsible national veteran organizations to attend and observe briefings at DPAA-hosted POW/MIA Family Updates around the country. The League deeply appreciated the return to including our veterans in these meetings. Since DPAA is stressing the importance of outreach and transparency, DPAA-hosted Updates provide an opportunity for both.

46TH ANNUAL MEETING: The June 24-27th meeting was the largest, most comprehensive and compelling annual meeting in years. The Hilton sold out, responses from senior leadership were positive, and official animosity toward the League seems to have disappeared in favor of a

not seen since 1992. Policy resolutions were adopted at the League Business Session, 2015, by a SENSE OF MEMBERS PRESENT, since a quorum could not be est

1) Resolved, that the National League of POW/MIA Families strongly favors increasing the of forensic archeologists and anthropologists to participate in DPAA's excavation and ide processes to meet the increased pace and scope of operations related to WWII and Kor recoveries, with a goal of increasing accounting

2) Resolved, that the National League of POW/MIA Families commends the Lao Govern its commitment to the League's Delegation earlier this year to pursue a new archival ini expanding its research to locate and make available Lao archives, as well as work Vietnamese to ensure Lao documents that may have been moved years ago to h safekeeping have been returned to Vientiane and made available to US specialists, and i Lao Government to move quickly to implement its com

3) Resolved, that the National League of POW/MIA Families commends LTG Mi Linnington, USA (Ret), for his interest and for accepting the position of Director of the new POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and commends Under Secretary of Defense f Christine Wormuth for selecting Mr. Linnington as the first

47th ANNUAL MEETING: June 22-25, 2016, Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, V
Visit the League's web site, pow-miafamilies.org, to get additional details, including a Re Form. This is a crucial year, the first opportunity to listen and assess the work of DPAA.

As a keepsake, a **Commemorative Program** is designed and published each year. You c your missing loved one, colleague or friend, convey congratulations to the League on the of our 47th Annual Meeting, or advertise your business service. If the latter, the donation is deductible, as you benefit in

Arrival & Departure: Plan to arrive on Wednesday, June 22nd, before 5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. time attendee) to allow time to check into the Hilton and board buses for historic Ft. Mye Twilight Tattoo to be held that evening. It is also recommended that you arrange depa Sunday, June 26th, to enable you to participate fully throughout the meeting and maxim time in the Washington, DC, area with access to US officials directly responsible for the ac mission and to the historic sites in our nation's

Registration: Registration will be held on Wednesday June 22nd, 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. and

later on Thursday, June 23rd, 7:30 – 8:45 a.m., after which all credentials will be



6:30 – 8:00 PM

LEAGUE-HOSTED FAREWELL RECEPTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016 – RECOMMENDED DEPARTURE DATE

In case of emergency, call the Hilton Crystal City Operator.

*US Government Briefings are presented during these sessions; families who travel by COIN Assist are obligated, legally, to attend all scheduled briefings.

As a keepsake, a Commemorative Program is designed and published each year. You can honor your missing loved one, colleague or friend, congratulate the League on the occasion of our 47th Annual Meeting, or advertise your business service. If the latter, the donation is not tax-deductible as you benefit in return.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES 47th ANNUAL MEETING

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AD RATES

INSIDE FRONT OR BACK COVER - \$1,000*

FULL PAGE (8 1/2" x 11") - \$500*

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1/4 PAGE (4 1/4" x 5 1/2") - \$125**

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5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432

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& Registration for the 47th Annual Meeting.

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Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: March 26, 2016
Attachments: Status.of.the.issue_3-26-16.pdf

STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: March 26, 2016

1,621 Americans are now listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War: Vietnam - 1,264 (VN-466, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7. (These numbers occasionally fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The League's highest priority is accounting for Americans last known alive. Official intelligence indicates that Americans known to be in captivity in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were not returned at the end of the war. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that these Americans could still be alive, and the US Government should not rule out that possibility.

Vietnam established comprehensive wartime and post-war processes to collect and retain information and remains; thus, unilateral efforts by them offered significant potential. Vietnam has since taken many unilateral actions that are welcome and appreciated, plus announced that there are no obstacles to full cooperation. Recently, Vietnam has increased implementation of commitments to provide long-sought archival records with relevant, case-related information, thanks in part to improvement of working-level efforts, but primarily due to increased bilateral relations across the board. The early 2015 League Delegation brought commitments that offered real promise for increased success. First undertaken in northern Vietnam in 1985, joint field operations have dramatically changed and are now much more effective. Vietnamese officials are participating with greater seriousness and professionalism, achieving increased results, including both US-led Joint Excavation Teams and Vietnamese Recovery Teams (VRTs), led by Vietnamese and supported by a few US personnel. This formula allows a greater number of teams to "increase the pace and scope of field operations," as requested by Vietnam during discussions since 2009. Due to increased military-to-military cooperation, US Navy assets are now allowed to participate in underwater survey and recovery operations, when requested. These steps, long advocated by the League, are now coming to fruition and are routinely raised by US officials at all levels.

After a rough period, joint field operations in Laos are now increasingly productive, even though more difficult than elsewhere. Accounting efforts had slowed due to Lao Government inflexibility, attempting to over-price payment for helicopter support and denying permission for ground transport to accessible incident sites. Laos is now showing greater flexibility, earlier having increased the number of US personnel permitted in-country, now allowing ground transport to accessible sites, and has renewed a business license to a foreign company to provide reliable, small helicopter support. When helpful, Vietnamese witnesses are also allowed to participate in joint US-Lao operations. The Lao Government permits DIA's Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist to full time in-country; however, is still far too limited in terms of operating outside the confines of scheduled DPAA field operations. Also, despite strong

support from, and interventions by, US Ambassador Dan Clune, there are still challenges that must be addressed and resolved.

Related to DIA's Stony Beach Team, one Cambodia specialist works full time at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, and research and field operations in Cambodia have received excellent support. Two Stony Beach personnel have for years rotated on temporary duty in and out of Vietnam, collecting information via archival research and interviews of potential witnesses. Vietnam was long ago requested to permit, and is still reportedly considering, permanent status for these two POW/MIA specialists. Successive US Ambassadors have strongly supported this important move, but increases in bilateral military relations should be sufficient to overcome any reluctance. The US Ambassador to Laos has also supported full use of the Lao specialist. It is hoped that the expanded bilateral relationships with Laos and Vietnam will mean these positive decisions will not be further delayed. The Stony Beach specialists are sorely needed to augment the investigation process while witnesses are still living and to facilitate locating additional incident sites for follow-up DPAA recoveries.

The greatest obstacles to increased Vietnam War and worldwide accounting efforts are 1) too few qualified scientists to lead recovery teams; and 2) unreliable funding that has caused US cancellation of scheduled operations, thus sending mixed, negative signals to foreign governments and counterparts. These challenges are being addressed by Mr. Michael Linnington, named to lead the "complete reorganization" of the accounting community directed by former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. Since over 80% of US losses in Laos and 90% in Cambodia occurred in areas where Vietnam's forces operated during the war, Vietnam's expanded provision of helpful records, improved and increased archival research, interviews and field operations are the core means to expand accounting for Vietnam War missing personnel.

POW/MIA STATISTICS

Live Sighting statistics provided by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Live Sightings: As of February 22, 2016, 1,996 first-hand live sighting reports have been received since 1975, none recently. 1,941 (97.24%) were resolved: 1,340 (67.13%) equated to Americans previously accounted for (i.e. returned POWs, missionaries or civilians detained for violating SRV codes); 45 (2.25%) correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sightings of civilians still unaccounted-for; 556 (27.86%) were determined to be fabrications. The remaining 55 (2.76%) unresolved first-hand reports are the focus of continuing analytical and collection efforts: 48 (2.40%) concern Americans reported in a captive environment; 7 (0.35%) are non-captive sightings. The years in which these 55 first hand sightings occurred are listed below:

	Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2013	Total
	36	3	1	14	1	55

Accountability: At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted-for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered. **As of March 26, 2016, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency lists 1,621 Americans as missing and unaccounted-for, 90+% of them in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese operated during the war. A breakdown by year of recovery for the 962 Americans accounted for from Vietnam War-related losses since the end of the war in 1975 follows:**

1965-1974	War years: (recently identified)	2
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According to the DPAA Lab, unilateral SRV repatriations of remains with scientific evidence of storage have accounted for less than 200 of the 654 from Vietnam; two were mistakenly listed as KIA/BNR in Vietnam in 1968, but remains were actually recovered at that time. All but eight of the 265 Americans accounted for in Laos since the end of the war have been the result of joint recoveries. The seven were recovered and turned over by indigenous personnel, six from Laos and one from Vietnam. In addition, three persons identified were recovered in Vietnam before the end of the war. There follows a breakdown by country of the 962 Americans accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975

Vietnam	654	Laos	265
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An additional 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, a grand total of 1,025. These Americans were accounted for by unilateral US effort in areas where the US could gain access at that time, not due to government-to-government cooperation with the post-war governments of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

For the latest information, call the League's Office (703) 465-7432 or log onto the League web site: [Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org) < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

NATIONAL COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN ELIGIBILITY #10218

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

 Facebook < Caution-<https://www.facebook.com/National-League-of-POWMIA-Families-136564939586/> >

 Twitter < Caution-<https://twitter.com/powmiafamilies> >



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, Virginia 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

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log onto the League web site: www.pow-miafamilies.org**

NATIONAL COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN ELIGIBILITY #10218

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 22 Apr 2016 08:47:12 -0400
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Vietnam Wall "Facts!" Helpful to Know

The Wall

A little history most people will never know.

Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

**There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.**

8,283 were just 19 years old.

**The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.**

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

**997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..
1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..**

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, and those who DO Care.

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 8 Apr 2016 20:14:16 -0400
To: (b)(6)@gmail.com
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: MIA-POW RESOLUTION

(b)(6) I'll get6 back to you on my thoughts concerning your resolution, as to whether helpful or not, and hope that my input will be helpful, Anm

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >*

*The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian
organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations
through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218*

In a message dated 4/8/2016 7:54:12 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, genethemarine@gmail.com writes:

(b)(6) /Ann - First State then National for passing.
Best.
(b)(6)

(b)(6)
Attached is the finalized Resolution that will be going to Department for the Convention.
(b)(6)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 2 May 2016 19:17:24 -0400
To: (b)(6)@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Per My SRB: Vietnam Operations As Documented - Both Tours

I must assume that someone asked for your military history? Certainly, I have not and would not, having first met you as far back as the early-mid 1980s.

When I have a question or disagree with you from time to time, such as recently rejecting the accusation that the League and DPAA have abandoned the DIC cases from the Vietnam War. I know that allegation to be absurd. Of course, I told you precisely that.

Have a good evening, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
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In a message dated 5/2/2016 4:00:19 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@gmail.com writes:

Hey (b)(6) Ann - Never question one's military history.
(b)(6)

Combat Duty

First Tour: Feb 68' to 69':
11th Engineer Bn
3rd Marine Division

68' - Operation Napoleon
68' - Operation Kentucky
68' - Operations Lancaster
68' - Operation Scotland II
68' - Operation Saline
68' - Operation Pegasus

68' - Operation Dawson River
68' - Operation Marshall Mountain

Second Tour:

Third Engineer Bn

Third Marine Division

Participated in Operations off the coast while
attached to Marine Corps Unit 1st Bn 9th Marines - BLT Apr 71' to June 71'.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 3 May 2016 15:56:10 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Follow Up Letter Sent to the DPK - North Korea U.N. Delegation in New York (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann, I suspect he is not going to stop unless his preferred candidate wins the Presidential election. I also think he would have a field day if we (the Department of Defense) point out the correct spelling of that country. Best, (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 7:20 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Follow Up Letter Sent to the DPK - North Korea U.N. Delegation in New York

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

He's not stopping yet, sad to say, but couldn't you all at least correct his use of that tragic country's name? God help us! Ann

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From: (b)(6)@gmail.com

To: (b)(6)@gmail.com

Sent: 5/2/2016 4:31:55 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: Follow Up Letter Sent to the DPK - North Korea U.N. Delegation in New York

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 18 May 2016 22:41:00 -0400
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Bringing Three Hero's Home (U)

Nicely done (b)(6). Hope you're doing well, Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
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In a message dated 5/18/2016 9:11:30 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
(b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Hello (b)(6)

My name is (b)(6) and I work for DPAA's Outreach and Communication office. We work closely with the Casualty Representatives for each service branch to ensure that families have the information about their cases, and to help provide answers to questions families may have about our processes.

Please let me or (b)(6) know how we can be of assistance to you.

Kindest regards,

(b)(6)
DPAA Outreach & Communications
(b)(6)@mail.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA VM (US)
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 2:45 PM

To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org; (b)(6)@q.com;
(b)(6) CIV USMC MARFORPAC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC
(US);
(b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US);
(b)(6) CIV DPAA AP (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Bringing Three Hero's Home (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Hello Ms. (b)(6).

Thanks for your email. I don't see any information regarding your case attached to the email. Is there some information you would like us to analyze?

I have included DPAA's external affairs officers on this email. Since we here in Hanoi are field operators and may not have the latest information on every case, it is often better to contact someone like (b)(6) to make sure you get all the information you need. Your service casualty officer, (b)(6) (b)(6) should also have the most up to date information on your case.

Thanks again for your note.

Best Regards,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) [Caution-mailto (b)(6)@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 3:36 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA VM (US)
Cc: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org; (b)(6)@q.com;
(b)(6) CIV USMC MARFORPAC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC
(US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Bringing Three Hero's Home

I am sending you information we had previously spoke about regarding three hero's buried 10 meters from the site of the 4th Regt. cemetery, located approximately 2 kilometers from the surgical station on Dong Top Mountain.

Same geographical area applies to an air crew member, case #1402, reported buried near surgical station; case #0780, and my brother, case #0870.

I am referencing Header R 250044Z November 2008 Page35, paragraph D and Page36, paragraph E I am referencing Header R 232215Z December 2008 Pages 11, last sentence and Page14

I ask of you, please put the shovels in the dirt and bring my brother and these other hero's Caution-home.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: 5 Aug 2015 18:57:27 -0400
To: (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Indianapolis
Attachments: IN-Indianapolis.Memorial.Program_9-18-15.pdf

I just received this notice from our Region 3 Coordinator (b)(6) about the program to be held on September 18th to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day in Indianapolis, Indiana.

It is hard to believe that returned POW Col Jim Kasler's son is already a retired Navy Commander, just FYI, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
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In a message dated 8/5/2015 6:18:35 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@columbus.rr.com writes:

Hi Ann: Just received this in the mail this afternoon. The use of our logo in this way makes it look very official, doesn't it?

I'll forward to (b)(6), and possibly (b)(6) (think that's her name) They already have a speaker so it's a matter of carrying the banner for the League. I've never heard of this group before so don't know why this showed up with my home address. Probably went on line which means they may already have sent something to (b)(6). Love (b)(6)



Indianapolis POW-MIA Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 2924
Indianapolis, IN 46206

August 3, 2015

Dear Ms. (b)(6)

The Indianapolis POW-MIA Council, Inc. cordially invites you to attend the POW-MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, to be held on Friday, September 18, 2015.

As in prior years, the program will be held on the north steps of the Indiana War Memorial, 431 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN. A pre-ceremonial concert is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., with the program beginning promptly at 12 p.m. Light refreshments will be served in Shoup Hall, within the Indiana War Memorial, **following** the service.

We have a unique keynote speaker for the 2015 Ceremony: Commander James F. Kasler, US Navy (retired). He is the son of Colonel James Kasler US Air Force (Retired). Colonel Kasler is the 10th most decorated US service member, not receiving the Medal of Honor, in the history of our country. Colonel Kasler has Hoosier ties, born in South Bend, IN and raised in Indianapolis, IN. Colonel Kasler served in WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam War, with 198 missions, and was a Prisoner of War in the infamous Hanoi Hilton for 6.5 years. Commander Kasler, his son, was a teenager when his father, Colonel Kasler was a POW during an extraordinarily difficult time in our nation's history. Commander Kasler's comments will give us an idea of what it was like growing up while his father was in captivity.

Please direct any questions and RSVP to (b)(6) @gmail.com or (b)(6) Program Co-Chair, at (b)(6). Additional details regarding the Ceremony will be provided following your response.

We hope that you will join us in supporting and honoring our nation's veterans, and we thank you for your support of the Indianapolis POW-MIA Recognition Day ceremony.

Very Respectfully,

Linda S. Jeffrey
President, Indianapolis POW-MIA Council

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 17 Sep 2015 16:58:14 +0000
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: POW/MIA Day Proclamation (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

It is listed on the page. 1st Stanley Garwood Johnson.

http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/VietnamAccounting/2015_stats/Stats20150831.pdf

Overnight!? I'm sure Fox News will run a story of how DoD spent 50 dollars to mail a poster. I'll check to see what happened.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 12:53 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: RE: POW/MIA Day Proclamation

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

Hey (b)(6)

I heard - how was it? Do we have a name?

Also - I got a call from an (b)(6) very upset because his order for posters hadn't come in. His address is (b)(6) (b)(6) and his phone is (b)(6). He said he had ordered them from DPAA a month ago. Maybe someone could talk to him &/or overnight some posters?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike
Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) [mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:39 PM

To: (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org'
<(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org>
Subject: Re: POW/MIA Day Proclamation

Sorry, I was in Norfolk last week. The correct number is 1626!

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 11:02 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: FW: POW/MIA Day Proclamation

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

(b)(6)? Did the number change? I thought you said it had not?

(b)(6)

National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike
Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org

From: (b)(6) [mailto:(b)(6)@governor.ms.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 10:50 AM
To: (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org
Subject: RE: POW/MIA Day Proclamation
Importance: High

Ms. (b)(6)

Good morning. Our office was informed from Chuck Holifield at the Veterans Affairs Board that some of the stats from the original POW/MIA Day Proclamation have changed. We have been asked to make the correction in the proclamation. Please let me know if you have any problems with this. The Vietnam stats have changed since the proclamation was done back in June due to the return of several remains. The official number now is 1,626 still missing-in-action. Also, the official number for the Cold War is 126 missing-in-action.

We need to make the changes ASAP as Mr. Holifield has to take the proclamation to a ceremony on September 18th.

Regards,

[cid:image001.jpg@01CFB17D.BE33D510]

(b)(6)

Office of Governor Phil Bryant
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205
Office: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@governor.ms.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@governor.ms.gov>

Caution-www.GovernorBryant.com<Caution-www.governorbryant.com/>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 10:13 AM
To: (b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org
Subject: POW/MIA Day Proclamation

Attached is an electronic copy of the POW/MIA Day Proclamation executed by Governor Phil Bryant. The original is being mailed to the League member of our state, Ms. (b)(6). If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

[cid:image001.jpg@01CFB17D.BE33D510]

(b)(6)

Office of Governor Phil Bryant

P.O. Box 139

Jackson, MS 39205

Office: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@governor.ms.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@governor.ms.gov>

Caution-www.GovernorBryant.com<Caution-www.governorbryant.com/>

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 30 Sep 2015 13:36:19 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@comcast.net
Subject: POW/MIA Day Photos (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ann and (b)(6) see the below link from Secretary Carter's flickr account. Half way down on the first page, you will see some good pics. (b)(6)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/secdef>

From: Ann Mills-Griffiths
Sent: 4 Nov 2015 09:52:57 -0500
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Cc: (b)(6)@columbus.rr.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: POW/MIA Veteran's Day Speaker (U)

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

I give up; I'm in the Cayman Islands, but think (b)(6) had this request initially. I'm copying her on this, but I can't do that from here.

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22031
703-465-7432
Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org >

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>
To: (b)(6)@aol.com; (b)(6)@aol.com
Sent: Wed, Nov 4, 2015 7:13 am
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: POW/MIA Veteran's Day Speaker (U)

I'm confused. The request is for someone to speak to a rental car company on veterans day about life in the military? Perhaps I'm missing an attachment?

From: Ann Mills-Griffiths [Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com? >]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 10:02 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6)@columbus.rr.com < Caution-

(b)(6)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: POW/MIA Veteran's Day Speaker (U)

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22031
703-465-7432
Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-
miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-
miafamilies.org > > ;

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil > >
To: Ann Mills-Griffiths <(b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > > (b)(6)
(b)(6)

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED~~CAUTION:NONEAnn, I think local community events are best supported by local community military personnel. That keeps them involved. Not all genius resides in DC, though I disagree...~~(b)(6)~~

Original Message-----From: Ann Mills-Griffiths[Caution-Caution-mailto:~~(b)(6)~~@aol.com < Caution-Caution-mailto:~~(b)(6)~~@aol.com? >]Sent < Caution-Mailto:~~(b)(6)~~@aol.com < Caution-Caution-Mailto:~~(b)(6)~~@aol.com? >]Sent : Tuesday, November 03, 2015 11:15 AMTo: ~~(b)(6)~~ CIV DPAA EC (US); ~~(b)(6)~~@columbus.rr.com < Caution-Mailto:~~(b)(6)~~>
mailto:~~(b)(6)~~>
miafamilies.org
miafamilies.org
mailto:~~(b)(6)~~>
miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-Mailto:~~(b)(6)~~.pow-miafamilies.org > Subject: > ; Re: POW/MIA Veteran's Day Speaker(U)This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

Yes, they would need all the details, but I just thought you might want to send someone. AnnMills-GriffithsChairman of the BoardNational League of POW/MIAFamilies5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100Falls Church, VA 22031703-465-7432Caution-Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > > ; <Caution-Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-

miafamilies.org > > ; > -----Original Message-----From: (b)(6) CIV
DPAA EC (US) (US) (b)(6) mail.mil < Caution-

(b)(6)

miafamilies.org > > Sent? > : Tue, Nov 3, 2015 11:01 am Subject: RE: POW/MIA
Veteran's Day Speaker (U) CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED CAVEAT: None Ok, I see the
request at the bottom --- a speaker for a Veterans Day ceremony for a private
company (EHI Holdings?) in St. Louis. I will see if I can reach out to the PAOs
at Scott Air Force Base to see if they have someone available that is familiar
with EHI Holdings and their event and would be willing to attend. They would
need time, attendance, location, etc.. Best, (h) Caution-Caution-Caution-
<http://www.scott.af.mil/units/publicaffairs.asp> < Caution-Caution-
<http://www.scott.af.mil/units/publicaffairs.asp> > < Caution-
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<http://www.scott.af.mil/units/publicaffairs.asp> > > ; > -----Original Message---
--From: (b)(6) Caution-Caution-Caution-

(b)(6)

CIV DPAA EC (US) Subject: RE: POW/MIA Veteran's Day Speaker This email was sent
from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links.
All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a
Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity
of all links contained within the message. Yes,
you did send it to some of the returned POWs but I assume you have received no
reply. Since you've passed the baton to (b)(6) I won't bother my (b)(6) at this time.
Love Liz From: Ann Mills-Griffiths [Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-

(b)(6)

Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com? > > ;? >] Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015
3:14 PM To: (b)(6) @pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-
mailto:(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-Caution-
mailto:(b)(6)@pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-

(b)(6)

DaySpeaker Is this not one I forwarded to the NAM-POW POC? I thought I had, but maybe not; it was a bit hectic over the last few weeks. (b)(6) would (b)(6) (b)(6) have any idea or suggestions? Or could (b)(6) and DPAA Outreach and Communications help with this official speaking engagement? Over to you, (b)(6) can DPAA help out on this one? You all have the people and the budget so can someone be sent to St. Louis? After all, I'd say it falls in the area of public diplomacy. Though the Director is out, maybe the CoS? Or Deputy CoS could approve it? Ann Mills-Griffiths Chairman of the Board National League of POW/MIA Families 5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100 Falls Church, VA 22031 703-465-7432 Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > > ; < Caution-Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > > ; > < Caution-Caution-Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > > ; < Caution-Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org > > ; > > > -----Original Message-----From: (b)(6)@pow-

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

02,201511:10 AMTo: (b)(6) subject: RE: POW/MIA Veteran's Day
SpeakerH (b)(6): I passed along your e-mail to the League office and you
shouldhaveheard from them by now. From: (b)(6) Caution-Caution-
Caution-Caution-mailto (b)(6)@ehi.com < Caution-Caution-

(b)(6)



Veteran'sDaySpeakerImportance: High Has anyone seen my email? Is there any way you can assist with speaker recommendations for our 3rd annual Veteran's Day event on November 11th. Thanks, [redacted] From: (b)(6) Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:17 AM To: (b)(6) columbus.rr.com < Caution-

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

ESubject:POW/MIAVeteran's Day SpeakerImportance: High (b)(6) Good morning, I am reaching out in hopes you could provide some recommendations of someone who could speak at our 3rd annual Veteran's Day event on November 11th. I work for the IT (Information Technology) side of EHI Holdings in St. Louis, MO. I am a member of our IT Diversity, Charity and Family committee. Specifically our Family Committee is sponsoring a Veteran's Day event again this year. I am looking for someone to give a 10-15 minute speech on their military service, experiences or similar inspiring topic. Please let me know if you have any contacts in the St. Louis area who may be qualified and interested. Thank you, (b)(6) < Caution- Caution- Caution- http://www.enterpriseholdings.com/ > < Caution- http://www.enterpriseholdings.com/ > < Caution- Caution- http://www.enterpriseholdings.com/ > > ; < Caution- Caution- Caution- http://www.enterpriseholdings.com/ > < Caution- Caution- http://www.enterpriseholdings.com/ > < Caution- Caution- http://www.enterpriseholdings.com/ > > ; > > (b)(6) . Business Analyst IT Reporting Services (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 3 May 2016 12:40:44 +0000
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Minutes from case categorization mtg of 28 APR 2016 (U)
Attachments: Case.Categorization.Mtg.Minutes_4-28-16-AMG.Edits.docx

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

The first time in the ring is always tough...

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 8:19 AM
To: (b)(6) CDR USN DPAA STRATEGY (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV DPAA PPS (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EM (US)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Minutes from case categorization mtg of 28 APR 2016 (U)

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

(b)(6) I added the rest of the meeting attendees, plus (b)(6) since he was invested in the development of the case categorization throughout, or so I understood.

I deeply regret that I apparently was inept in explaining my thinking is several, or most, of the meeting as that was NOT at all my intention. This edited version, using the tracking tool, might best be read by hitting "accept all" as an alternative since there is so much red ink it is off-putting, and I'm sorry.

I also noted in your final paragraph that this would all be given to the Director "prior to a back-brief" of the meeting that I understand is today at 9:30 a.m. If so, I have to assume he has been given the version I had not seen as part of his "read-ahead" that I understand is now required, another apparent change proposed by and adopted as part of the "complete reorganization," but a bit beyond Secretary Hagel's admonition to "build on the existing strengths" that had been effectively applied to and utilized by Vietnam War accounting for decades.

I hope this is helpful and, please remember, my ONLY motivation is to increase positive views of DPAA and its efforts to achieving mission objectives. For myself, I already know what is taking place. It is the other families who are my concern, including the WWII and Korean families. Best to all, and hurriedly, Ann

*Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman & CEO
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041*

703-465-7432

Caution-www.pow-miafamilies.org < Caution-http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/ >

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

In a message dated 5/2/2016 3:27:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Ms. Mills-Griffith,

Please find attached for your review and edit the minutes from our case categorization meeting from last Thursday (28 April 2016).

At your convenience, please review and let me know if I have captured our conversations accurately.


I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

v/r

(b)(6)

Policy and Strategic Plans
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
COMM: 703-699-1209

(b)(5); (b)(6)



From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 14 Jul 2015 13:25:51 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: RE: 'Victory from Within': Exhibit on American POW experience to show at Reece (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

I'm back at work. And on vacation at my desk.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 9:08 AM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Re: 'Victory from Within': Exhibit on American POW experience to show at Reece

Are you back at work now? Or on vacation?

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-465-7432
www.pow-miafamilies.org <<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org>>

The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

In a message dated 7/14/2015 7:23:05 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Wow. You have been busy indeed. No rest for the weary. I had been following all visit of the Vietnamese delegation in the Post and figured you were please by the comments on the issue. I was not aware of the deputy director selection? A blessing? I thought an exotic hawaiian term would be the call of the day. (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 04:14 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Re: 'Victory from Within': Exhibit on American POW experience to show at Reece

I'm envious, (b)(6) and no, there has not yet been one moment for time away from the fray, but I'm

leaving this Friday for CA, arriving in Oakland at Friday night, then driving to the Kings and Sequoia National Parks on the 22nd, back to Oakland on the 25th, then flying to Honolulu on the 26th, DPAA Building "Blessing and Dedication" on the 27th, a couple of appointments that afternoon and the next day before late evening red-eye flight from Honolulu to Newark and on to DC by early on the 29th. Not much time to rest in there, but I'll make it.

The SRV General Secretary's Delegation complicated my schedule, of course, but it was all good and I got to catch up with a lot of Vietnamese friends, as well as a ton of American old-timers (some EVEN older than I, but really none involved longer) at the VP-hosted Luncheon and the SRV-hosted Reception/buffet. I thought all the exhaustion well worth the investment of time and effort, so that's another good thing, and was able to introduce Kelly McKeague to the guys who will be Mike L's counterparts, Vice Minister's Vinh and To Lam, even pre-positioned Mike L. for his visit this fall. Plus, got a chance to chat with the General Secretary and DPM/FM Minh (Thach's son), a very bright guy. The generational changes bode well for the SRV, and for the bilateral relationship. I'm in favor, and glad that State and the Vietnamese both included me in the mix so I could help with pre-positioning the Director. I just hope he gets good advice before he leaves for SEA, though he is postponing until at least late October/early November, so that's a good thing. His new Deputy Director, BG Mark Shindler, USA, will likely go in August/September, and I hope Kelly McKeague will be overlapping and go with him to make introductions and smooth the way.

By the way, I'm really glad that Mai Sayavongs was able to present his credentials before the President went on vacation as it was going to be far too long, so it was official on July 2nd. (There is another story there as well.)

Enjoy your time sailing, Ann

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In a message dated 7/12/2015 4:02:50 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Holy cats. That is a great photo. The candlelight is amazing. All is well. I thought you were taking some time off so didn't want to bother you. I'm sailing with my youngest. Amazing day though a bit more wind would be nice! (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 03:56 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Re: "Victory from Within": Exhibit on American POW experience to show at Reece

Not to my knowledge, (b)(6) and how are you? I haven't talked with you in a long time, since right before the annual meeting, but I loved this photo of (b)(6) the annual dinner candlelight ceremony, per the attached. I hope you're doing well, and I was SO GLAD to see Mike L come out swinging against the false allegations being thrown around by Matthew Burke again. It's about time, Ann

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writes: In a message dated 7/12/2015 3:52:36 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil

I presume (b)(6) is related?

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 14 Jul 2015 15:32:03 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: RE: Demonstrating Unified Public Support & Awareness (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

Wow. (b)(6) looks very good as well!

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 11:10 AM
To: Linnington, Michael S SES (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); McKeague, Kelly K Maj Gen USAF DPAA FO (US)
Cc: (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EXT COMM (US)
Subject: Demonstrating Unified Public Support & Awareness

The attached photo, taken at the League's 46th Annual Meeting Dinner & Candlelight Ceremony, is an outstanding example a unified effort, picturing DPAA's longstanding family liaison (External Communications) (b)(6) and his lovely wife, and Gail Innes, League Illinois Coordinator, long-time member of the Board of Directors and former MIA sister. Her brother, LCDR Roger B. Innes, USN, MIA 12/27/67, North Vietnam in an F4B, is now accounted remains returned 7/14/1999 and identified 6/23/200. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery after a formal ceremony tied to the League's ___ Annual meeting that June, including then Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy deLeon who did such an outstanding job as our dinner speaker this year, June 25th.

I thought it might be a unifying symbol to put this image, taken by photo journalist Gary Anthus (now doing a book on our national cemeteries and our POW/MIA flag). I'm sure he would be more than glad for any of our related agencies to use it for this purpose. He was pleased that I wanted to use it for the League's web site when he released it to me, along with two other meaningful photos, though this one stood out.

Let me know what you think, and best, Ann

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From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: 16 Jul 2015 17:58:54 +0000
To: (b)(6)@aol.com
Subject: RE: LTC (b)(6) Farewell on Thursday at 1130 at Teds Montanna Grill (U)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
CAVEAT: None

He swung by solo. No entourage or horse holders. Made a few comments to all of us about (b)(6) and the Army and then pulled (b)(6) aside to give him some parting words. Did not try to take over the show or pull attention away from (b)(6). It was very well done and meant a lot to (b)(6) and everyone else.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 1:50 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Re: LTC (b)(6) Farewell on Thursday at 1130 at Teds Montanna Grill

I'm so glad, (b)(6) I'd hoped he could/would, and I told you he is nice guy, genuine, humble, intelligent NJ-smart, and a good person = a LEADER with the right set of values, principles and a vision that focuses SOLELY on the mission. We've waited a long time for a guy such as Mike. Despite all this, there will be glitches, mostly due to receiving poor advice provided by self-serving or insecure people, but I honestly believe he'll prevail and the mission will be in good hands. That's my goal, and my exit strategy, Ann

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In a message dated 7/16/2015 12:55:59 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@mail.mil writes:

Missed you. I conveyed to him your wishes. Linnington attended. Heck of a nice guy.

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 07:21 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com' (b)(6)@aol.com>
Subject: Re: LTC (b)(6) Farewell on Thursday at 1130 at Teds Montanna Grill

Ann, do you happen to have in mind something you want to eat at Teds? They make great burgers I'm told. (I'm getting a chicken aesar salad.) (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 06:33 AM
To: (b)(6)@aol.com' (b)(6)@aol.com>
Subject: Re: LTC (b)(6) Farewell on Thursday at 1130 at Teds Montanna Grill

1130 am at the ted's in crystal city. It is just the worker bees but I can confirm once I get in. The Director wanted to go but cannot attend as he has a prior engagement.

From: (b)(6)@aol.com [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 10:36 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)
Subject: Re: LTC (b)(6) Farewell on Thursday at 1130 at Teds Montanna Grill

On second thought, I'd like to be there, but give me the time and will I like most, at least, of the others? Or are there dismissable nonentities attending? I would hope hot, (b)(6) deserves better, Ann

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In a message dated 7/15/2015 9:54:06 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@aol.com writes:

Can I just stop by briefly, to say farewell? I'm swamped, but would do that if you give me the time? I like him, and I do wish him well. Let me know, Ann

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In a message dated 7/15/2015 7:17:29 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (b)(6)@mail.mil

writes:

Ann, I apologize for the short notice but [REDACTED] is departing tomorrow. We are not having anything formal in the office. Just a nice lunch with 30 or so folks. I should have sent to you sooner given the wonderful letter you wrote for him last year. [REDACTED]