

From: [Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO \(US\)](#)
To: [Linnington, Michael S SES DPAA FO \(US\)](#)
Subject: Announcement from DPAA
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2016 2:21:12 PM

Dear friends of DPAA:

In the past year, we have made remarkable progress in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and its great mission. From how we research/investigate/recover and identify our missing and unaccounted for from our nation's past wars, to how we communicate with the families. And just as important, is increased communications/accountability of our efforts to Congress, our stakeholder community, and the American people. I feel confident that we now have the right people, processes and procedures in place so DPAA has irreversible momentum with the gains we have made for even greater success.

I was recently approached by a large non-profit that serves our military community also deserving of our nation's every effort -- our wounded warriors and their caregivers. I have been blessed with a lifetime of responding to where I am needed, and have decided to accept their offer to lead their important mission during a period of significant transition. As I depart DPAA in early July, I will do so most grateful for the dedication of all those that assist our accounting mission, and for those that perform it on behalf of our grateful nation: the families of our missing/unaccounted for, our work force, and supporters of our mission worldwide.

DPAA and its mission benefits from the superb leadership of two highly-skilled, and capable deputies (Mrs. Fern Winbush and BG Mark Spindler), and they will maintain the focus and direction of the agency until a new director is chosen. In early July, Mrs. Fern Winbush will assume duties as Acting Director in the interim period. As I transition to supporting our military and veteran community through the hard work of a nonprofit, please know my family and I have been truly blessed to get to know each of you, and work together on such an important mission. My time with you will remain with me for the rest of my life. For the Veterans and Military Service organizations, I look forward to engaging with many of you (and your organizations) as I learn more about the work of leading a national nonprofit.

All of us owe our every effort in supporting the entire military community; active duty, Reserve, Guard, Coast Guard, their families, and their survivors. It is not just an issue of national security, but a moral obligation. Thanks for what you do each and every day, and thanks for your efforts on behalf of the families of our missing and unaccounted for.

Sincerely, and with great respect and appreciation,

Michael S. Linnington
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
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