

16-F-1445

AUG 3 2016

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via Email & USPS

July 25, 2016

Ms. Stephannie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of the Freedom of Information  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Good morning Ms. Carr:

Pursuant to the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. - 522 I**, Gene T. Spanos hereby requests that the **Dept. of Defense** to include the **Defense Department Prisoner of War/Missing Persons Office (DPMO)** produce the following records within the ( 20 ) business days:

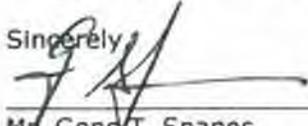
**This is a Freedom of Information Act request asking for copies ( electronic spread sheets ) of all electronic communications - emails involving your 1). Dept. of Defense employees, Mr. (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) Pentagon to include communications with that of 2). The National League of Families , POW/MIA Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths ), 3). Ms. (b)(6) Civ DPAA EC (US) Hawaii DPAA Headquarters and 4). BG Mark Spindler, Deputy Director of the DPAA also involving Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths from the time period of July of 2015 as of this date of July 25, 2016.**

**A Presumption In Favor:**

We call your attention to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum concerning the Freedom of Information Act, in which he states that when in doubt.....openness prevails when it pertains to FOIA.

Please advise of any denial along with an fees involved here with our request. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Gene T. Spanos

(b)(6)

Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, DoD FOIA Policy

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 21 Jul 2016 07:19:36 -0500  
**To:** OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office (b)(6)  
CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US);powmifam  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] 16-F -0915 FOIA vs. DIC Cases - DPAA Field Reports -  
Never Generated - Yet Reported As Such ? Will The DoD come forward and Make That Claim ?  
**Attachments:** Still Waiting 001.jpg, Still Waiting - Part Two of Two 001.jpg, Wideing  
Our Efforts- POW Camp Site Locations - DIC Cases 001.jpg

Good morning Ms. Carr:

Can you give us an ETA here.....

Thank you once again for your time and effort.

In the meantime our MIA's rest in the many unmarked graves  
within this VN cemeteries today....still unaccounted for. Why ?

Thank you.

(b)(6)

FOIA Complainant

(b)(6)

cc: Judicial Watch  
Washington, D.C.

2 of 3



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

MAY -4 2016

Ref: 16-F-0915

\* Re-sent 7-21-16  
W of O

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. (b)(6)

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 24, 2016, which was received in this office on April 5, 2016. Your request has been assigned case number 16-F-0915 and we ask that you use that number when referring to your request.

We will be unable to respond to your request within the FOIA's 20 day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances which impact on our ability to quickly process your request. These unusual circumstances are: (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this Office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. For these reasons, your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and will be worked in the order the request was received. Our current administrative workload is 1,800 open requests.

APPEAL  
Letter Sent  
6-1-16

If you find our conclusion less than satisfactory, you have the right to petition the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to ODCMO Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox #24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. Alternatively, you may submit your appeal through the OSD FOIA request portal at <http://pal.whs.mil/palMain.aspx>, or by email to [OSD.FOIAPolicy@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.FOIAPolicy@mail.mil). If you use email, please include "FOIA Appeal" in the subject line. Your appeal should cite case number 16-F-0915, should be clearly labeled "Freedom of Information Act Appeal", and must be postmarked or electronically submitted within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter.

(b)(6)

Sincerely,

*Stephanie L. Carr*  
Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief



OVERSIGHT AND  
COMPLIANCE

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER

9010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-9010

(2012)

June 14, 2016  
Ref: 16-A-0915-A1  
16-F-0915

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. (b)(6)

This is in response to your June 1, 2016, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal concerning the failure of a timely response by the Office of Freedom of Information (OFOI) to the request referenced above, submitted by you on April 24, 2016.

I consulted with OFOI to determine the status of your initial request 16-F-0915. To obtain any records which may be responsive to your request, OFOI tasked the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to search for responsive records. Upon OFOI receiving any responsive records, multiple components within the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Joint Staff or other federal agencies may be required to review any records containing equities to determine releasability. Please note that the OFOI action office is processing the case with all due diligence.

Because the actions necessary to complete your initial request are yet to be accomplished, I am remanding this request to OFOI for completion. Once OFOI issues their final response, you will receive appeal rights for any possible denials. This action will close your appeal and allow the necessary, remaining processes to take place in response to your initial request.

You have the right to judicial review of this decision in a United States District Court, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

Sincerely,

James P. Hogan  
Chief, DoD FOIA Policy

Copy to:  
OFOI



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Hanoi, Vietnam

June 23, 2016

AMBASSADOR

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. (b)(6)

Thank you for sharing with me your thoughts regarding the U.S.'s efforts to account for its missing personnel.

You may be assured I will keep your comments and concerns in mind as we pursue the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel in Vietnam and elsewhere.

Thank you for your diligence and continued efforts on these issues.

Very Respectfully,

  
Ted Osius

Sir -

7-20-16

I THANK YOU AGAIN

HOPEFULLY OUR JFC<sup>+</sup> TEAMS

\*DPAA

WE GET THE SPECIAL PERMISSION

TO RE-VISIT THOSE Fm POW CAMP SITES

(b)(6)

## No Confidence Vote For The National League of Families POW/MIA

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(b)(6)

August 6, 2016

President Barack Obama  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Sec. Ash Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart  
Director  
Defense Intelligence Agency  
7400 Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-74700

**Re: No Confidence Vote  
Mrs. Ann Mills-Griffiths  
National League of Families POW/MIA**

Dear Mr. President, Sec. Carter & Lt. Gen. Stewart:

Respectfully,

Over the years I have personally monitored the lack of progress on the part of the Defense Department's POW Accounting Agency. Yet kept quiet.

Today **hundreds of unmarked graves** remain abandoning in place and within the former wartime POW prisons/campsite location in the north of Vietnam. Yet the families remain steadfast in wanting to see their loved ones brought home for a proper burial. When?

We have requested over and over again confirmation as to our U.S. DPAA JFI teams having swept those former POW camps and cemeteries -- with **no confirmation**. We believe these field reports are being held **against the vest**. Why?

Most importantly we read where former Col. (b)(6) United State Army and former Director of the (VLC) Viet man, Laos and Cambodia desk in the former Old Executive Office Building - White House... **has accepted** the DPAA's **Excavation list to include a time table** for those poor souls that must remain in Vietnam soil. Why?

Then there's the National League and its Board of Director **Mrs. Ann Millis Griffiths** who has outgrown her position and believes that she too is a part of the Dept. of Defense. Sadly, we see where the Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, Deputy Director for the DPAA Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, Deputy Director appears to have a too cozy of a connection with Mrs. Griffiths. Word is that Mrs. Griffiths can pick up the phone with the DOD and DPAA.

## No Confidence Vote For The National League of Families POW/MIA

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### Page Two:

#### Letter Of No Confidence - National League of Families POW/MIA

Mr. President, for the National League to slam a veterans organization such as the **American Legion's 2016 revised resolution** set for a floor vote at this year's national convention.....we are asking that you please pull the plug on the connection between the National League, the Pentagon, the DIA, and State Dept. ..Today!

We also understand that a briefing packet was prepared by Mrs. Griffiths prior to your trip to Vietnam this year which now includes donated weapons for Vietnam's defense.

We did not know that Ann was given ben access to this information. **Weapons for the exchange of U.S. remains?**

I believe they call it **over identification** which can only describe the current relationship with all of these agencies and parties involved with the much faded POW/MIA effort.

We firmly believe that Mrs. Griffiths is blocking our Federal requested FOIA request in seeking those electronic emails involving these same parties that will confirm our suspicions to a group conspiracy to **delay and deny**.

In closing, the **current patterns and practices** involving all named here today must be investigated for potential wrong doing against the families and the American people.

Suggested reading is the **2016' June statement** (see attached) by Ret. Col. **(b)(6)** who also is a member of the league.

## Did Our U.S. JFI Teams Sit On Their Hands And Refuse To Perform Their Duties Is The Key Question

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(b)(6)

June 22, 2016

Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths  
National League of Families POW/MIA  
Suite 100  
5673 Church Pike  
Fall Church, VA 22041

Re: Response To The Failures  
Of the U.S. Dept. of Defense & Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Dear Ms. Griffiths:

Respectfully,

ANN

As a **private citizen** and **Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran**...it is in this same context that I am responding back again to your letter dated back in April of this year.

Once again we appear to differ when it comes to the United States Dept. of Defense and these hidden agenda involving the "**cards to the vest**" **approach**" in response to my personal Freedom of Information Act Request --seeking these same Joint Field Reports involving our U.S. DPAA teams.

It appears that our JFI teams never obtained the "**special permission**" that is needed in order to revisit these former wartime POW camp site locations where many of our captured pilots were kept, beaten and buried in the area cemeteries per our in-country sources.

Moreover, we have a **U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam; Ted O.** along with a **BG Army Deputy Director of the Hawaiian based DPAA** also going out on a limb in confirming that "our U.S. JFI teams did in **fact sweep these areas for unmarked graves** of the **(DIC) cases**."

As a former U.S. based NGO to Vietnam, I must object rigorously here to the notion that all is well and that we should take the word from those career Dept. of Defense employees when they cannot release or locate these field reports. We know why. **Because they never revisited those sites or wrote these reports. Why not just come clean here and admit!**

In closing, we/I have forwarded a full packet of my working file in seeking the assistance of the **Judicial Watch Organization** to further our case before the United States District of Columbia Court of Appeals. It's time! Maybe, just maybe you can come on board here too in seeking the truth. Its 2016 Ann....how much longer must we wait?

(b)(6)

Cc: Cmdr. Dale Barnett, A, L. National Commander  
LTG Michael S. Linnington, USA (Ret), Dir Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
Mr. (b)(6) Chairman, Commission on National Sec & Foreign Relations, A.L.  
Illinois Dept. American Legion, State of Illinois

(b)(6)

August 21, 2016

Hon. Representative Sam Johnson  
United States Congress  
2304 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Johnson:

Sir it is an honor to speak with you today.

As a former United States Marine who also served my country 66/71 along with my first tour within the former DMZ I- Corp area from 2/68-2/69, I am here today to bring you up to speed on a key issue that you may be able to assist us with.

**Died In Captivity - DIC Cases:**

Not too long ago, we learned that many of the U.S. POW's that were kept in the former wartime POW camp site location --were in fact beaten and buried ( Died In Captivity - DIC Cases ) in many of the unmarked grave sites that dot along these areas.

**DPAA-JFI-JFR Reports Missing:**

Next we find after filling our FOIA's 1). 16-F-0915 and now 2). 16-F-12445 that these same Dept of Defense field reports are missing.

**Cuban Interrogation Teams:**

We have also learned that these same wartime criminals that beat our POW's to death remain at large and very possibly reside here within the Florida area. Our FOIA also filed with the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been approved while they too conduct a hand search of their records.

**National League of Families POW/MIA:**

There has been an attempt by Mrs. Griffiths to block our FOIA's and this year's American Legion revised POW/MIA Resolution which calls for full transparency involving all of the above here to include those missing JFI DPAA reports.

**Promised High Tech Weapons to Vietnam by POTUS:**

We also understand that these same CHADD high tech anti missile-missile weapons have been promised to Vietnam to further help defend it's shores as well.

**(MEL) Master Excavation List:**

Recently in his annual report, former Col. (b)(6) past VLC director under the Reagan administration let the cat out of the bag with the master excavation list which pertains to those potential JFR sites. Note that many have been quietly staked out for years.

In summation, I/we would respectfully seek your assistance by reaching out to the DPAA and support our FOIA's in seeking 1). The JFI/JFR reports and 2). The requested emails to involving the cozy relationships with 3). Amb. Ted Osius and 4). B. G. Mark Spindler's close relationship with Mrs. Griffiths and others. This arm and hand holding with the DAPP must stop.

We have asked Mrs. Griffiths to retire and for Ret. Col. (b)(6) to stop with his influence world wide on these vary same recovery issues with the VLC areas. This national league close relationship appears to be too close and suspect with their patterns and practices.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 10 Aug 2016 19:00:19 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US);OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office;foia@dodiis.mil;OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office;powmiafam  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Former U.S. JPAC Team Member Questioned As To His Past Reports Issued Vs. Potential Information Missing  
**Attachments:** Letter to (b)(6) - Fmr JPAC-DPAA Team Member 001.jpg, Page Two 001.jpg (b)(6)-JPAC-POW-MIA-Accounting-in-Vietnam-Sucesses-and-Challenges.pdf

Dear Veterans:

Did the U.S. Govt lie to the families ? All These Years ?  
Did the National League of Families POW/MIA just go along with this true lies effort ?

Now we understand why these master listed excavation sites are kept confidential....so to are the written reports as well...so well that they cannot find them ...now !

Today we have asked the former leading past JPAC team member **Mr. (b)(6)** (b)(6) to respond to the allegations that certain areas within the former wartime area POW prison sites were skipped over on purpose for JFI and JFR ( recovery efforts ).

We look forward to hearing back from Mr. (b)(6) and his response to our letter sent to him, the Hawaiian Based DPAA and the Amb. to Vietnam the honorable **Ted Osius.**

(b)(6)

August 10, 2016

Mr. (b)(6)

**Past JPAC Team Member**

C/o Dept. of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
2300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-2300

**Cc: Headquarters**

DPAA 590 Moffett Street -  
Building # 4077  
JBPH-Hickam, HI 96853-5530

**Amb. Ted Osius**

United States Embassy - Viet man  
7 Lang Ha Street  
Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi, Vietnam

**Errors & Omissions**

**Re: Potential for False Field Reports Submitted  
To The United States Dept. of Defense**

Good morning Mr. (b)(6) & Ambassador Osius

My name is (b)(6) a past volunteer U.S. based NGO to Vietnam from 1989 to 2001. I am currently the American Legion Illinois District POW/MIA Chairman for the Ninth District.

Thank you for taking the time to accept our letter in seeking the truth when it comes to our U.S. DPAA - JPAC teams that were supposed to sweep key areas in the known Vietnam former wartime POW prisons/campsites and more.

**Former POW Prison Camp Sites:**

To date we have yet to receive any form of confirmation that you along the JFI and JFR teams ever made it into these areas to conduct proper interviews and investigations. Furthermore we have been advise by our in-country contact that it takes special permission to go back into those areas and request to meet with the former POW prison guards. Many of which had a hand in the beatings and murdering of our captured U.S. personnel. Additionally we understand that these same Cuban interrogating team members/war criminal may very well be back here in hiding....still at large and wanted for war crimes.

Can you come forward here and help make your reports complete in responding to our questions?

Page Two

Letter to Mr. (b)(6)

**The (MEL) Master Excavation Listing:**

Thanks to Ret. Col. (b)(6) and his eight page statement this year, there appears to be a gaping hole in many of the DPAA reports that have left out this now known information that we have staked out potential locations for excavation in Vietnam....yet walked away.

Mr. (b)(6) why would a U.S. Ambassador along with the Deputy Director of the HI based DPAA all gout out on a limb in stating that our U.S. teams did in fact draft these now missing reports.

To date the DPAA cannot locate your reports ? Why is this? Did you complete these same reports? If not, then who did?

Maybe you can come forward and provide the people to include the families further background

In dosing, there comes a time when transparency must take the day. We all look forward to your response. After all, our most recent letter of **No Confidence Vote** to the National League of Families POW/MIA was enough for Mrs. Ann Mills-Griffiths to without words. Something that we have not seen with hey hold on the DPAA and others.

(b)(6)



## POW/MIA Accounting in Vietnam: Successes and Challenges

(b)(6) JPAC Casualty Resolution Specialist  
45th Annual League of Families Meeting  
Thursday, June 12th, 2014

POW/MIA Accounting in Vietnam:  
Successes and Challenges  
(b)(6) JPAC Casualty Resolution Specialist  
45th Annual League of Families Meeting  
Thursday, June 12th, 2014

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, and most importantly, the families of those service members and civilians still missing from the war in Vietnam. It is truly an honor to be asked to speak to you here, after a busy year of POW/MIA accounting work in Vietnam. I regret that due to a busy operational schedule, I was unable to be with you last year, but I hope the update we provided on JPAC Detachment 2's operations was helpful. This year, the League has asked my colleagues and me to review successes and challenges in the accounting efforts in Vietnam and Laos. As the Casualty Resolution Specialist at Detachment 2, I'll update you on the situation in Vietnam.

First, a brief update on investigation and recovery operations in Vietnam. As you know, one of the primary responsibilities of the detachments in Southeast Asia is to coordinate and manage a number of investigation and recovery missions each year, missions which we call Joint Field Activities -- or JFAs. In Vietnam, since the last League meeting, we have conducted four JFAs which included a total of four Research and Investigation Teams, four Investigation Teams, twelve Recovery Teams, and five Vietnam Recovery Teams. The two types of investigation teams (the RIT and the IT) investigated a total of 135 cases, including dozens of witness interviews and site surveys. The two types of recovery teams (the RTs and the VRTs) excavated a total of 22 sites, and these excavations resulted in five repatriations of remains. Three more remains repatriations were the result of Field Forensic Review examinations, for a total of eight repatriations this year. Though these numbers -- raw totals of operations conducted -- are not necessarily the best measure of success, they do illustrate the huge amount of effort JPAC expended this year to find answers and repatriate the remains of missing and unaccounted-for in Vietnam. We can consider these efforts to be a success in these challenging times when sites are being lost to development and the memories of the witnesses are fading, not to mention budget challenges on the part of the U.S. Government.

Another success this year was the further improvement and refinement of research and investigation efforts in Vietnam. We are at a point in the evolution of this issue when many of the unresolved cases must be considered "cold cases," at least in the language of homicide investigators. It is often the job of Det 2's Research and Investigation Team -- or RIT -- to go "back to the drawing board" on many of these cases in order to find new avenues of investigation. This involves a constant and intensive effort to research U.S. and Vietnamese archival and historical materials, filtering through hundreds of witnesses for potential information on cases, and reporting all this information for assessment by our analysts and for edification of the families. Stony Beach specialists in Vietnam are an important part of this process; they stay informed of JPAC's operations and regularly contribute information based on their efforts. The professional military investigators in our Vietnamese counterpart organization, the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons -- or VNOSMP -- also support this process by working with local veterans' chapters to compile exhaustive lists of veterans belonging to wartime NVA and VC units that were involved in U.S. losses. They then provide the names of witnesses who have information on POW/MIA cases to the RIT, which interviews those individuals in great detail. As I said to you in 2011, successful investigations require persistence, good analysis by our operators, and good faith cooperation by the Vietnamese government. Let me give you an example.

This case hasn't been completely resolved, so I'll have to speak in generalities to respect the privacy of the family. But it is a good example of how the investigation methods being used are reviving hope, using the persistence-analysis-cooperation formula. The case involves two crewmembers of an RF-4C aircraft on a reconnaissance mission over Laos in 1970. After reporting they had accomplished their mission, the crew disappeared from radar and was never heard from again. The aircraft's last known location was in Laos, so the country of loss in U.S. government records was Laos. In the years after JTF-FA, and later JPAC, gained access to Laos for POW/MIA search operations, the case was investigated multiple times, with negative results. Teams even found a crash site in Laos initially thought to be associated with the case, but the results of the excavation indicated it was a different aircraft. The case was at a standstill. In its review of the case, the RIT noted that a Vietnamese language archival document, the shoot-down record for the NVA's Group 559, contained an entry that said an F-4 had been shot down by the

Vietnamese 35th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion on the same day as that RF-4C. A check of all the U.S. aircraft shot down by the 35th Battalion during that period indicated that its operating area was not in Laos, but just across the border, in Quang Binh Province of Vietnam. Convinced of the possibility the 35th could be the shoot-down unit and that the location could be in Vietnam, not Laos, the RIT asked the military investigators in the VNOSMP to find members of the 35th AAA Battalion. This involved working with veterans' chapters of Group 559 and its subordinates, compiling a list of dozens of potential witnesses and filtering through the witnesses until they discovered someone who knew about the circumstance of this case. Lo and behold, the VNOSMP did find witnesses from the 35th who knew about this case and who provided leads on the final disposition of the two American crewmembers. The RIT turned these witnesses over to the field investigation team -- or IT -- which is in the process of investigating this site in Vietnam during the ongoing JFA. While we are not certain what the outcome of that field investigation will be, we can be certain that persistence, good analysis, and cooperation between us and the Vietnamese have given this case, and others like it, another chance. Of course, our hope is that the investigation will eventually lead to the location, repatriation and identification of the crewmembers' remains, but we are also happy to be able to provide significant information on these two service members, whose fate for so long was completely shrouded in mystery, to their families.

Another area in which we've had good success in Vietnam this year is trilateral operations. I think most of you know that this program involves taking Vietnamese witnesses to areas in Laos and Cambodia along the old Ho Chi Minh Trail to point out crash and burial sites. Between JPAC's Det 1 in Thailand, Det 2 in Vietnam, Det 3 in Laos, and the governments of those three countries, we have conducted four trilateral operations in the past year. These trilateral operations were very successful, resulting in remains repatriations for two out of the four operations. The idea of taking Vietnamese witnesses to Cambodia or Laos seems simple, but it requires using the persistence-analysis-cooperation method. Let me give you an example of one of the trilateral cases on which we were successful this year.

In May of 1970, a U.S. Army UH-1 helicopter was on a resupply flight from Tay Ninh Province in South Vietnam to a fire support base near the border with Cambodia. A storm

caused the crew to stray off course, and the aircraft was shot down by enemy fire and crash-landed in the middle of a Vietnamese unit in Cambodia. Of the eight individuals onboard the helicopter, one escaped at the time of the incident, two surrendered and were returned after the war, two died in captivity and their remains were returned, leaving three still unaccounted-for. This case was investigated about ten times in Cambodia and a few times in Vietnam, with negative results. It, too, was at a standstill. Then a RIT researcher discovered two captured Vietnamese documents in Texas Tech University's archives. One document was an after-action report from the NVA anti-aircraft unit that shot down the helicopter, and the document included the detail that a radio unit designated "H3" had been at the scene. The second document was a status report from the "H3" radio unit, giving the name of its political officer at the time of the incident. The RIT passed this information to the VNOSMP, requesting that they find the political officer. Not long after, the VNOSMP not only found the political officer named in the document, but also one of his subordinates who had been involved in burying the three Americans who, it turns out, were killed at the site. We took these witnesses to Cambodia on three separate occasions to have them help narrow down the burial location. This site was excavated three times in an attempt to find the remains. The Stony Beach specialist in Cambodia was very helpful during these trips, providing expert advice and analytic support. In March of this year, a JPAC excavation team recovered possible human remains from the site, and these remains were repatriated from Cambodia to the U.S. in three flag-draped transfer cases. This case, despite having reached what seemed to be an impasse, was put back on track by persistence, good analysis, and good cooperation. The remains are undergoing forensic analysis at JPAC's Laboratory. This case represents a success for our investigators, but all potential trilateral cases face a challenging process of research to develop leads and a race against time to find witnesses before it is too late. There are currently several other trilateral operations planned for the upcoming year.

Archival Research, as a means to help solve POW/MIA cases in Vietnam, has long been of special interest to the League, as well as being a priority for the U.S. government. After a brief phase in the early 1990s of providing some pertinent documents from their archives, the Vietnamese government ushered in a long period of inactivity in this area, providing almost no archival documents or research for a decade. You may recall that in March 2011, a League

delegation, headed by Ann Mills-Griffiths and (b)(6) secured a tentative agreement from the Vietnamese military to renew an archival research program. Beginning in May 2012, after further discussions with the Vietnamese, we began receiving potentially POW/MIA-related information and research from Vietnam's military archives. To date, we have received 37 separate sanitized documents and accompanying analysis, totaling 790 pages, and we have found that some of this information correlates directly to a number of unresolved cases in Vietnam and Laos. Analysts at JPAC, DPMO and Stony Beach are incorporating this new information into their analysis on these cases. The Stony Beach specialists in Vietnam have been very helpful in assisting with the translations of these documents from Vietnamese to English. But even before the information is translated and sent to the community of U.S. analysts in Hawaii and Washington D.C., Det 2 and Vietnamese investigators make immediate use of the information in our investigations. By requesting certain key documents, we help guide the VNOSMP's unilateral research efforts towards order-of-battle information related to specific losses. This greatly improves chances for case resolution, especially for cases in the "cold case" category. The archival research program is ongoing, and we believe it will continue to provide information on the missing and unaccounted-for and ultimately may lead to an accounting for them.

Again this year, the Field Forensic Review -- or FFR -- Program was a success in Vietnam. This program is a mechanism through which Det 2 investigators and JPAC scientists, in cooperation with the VNOSMP, detect, track down, and examine possible U.S. remains being held by Vietnamese citizens. Most of the information upon which these investigations were based came in the form of letters, phone calls, or emails from Vietnamese citizens to Det 2. After many years of American POW/MIA investigations in Vietnam, it is well known to most Vietnamese that the U.S. POW/MIA Office in Hanoi -- what we call Det 2 -- is the place to contact regarding possible U.S. remains. This year, Det 2 received and analyzed 68 separate pieces of information from Vietnamese citizens on possible U.S. remains. All this information is shared with the Stony Beach specialists in Vietnam, who add to the information and help develop leads. Of course, not every piece of information we receive is valid, but we take every report seriously and immediately analyze the information to determine if it could lead to American remains.

This year, based on information obtained from Vietnamese and other sources, JPAC's Lab and Det 2 investigators conducted ten FFRs in Vietnam. Three of these examinations resulted in the repatriation of remains we believe could be those of unaccounted-for Americans.

In one instance, after JPAC excavated the site of an A-4C aircraft in Bac Lieu Province, a local villager contacted the VNOSMP and reported that he had found remains near the site. The following JFA, Dr. (b)(6) and I traveled to the province and worked with the VNOSMP and local police investigators to gain access to the remains. Upon examination, Dr. (b)(6) concluded there was enough evidence to repatriate the remains to JPAC's Lab for further forensic analysis.

In another case, Vietnamese citizens contacted Det 2 and reported they had the remains of what they believed to be an American pilot. Upon investigation, it turned out the remains were discovered on the Vietnam-Cambodia border, in the vicinity of an unresolved case in Vietnam. Dr. John Byrd, JPAC's Lab Director, conducted the remains examination at a Vietnamese government office in Tay Ninh Province and, because of the possibility the remains could be American, they were repatriated at the end of the JFA.

In yet another case, the VNOSMP reported a Vietnamese citizen discovered human remains in proximity to where JPAC had excavated a site for a case in Thua Thien-Hue Province. Again, Dr. (b)(6) conducted this examination and concluded the remains could represent at least one, and possibly two Americans associated with this case. These remains were also repatriated to JPAC's Lab where they are undergoing forensic analysis.

One final success to note this year is that, after many years of negotiation, the Vietnamese government has lifted the restrictions on all POW/MIA-related sites in Vietnam. That means there are currently no known sites in Vietnam restricted to JPAC teams. This piece of cooperation will allow us to help ensure an accounting for the individuals associated with those sites, and we are moving quickly to complete operations at those previously-restricted sites as soon as possible.

These are just a few examples of successes in Vietnam over the past year. We are encouraged by the fact that our investigation teams continue to discover significant information related to our missing and unaccounted-for personnel, and that our recovery teams and forensic scientists continue to recover and repatriate remains believed to be those of missing Americans.

But of course, even in the wake of these encouraging successes, the challenges are profound. The number of Vietnamese witnesses who die or become incapacitated due to age-related illnesses increases each year. Changing terrain and growing infrastructure make it increasingly difficult for witnesses to discern the loss sites after so many years. And we are always cognizant of the fact that, while the families of some of the missing receive answers each year, either in the form of identifiable remains or significant information on the fate of their loved ones, others wait. It is for those of you who wait that we continue to be vigilant, to be persistent, to analyze, and to cooperate, in order to do everything we can to obtain the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing from the Vietnam War, within the lifetimes of the immediate family members.

Thank you -- Until They Are Home.

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 11 Aug 2016 10:13:43 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC  
(US); (b)(6) USMC COMBAT LOG REG  
35 (US); (b)(6) JSMC 9 MCD (US); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Congressman Darrell Issa; foia@dodiis.mil  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: News Alert: House GOP report finds intelligence  
manipulated on ISIS  
**Attachments:** POW Camp Sites Cemeteries Never Checked 002.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.

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**Was the POW/MIA DPAA Intelligence reports manipulated ?**

We have asked the current U.S. Amb to Vietnam this same question.

Thank you.

(b)(6)





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## **House GOP report finds intelligence manipulated on ISIS < Caution- [http://click1.news.thehill.com/klmfwbtkplljzbljrvppjffptjqltlggsqkqdsqsvmv\\_bbbjpgbd.html](http://click1.news.thehill.com/klmfwbtkplljzbljrvppjffptjqltlggsqkqdsqsvmv_bbbjpgbd.html) >**

A House Republican task force has concluded that key military intelligence was manipulated to paint an unrealistically optimistic picture of the United States' fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The report, set to be released later on Thursday, found that final intelligence assessments out of the Pentagon's Central Command (CENTCOM) differed from on-the-ground conclusions, according to Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.), a member of the task force.

Read the full story here < Caution-

[http://click1.news.thehill.com/iybzptgkcywrywbmccwzzcgwqygyffdcktnqndmvd\\_bbbjpgbd.html](http://click1.news.thehill.com/iybzptgkcywrywbmccwzzcgwqygyffdcktnqndmvd_bbbjpgbd.html) >





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http://www.news.thehill.com/Unsub.do?a=u&e=genethemarine%40gmail.com&mid=3451&sid=8BA0D911-EAE1-4!

http://click1.news.thehill.com/nttjgcwhkqnbcbqntdkknjkwmmqzpzpkhcrmpdt\_d\_bbbjgpbd.html?a=genethemarine!

The Hill 1625 K Street, NW 9th Floor, Washington DC 20006

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**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 29 Jun 2016 06:48:05 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC  
(US) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: test  
**Attachments:** (b)(6) JPAC-POW-MIA-Accounting-in-Vietnam-Successes-and-Challenges.pdf

June 29, 2016

Dear (b)(6) Ann:

Update: FOIA Requested JFI Reports Remain Missing ( Vietnam ) ( Former POW Camp Sites )

One would come to the conclusion that we did our job to date in Vietnam.  
The proper response to this **aged report** is "**no ---we have not**".

I don't believe in cover ups....yet I believe that there is a gaping hole in his statement that will allow a tractor to drive through it.

Let's get to the bottom of our FOIA and those missing JFI reports...  
can we ?

Thank you.

(b)(6)



## It's Time For The SRV & USA Teams To Work Together - Release The DPAA - JFI - JFR Reports

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(b)(6)

**Sent via Email & USPS**

August 14, 2016

Amb. Nguyen Quoc Cuong  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam - Embassy  
1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Amb. Ted Osius  
U.S. Embassy - Vietnam  
Hanoi, Vietnam

**Re: Access For Our U.S. JFI/JFR Teams -  
Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
Former Wartime POW Prison/Cemetery Sites**

Your Excellency:

Last October 15<sup>th</sup> 2015, we wrote to you in earnest in seeking a cooperative effort in allowing our U.S. DPAA JFI/JFR team's access to these former wartime POW camp site locations for further inspections.

Since that time we have yet to hear of or read of any progress coming out of Vietnam. Why is that sir when regarding the DIC cases and those former POW camp site/cemeteries?

Then we read where you have requested high tech weapons from the USA to help defend your country against any and all aggressors in that region.

More importantly we still need to allow for our U.S. teams **to gain full access** to these same areas where **POW's were beaten to death and buried in many unmarked graves.**

I/we are not here to take up your time sir....we are seeking your full cooperation. Yet we see the conflicting reports as to these same **field reports now missing from our DOD files** or that they were never completed in the first place. Thus leaving us with the impression that we/they failed in their job and failed our country then and now.

Your Excellency, let's put the cards back on the table shall we when it comes to full cooperation and our MIA's that remain in the many unmarked graves of Vietnam.

Furthermore, **please don't allow** for the **National League of Families** to speak for all who served during that war as well. Because they don't!

**As a past U.S., based NGO who assisted your country in sending meds/vitamins ( 1989 to 2001 ] ) and in bringing a Vietnamese child to my country for training and fitting for artificial limbs....( Nguyen Xuan Nghia ) I guess you can say that we did volunteer to help support the USA-SRV effort.**

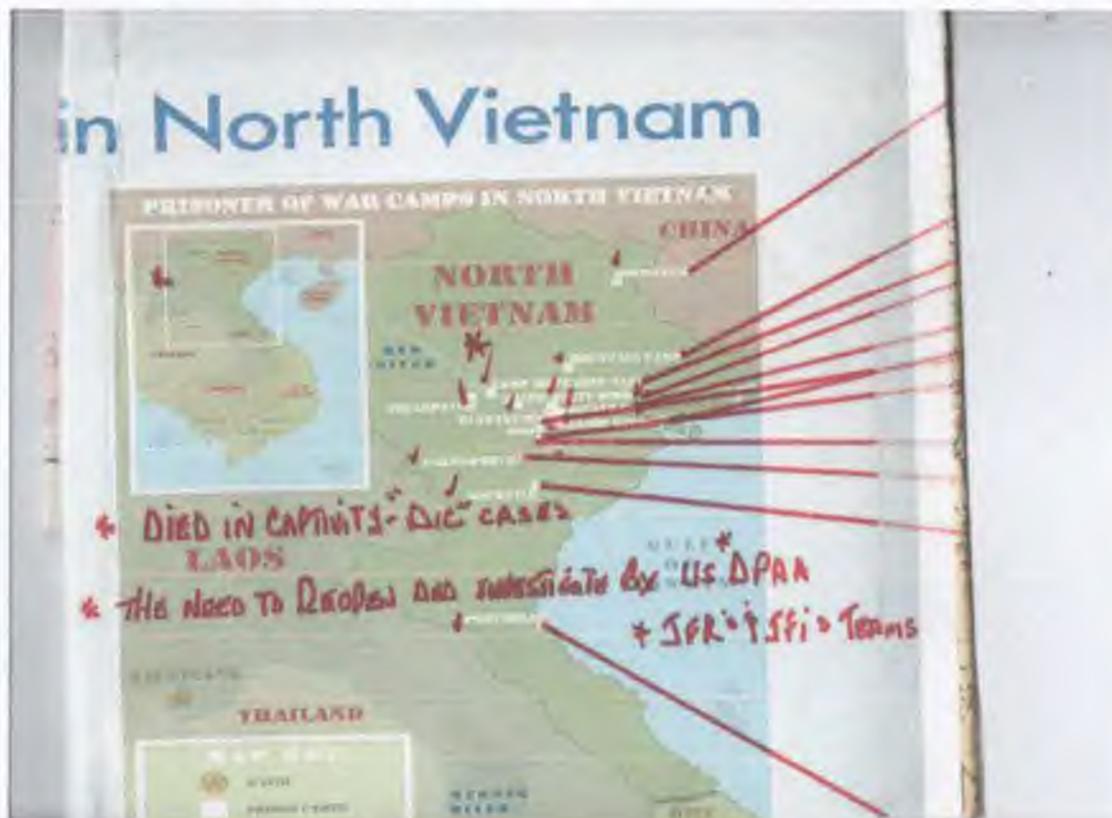
In closing we look forward to your response yet --if we cannot cross back into that same level of agreement(s), past intersections achieved, then we must demand that our country to include our President Barack Obama, withhold any promised high tech weapons, until you can come back to the center on this urgent matter that should have the input of us all who fought, served and in some cases

(b)(6)

## It's Time For The SRV & USA Teams To Work Together - Release The DPAA - JFI - JFR Reports

---

Ill Marine Vietnam Combat Veteran  
Sr. Vice Cmdr., American Legion Post 541 of Ill







**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 13 Aug 2016 08:15:35 -0500  
**To:** letters@washpost.com; info@judicialwatch.org; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); DIA-PAO@dodiis.mil  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Letter To The Editors - Illinois Marine Vietnam Marine Calls Out The Dept. of Defense To Come Clean With JFI & JR Field Reports and The Suspension of All Privileges and Connections To The National League of Families POW/MIA For Now

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PRESS RELEASE  
Letter to The Editors  
Washington Post

By

(b)(6)

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

(b)(6)

Today, we call on the leadership of the United States Dept of Defense, the Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency as well as the Dept. of Intelligence Agency to come clean over the delayed and what appears to be possibly denied records that can substantiate their efforts to uncover the truth as to the Americans once held in captivity that now remain in the many hundreds of unmarked grave site within the former wartime Vietnam POW prison camp site

and area cemeteries.

Currently we have been advised that they cannot locate these same joint field investigations and joint field recovery reports.

Now comes the FBI who has agreed to conduct a hand search for these same records that also pertains to the POW being beaten to death at the hands of the Cuban interrogators who may have fled back then to Cuba.

As one current and very active U.S. based NGO to Vietnam recently put it...  
'(b)(6)' *I have never seen or heard of any U.S. teams working those areas up there juts above the former DMZ and upwards towards Hanoi along the POW trails."*

*" It takes special permission to go up there and interview those former VN POW guards.*

*Many won't want to give out any information in fear of being held accountable".*

*Per my in-country contact*

It could be that we have all been duped all these years over their fabricated efforts ?

One would like to think not...yet we need for the truth to come to the surface.

In the meantime the National League's Mrs. Ann Mills-Griffiths its Exec Director has made it clear with her recent letter to the American Legion and to (b)(6) that we should not get involved here with our already revised POW Resolution for this years annual convention that calls for a clear transparency.

The current coziness involving the National League and the U.S. DoD leave much to the imagination for sure. Hand holding with complete access to the pentagon for years on end have left the impression that Mrs. Griffiths can and will shut you down in a heart beat.

Did the National League know full well that the Vietnamese had been for years storing U.S. remains and kept it quiet ?

Then there's the conclusion that our lab in Hawaii found a chemical applied to the remains transferred in so they would not deteriorating over the years while being stored underground.

**Still applying pressure and negative influence**



Hand Holding With The Deputy Dir. BG Mark Spindler of the U.S. POW/MIA Accounting Agency



Enough is enough !  
Please produce those **FOIA requested emails** between the league and the many USG agencies  
so we can clear up any confusion to the potential of a cover up Ann !  
If you have nothing to hide--then why not comply !

Thank you.

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

**Sent via USPS**

August 16, 2016

Letter to the U.S. House Oversight & Reform Committee  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Dept. of Defense - Inspector General  
Citizen's Complaint(s) - Ignored  
Possible Cover Up - JFI Reports Missing  
Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency and More**

Dear Chairman Hon. Jason Chaffetz & Committee Members:

Today we are saddened to report what appears to be promised **U.S. high tech defensive weapons** to Vietnam by our President and the potential for conspiracy to **withhold back the U.S. remains still** --that remain in unmarked grave /cemetery sites in the former POW prison camp site locations. These officials all need to be held accountable and a call for a full transparency must take the day in **Washington (Pentagon) and Hawaii (DPAA).**

Currently we have a **U.S. Amb Ted Osius** to Vietnam going out on a limb along with a Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, Deputy Director of the DPAA going on the record as to confirming that our deployed U.S. JFI and JFR teams did in fact conduct sweeps within these documented former wartime POW camps. Work was **completed** and reported were **written - yet remain hidden.**

Yet to date sir, these are no reports on file? Per the Dep't of Defense, they too cannot locate these same reports that were supposed to of been completed and submitted for the record all these years. **FOIA's have been filed 16-F-0915 and 16-F-12445** with no success to date.

Furthermore, I/we believe that there is a "cover up" by the offices of the Dept. of Defense, the office of POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the Amb. To Vietnam and others within these same chain of command that are refusing to cooperate and locate these joint field reports. This includes an outsider known as the **National League of Families POW/MIA** who continues to enjoy arm and hand holding with the pentagon and higher ups as well.

Once more, it appears that the scope has widen here with some key field operatives that completed many reports back through the years....yet failed to provide the complete truth when it comes to these same POW former wartime camps, the guards that worked there and the systematic beatings that caused the deaths of our U.S. POW's also within these same POW campsite locations. I/we believe that we have been duped over and over again by these same field teams known as " stony beach" based out of the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency).

Now comes the President of the United States who recently visited Vietnam and while sipping coffee with those leaders...and told them that we, our country will help defend their shores from all enemies with high tech grade weapons ( anti-missile -missile ) CHADD Scud mobile units.

**Key questions abound here such as:**

- 1). Who gave the orders to hide these same reports?
- 2). Why would Amb. Ted Osius go out and make these statements?
- 3). How did the Stony Beach teams get by with these annual reports by leaving out the truth?
- 4). Who today is covering up these reports in conjunction with the National League?
- 5). Why is the National League allowed full access at CHIHI and in Vietnam today?
- 6). Why won't the key DoD officials release their emails involving the League and more?

**Page Two**  
**August 16, 2016**  
**Letter to U.S. House on Oversight & Reform Committee**

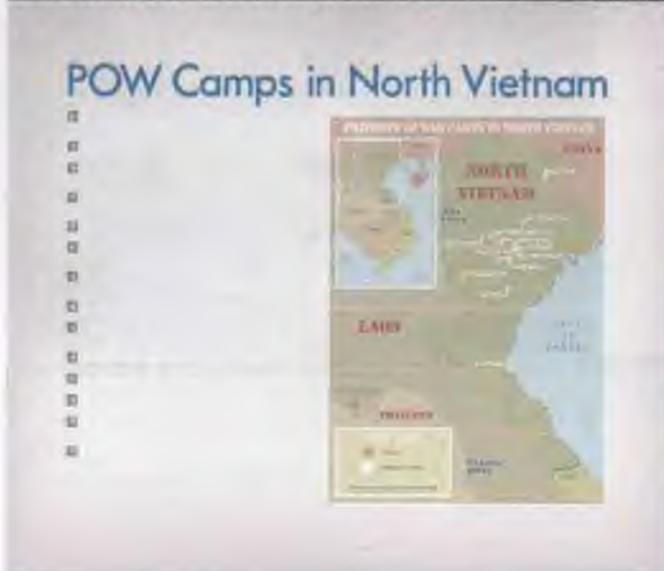
In closing, you can get the feel here that we are being given the D.C. two step. We look forward towards your leadership in **launching an official investigation** into the coziness involving the **Dept. of Defense, The DPAA**, key Officers within the chain of command involving the Dept. of Defense, POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the **DIA**, plus include these same field operatives known as the **Stony Beach teams** and their reports on file.

Lastly, we continue to read and see that **Ret. Col. (b)(6)**, US Army, past Director of the Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia desk based out of the O.E.O.B, still supports the league and their hidden agenda to control all that goes in and out of these areas. His annual June 2016 report shows that the super-secret **(MEL) Master Excavation List** remains a bargaining tool for the SRV and against the many families that still await proper closure.

**The key question is sir, why would the Dept. of Defense allow a private NFP org. such as the league to be their attack dog? Why would the League go after the American Legion and their 2016 revised POW/MIA Resolution which calls for a full transparency? Cards to the vest continues.....**

(b)(6) nse.

Cc: U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk - IL  
**Super-Secret DPAA JFI Reports Now Missing too?**  
**Former Wartime POW Camp Site Location - Skipped Over ?**





Undue influence continues.....



Continued arm/hand holding with the key DoD Officials

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 5 Aug 2016 10:46:22 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV  
DPAA EC (US)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] MIA's - Master Of Excavation List - Vietnam - Dept of  
Defense - DPAA Agenda " Foot Dragging " ? Why ?  
**Attachments:** Commentary By Dick Childress POWMIA 001.jpg, Page Two -  
Unacceptable 001.jpg

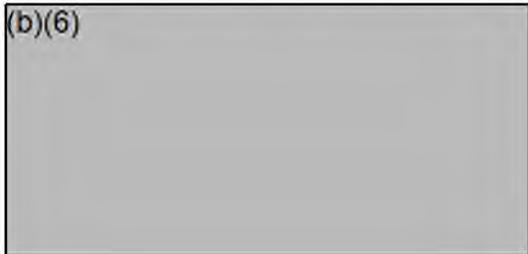
Dear Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler:

Here's a sample of why we need full transparency involving our use of the JFI & JFR teams in a more progressive manner. These statements made by Ret. (b)(6) (page Two ) are unacceptable and shocking.

Now we understand fully, why we can't obtain our FOIA requested documents. 1). Vietnam Field Reports pertaining to the former POW camps, 2). DIC cases and area 3). Unmarked graves.

Lastly, the blocking of our requests by the National League POW/MIA also makes sense now. Command, control and direction is the agenda of the league today.

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

League Senior Policy Advisor  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
June 23, 2016  
Hilton Crystal City Hotel

8-5-16  
REMARKS / COMMENTS  
SHARED w/ ALL  
PARTS.

(b)(6)

Ann, board members, family members, veterans, current and former officials, I'm delighted you showed up again for another boring speech from me.....and in the vernacular, a proud legacy thinker.

Today's presentation had to be revised extensively due to the completely unexpected resignation of Mike Linnington. I will provide my views on that at the conclusion of my remarks.

It has been an eventful year on this issue, both here and abroad. Two years ago, and last year, I highlighted the US-Vietnam bilateral relationship growing increasingly close and the potentially positive impact on POW/MIA cooperation. I also highlighted the upcoming reshuffle of the leadership in Hanoi, with the hope that many of our supportive interlocutors would be elevated or retained.

I was encouraged to see the new line-up in the Ministry of Public Security where To Lam, a long-time interlocutor, was selected to head the ministry. Similar was the retention of Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh, another official we have dealt with repeatedly over the years. He remains in his key position as Deputy Minister of National Defense. He is the primary Ministry of Defense official carrying out the mutual decision to raise the level of bilateral military-to-military relations. The latest evidence of the enhanced relationship is the recently announced decision by the administration to lift the US ban on selling military hardware to Vietnam.

I'm reminded of my former NSC colleague, Admiral Dennis Blair, who later became CINCPAC. He and I consulted long after my retirement to the private sector on his attempts in 2002 to gain access to Cam Ranh Bay. Timing is everything and, significantly today, polls indicate that 78% of the Vietnamese view the US favorably.

In Laos, several promotions of personnel well known to us were also announced, including promotion of former Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisolith to be Prime Minister, and he continues to serve on the politburo. Key figures now in ministerial positions have previously served in Washington as the Lao Ambassador, including H.E. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, now Minister in the President's Office and in position to advise newly named President Bounnhang Vorachith.

In both countries, the promotion of these officials well known to us and to senior US officials is a good omen. These encouraging promotions were supplemented by visits to Hanoi by Secretary of Defense Carter, the Secretary of State and, most recently, by the President. In addition, the President had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia at the Sunnyslands Conference in Palm Springs, California.

Very importantly, Laos will be hosting the ASEAN Ministerials later this year which will provide more opportunities for bilateral discussions with each of the countries of specific interest to the Vietnam War accounting mission. That hosting responsibility, in itself, has meant and will mean a series of senior level bilateral discussions in preparation.

Public reporting of these visits only provided general references to the POW/MIA accounting issue as one that will continue to be pursued. The League provided substantive input for each, but there has been a lack of adequate feedback on possible new initiatives. Hopefully, discussions on this issue reflected a renewed emphasis on how to cooperate on measures, both joint and unilateral, to achieve the fullest possible accounting.

Given the movement from a strategic relationship to a comprehensive one, as defined by Vietnam, this is an opportunity and an atmosphere that should not be missed. 2015 was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date we reached agreement for, and executed, the first joint excavation in Vietnam. For many years, we found a tunnel at the end of the light in our negotiations. I believe we may now finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Sounds like Yogi Berra who remarked, "The future ain't what it used to be."

1 OF 2

But excavations aren't the complete answer; it is critical for our government to recognize that in order to achieve the fullest possible accounting, our experts cannot be restricted to crash and burial site excavations, but need to encompass several well known mission areas. As a refresher course for us all, I would like to briefly review them.

First, the MEL, or Master Excavation List: this is a dynamic list of cases awaiting a scheduling decision to proceed. Most of these cases are ready, all necessary investigations and surveys have been completed, and some have been on the MEL for years, even a decade or more. Others are considered active, meaning in various stages, some requiring more investigation or analysis of information previously obtained. This category encompasses many of the remaining Died-in-Captivity cases, some of which are still under investigation.

There are many other considerations, from access-related questions, to personnel and equipment availability and, very importantly, evaluation of circumstances related to team safety. As questions are answered, some may be added to the MEL. Others may be dropped based on new information but, if dropped, a detailed explanation is required to be provided to the family concerned.

Last known alive cases: this has been and is the highest priority for the US for obvious reasons. Initially, it was based on our own incident-related knowledge and intelligence holdings, Vietnamese statements, archives, refugee information, etc., and resolution of these cases is a prime indicator of US/Vietnamese cooperation.

Beginning in the 1980s, based upon bilateral discussions with Vietnam, archival information received, detailed analysis and field investigations and surveys, the list began to come down. In many cases, the answer came with repatriation and identification of remains, meaning the accounting was obtained. Fate determinations were made on others which removed them from the list, but without accountability, the next category.

Solved LKA cases with no remains: In other cases, as noted, the list was reduced with evidence-based determinations. Logically, since these personnel were captured or in close proximity to hostile forces, it is assumed that more information or remains should be available. Resolving LKA status means that the individual was determined to be deceased, thus off the LKA list. However, unless the evidence suggested remains were unrecoverable, continued priority is, or should be, placed on remains recovery and repatriation as a discrepancy case.

Removal from the LKA list does not account for the individual unless remains are repatriated and identified or convincing information is obtained as to why this is not possible. In all determinations, the individual remains on the unaccounted-for list. In this instance, the family concerned must be fully informed.

Underwater recoveries: Sites have now been identified in shallow waters along the coastline that will need to be exploited, and there is renewed hope here, given the increased military-to-military relationship and the possible deployment of more advanced US assets, as well as increased Vietnamese capability.

Off-the-scope losses: These are the most difficult cases, with no ground or air witnesses, nor radar tracks, and communications are inconclusive. In such cases, the US is almost totally reliant on Vietnam to help with military/civilian witnesses, investigations, archives and other unilateral efforts, now also including unilateral Vietnamese investigations. Certainly, efforts to acquire former USSR and PRC records and eye-witnesses should be pursued as well.

Unilateral return of recovered remains: This has been a significant priority of the accounting effort with Vietnam beginning in the 1980s after Hanoi finally acknowledged to me - at the Ministerial Level - in 1985 that they had a remains recovery and storage system. Multiple studies have been conducted on this question which generally reduced US expectations - though I would note - in the 1990s, and related to normalization efforts, US analysts were under considerable political pressure to reduce accounting expectations from this source.

One Vietnamese official in a position to know told our officials that remains fragments were still in their possession in the 1990s. Some remains could also still be in the possession of private citizens or local officials, and some of the fragments previously unidentified from unilateral turnovers, as well as remains fragments, if still available from the Vietnamese, hold promise for future identification using next-generation DNA and other technological advances made over the ensuing years.

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 22 Jul 2016 18:17:01 -0500  
**To:** POW  
Network;hanoiac@state.gov;hdqs@illegion.org;info@judicialwatch.org;(b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] National League Of Familtes Needs To Fold Up It's  
Tent - Stop Attacking The Vietnam Veterans Military Organizations and More.....  
**Attachments:** It's Time For The National League to Fold Up Their Tent 001.jpg, Page  
Two - Thrown Under The Bus 001.jpg

(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.



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.

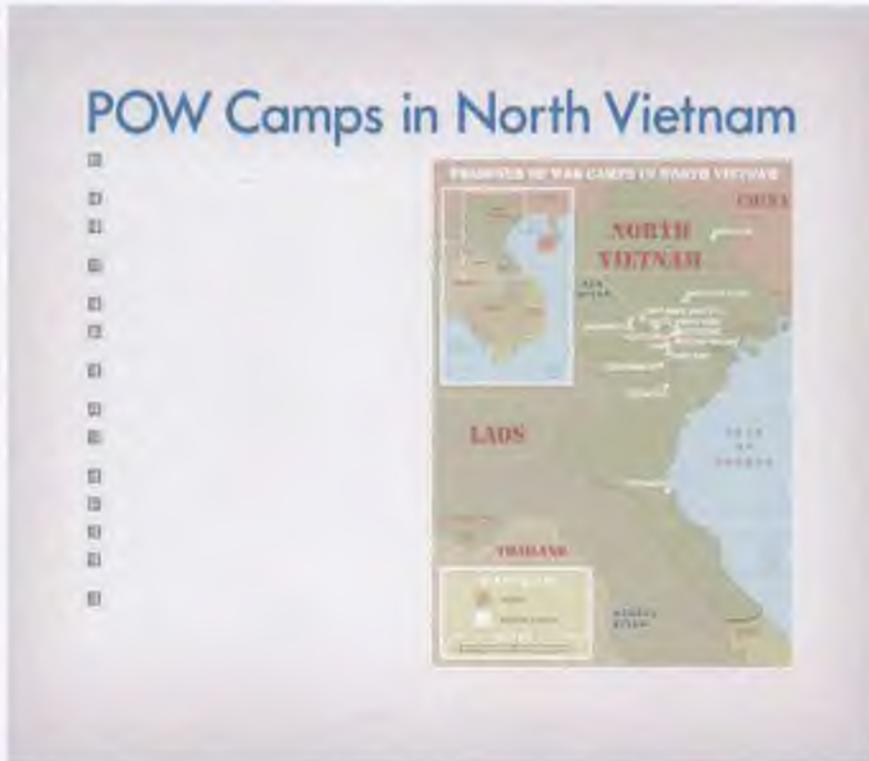
When a group of Vietnam combat veterans --legally seek help from the USG to include the Dept. of Defense --one must not be played against the middle. **It's time for the National League POW/MIA to fold up their tent.**

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 transferring the request by your country --the high grade weapons now promised to you by

(b)(6)

Cc: U.S. Ambassador Ted Osius - Hanoi, Vietnam



DPRAA  
FIELD  
RPTS  
STILL  
MIA.  
H

cc: BG M. SANDLER, C.O. DPAA  
HAWAII  
DET. CMDR, DPAA, U.S. EMBASSY,  
HANOI, SRV

December 13, 2015

Lt. Gen. Michael S. Slinnington, Ret.  
Executive Director  
US Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
Headquarters - Pentagon Building  
Washington, D.C.

Re: A Call To Walk  
Former RVN/SRV POW Camp Sites

Dear Dir. Slinnington:

Today we, the many members of the American Legion  
Of post 541 of Edison Park, IL call on you and your  
Teams based in Vietnam to step up.

We are asking that this request to be added onto your  
agenda to further revisit those POW camps sites...all  
fourteen as documented.

We also hope that your JFI's teams will also walk  
those area cemeteries in search for those US service  
Personnel that died while in captivity.

We thank you for all that you and the DPAA team does  
to help locate, recover, identify and return those  
MIA's - DI (b)(6)

Stay Safe!

(b)(6)

Attachments



**Post 541 American Legion**

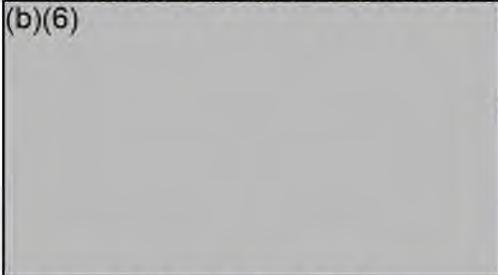
**POW/MIA Committee**

**Goal: To further pursue the truth in widening the scope of (JFI's) joint field investigations and (JFR's) joint field recovery efforts in all countries where missing American service Personnel fought - died and are still missing.**

**Objective: To seek the assistance and establish effective liaison with the US Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency Hqrts based in Pearl Harbor - Hickam field.**

**Post 541 Resolution Recommended: To serve as our renewed benchmark of the American Legion in working together with the US Dept. Defense while seeking improved discussions with all countries with the final goal in locating, recovering, identifying and returning those US service personnel to their families once and for all.**

(b)(6)

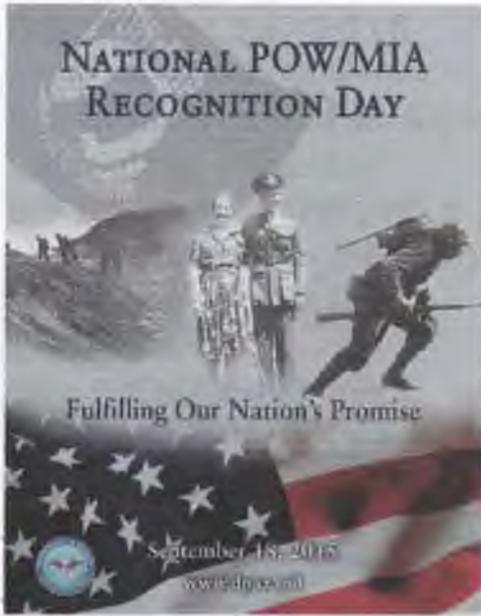


**Date:**

12/10/15

**American Legion**





Sir -  
WE SUPPORT  
THE LEAGUE'S  
POSITION AS  
well.

(b)(6)

## U.S. DoD – DPAA Joint Field Reports Still Missing In Action

Sent via Email & USPS

(b)(6)  
(b)(6)@gmail.com

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

**Hon. Ted Osius**

U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam  
United State Embassy  
7 Lang Ha Thanh  
Bin Dinh District  
Hanoi, Vietnam [hanoiacc@state.gov](mailto:hanoiacc@state.gov)

**Public Affairs Officer**

U.S. POW/MIA Dept. of Accounting Agency  
2300 Defense Pentagon  
Att: External Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20301-2300

**Re: JPAC/DPAA Joint Field Reports Missing  
Vietnam Former POW Prison Camps and More**

Good morning Ambassador Osius:

Sir, the ongoing effort to dig deep within the U.S. Dept. of Defense - POW/MIA Accounting Agency continues.

To date we have filed our appeal with the United States Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., we have also continued to knock on your door in order to locate these vital reports in order to:

- 1). Confirm that our **U.S. JFI teams did the job** in revisiting these former POW campsites.
- 2). Met with the area **farmers/retired POW guards/interrogators**.

Most importantly, we fully understand that it takes **special permission** to revisit these areas in Vietnam. We also understand fully that there is a difference between 3). An interrogation and 4). an Interview. The difference is **willing versus unwilling**.

Now comes the open statements made by you to include BG Mark Spindler by going out on a limb stating that **our teams did perform their job by revisiting these past wartime POW camp site locations. Who can we believe? Can we place our trust with the U.S. DPAA?**

Next we reviewed the statement produced and drafted by a Mr. (b)(6) dated **June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014** coming from the former JPAC side **failing to cover/state** that our U.S. JFI teams did in fact carry out there mission by including the **(DIC) died in captivity cases**. Mr. Ward also uses the term "Cold cases" in his statement. This sends a negative message as well.

Moreover, I have reviewed the DPAA website cover face/page which **fails to include** the DIC case investigations and missing **JFI Vietnam reports**.

In closing, we will remain steadfast in locating the whereabouts of these **JFI reports**.

As Mr. (b)(6) states in his report... "**until they all come home**". We/I believe this should stand as part of

(b)(6)

Cc: Ms. Joo Chung  
Director of Oversight and Compliance (FOIA Appeal Pending)  
U.S. Dept. of Defense  
4800 Mark Center Drive  
Mailbox # 24  
Alexandria, VA 22350-1700 [osd.foiapolicy@mail.mil](mailto:osd.foiapolicy@mail.mil)

## A Call For U.S. House Select Comte On DPAA Missing Reports Involving Vietnam POW Camp Site Locations And More

---

(b)(6)



Cc: Hon. Sen Johnny Isakson  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Veterans Committee  
Room 412  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050



## POW/MIA Accounting in Vietnam: Successes and Challenges

(b)(6) JPAC Casualty Resolution Specialist  
45th Annual League of Families Meeting  
Thursday, June 12th, 2014 ✓

?

7-7-76  
DIC CASES & JFI  
INFO MM RPTS

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 14 May 2016 10:12:21 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Confidential

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.

---

Not here.  
Trust me.  
I believe Ann that you are too close to the subject matter.  
Over identification is what they call it.  
The same issue that almost lost an entire  
WWII AF bomber group.  
See the film Twelve O'Clock High...  
based on an actual time period/serious of events  
with huge aircraft and crew losses.  
Best.  
(b)(6)

On Sat, May 14, 2016 at 9:30 AM, <(b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com >> wrote:

(b)(6) I have NO CLUE what you are talking about in terms of blame for anything. If you have ANY evidence to support your absurd claim that the League, or for that matter the USG, is writing off DIC cases, provide it. That is the last I intend to say about it, but please do NOT threaten me, not now, not ever.

*Ann Mills-Griffiths  
Chairman & CEO  
National League of POW/MIA Families  
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-465-7432 < tel: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 5/14/2016 10:08:43 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,  
(b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com > writes:

Ann - with all due respect....you're going to get blamed  
should the secret hand show up and attempt to tip the balance.  
Don't get caught,

(b)(6)



**Revised 5/14/16**

May 13, 2016

Confidential Memo

To: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Subject: Post 541 POW Resolution - Pending

Re: Information Received

-----  
Just today I heard from a D.C. source on background that someone within the private sector is going to attempt to sabotage our resolution at the national convention - should it make it to that level. It also appears that they are not happy with our key sentence that "pinpoints" to the NGO and U.S. Dept of Defense as to not doing their job. Therefore the need to have a full court press in seeing that our resolution maintains this same single sentence that appears to have struck a nerve. If there is anyway that we can alert the upper American Legion echelon into being prepared to be watchful for the A.L. member who will be the driving force to derail our resolution--then we need to kept on alert. Who ever from within the A.L. comes forward will be the one who has been influenced as their go-to person. I don't think any A.L. upper management can be influenced in getting his hands dirty ---in my professional opinion.

Stay strong.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 20 Apr 2016 13:13:06 -0500  
**To:** Edison Park 541 (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Resolution information - was sent to me from Department

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.

---

Dear (b)(6)

The date today is 4/20/2016.  
Yet the Korean War has been over since the early fifties.

Over 5,300 U.S. service personnel were left behind within the North Korea former POW campsites since then.  
Yet again our **recommended resolution** is claiming to see that a **an action plan if formed** by the **U.S. DPAA**.

I/we must believe in them in order to get these U.S. remains Caution-home.  
If ruffling a few feathers does it...then let it be so.

Having walked the past battle fields in Vietnam on my return trip helped give me an even greater sense of the USA/VN/DPK/Russia effort to complete this mission within these countries.

I stand by this resolution and hope that you will too.  
Should there be a need for further discussion my phone line is (b)(6)

Until then we respect those appointed with the mission of resolving this all urgent POW/MIA/BNR/DIC case(s) issue.

Respectfully submitted,

(b)(6)

On Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 10:21 AM, <(b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > > wrote:

FYI

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sent: 4/20/2016 10:09:24 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: Resolution information - was sent ot me from Departmet

Not sure what this means exactly, but I figure we managed to ruffle a few feathers.

(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:** 20 Apr 2016 17:03:49 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6)  
 CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6)@sbcglobal.net  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Resolution information - was sent to me from Departmet

I have no problem at all with ruffling feathers, (b)(6) if the basis for the "ruffle" is accurate. Accusing the League and DPAA of abandoning DIC cases in Vietnam is not! I applaud the intention of garnering greater, more rapid attention and results, no doubt of that! 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

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 4/20/2016 2:13:08 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

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

Dear (b)(6)

The date today is 4/20/2016.  
Yet the Korean War has been over since the early fifties.

Over 5,300 U.S. service personnel were left behind within the North Korea former POW campsites since then.

Yet again our **recommended resolution** is claiming to see that a **an action plan if formed** by the **U.S. DPAA**.

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(b)(6)

On Wed, Apr 20, 2016 at 10:21 AM, (b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > > wrote:  
FYI

(b)(6)

---

From: (b)(6)@yahoo.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@yahoo.com >  
To: (b)(6)@sbcglobal.net < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@sbcglobal.net >  
CC: (b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > (b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >  
Sent: 4/20/2016 10:09:24 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: Resolution information - was sent ot me from Departmet

Not sure what this means exactly, but I figure we managed to ruffle a few feathers.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 3 Aug 2016 22:54:58 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV WHS (US);OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office;OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)  
**Cc:** info@judicialwatch.org (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: Status of Freedom of Information Act Request 16-F-0915  
**Attachments:** FOIA Sent To FBI.jpg, 2016 FOIA Request - Follow Up Letter Sent 001.jpg, 2016 FOIA Request - Follow Up Letter Sent 001.jpg, July 25 2016 FOIA Request - Email Traffic Requested 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.

---

Dear Ms. (b)(6):

We have also just filed an appeal to the U.S. Dept. of Defense in follow up to the April 24th 2016 original filing date.

Please advise if the **original DPPAA requested field DPAA JFI/JFR reports** are being blocked by a third party.

Namely the U.S. based NGO also known as the **National League of Families POW/MIA.**

Is there court litigation pending as well here ?

We look forward to hearing back.

Note: That we have also reached out to the Criminal Justice Dept.

(DOJ) Federal Bureau of InvAA estigation as well in this matter ( see attached ).

***Q - Why do we get the feeling here that we are bring given the run around ?***

See **additional** attached letters of **FOIA requests A & B sent**

Thank you.

(b)(6)

cc: Judicial Watch

## FOIA Request Sent To The FBI

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via USPS

August 1, 2016

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Headquarters  
935 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. - 522, I hereby request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation produce the following within **twenty (20) business days**:

Any and all records depicting the names of the then Vietnam wartime Cuban Interrogation Team members who were known to have participated in the interrogation, beatings and at times murder of our captured U.S. personnel also known as Prisoner of War (POW's) within the known POW wartime campsite locations in the north of Vietnam. Please also include any documented events/incidents also recorded during and after wartime by the United States Dept. POW/MIA Joint Field Investigative (JFI) teams. This request includes any shared documents/reports generated by the same U.S. Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and (JPAC) teams.

Per Mr. (b)(6) Director of the Outreach and Communications for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency he goes onto state to us in a letter dated Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Of 2016 to wit:

**The Cuban program refers to the events that happened in Vietnam from July 1967 to August 1968 where a team of Caucasian interrogators believed to be Cuban, brutally beat and tortured (19) American aviators within the many Vietnamese Prisons.**

We call your attention to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum concerning The Freedom of Information Act, in which he states:

All agencies should adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure, in order To renew their commitment to the principles embodied in FOIA...The Presumption of disclosure should be applied to all decisions involving FOIA.

Therefore, please process this request within the above state time frame. Please also advise if there are any fees and if there is any denial.

Thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this effort to once and for all expose those wartime Cuban offenders now known to be living inside the United States and re-confirm the DPAA reports on file.

Respectfully,

  
Gene T. Spanos  
Disabled Police/Fire 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

(b)(6)

[mailto:\(b\)\(6\)@gmail.com](mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com)

Cc: Judicial Watch, 425 Third Street, S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

Sent via Email/USPS

Gene T. Spanos

August 1, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of Freedom of Information Act  
1155 Defense - Pentagon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155  
[Osd.foiapolicy@mail.mil](mailto:Osd.foiapolicy@mail.mil)

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request - Follow Up  
A Compelling Need Provision Added**

Good morning Ms. Carr:

First, thank you again for helping bring light to this issue involving the now missing Dept. of Defense (DPAA) (JFI) field reports generated and involving directly the Vietnam former wartime POW campsite locations in the northern areas of Vietnam with our earlier filed FOIA with your office.

Today, we call on you and your office to now include the term "**a compelling need**" with our July 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 FOIA request in seeking copies of those electronic emails sent/received between the Federal offices of the following personnel from July 2015 to July 2016 and the United States based NGO known as the **National League of Families POW/MIA:**

- Mr. (b)(6) - CIV - DPAA - EC - (US).
- Ms. (b)(6) - Civ - DPAA - EC (Hawaii).
- BG Mark Spindler, Deputy Director, DPAA, (Hawaii).

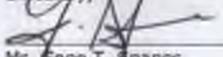
**In summation:**

The term compelling need provides for any request where the need for any requested FOIA documents are of an urgent matter where these same requested documents will be shared with the proper Federal agencies also responsible for all POW/MIA efforts as well as with the nationwide and U.S. Congressional charter based organization known as the American Legion Legislative national committee.

Sadly, there are some U.S. based NGO's that have their own agenda.  
Once again, we thank you and should you have any questions please contact us directly At: (b)(6)

Additionally, should there be a denial of fees attached --please also contact us as well.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Gene T. Spanos  
Complainant

(b)(6)

Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, Dept. of Defense FOIA Policy  
Judicial Watch, 425 Third St., S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via Email & USPS

July 25, 2016

Ms. Stephannie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of the Freedom of Information  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Good morning Ms. Carr:

Pursuant to the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. - 522 I**, Gene T. Spanos hereby requests that the **Dept. of Defense** to include the **Defense Department Prisoner of War/Missing Persons Office (DPMO)** produce the following records within the ( 20 ) business days:

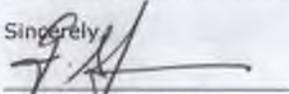
**This is a Freedom of Information Act request asking for copies ( electronic spread sheets ) of all electronic communications - emails involving your 1). Dept. of Defense employees, Mr. (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) Pentagon to include communications with that of 2). The National League of Families , POW/MIA Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths ), 3). Ms. (b)(6) Civ DPAA EC (US) Hawaii DPAA Headquarters and 4). BG Mark Spindler, Deputy Director of the DPAA also involving Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths from the time period of July of 2015 as of this date of July 25, 2016.**

**A Presumption In Favor:**

We call your attention to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum concerning the Freedom of Information Act, in which he states that when in doubt....openness prevails when it pertains to FOIA.

Please advise of any denial along with an fees involved here with our request. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Mr. Gene T. Spanos  
Complainant

(b)(6)

Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, DoD FOIA Policy

On Wed, Aug 3, 2016 at 9:54 AM, (b)(6) CIV WHS (US)  
<(b)(6)@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil >>  
wrote:

Dear Mr. (b)(6)

This email is in reference to your April 24, 2016 Freedom of Information Act request (attached) submitted to our office.

Our office has corresponded with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency regarding the processing of your request. It is estimated that your request will be completed by December 15, 2016. This date is an estimate and the actual completion date may vary from this estimate.

If you have any questions, please contact me, the Action Officer assigned your request, at (b)(6)@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@mail.mil > or (b)(6) > .

(b)(6)

On behalf of (b)(6) for  
Stephanie L. Carr, Chief, Office of Freedom of Information

## FOIA Request Sent To The FBI

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via USPS

August 1, 2016

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Headquarters  
935 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. - 522, I hereby request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation produce the following within **twenty (20) business days**:

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Per Mr.  Director of the Outreach and Communications for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency he goes onto state to us in a letter dated Feb 9<sup>th</sup> of 2016 to wit:

**The Cuban program refers to the events that happened in Vietnam from July 1967 to August 1968 where a team of Caucasian interrogators believed to be Cuban, brutally beat and tortured (19) American aviators within the many Vietnamese Prisons.**

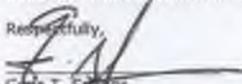
We call your attention to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum concerning The Freedom of Information Act, in which he states:

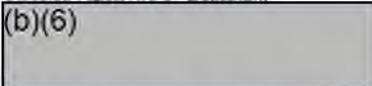
All agencies should adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure, in order to renew their commitment to the principles embodied in FOIA...The Presumption of disclosure should be applied to all decisions involving FOIA.

Therefore, please process this request within the above state time frame. Please also advise if there are any fees and if there is any denial.

Thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this effort to once and for all expose those wartime Cuban offenders now known to be living inside the United States and re-confirm the DPAA reports on file.

Respectfully,

  
Gene T. Spanos  
Disabled Police/Fire 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

  
(b)(6)

Cc: Judicial Watch, 425 Third Street, S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

Sent via Email/USPS

Gene T. Spanos

August 1, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of Freedom of Information Act  
1155 Defense - Pentagon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155  
[Dsd.foiapolicy@mail.mil](mailto:Dsd.foiapolicy@mail.mil)

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request - Follow Up  
A Compelling Need Provision Added**

Good morning Ms. Carr:

First, thank you again for helping bring light to this issue involving the now missing Dept. of Defense (DPAA) (JFI) field reports generated and involving directly the Vietnam former wartime POW campsite locations in the northern areas of Vietnam with our earlier filed FOIA with your office.

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- Mr. (b)(6) - CIV - DPAA - EC - (US).
- Ms. (b)(6) Civ - DPAA - EC (Hawaii).
- BG Mark Spindler, Deputy Director, DPAA, (Hawaii).

**In summation:**

The term compelling need provides for any request where the need for any requested FOIA documents are of an urgent matter where these same requested documents will be shared with the proper Federal agencies also responsible for all POW/MIA efforts as well as with the nationwide and U.S. Congressional charter based organization known as the American Legion Legislative national committee.

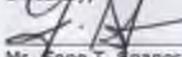
Sadly, there are some U.S. based NGO's that have their own agenda.

Once again, we thank you and should you have any questions please contact us directly

At (b)(6)

Additionally, should there be a denial of fees attached --please also contact us as well.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Gene T. Spanos  
Complainant

(b)(6)

Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, Dept. of Defense FOIA Policy  
Judicial Watch, 425 Third St., S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

Sent via Email/USPS

Gene T. Spanos

August 1, 2016

Ms. Stephannie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of Freedom of Information Act  
1155 Defense - Pentagon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155  
[Dsd.foiapolicy@mail.mil](mailto:Dsd.foiapolicy@mail.mil)

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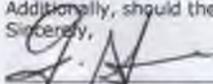
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Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, Dept. of Defense FOIA Policy  
Judicial Watch, 425 Third St., S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via Email & USPS

July 25, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of the Freedom of Information  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Good morning Ms. Carr:

Pursuant to the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. - 522 I**, Gene T. Spanos hereby requests that the **Dept. of Defense** to include the **Defense Department Prisoner of War/Missing Persons Office (DPMO)** produce the following records within the ( 20 ) business days:

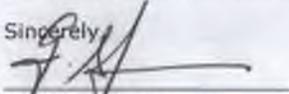
**This is a Freedom of Information Act request asking for copies ( electronic spread sheets ) of all electronic communications - emails involving your 1). Dept. of Defense employees, Mr. (b)(6), CIV DPAA EC (US) Pentagon to include communications with that of 2). The National League of Families , POW/MIA Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths ), 3). Ms. (b)(6) Civ DPAA EC (US) Hawaii DPAA Headquarters and 4). BG Mark Spindler, Deputy Director of the DPAA also involving Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths from the time period of July of 2015 as of this date of July 25, 2016.**

**A Presumption In Favor:**

We call your attention to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum concerning the Freedom of Information Act, in which he states that when in doubt.....openness prevails when it pertains to FOIA.

Please advise of any denial along with an fees involved here with our request. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Mr. Gene T. Spanos  
Complainant

(b)(6)

Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, DoD FOIA Policy

# FOIA Request Sent To The FBI

**Gene T. Spanos**

**Sent via USPS**

August 1, 2016

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Headquarters  
935 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. - 522, I hereby request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation produce the following within **twenty (20) business days**:

Any and all records depicting the names of the then Vietnam wartime Cuban Interrogation Team members who were known to have participated in the interrogation, beatings and at times murder of our captured U.S. personnel also known as Prisoner of War (POW's) within the known POW wartime campsite locations in the north of Vietnam. Please also include any documented events/incidents also recorded during and after wartime by the United States Dept. POW/MIA Joint Field Investigative (JFI) teams. This request includes any shared documents/reports generated by the same U.S. Dept. of POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and (JPAC) teams.

Per Mr. (b)(6) Director of the Outreach and Communications for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency he goes onto state to us in a letter dated Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Of 2016' to wit;

**The Cuban program refers to the events that happened in Vietnam From July 1967 to August 1968 where a team of Caucasian interrogators Believed to be Cuban, Brutally beat and tortured (19) American aviators Within the many Vietnamese Prisons.**

We call your attention to President Obama's January 21, 2009 Memorandum concerning The Freedom of Information Act, in which he states:

All agencies should adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure, in order To renew their commitment to the principles embodied in FOIA...The Presumption of disclosure should be applied to all decisions involving FOIA.

Therefore, please process this request within the above state time frame. Please also advise if there are any fees and if there is any denial.

Thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this effort to once and for all expose those wartime Cuban offenders now known to be living inside the United States and re-confirm the DPAA reports on file.

Respectfully,

  
Gene T. Spanos  
Disabled Police/Fire 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

(b)(6)

Cc: Judicial Watch, 425 Third Street, S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

**Sent via Email/USPS**

**Gene T. Spanos**

August 1, 2016

Ms. Stephannie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
Office of Freedom of Information Act  
1155 Defense - Pentagon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155  
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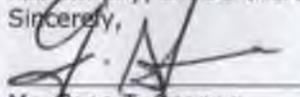
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**In summation:**

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Once again, we thank you and should you have any questions please contact us directly  
At (b)(6)

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August 1, 2016

Ms. Stephannie Carr  
Chief  
Dept. of Defense  
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[Osd.foiapolicy@mail.mil](mailto:Osd.foiapolicy@mail.mil)

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**In summation:**

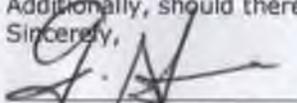
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Judicial Watch, 425 Third St., S.W. Ste 800, Washington, D.C. 20024

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via Email & USPS

July 25, 2016

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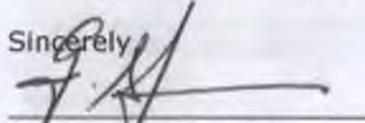
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Sincerely,

  
Mr. Gene T. Spanos  
Complainant

(b)(6)

**Cc: Mr. James P. Hogan, Chief, DoD FOIA Policy**

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 20 May 2016 05:52:54 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: What Can We Expect - Wheels Down In Hanoi and More...  
**Attachments:** Here we go again 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.

---

Ann - Where's the poof ?  
Failure is not an option anymore.  
Going out and into those former wartime  
POW camp sites and turning over every rock....  
checking the immediate area cemeteries is a must.  
Yet.....no results.  
And now this approach for weapons for the VN  
so they can flex their muscle towards the Chinese and NK?  
Unacceptable! Explain this new approach at your dinner next month!  
Sit down with a group of VN veterans and further explain this new  
strategy.

(b)(6)

Ann- Can you find MIA's in this narrative?

# Obama mulls weapons sales to Vietnam

At least a partial lift of ban on the table as U.S. looks to counter China's influence

By CHERYL FARROW, MICHAEL A. MORRIS AND W.J. DENNINGTON  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is considering broadly expanding weapons sales to Vietnam in a move aimed at strengthening ties with Hanoi and boosting regional defenses against China's growing clout.

As Obama prepares to visit Vietnam this weekend, U.S. officials say he is leaning toward a partial lift — but has not ruled out a full suspension — of a ban on arms sales to Vietnam and North Vietnam that has been in place since 1975.

In the 1990s, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo with an executive directive to his agencies but left in place restrictions imposed by Congress to prohibit sales of weapons and certain high-technology material. The countries received diplomatic rela-

tions with its neighbors.

Obama has not made a final decision, administration officials say. But the change would mark a dramatic upgrade in U.S. relations with an authoritarian Communist government that the State Department considers a major abuser of human rights.

White House concerns about Vietnam's lack of progress on civil liberties and political freedoms have held up a decision to end the ban on arms sales — first imposed on North Vietnam in 1994 and later extended to cover the entire country after the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government fell in 1975.

In the 1990s, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo with an executive directive to his agencies but left in place restrictions imposed by Congress to prohibit sales of weapons and certain high-technology material. The countries received diplomatic rela-



The president will decide whether to lift a full-time arms ban on North Vietnam or Asia.

with arms sales to Vietnam.

Vietnam was busy with its military equipment from Russia. Lifting the embargo would be a boost to U.S. arms makers as Hanoi looks to modernize its 2001-03 arsenal.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a Vietnam veteran and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he supports Obama's move to lift the embargo and that Hanoi will grant the U.S. Navy greater access to Cam Ranh Bay. McCain said it's time for Washington to fully lift the ban on arms sales.

Defense administration officials have pushed Vietnam to improve its treatment of political foes and say more arms sales to Vietnam are a good thing.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) has expressed concern about lifting the embargo, and Obama would "send a not-too-subtle message to China at a time when it is threatening regional stability in the South China Sea."

"It is a good idea to open the door to the sale of limited equipment," Leahy said. "These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis — and should reflect an assessment of the relevant factors including progress by the Vietnamese government in protecting human rights."

China Sea.

National security experts say China is unlikely to back down on expanded U.S. weapons sales to neighboring Vietnam, or warm ties between Hanoi and Washington.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee last month that he would support lifting restrictions on the subject.

The committee's draft of the national defense authorization bill includes language that encourages lifting the ban. It would create a process to review Vietnam's progress on human rights and to assess the

impact on U.S. foreign military financing this year to five small patrol boats, communication gear, equipment and English-language training. Obama now is looking at expanding other parts of the ban, according to senior defense officials and others involved in the deliberations.

Close military ties between the two former enemies date back to Obama's steady push since 2001 for a strategic U.S. "pivot" toward Asia and the Pacific.

The administration also has urged China to work territorial disputes with Vietnam and other countries in the resource-rich South

I GUESS THE U.S. MISSING MIA'S KICKED TO THE CURB.

(b)(6)

On Thu, May 19, 2016 at 10:21 PM, (b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > wrote:

Not so, (b)(6) Ambassador Osius is doing a great job and is very supportive. I'm sorry you don't recognize it. Ann

Ann Mills-Griffiths  
Chairman & CEO  
National League of POW/MIA Families  
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-465-7432 < tel: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 5/19/2016 10:29:19 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, (b)(6)@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com > writes:

Ann - This ambassador needs to go. Just my professional opinion.

If special permission is needed for our US DPAA JFI teams to interview those former VN guards.....then why have we not had that special permission by now ?

(b)(6)

On Thu, May 19, 2016 at 4:31 PM, (b)(6)@aol.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com > > wrote:

Apparently you think this is helpful? If so, how? Why?

Ann Mills-Griffiths  
Chairman & CEO  
National League of POW/MIA Families  
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-465-7432 < tel: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 < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@gmail.com >  
Sent: 5/17/2016 1:13:43 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: What Can We Expect - Wheels Down In Hanoi and More...

(b)(6)

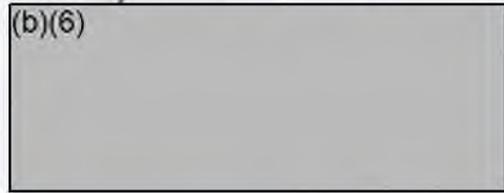
May 16, 2016

#### **It's Time To Upgrade**

With this years annual National League of Families gathering we want to extend to them all the best. Yet, the year is 2016' and it appears that with the current levels of resistance by the SRV we can only expect the same for next year's progress report. Next we are facing the same kind of response while we wait for proof by the Joint Field Investigative - DPAA teams that they performed their JFI duties within the former Vietnam Wartime POW prison - camps. When you expect success while you keep doing the same thing - the same way...then how can we expect any type of success in locating those Americans that died in captivity and more. When you keep playing chess and yet only show four pieces at a time in stead of the whole board....then you are fooling just yourself. In this case ( FOIA ) pending filed/served on the U.S. Dept. of Defense we can only expect at this point that the SRV will remain steadfast in demanding full reimbursement for the negative wartime spraying of then Agent Orange and it's side effects on the people and it's water table. This is the blocking force that will never weaken until the USG comes about and writes the check. U.S. remains have been known in the past as to have been stored with being chemically treated for storage. Yet again the arrival of Air Force One on the Hanoi tarmac shortly this month will only help ring up the anti for our MIA's and JFI efforts.

One cannot roam Vietnam and knock on doors asking for help as explained to us most recently. Yet again when will the current U.S. Ambassador grow a pair and demand that they (SRV) needs to open it's communities/boarders to our U.S. JFI teams. Let's take our feet off the desks and pick up the phones in order to clear the proper permission to go out and revisit these former hell holes for our POW's. When you cannot get your men around the bases.. then it's time to send in a new pitcher. When Naval Adm. Bill Halsey replaced his best friend from the Naval Academy at Guadalcanal the Naval Admiral Gormley asked why he was being replaced and what did I do wrong ? Adm. Halsey stated, you did nothing wrong, you just got her first. Let's hope that POTUS visit will be productive. What we don't need is side show or POTUS can already classify this trip as " operation dinner out ".

(b)(6)



Ann- Can you find MIA's in this narrative?

# Obama mulls weapons sales to Vietnam

At least a partial lift of ban on the table as U.S. looks to counter China's influence

By **COURT PARKINS**, **MICHAEL S. MORRIS** AND **W.J. HENNINGER**  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is considering broadly expanding weapons sales to Vietnam, a move aimed at strengthening ties with Hanoi and boosting regional defense against China's growing clout.

An Obama proposal to ease Vietnam this weekend, U.S. officials say, is being worked on a partial lift — but has not ruled out a full suspension — of a ban on arms sales begun during the U.S. war in Vietnam and solidified in 2004.

At the same time, the Vietnamese government is requesting a request to grant the U.S. Navy greater access to Cam Ranh Bay, a major supply point for the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, and a port with deep waters in its recently reclaimed islands in

the South China Sea.

Obama has not made a final decision, administration officials say. But the change would mark a dramatic upgrade in U.S. relations with an authoritarian Communist government that the State Department considers a justice abuser of human rights.

White House concerns about Vietnam's lack of progress on civil liberties and political freedoms have held up a decision to end the ban on arms sales — first imposed on North Vietnam in 1964 and later extended to cover the entire country after the U.S. backed South Vietnamese government fell in 1975.

In the 2000s, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo with an executive directive to his agencies but left in place restrictions imposed by Congress to prohibit sale of weapons and certain high technology exports. The restrictions imposed diplomatic rela-



The president will decide whether to lift a ban first imposed in 1964 on Vietnam or total.

tions in 1995.

In 2011, Obama eased restrictions on sales of non-lethal surveillance and security equipment to Vietnam. That change has allowed the sale of U.S. patrol boats with mounted machine guns, search-and-rescue vessels and naval communications aircraft.

Last June, the U.S. pledged \$3 billion to help Vietnam buy American-made Mistral-class patrol boats, a deal that came through after a Chinese navy ship rammed a Vietnamese patrol boat in the South China Sea.

U.S. officials say Vietnam is expected to use about \$22

million to U.S. foreign military financing this year to buy small patrol boats, communications equipment and English language training. Obama now is looking at weapons and other parts of the deal, according to senior defense officials and others involved in the deliberations.

China's military has been the top buyer of U.S. arms since Obama's state visit since 2009, but a strategic U.S. "pivot" toward Asia and the Pacific.

The administration also has urged China to curb territorial disputes with Vietnam and other countries in the increasingly busy South

China Sea.

National security experts say China is unlikely to look favorably on expanded U.S. weapons sales to neighboring Vietnam, in part because of the tensions between Hanoi and Washington.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee last month that he would support lifting restrictions on the sale of weapons.

The committee's draft of the national defense authorization bill includes language that encourages lifting the ban. It would create a process to review Vietnam's progress on human rights and to waive the

ban if the committee finds that it would be in the national interest to do so.

Obama's decision on the matter will be a test of his administration's willingness to ease restrictions on arms sales to Vietnam, a move aimed at strengthening ties with Hanoi and boosting regional defense against China's growing clout.

Obama has not made a final decision, administration officials say. But the change would mark a dramatic upgrade in U.S. relations with an authoritarian Communist government that the State Department considers a justice abuser of human rights.

I GUESS THE U.S. MISSING M.B. KICKED TO THE CURB.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

August 5, 2016

**Sent via Email & USPS**

**Mr. Ash Carter**

Hon. Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

**Director**

Department of POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

**Re: Letter of Concern  
(MEL) Master Excavation List  
Vietnam/ Former POW Camp Site Locations and More**

Good morning Secretary Carter:

Today we read where the noted current **(MEL) Master Excavation List** still wait scheduling to proceed. Some of these noted case sites have been waiting for years?

Next I take exception to the worded invitation by the former Col. (b)(6) in his June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 statement by inviting the National League's arm of **"indispensable success"** into the continued effort to locate and return our missing in action. The national League has yet to be open and truthful when it comes to our missing. It has been known for some time that the **continued conspiracy** involving the **League and others within the DoD** have kept the secret that the VN did in fact store U.S. remains underground after being chemically treated against potential deterioration.

Just recently, the American Legion to include our resolution that is under construction for our August national convention --was a victim of a **"political hit job"** at that by the Mrs. Griffiths.

Mr. Secretary, the National League POW/MIA remains **too close to you** and the United States effort in bringing our U.S. missing back home from all wars. Shut down the **speed dial and full access?**

Why Is the National League Meeting With These VN Officials When No Efforts Have Been Accomplished? To Revisit The POW Camp Site Locations In The North For The **DIC Remains** Are Buried In The Many **Unmarked Graves?** Still?

**Wasted tax dollar donations here as well in travel fees plus again and again.**



**Page Two**  
**Letter of Complaint**  
**SecDef Mr. Ash Carter**

Here we have hand holding with the Deputy Director of the DPAA...?  
Can we ask for his **electronic email** traffic to ensure our allegations here?  
Between these two? Over the last year? We have!  
Friends or influential buds?



**Mr. Secretary**, It's time to **cut off** their working connections with your offices and allow **our teams only** full access to these named areas of concern where many of our brave Americans remain buried in unmarked graves.

The continued **blocking of veterans organizations** to access and support.....remains key here when it comes to **ongoing interference by the league period.**

In closing, Mrs. Griffith further believes that she owns the DPAA and all unclassified information as well as classified information as well. **We believe strongly that she is blocking all FOIA request to gain the evidence needed to bring this investigation into light.**

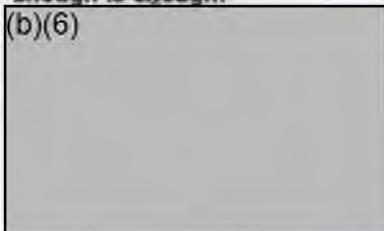
It must be noted here that Ret. Col. (b)(6) USA did a great job for our country. Yet today he's providing cover and concealment for the league and Mrs. Griffith's hidden agenda. (See his June 2016 report posted on file with the league).

We, those of us that served and sweated and fought in that war deserve better. So do those who died and remain buried in the many unmarked graves sir.

Respect it a two way street. The only problem--the League believe that they own that street called the Pentagon Way.

**Enough is enough!**

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

**League Senior Policy Advisor  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
June 23, 2016  
Hilton Crystal City Hotel**

Ann, board members, family members, veterans, current and former officials, I'm delighted you showed up again for another boring speech from me.....and in the vernacular, a proud legacy thinker.

Today's presentation had to be revised extensively due to the completely unexpected resignation of Mike Linnington. I will provide my views on that at the conclusion of my remarks.

It has been an eventful year on this issue, both here and abroad. Two years ago, and last year, I highlighted the US-Vietnam bilateral relationship growing increasingly close and the potentially positive impact on POW/MIA cooperation. I also highlighted the upcoming reshuffle of the leadership in Hanoi, with the hope that many of our supportive interlocutors would be elevated or retained.

I was encouraged to see the new line-up in the Ministry of Public Security where To Lam, a long-time interlocutor, was selected to head the ministry. Similar was the retention of Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh, another official we have dealt with repeatedly over the years. He remains in his key position as Deputy Minister of National Defense. He is the primary Ministry of Defense official carrying out the mutual decision to raise the level of bilateral military-to-military relations. The latest evidence of the enhanced relationship is the recently announced decision by the administration to lift the US ban on selling military hardware to Vietnam.

I'm reminded of my former NSC colleague, Admiral Dennis Blair, who later became CINCPAC. He and I consulted long after my retirement to the private sector on his attempts in 2002 to gain access to Cam Ranh Bay. Timing is everything and, significantly today, polls indicate that 78% of the Vietnamese view the US favorably.

In Laos, several promotions of personnel well known to us were also announced, including promotion of former Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisolith to be Prime Minister, and he continues to serve on the politburo. Key figures now in ministerial positions have previously served in Washington as the Lao Ambassador, including H.E. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, now Minister in the President's Office and in position to advise newly named President Bounnhang Vorachith.

In both countries, the promotion of these officials well known to us and to senior US officials is a good omen. These encouraging promotions were supplemented by visits to Hanoi by Secretary of Defense Carter, the Secretary of State and, most recently, by the President. In addition, the President had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia at the Sunnylands Conference in Palm Springs, California.

Very importantly, Laos will be hosting the ASEAN Ministerials later this year which will provide more opportunities for bilateral discussions with each of the countries of specific interest to the Vietnam War accounting mission. That hosting responsibility, in itself, has meant and will mean a series of senior level bilateral discussions in preparation.

Public reporting of these visits only provided general references to the POW/MIA accounting issue as one that will continue to be pursued. The League provided substantive input for each, but there has been a lack of adequate feedback on possible new initiatives. Hopefully, discussions on this issue reflected a renewed emphasis on how to cooperate on measures, both joint and unilateral, to achieve the fullest possible accounting.

Given the movement from a strategic relationship to a comprehensive one, as defined by Vietnam, this is an opportunity and an atmosphere that should not be missed. 2015 was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date we reached agreement for, and executed, the first joint excavation in Vietnam. For many years, we found a tunnel at the end of the light in our negotiations. I believe we may now finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Sounds like Yogi Berra who remarked, "The future ain't what it used to be."

But excavations aren't the complete answer; it is critical for our government to recognize that in order to achieve the fullest possible accounting, our experts cannot be restricted to crash and burial site excavations, but need to encompass several well known mission areas. As a refresher course for us all, I would like to briefly review them.

First, the MEL, or Master Excavation List: this is a dynamic list of cases awaiting a scheduling decision to proceed. Most of these cases are ready, all necessary investigations and surveys have been completed, and some have been on the MEL for years, even a decade or more. Others are considered active, meaning in various stages, some requiring more investigation or analysis of information previously obtained. This category encompasses many of the remaining Died-in-Captivity cases, some of which are still under investigation.

There are many other considerations, from access-related questions, to personnel and equipment availability and, very importantly, evaluation of circumstances related to team safety. As questions are answered, some may be added to the MEL. Others may be dropped based on new information but, if dropped, a detailed explanation is required to be provided to the family concerned.

Last known alive cases: this has been and is the highest priority for the US for obvious reasons. Initially, it was based on our own incident-related knowledge and intelligence holdings, Vietnamese statements, archives, refugee information, etc., and resolution of these cases is a prime indicator of US/Vietnamese cooperation.

Beginning in the 1980s, based upon bilateral discussions with Vietnam, archival information received, detailed analysis and field investigations and surveys, the list began to come down. In many cases, the answer came with repatriation and identification of remains, meaning the accounting was obtained. Fate determinations were made on others which removed them from the list, but without accountability, the next category.

Solved LKA cases with no remains: In other cases, as noted, the list was reduced with evidence-based determinations. Logically, since these personnel were captured or in close proximity to hostile forces, it is assumed that more information or remains should be available. Resolving LKA status means that the individual was determined to be deceased, thus off the LKA list. However, unless the evidence suggested remains were unrecoverable, continued priority is, or should be, placed on remains recovery and repatriation as a discrepancy case.

Removal from the LKA list does not account for the individual unless remains are repatriated and identified or convincing information is obtained as to why this is not possible. In all determinations, the individual remains on the unaccounted-for list. In this instance, the family concerned must be fully informed.

Underwater recoveries: Sites have now been identified in shallow waters along the coastline that will need to be exploited, and there is renewed hope here, given the increased military-to-military relationship and the possible deployment of more advanced US assets, as well as increased Vietnamese capability.

Off-the-scope losses: These are the most difficult cases, with no ground or air witnesses, nor radar tracks, and communications are inconclusive. In such cases, the US is almost totally reliant on Vietnam to help with military/civilian witnesses, investigations, archives and other unilateral efforts, now also including unilateral Vietnamese investigations. Certainly, efforts to acquire former USSR and PRC records and eye-witnesses should be pursued as well.

Unilateral return of recovered remains: This has been a significant priority of the accounting effort with Vietnam beginning in the 1980s after Hanoi finally acknowledged to me – at the Ministerial Level – in 1985 that they had a remains recovery and storage system. Multiple studies have been conducted on this question which generally reduced US expectations – though I would note – in the 1990s, and related to normalization efforts, US analysts were under considerable political pressure to reduce accounting expectations from this source.

One Vietnamese official in a position to know told our officials that remains fragments were still in their possession in the 1990s. Some remains could also still be in the possession of private citizens or local officials, and some of the fragments previously unidentified from unilateral turnovers, as well as remains fragments, if still available from the Vietnamese, hold promise for future identification using next-generation DNA and other technological advances made over the ensuing years.

Archives: A consistent focus in the earlier years on this question and continuously by the League during our trips to Vietnam and Laos has resulted in valuable information. This has been supplemented by obtaining published works by war-era authors in Vietnam, monitored by DIA's Stony Beach Vietnam specialists, as well as private researchers Jay Veith and Merle Pribbenow.

During the end of the first Bush administration, a significant turnover of documents was made and occurred during the tenure of the Senate Select Committee in 1991-92. Public declaration that this was all that might be available, and the remainder was likely eaten by insects, was put to rest by Vietnamese responses to our League delegation in 2012, resulting in another 60 new documents. They have provided some useful information, though over 95% of the documents previously received in conjunction with the Select Committee have proven not to pertain to our missing.

In Laos, for reasons likely known to all, we have lower expectations related to availability of archives. The US does have reports indicating the Lao government sent some of their records to Vietnam for safekeeping. And, on our last trip, the Lao agreed to League requests to try again, both unilaterally and with the Vietnamese, to locate them. This opening does not appear to have been followed up by the current DPAA leadership. In addition, it is more likely that Vietnamese records should be available on losses in Laos and Cambodia. Up to 90% of US losses occurred in Vietnamese controlled territory.

In a 1986 Indochina Foreign Ministers Conference, they pledged to turn over to each other any available information and, if the purported US hostile policy ends, they would be prepared. There is no longer a hostile policy – it is time to fulfill this pledge.

None of the above categories are new to the issue and have been pursued with varying degrees of energy over the years, and Mike Linnington is also very much aware of these challenges. While crash site investigations and excavations are a critical and necessary priority, a renewed effort on these areas needs to be pursued simultaneously to reach our goal of fullest possible accounting. As noted before, the current atmosphere seems to beg a comprehensive agreement be forged with the Vietnamese to close the gaps in our databases and define unilateral and joint efforts needed in each area.

Ann and I provided this recommendation with details on the categories for Mike's trip to Vietnam. Reportedly, it was not proposed. Ann made the same recommendation to the National Security Advisor at the White House meeting in preparation for President Obama's trip. Apparently it was not done, or at least there has been no mention by anyone. In the current environment, I believe we are missing a strategic opportunity on the issue if this recommendation is not pursued vigorously.

There are ambiguities in all of these areas, and we must be careful of reaching premature conclusions based on our own database, without an open, comprehensive consultation process with the Vietnamese that befits the current atmosphere. Someone remarked that a wise person is confident, but not certain. We should be confident of progress in these areas but, based on our existing knowledge, we are not wise if we are certain of the outcome.

Such a broad initiative with Vietnam will require use of our dedicated research and analysis personnel, our casualty resolutions specialists, and DIA's Stony Beach Team, supplemented by private researchers. This cadre has long been devoted to the mission, many for decades, and was the core personnel I relied upon in the 1980s, as field operators, political figures and management personnel came and went every few years. This core of dedicated specialists came at the issue like a cold case, and their objective was to resolve a case and get answers for the families, not simply find a way to close it.

We have numerous examples of how persistent, strong follow-up has led to the accounting for individual cases, multiple follow-up through multiple channels. Let me provide one: an off-the-scope loss that JPAC had not been able to locate with two investigations. A Research Investigation Team, or RIT, interviewed Vietnamese veterans who knew about the crash site and saw remains, but were unsuccessful in relocating the site. Stony Beach developed a witness in a village who had remains and personal affects that belonged to the missing man, but he refused to turn them over. He subsequently relented and, on a follow-up, Stony Beach obtained additional remains and information. The remains were later identified and given an honorable burial by the family. This effort covered almost eight years, and other examples are plentiful. Even lengthier efforts and more investigations have resulted in successful excavations.

As pressures arise in the coming years to close cases and move on, they must be resisted by ensuring the cases are resolved as fully as possible – this is all the families desire – and this is what the families deserve. In such an environment, the families are the greatest insurance policy against premature closure of the case. Learn it well, and insure that any change in status, such as removal from the MEL or a change of classification

counterparts. Their observations are collective and don't appear in case narratives; thus, their importance in meetings to decide case categories, basis for next steps, further investigations, and any collective studies to evaluate the best course of action to resolve a case. They have a sense when we are being led astray, what is relevant and what is not, so the focus can be on the vital.

Conclusions that are not based on a complete effort will be vigorously opposed by the families and veteran groups, will result in negative publicity, and ensure more unwelcome intrusion by the Congress. Too often, the experienced veterans who worked on this issue were blamed for the mosquitoes, when former policy-makers didn't clean up the standing water in their own backyard. I experienced this in the 1980s. We should not judge DPAA by the mosquitoes from the past, but how they are killing mosquitoes and draining the standing water without creating a new pool. No one was perfect on this issue and mistakes occur. More than once, at the NSC, I heard cries of "clean up on aisle three" but we were determined to clean up the aisle.

Mike Linnington inherited this enormous responsibility as the head of DPAA. He inherited a transition effort that appeared to be building the Titanic and the iceberg...simultaneously. He had pledged to stay ten years in this policy position which would exceed my eight year record in POW/MIA policy. I told him early on that this would be the toughest job he had ever held, and it would be a tough job whether one's background is military or civilian. He is now leaving unexpectedly and going to a much less challenging position.

He reached the goal of establishing DPAA on time, an accomplishment in itself, if still a fragile work in progress, as he acknowledges. He battled for funds and personnel, coordinated with the major theater commanders, reorganized three previously separate POW/MIA elements under one agency, dealt with the new emphasis on WWII, Cold War and Korean War, on top of the ongoing Vietnam War priority, intervened personally in some individual cases, battled erroneous media reporting, and made initial trips to Southeast Asia, Europe, Russia and elsewhere, along with attendance at family updates and annual meetings. He has spearheaded, along with (b)(6) the aggressive establishment of public/private, now characterized as strategic, partnerships. But this should only have been the beginning of his effort, not the end.

The most productive public/private partnership I have witnessed on this issue has been with you, the National League of Families. We saw attempts to circumscribe the League during the normalization process by eliminating the IAG and making POW/MIA policy papers pre-decisional documents, draft working papers, sensitive or FOUO, simply as a method to avoid consultation with the League. It was a self-defeating drill, as the League has many sources that were used to let them know what was happening. In terms well understood by my military colleagues, we found the League securing our flanks from conspiracy and cover-up forces and misinformation artists.

The League was on point at the FEBA (forward edge of the battlefield) and in the opposing forces headquarters providing us critical information; they were in the rear areas pressing for greater support from other military activities and the congress. They conducted psychological operations through effective public diplomacy strategy, based on facts, and they participated in strategic planning at all levels. In Naval terms, the League provided the ballast. This critical role was rejected by Mr. Linnington. He simply felt informing the League of decisions rendered was adequate. Inclusion involves consulting before decisions are made – and history has demonstrated it is the path to real success and real partnership.

It took me almost two years of studying the past, and consultations across the government and with the League and veteran groups, until I felt I could write a comprehensive national strategy. I had the full backing and active interest of the President, several National Security Advisors I worked for, the Secretaries of State and Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We also had an Interagency Group, or IAG, where everyone could meet regularly, exchange ideas, resolve conflicts, and talk informally across the table and divide the workload between the White House, State, Defense, JCS and DIA and, yes, a critical player, the National League of Families.

Mike has none of these advantages, which made his domestic challenge even greater and, in such an environment, makes the League's role even more critical to success. While the initial transition under the PACT, and with The Clearing, broke much china needlessly, the breakage has decreased somewhat, but still exists. They need to recognize that if you topple a regime on Wednesday, you need a plan for Thursday. The League and the veteran groups gave him their full support, as did I.

The League and the veterans groups were gratified that Mr. Linnington recognized the centrality and priority of the Vietnam war effort, given it is the most recent war with more nuclear family members affected, hard-fought agreements reached with the governments involved that needed to be maintained, the acidity of the soil that is destroying remains, the aging cadre of witnesses who are dying and, importantly, the lack of access to the battlefield at the conclusion of hostilities and a clear record of holding back critical information by the governments post-war.

The new mission encompassing WWII losses doesn't have these features, but has its challenges as well. Multiple thousands are known to be unrecoverable, deep-sea losses, and many listed as unaccounted-for are buried as unknowns in national cemeteries in Hawaii and around the world. Others may be recoverable who were missed after WWII ended, and they are being pursued by DPAA, along with newly established public/private, or strategic, partnerships.

An interesting parallel is possible comparing the newly involved WWII families, many of whom never knew the missing relative, and the newly involved "children" of the Vietnam War missing whose parents had been active for years. Having not been involved, they were often uninformed or easily vulnerable to misinformation. A few turned to pursuing conspiracy theorists and con artists, fraudulent fundraisers and cross-border forays, led by "beer can commandos." Despite the evident priority, the private operators exploited families and appeared to be in a medically induced coma for several years. They must have exhausted their therapists. All were misguided activities that delayed viable cooperation to gain answers and complicated negotiations to expedite accounting. People newly involved in a movement get emotional about it. You can see this in the current political season.

The League actively reached out to Korean War and World War II families, attempting to help them organize, and spent enormous amounts of time and energy trying to help them, intervening with governments – foreign and domestic – on their behalf. These newly involved family members are unaware of the history, and some are objecting to DPAA maintaining priority on Vietnam War accounting. This, despite more effort on their behalf than at any time since the end of WWII.

In research on my family history, I have relatives who fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, WWI, and 44 who served in WWII, followed by service in Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I can say, conclusively, based on the compelling reasons for the priority on Vietnam War accounting set out earlier, I would, if required, put you and your need for answers before any of my relatives that were unaccounted-for from WWII. But this is a false choice. The DPAA efforts on WWII are clearly unprecedented.

One could expect more pressures on this question and, if the priority is lessened due to this, it would result in a loss of confidence in the effort, not only from the families of those missing and unaccounted-for in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, but also the major national veteran groups which support the existing DPAA emphasis. They agree with the stated DPAA mission statement: "The mission is not about numbers, it is about the fullest possible accounting of all Americans who are still missing from past conflicts dating back to World War II. We will stay the course with this mission until the job is done."

This mission must be defended publicly and vigorously. You do not change a well-thought-out policy based on irrational rants or congressional letters. We can't detract from the long-term goals to react to the cause of the day. It is logical, reasonable and completely defensible to the public and Congress. A public diplomacy strategy may be needed in the future to explain the policy to the public. In addition, if the pressure grows, the answer is simple, provide me more funds and personnel, but, at current levels, the priority and operational strategy are maintained.

In summation, a glimpse into the future holds both hope and challenge. Hope that the new line-up in countries of concern increases their cooperation in consonance with the current atmosphere. Hope that our government recognizes the opportunity and seizes it. Hope that DPAA continues to refine its effort to build on the strengths of their staff specialists, including their experienced staff with years of negotiations behind them, like (b)(6)

(b)(6) and (b)(6)

You can hope that recognition comes that outreach to the League by informing of decisions already made is much less effective than consulting in advance. Hope that personal caring penetrates to all levels of DPAA and, finally, hope that efforts at standardization do not overcome management by exception that recognizes the difference in wars. They are different, their history is different, and many of the tools to resolve them are different as well. Attempts to put square pegs into round holes will damage both the pegs and the holes.

The challenges encompass a mirror image of the above, plus the dangers of irrational public pressure to shift resources and personnel prematurely from Vietnam War accounting efforts, budget reductions due to spending constraints on the defense department, compassion fatigue within the government, and changes in policy by a new administration. The League and veteran groups have a key role in countering these, if they should develop, and all should understand such has happened in the past.

To the families, I ask you to continue to support DPAA, as they face an even more challenging, evolving mission, especially with the resignation of Mike Linnington. To the newly involved government personnel, I ask you to see the League as an indispensable resource to make you a success. They have been here since 1970, and a revised Burmese proverb is applicable: "A wise person's first-hand account of an event is closer to the truth than the report of someone who later ran to see what happened."

In consideration of a replacement for Mr. Linnington, I would note that military experience may be necessary, but is insufficient qualification for the job. We have learned that over the years. What is needed is judgment, political-military experience, maturity, the ability to communicate, negotiate and have a personal commitment and experience on the issue. Importantly, he, or she, needs to have demonstrated an appreciation of the strengths and core importance of the experienced civilian workforce in DPAA and DIA. This issue cannot afford another year of on-the-job training for a new leader of DPAA. Someone needs to be selected who has demonstrated these virtues in past assignments on this issue, is known and trusted by the families, and is a known, respected interlocutor with concerned foreign officials. As the Director also told relevant foreign officials that he would their counterpart for ten years, he/she has to quickly establish continuity. They welcomed his pledge, as they, too, have complained in the past about the lack of knowledge and continuity of US leaders. They expressed disappointment about US officials who didn't know the history of the issue or past understandings and agreements.

Such candidates exist; they need to be identified and a consensus candidate needs to be nominated by the League leadership, backed by the major veteran groups and forwarded to the administration. A major credibility problem for the Defense Department and the Administration has arisen with the Linnington resignation. Traditional vetting of candidates with no prior experience on the issue is another recipe for disaster. I should note as well that rank achieved on active duty should not be a guiding factor in this process. A flag officer would be desirable, if and only if, he/she meets the above criteria. We should remember that Secretary of Defense Hagel was an enlisted soldier in Vietnam, and other cabinet officials and NSC advisors were successful without being major combat commanders.

General Linnington will be heading an NGO supporting wounded warriors. This is a worthwhile activity being pursued by multiple NGOs across the nation. The Vietnam experience was largely responsible for the improvements in evacuation and medical advances for traumatic combat wounds that these veterans suffered.

When I was in Vietnam, we were experiencing 500-600 KIAs each week, and many died of similar injuries. The same can be said of those missing. If the League had not kept the issue alive post-Vietnam War, we would not have the institutional priority of "leaving no man behind," and Korean/World War II accounting would not be on the national agenda.

I wish Mike well in his new, much less challenging post, but his sudden departure has set the issue back once again, especially given his previous stance that this was an abiding priority for him. But, in the final analysis, history will briefly note his one-year tour as a shooting star that appeared briefly during a 40-50 year quest to achieve the fullest possible accounting.

Ann and I endorsed him fully, and Ann transmitted this to the veteran groups. Mike Linnington had their full support as well, and many now feel he threw them under the bus, especially the families who had high hopes. Ann has especially suffered the past year for pointing out errors to him, and those who communicated with her were also penalized. But she continued her outward support, hoping the many mishandled issues were just growing pains.

Just remember, you, Ann and I have been thrown under the bus by much more powerful forces, the Politburo in Vietnam, and a couple of US Presidents – so we all will just have to dust ourselves off and become even more determined.

Hopefully, the interim leadership will re-establish the League partnership to smooth the transition and, keep in mind, as John Greenleaf Whittier wrote, "For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these – It might have been."

Let us all join in a pledge to stay the course. Thank you!

## A Call For Help & Our U.S. Missing In Korea

Sent via Email & USPS

(b)(6)

July 2, 2016

Mr. Bill Richardson  
Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations & Gov. of New Mexico  
President of The Richardson Center For Global Engagement  
216 Washington Ave  
Suite 1 & 2  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
[Info@richardsondiplomacy.org](mailto:Info@richardsondiplomacy.org)

**Re: 5,300 Korean War U.S. Missing In Action  
DIC Cases (Died In Captivity)**

Good Morning Fmr. Amb. & Gov. Mr. Bill Richardson:

First, thank you for all of your hard work while serving our great country in your many past leadership positions.

**Volunteer NGO Assistance In The Past & Today:**

As a past U.S. based NGO to Vietnam and current Chairman of the American Legion POW/MIA state of Illinois, ninth district, I am asking for your help in drafting a letter in reaching out to the Korean government officials in lifting the ban on travel of our U.S. Dept. of POW/MIA Joint Field Investigative teams.

**Per The Media Photo Documentation:**

As we speak, the many farmers in those former POW camp locations are harvesting the remains of those we strongly believe are U.S. service personnel that died in those same camps. These are U.S. remains of those who died while in captivity from starvation. We urgently need your volunteer help here. Maybe even pick up the phone as well for these families that still await the fate of their loved ones.

**Current Levels Of Contact:**

Amb. Richardson, currently we are in talks with a Mr. Joug G. Kwon, a Counselor and member of the DPK Korean delegation to the U.N. in New York. Mr. Kwon has been very cordial in taking our calls and in receiving our letters in seeking his country's help. Mr. Kwon and his government back home in Pyongyang directed me to reach out to you and your organization as well. We are also in contact with the State Dept.'s North Korean Desk Officer a Mr. Andrew Publicover who was very interested in our efforts and sounded excited in moving forward with the country of Korea.

In conclusion, sir, we need your support in seeing once and for all that the focus of our U.S. DPAA - JFI teams --must be going back into these seven known former wartime POW campsite locations where remains are being dug up and removed.

Finally, there are no barriers when it comes to our missing in action and for those 5, 300 that were left behind. They must be placed back on priority one status

Please contact me at (b)(6) at your earliest in order to help achieve our goals in 1). **Locating** our missing, 2). **Recovering** 3). **Identifying** these same remains to our lab in Hawaii and finally 4). **Returning** these brave Americans that died while in captivity to their families.

*There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer!*

(b)(6)

Cc: Mr. Andrew Publicover, North Korean Desk Officer, U.S. State Dept., Washington, D.C.  
Mr. Jong G. Kwon, DPK - Korea, Counselor to the DPK Korean U.N. Delegation - Perm Mission

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 30 Jun 2016 09:41:22 -0500  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) white house  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Update - Contact With Mr. J. Kwon - DPK - Korea Perm Mission New York (212) 972-3105  
**Attachments:** Update Phone Contact with Mr. J. Kwon DPK Korea 001.jpg

Dear (b)(6) Ann:

It appears that after speaking directly this morning with Mr. J. Kwon of the PDK -Korea,

he too believes that we may be able to open a door here.

(b)(6) - Do you have phone where we too can talk ?

This may be an opportunity after all coming from a former U.S. based Vietnam NGO to the Korean Gov't. He has invited me to their Perm Mission offices to meet.

More to follow.....

Thanks.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sent via Email Only

Urgent/Time Sensitive

## Memo

To: **Mr. J. Kwon**

Member of the DPK Diplomatic Delegation  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations  
DPK - Korea  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
820 Second Street  
New York, New York 10017  
[Jkwon424@gmail.com](mailto:Jkwon424@gmail.com)

Cc:

Mr. (b)(6)

Pentagon  
Veterans Affairs - Organizations - Liaison Desk Officer  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

(b)(6)@mail.mil

**Re: Conversation Today by Land line  
6/30/16 Coming Together**

Dear Mr. Kwon:

Respectfully,

Thank you once again for accepting my phone call today in our efforts to seek an open path to allowing 1). Our U.S. Dept. of **POW/MIA recovery/JFI teams** back into your country.

2). It appears that the area farmers within the former wartime POW camps ( ALL SEVEN ) are **harvesting the remains of our missing service personnel** according to the most recent press release photos.

Therefore as stated during our lengthy conversation we need to 3). Seek an avenue where both the **Democratic Peoples of Korea** and the **United States** can find common ground while hosting a meeting either in **New York** and or our **U.S. Embassy located in Hanoi**. Your embassy is just a short ride from our embassy as well.

I shall follow up with you and I would very much like to have a meeting with you but do to the costs of airfare these days and that I am living on a fixed budget -- I can't get up to New York as of this date. Too bad that you could not come visit us here. The offer stands anytime.

Let's move forward with our current discussion in seeking an open dialogue along with the potential for reopening your borders for our U.S. JFI teams to resume their goals and objectives.

Who knows as stated, maybe we can relax the tensions between our to countries during this private effort.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 9 Aug 2016 06:05:27 -0500  
**To:** foia@dodiiis.mil;OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office;OSD MC-ALEX ODCMO Mailbox DoD FOIA Policy Office (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] What We Have Not Been Told - National League Of Families POW/MIA Have Kept This Quiet Too  
**Attachments:** (b)(6)-23-16.pdf

Press Release  
Open Letter To All Veterans  
By

(b)(6)

**USA**

### **No Wonder There's Been A Back log - Kept in Secret**

Source: 2016' Statement given by Col. (b)(6) United State Army Retiree and former Director of the (VLC) desk ( Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia ) under the Reagan years and more.  
Currently he sits on the League's National Board.

Today we must report and share openly with all who have raised their right hand and helped defend our great nation.  
It's shocking to have just learned that our U.S. Dept. of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency supports an " active " **(MEL) Master Excavation List.**

More over, the National League too supports this list and the grounds rules set forth by the Dept. of Defense DPAA POW/MIA.

There are well over 1,000 plus **(DIC) Died In Captivity cases** that remain pending. Please note that our USG has written off much of these U.S. service personnel and their unmarked graves as well.

Please note that some sites have been on hold (MEL) for **well over a year and more.**

Yet we have the National League re-visiting Vietnam - holding hands with the VN Govt while also in bed with the *U.S. Dept. of Accounting Agency - POW/MIA.*



**The Hand holding continues.....**



**Over Identification is what they call it.**

Today as well, the U.S. Govt and it's agencies held responsible to the locating, recover of our U.S. missing from all wars included....**must too be held accountable.** We even read where Pres. Obama has agreed to supply Vietnam with High Tech Weaponry to defend it's shores..... Wow ...where's the priority Mr. President ?  
**Note: The National League dropped off a PR packet at the White House prior to the trip to VN -----only to be left on the table.**

There seems to be an uneasy almost criminal closeness involving the National League and those within the Pentagon who hold these potential EXCAVATION SITES to the vest.



# POW Camps in North Vietnam

- 1. The map shows the locations of various POW camps in North Vietnam, including Camp 5, Camp 7, Camp 11, Camp 12, Camp 13, Camp 14, Camp 15, Camp 16, Camp 17, Camp 18, Camp 19, Camp 20, Camp 21, Camp 22, Camp 23, Camp 24, Camp 25, Camp 26, Camp 27, Camp 28, Camp 29, Camp 30, Camp 31, Camp 32, Camp 33, Camp 34, Camp 35, Camp 36, Camp 37, Camp 38, Camp 39, Camp 40, Camp 41, Camp 42, Camp 43, Camp 44, Camp 45, Camp 46, Camp 47, Camp 48, Camp 49, Camp 50, Camp 51, Camp 52, Camp 53, Camp 54, Camp 55, Camp 56, Camp 57, Camp 58, Camp 59, Camp 60, Camp 61, Camp 62, Camp 63, Camp 64, Camp 65, Camp 66, Camp 67, Camp 68, Camp 69, Camp 70, Camp 71, Camp 72, Camp 73, Camp 74, Camp 75, Camp 76, Camp 77, Camp 78, Camp 79, Camp 80, Camp 81, Camp 82, Camp 83, Camp 84, Camp 85, Camp 86, Camp 87, Camp 88, Camp 89, Camp 90, Camp 91, Camp 92, Camp 93, Camp 94, Camp 95, Camp 96, Camp 97, Camp 98, Camp 99, Camp 100.
- 2. The map also shows the locations of major cities and towns in North Vietnam, including Hanoi, Haiphong, Vinh, Thanh Hoa, and Hue.
- 3. The map includes a legend for the symbols used to represent camps and cities.
- 4. The map also includes a scale bar and a north arrow.
- 5. The map is titled "PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS IN NORTH VIETNAM".
- 6. The map shows the locations of various POW camps in North Vietnam, including Camp 5, Camp 7, Camp 11, Camp 12, Camp 13, Camp 14, Camp 15, Camp 16, Camp 17, Camp 18, Camp 19, Camp 20, Camp 21, Camp 22, Camp 23, Camp 24, Camp 25, Camp 26, Camp 27, Camp 28, Camp 29, Camp 30, Camp 31, Camp 32, Camp 33, Camp 34, Camp 35, Camp 36, Camp 37, Camp 38, Camp 39, Camp 40, Camp 41, Camp 42, Camp 43, Camp 44, Camp 45, Camp 46, Camp 47, Camp 48, Camp 49, Camp 50, Camp 51, Camp 52, Camp 53, Camp 54, Camp 55, Camp 56, Camp 57, Camp 58, Camp 59, Camp 60, Camp 61, Camp 62, Camp 63, Camp 64, Camp 65, Camp 66, Camp 67, Camp 68, Camp 69, Camp 70, Camp 71, Camp 72, Camp 73, Camp 74, Camp 75, Camp 76, Camp 77, Camp 78, Camp 79, Camp 80, Camp 81, Camp 82, Camp 83, Camp 84, Camp 85, Camp 86, Camp 87, Camp 88, Camp 89, Camp 90, Camp 91, Camp 92, Camp 93, Camp 94, Camp 95, Camp 96, Camp 97, Camp 98, Camp 99, Camp 100.
- 7. The map also shows the locations of major cities and towns in North Vietnam, including Hanoi, Haiphong, Vinh, Thanh Hoa, and Hue.
- 8. The map includes a legend for the symbols used to represent camps and cities.
- 9. The map also includes a scale bar and a north arrow.
- 10. The map is titled "PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS IN NORTH VIETNAM".



**From:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)  
**Sent:** 12 Apr 2016 18:53:36 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)  
**Subject:** American Legion and League (U)  
**Attachments:** Legion-IL-(b)(6) Proposed.Res\_4-2016.pdf, Legion-IL-(b)(6) Res.Proposal\_4-11-16.pdf

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CAVEAT: None

FYi the attached. (b)(6) called us this morning for help on this. Surprise. Surprise.

THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED

OFFICIAL FORM

# RESOLUTION

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS  
ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
P.O. BOX 2910, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702-2910

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE DO NOT FILL IN ABOVE THIS LINE

**WHEREAS**, the American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to service of their community, state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of the American Legion; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion supports the continued declassification of all POW/MIA information, the strengthening of joint commissions with Russia, North Korea and China, and adequate resourcing of investigative efforts and field operations; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion has also worked continuously with both the Congress and Dept. of POW/MIA accounting Agency (DPAA) to improve the policies and programs for the accountability of missing persons; and

**WHEREAS**, Many of the U.S. POW's that died during the Vietnam War were known to have been buried in the many cemeteries in and around Hanoi; and

**WHEREAS**, Those DIC cases (Died In Captivity) still listed with the US Dept. Of POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) as missing in action / body not recovered / died in captivity; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Dept. Of POW/MIA (DPAA) has confirmed their 2016 agenda does include those still classified as (DIC) Died In captivity cases; and

**WHEREAS**, The National League of Families of American POW/MIA's as well as the Department of Defense are not pursuing these unmarked graves throughout the Vietnam countryside; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ninth District Council, Department of Illinois in regular meeting March 23, 2016 approved this resolution; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, By The American Legion Department of Illinois in Department Convention assembled in Springfield, Illinois July 13-16, 2016 that The American Legion, put as much pressure as possible in this area, to locate these graves, deal with the countries involved to recover these remains, and return them state side for proper burial in U.S. Soil; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that upon its adoption this resolution be forwarded to the National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio August 26 - 1, 2016 for their consideration.

This is to certify that the above resolution was adopted by our Post but with indicated Department action substituted for the local resolving clause.

Submitted by (Post Name) EDISON PARK POST

Post No. 541

Location of Post (City) CHICAGO, IL

(Commander) Walter J. [Signature]

(Adjutant) Henry T. [Signature]

(Below is to be filled in when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.)

(Commission or Committee Chairman)

### FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Rejected \_\_\_\_\_

Approved with Amendments \_\_\_\_\_

Consolidated with \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

Received and Recorded \_\_\_\_\_

Other Action \_\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Convention Committee Chairman or Secretary)

**NOTE:**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM.



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](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)

FAX ---703/465-7433

April 11, 2016

Illinois Department Headquarters  
The American Legion  
P.O. Box 2910  
Bloomington, IL 61702-2910

Dear Legionnaires:

This letter is to formally object to the proposed resolution being brought to your Department Convention July 13-16, 2016, from the Northern District Council as approved at their March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Our objection is based on provisions that convey to all Legionnaires a misrepresentation concerning the League's views, as well as those of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Distasteful and disappointing as it is to be put in the position of opposing mission-related resolutions proposed by longstanding, recognized supporters, registering our opposition was our only option due to misstatements of fact. While there are several generally inaccurate statements, the most egregious provision states: "*WHEREAS, The National League of Families of American POW/MIAs as well as the Department of Defense are not pursuing these unmarked graves throughout the Vietnam countryside....*", thus misleading all who read the resolution, in particular Legionnaires who will consider this proposal at your Department Convention.

We are confident you agree that resolutions considered and passed by The American Legion have significant impact on the executive and legislative branches of our government, as they do on countless thousands of our nation's veterans. That is as it should be, thus reinforcing the importance of accuracy in each provision and the resulting action advocated. There are several instances that warrant mention, and I would urge that you contact DPAA Director LTG Michael S. Linnington, USA (Ret), to obtain DoD's official clarification on the proposed resolution's content.

Despite inherent difficulties in locating grave sites of Americans who died while held captive in often makeshift camps outside the known prison system, achieving the fullest possible accounting for them continues to be a priority for both the League and DPAA.

After more than 40 years of dedicated effort, the League is deeply grateful that our country continues to demonstrate to the world that America stands behind those who protect and defend our freedom and, if captured or missing, will do her very best to recover them for their families and our nation.

The American Legion has been a leader and the League's partner in pursuing answers throughout many years, before and since the 1975 end of the Vietnam War. We value and appreciate our longstanding partnership, and it is most distressing that any Legionnaires would accuse the POW/MIA families of abandoning this important aspect of the mission, with our proven record of responsible, integrated efforts. That would never occur!

The League is and will continue to be reasonable and objective in our expectations. We know that accounting for each and every one of our missing and unaccounted-for heroes will never be possible. It is precisely due to this reality that our three-fold goal since formation on May 28, 1970, has been 1) the return of all prisoners; 2) the fullest possible accounting for the missing; and 3) the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died during the Vietnam War. Should your staff have any questions, please feel free to call me at 703-465-7432, or email, [\(b\)\(6\)@aol.com](mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com).

Sincerely,



Ann Mills-Griffiths  
Chairman & CEO

cc: LTG Michael S. Linnington, USA (Ret)  
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Mr. Dale Barnett  
National Commander in Chief  
The American Legion

Mr. (b)(6) Chairman  
Commission on National Security & Foreign Relations  
The American Legion

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)  
**Sent:** 13 Jan 2016 15:15:35 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) CIV DPMO (US)  
**Subject:** Close Hold Email (U)  
**Attachments:** FOIA Sent to US DPAA Team 001.jpg, A Call For The US DPAA To Take A Walk 001.jpg

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CAVEAT: None

Just FYI the below.

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

From: Ann Mills-Griffiths [mailto:(b)(6)@aol.com]  
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 6:07 PM  
To: Spindler, Mark S BG USARMY DPAA FO (US)  
Cc: Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO (US); (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US); (b)(6) CIV (US)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: 2015' Freedom of Information Act Request Sent To US DPAA ( Hawaii ) Headquarters Team

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.

---

Mark, I sent (b)(6) a rather curt letter when he sent me this, berating him as he deserved for wasting your time and that of all in DPAA.,

This guy has a LONG history, including when he came to the White House in 1982 and (b)(6) had his "care and feeding until he became a supporter, but he must be off his meds again, so all I can say is I really dislike, no resent, him or anyone wasting you time and that of others in with nonsense stemming from accusations of conspiracy and cover-up. It was worse in the mid-1980s, but the visibility and attention now is much more immediate and much greater potential for damage. Hang in there, Ann

PS: He is looking for reassurance on investigations related to the DIC list, and he was claiming an inside "source" in DPAA. I don't believe it, but he thinks he is onto something. I simply don't know anyone who feels that the DIC cases are being written off. Perhaps a letter to him from O & C offering reassurance as to ALL discrepancy cases, both LKA and remains, would help pull him off the ledge?

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) CIV DPAA EC (US) (US) <(b)(6)@mail.mil>; hanoi  
<hanoi@state.gov>

Sent: Thu, Dec 17, 2015 12:57 pm

Subject: 2015' Freedom of Information Act Request Sent To US DPAA ( Hawaii ) Headquarters Team

## 2015' FOIA Request To US DPAA – Hawaii Headquarters

Gene T. Spanos

Sent via Email/USPS

Brigadier General Mark Spindler, USA  
Commanding Officer  
US Department of POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
US Joint Base Pearl Harbor  
590 Moffett Street  
Hickham Field, Hawaii 96853

Att: FOIA Officer On Station  
Re: 2015' Federal Freedom of Information Act Request  
From The Year 2010' to Date

Dear Gen. Spindler:

Respectfully,

Thank you in advance for your dedication and to your team working hard to locate, identify, recover and return those missing from all past wars.

Today, I am seeking to following information:

I - Copies of all and any documentation/reports of then JPAC - DPAA activity in the field where the US JFI/JFR teams made an attempt to locate/Recover/Identify/Return those US missing service personnel who died while in captivity ( DIC ) cases in Vietnam.

II - Copies of the same above named reports where our US teams visited in and around the POW camps sites - ( all 14 ) that once held our US captured personnel and who later died in captivity.

III - Copies of these same reports where our US teams visited and walked these same POW camp sites - area cemeteries in looking for potential US missing that had been buried in unmarked grave sites.

Please advise in the event of an costs here along with any denial.

My purpose of this 2015 FOIA is to share this same information with my veteran brothers of the American Legion - Post 541 of Edison Park, IL as their POW/MIA Chair.

Thank you again.  
Mr. Gene T. Spanos

(b)(6)

Attachment:  
Last Known POW Camps in Vietnam (Map)



**Subject:**

**Attachments:** POWMIA RESOLUTION.doc, smime.p7s

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CAVEAT: None

(b)(6) - FYSA, do you think we should call (b)(6) to follow up?

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

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

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 11:26 AM

To: (b)(6) CIV DPAA EC (US)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Resolution

Hey (b)(6) - I wanted to share here.....

Best.

(b)(6)

Insert: Whereas; The U.S. Dept of POW/MIA ( DPPA) has confirmed their 2016' agenda does include in seeking those still classified as (DIC) died in captivity cases.

(b)(6)

I am working on the Final Draft of your resolution (see attachment). But then I am looking at your January 3rd email regarding inserting more info. What are we deleting so your email info can be inserted. Let me know.

(b)(6)

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of their community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 288, adopted at the 67<sup>th</sup> Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the continued declassification of all POA/MIA information, the strengthening of joint commissions with Russia, North Korea and China, and adequate resourcing of investigative efforts and field operations; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has also worked continuously with both Congress and DOD to improve the policies and programs for the accountability of missing persons; and

WHEREAS, Many of the U.S. Pow's that died during the Vietnam War were known to have been buried in the many cemeteries in and around Hanoi; and

WHEREAS, Those DIC cases (Died In Captivity) Still listed with the US DoD as missing in action/body not recovered/died in captivity

WHEREAS, The National League of Families of American POW/MIA's as well as the Department of Defense are not pursuing these unmarked graves throughout the Vietnam countryside; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Legion on its National level, put as much pressure as possible on those responsible in this area, to locate these graves, deal with the countries involved to recover these remains, and return them state side for proper burial in U.S soil.