



**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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MONTHLY REPORTS FOR AUGUST 2016

The following from the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association is given for the month of August 2016.

REMINDER!!! Thursday, September 8th is the final day for Hotel Registration at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada for the KWVA Annual Membership Meeting

1. **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr.

John "Sonny" Edwards - As of August 30, 2016
New members August 2016 70
New members August 2015 45
New members TYTD 476
New members LYTD 491
Active members LYTD 13945
Active members TYTD 13263
Decrease 632
Deceased comrades TYTD 995 Avg/Mo 124

Departments with 4 plus new members last 30 days
AZ-13 FL-9 NV-4 PA-4 TX-8

2. **AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL PRESENTATION:**

The Embassy has been backlogged with the number of requests for the Ambassador for Peace Medal. This has caused a longer delay in processing the medal for Korean War Veterans. We will stay on top of this issue and hope to have all requests for the medal processed in a timely manner.

3. **FREE FLU SHOTS:** From now through March 31, 2017, all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system can receive free flu shots at any Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. The joint outreach health initiative is designed to help serve veterans closer to where they reside. Veterans must bring their VA identification cards with them, as well as another photo ID, and complete a short four-question application, which will be used to automatically update their VA Electronic Health Records. No appointments are necessary.

4. **LEGISLATIVE:**

- A U.S. Senate committee has passed legislation calling for erecting a "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington that lists the names of all American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously approved the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016 (H.R.1475) at a meeting on Thursday, according to congressional records.

The bill was introduced last March by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX), a Korean War veteran, and passed the House in February. It calls for authorizing the wall's establishment at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and allowing certain private contributions to fund the project.

The Senate is expected to vote on the legislation after a seven-week recess.

"I am proud to join Reps. Johnson as an original sponsor of this important bill," said Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), also a Korean War veteran who co-sponsored the legislation. "The wall will remind people that freedom is not free. I am pleased that the Korean War Veterans Memorial will add a place for those to remember the sacrifices of our veterans and the heroes who never returned home.

"Our nation has a responsibility to make sure that we do not forget the nearly 1.8 million members of the United States Armed Forces who served alongside Republic of Korea and 20 other Allied nations during the Korean War," he said.

The United States led the 21-nation Allied Forces to help South Korea repel the Chinese-backed communist troops invading from the North. More than 36,000 American soldiers sacrificed their lives and 103,000 were wounded.

- Former legislation H.R. 5903 "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat recipients of the Korea Defense Service Medal as war veterans for purposes of determining whether contributions to posts and organizations of war veterans are charitable contributions." Mr. David Eiselsberg and Mr. Jett Thompson whom both work in Representative Sam Johnson's are in charge of making this H.R. happen quickly. They stated to us that after H.R. 1475 is through mark-up, they will be putting a "full court press" on to make the old 5903 legislation up to date.

Congressman Johnson strongly stated that he will be personally pushing this legislation through. He firmly believes that it will be passed.

He also stated that he will need **ALL OF OUR HELP** in reaching out to his colleagues on the Hill encouraging them to support this Bill.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that when the new House Resolution is ready to be introduced **ALL KOREAN WAR VETERANS, DEFENSE VETERANS AND FAMILIES** will need to flood their Congressman's office with requests to support this new House Resolution (HR). We will keep you informed once the new HR is published.

We will be publishing a one page fact sheet on this legislation with talking points to share amongst all our members and chapters to say when contacting their Congressmen and women.

5. **2016 ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD MEETING:**

As we all know, we will be heading to Las Vegas Nevada for our annual Korean War Veterans Association Membership meeting and Biannual Board Meeting.

- The dates for the meetings will be October 10-14, 2016.
- The venue for the meetings is the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV.
- The website for the venue is: www.GoldCoastCasino.com
- Room Rates are as follows:

Deluxe Rooms

Sunday- Thursday \$35.00 plus tax and resort fee = \$53.75

Friday & Saturday \$99.00 plus tax and resort fee = \$125.43

Premium Rooms

Sunday – Thursday \$42.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = \$ 61.58
Friday & Saturday \$ 114.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = \$ 142.23

- To make reservations on-line go to <http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups>
- To receive your special KWVA group rate, you will need to enter the assigned **Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA**
- If you are calling to make reservations, please call 888-402-6278 and identify yourselves as members of a group convention. **Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA**

SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **CUT-OFF DATE** September 9, 2016 – It is HIGHLY recommended that you make your reservations now. We are expecting a large contingent of Korean War Veterans and their families to attend this year.
- Parking is free
- Swimming Pool and Jacuzzi is free
- 73 Lane Bowling Alley on site
- Restaurants on site:
 - Cortez Room
 - Ping Pong
 - Noodle Exchange
 - Port O'Call Buffet
 - T.G.I. Fridays
 - Red Zone
 - Java Vegas Coffee
 - Bowling Snack Bar
- Free shuttle bus every 30 minutes to the Las Vegas Strip and back to the hotel
- Shuttle Bus to and from airport \$9.00 each way
- Day trip/tour to the Hoover Dam and Grand Canyon
 - Evening show on the strip. To Be Determined

6. **REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:** Quotas for the Revisit to Korea Program are now published. Please contact to 1st Vice President Warren Wiedhahn or to Mr. Jamie Wiedhahn if interested when the tours are being conducted.

Since MPVA approved Korea Defense Veterans (KDV) to participate in the *Revisit Korea* program. This program is receiving many more requests for 2017. The Data Base now contains over 400 total and more come in each week. These figures are both War and Defense veterans.

- **NOTED DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TO MOVE TO NEW POST AT MINISTRY OF PATRIOTS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Director Yongjin Jeon, as he appeared on national television in Korea during the ceremonies he and his team planned for the June 25 66th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

A member of the Ministry and Patriots Affairs executive team who has helped expand and greatly improve services for Korean War Veterans from all of the UN Allied Nations is being elevated to a new position in Korea, after growing and improving the international affairs activities of the MPVA since his assignment to that office in 2007.

Yongjin Jeon, a very familiar face to all veterans who have participated in the MPVA revisit program, the bereaved family program, and other programs during those nine years may have mixed feelings that he is being promoted.

Those who know him well will be happy that he is being given a position of great responsibility, but some will be concerned about the various MPVA international affairs programs continuing at their present high level of excellence. The programs he has set in place are surely stellar and will need somebody who can follow as international affairs director and devotes the same time, energy and innovation to the post that Mr. Jeon has exhibited during his successful tenure.

Mr. Jeon will take his new post as director of the MPVA's Eastern Gyeongnam District Office in Changwon, on the southern coast, near Busan, on August 1. Competition for the position was very strong and he now will direct the work of a staff greater than 60 professionals to serve the needs of ROK veterans in several cities and counties in his district.

Mr. Jeon's record of achievement is not just impressive, it is virtually monumental!

Taking his post in international affairs in 2007, the first thing he did was get his the then serving minister to adopt the November 11 International Turn Toward Busan activity as a national ceremony. It has developed splendidly under his guidance, and during the past five years, with the rock steady hand of Minister Park Sung Choon spearheading its success. A few weeks into his new job at international affairs, Mr. Jeon organized and held Korea's first national ceremony to commemorate the six sailors who lost their lives in the sea battle, the Second Battle of Yeonpyeong in 2002, defending the Northern Limit Line.

Mr. Jeon served under two ministers before the present Minister, Park Sung Choon was appointed to the cabinet five years ago. Working closely with Minister Park, he took commemoration ceremonies to other nations and feted veterans where they lived. Together they traveled to all of the UN Allied Nations. In many cases they assisted financially with the construction of monuments and other commemorative measures.

These visits and ceremonies involved enormous amounts of work, and they went beyond the realm of commemoration and appreciation. They took on a diplomatic flavor that helped further cement ties between South Korea and the various nations. They traveled many times to the United States feting veterans in national and regional ceremonies, organizing services and appreciation banquets in Washington and other cities. The publisher of the Korean War Veteran was privileged to work with Mr. Jeon throughout his nine-year tenure in international affairs, and indirectly in support of Minister Park for the past five years.

Many, many times, almost routinely, Mr. Jeon called from his office in Korea close to midnight, still hard at work, with an hour or more journey to his home after he decided that he had done enough for that day.

He said, many times, that he did not feel the tiredness, he did not feel the pain, because out of love and respect and appreciation he was devoting all of his hours to the world's veterans who had saved his nation and let it blossom in freedom. We wish this outstanding citizen of the Republic of Korea much success and good fortune in his new post, now serving the needs of the veterans of his own nation. We assume from what he has done for the veterans of the UN Allied nations, that they will be benefit greatly under his stewardship.

Mr. Jeon begins his new duties on August 1. True to form, he was awake at 4 a.m. on July 27, giving a report and instructing his staff as he prepared for an enormous national Korean War Armistice Day ceremony, which he and his team planned and executed. Let us give this tough, thoughtful gentleman our salute for his outstanding service to the veterans of all nations!

7. **READING OF THE FALLEN**: The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation has been conducting a reading the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War. In 2015, all of the American Servicemen who died during the war had their names announced in a very dignified and solemn ceremony. This year all of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army soldiers names who were killed had their names read at the Memorial. On June 25, 2017, The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation will read all of the fallen from the Allied Countries who came to the aid of South Korea will have their names read at the Memorial.
8. **UPDATE**: KWVA just received an increase in the September 2016 Revisit Korea Tour from MPVA, Seoul. The dates are:
 - ~Official subsidized Revisit Korea tour: 19-25 Sept
 - ~Optional pre tour: Korea 16-20 Sept

* Iron Triangle, Punchbowl, Heartbreak Ridge, etc.

~Optional post tour: China

25 Sep-1 Oct

** Beijing, Forbidden City, Great Wall, etc.

Register on line at www.miltours.com or call 800-722-9501. "First Come, First Served!"

9. **POW/MIA REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. Rocky Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator.
Monthly Teleconference, DPAA-Family Organizations/VSO/MSO Thursday, July 28, 2016, 1:00 PM

DoD Participants: Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Acting Director, DPAA BG Mark Spindler, Deputy Director, DPAA Mr. Todd Livick, Director, DPAA Outreach & Communications Mr. Mike Fowler, DPAA Outreach & Communications

Participants, VSO-FSO-MSO:

1. AMVETS Kristina Miller - Editor
2. American Legion Freddy Gessner - National Security
3. Disabled American Veterans - Vincent Darcangelo POW-MIA Committee
4. Military Order of the Purple Heart - Ernesto Hernandez - National Adjutant
5. Special Operations Association, Inc. Special Forces Association -Mike Taylor POW/MIA Committee
6. TAPS - Kathy Moakler Policy and Outreach
7. Vietnam Veterans of America - Kristopher Goldsmith/Grant Coates POW/MIA Committee
8. Honor Release Return, Inc. - Moe Moyer National Co-Chairman
9. Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing - Frank Metersky/Sherra Basham
10. National League of POW/MIA Families - Ann Mills-Griffiths Chairman of the Board
11. MIA Recovery Network - Kenneth Breaux Researcher
12. WWII Families For The Return Of The Mary Ann Reitano

Missing

13. Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) - Rocky Harder POW/MIA Committee
14. Korean War Advocate Frank Metersky

Agenda

1. General Update (Acting Director)
2. Operational Update (Deputy Director)
3. Q&A
4. Closing Comments

Acting Director's Comments: • Director's Hiring Process – OSD/P executes the hiring using the rules and procedures governed by OPM. There have been over 90 applicants and the initial cut has the initial candidate list down to 20. • Last week I was pleased to speak at the VFW convention and next week I will speak at the DAV convention.-The support of the Veterans organizations is very important to me.

• Budget IAW the President's budget request we were fully resourced for FY 16 and likely will be for FY 17. However we have determined that we can do more ops and push out more information with more resources and we are working within DoD to increase our baseline funding for FY 18 and beyond o Reprogramming: The Department has submitted a re-programming request for additional funds for DPAA in FY 16 and that request is being reviewed by Congress. The total request is roughly 21 million, with 12 million for operations and 9 million for the procurement of the Case Management System

• Strategic Partnerships: Since the beginning of this fiscal year, DPAA has identified over 100 service members

CALENDAR OF EVENTS • Last month we held the first of our two annual meetings.

- At the 47th Annual Meeting of the National League of Families we had approximately 200 family members representing 113 cases of those who did not return from the Vietnam War.
- Highlight: Family members of the seven U.S. service members killed April 7, 2001 in an M-17 helicopter crash fulfilling the mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency met with U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley and participated in ceremony unveiling a plaque in the POW/MIA memorial hall honoring the lives lost 15 years ago.
- We are now planning the Korean/Cold War Annual meeting which will be held on 11-12 August here in Crystal City and as of today we have over 350 attendees that have registered.

- September 10 Family Update meeting Update in Green Bay, WI
- September 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- November 19 Family Update Meeting Update in Reno, NV
- Operations Update: Deputy Director Last 60 Days - In support of global recoveries we executed:
Vietnam War:
6 - Recovery Team; 2 - Investigation Teams; I - Vietnam Recovery Team; 1 - Unilateral Excavation
Korean War: 1 - Investigation Team
WWII: 2 - Recovery Teams, 2 - Investigation Teams
Current Operations (139 Deployed Worldwide):
WWII: 5 - Recovery Teams (2 in France, 2 in Germany, 1 in Ukraine); 1 - Investigation Team in Tarawa 1 - 1 - Investigation Team in Germany 1 - Recovery Team in Papua New Guinea; Future Operations (Next 60 Days):
Vietnam War: 5 - Recovery Teams; 2 - Vietnam Recovery Teams; 2 - Investigation Teams
Korean War: 1 - Site Reconnaissance
WWII: 4 - Recovery Teams; 5 - Investigation Teams

Defining planning and requirements for FY 17/18 Operational Plan (OPLAN) (Next 60 Days):
Aug 16: Consultation Talks with Laos Officials in Hawaii Sep 16: Plan Conference with Philippine Officials - in Philippines Sep 16: Tech talks with Vietnamese Officials - in Vietnam Current ID Numbers: For FY16: 124 (WWII - 67, Korea - 48, SEA - 9)

- Today, 7,802 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using advances in technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered by American teams.
- The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.
- **Army Pfc. William R. Butz, 19**, of Glendive, Montana, will be buried August 12 in Vancouver, Washington. On Dec. 12, 1950, Butz, a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was declared missing in action after his unit was heavily attacked by enemy forces in an area known as the “inlet,” near the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Due to a prolonged lack of information regarding his status, a military review board amended his status to deceased in 1953. In 1954, United Nations and communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called “Operation Glory.” All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army’s Central Identification Unit for analysis. The remains they were unable to identify were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the “Punchbowl.” In 1999, due to advances in technology, the Department of Defense began to re-examine records and concluded that the possibility for



identification of some of these unknowns now existed. The remains designated X-15726 were exhumed on Dec. 7, 2015, so further analysis could be conducted. In the identification of Butz' remains, scientists from DPAA used dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, which matched his records, as well as circumstantial evidence.

- **Army Pvt. Virgil B. Adkins**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. On July 17, 1953, Adkins was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, on a combat patrol to reconnoiter enemy activity in an area north of the former Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), North Korea, when it came under attack, forcing a withdrawal back to friendly lines. As a result of the fighting, Adkins was reported missing in action. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which helped account for the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/914298/soldier-missing-from-korean-war-accounted-for-adkins/>.

Interment services are set for Sept. 3, in Hinton, West Virginia. Welcome home and rest in peace, Pvt. Adkins.

- **Army Sgt. James L. Campbell**, killed in the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Crofts was one of approximately 2,500 U.S. Soldiers who were assembled with 700 South Korean soldiers, in the 31st Regimental Combat Team. The RCT was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces, driving the remnants of the unit to withdraw. At the end of the battle, Campbell could not be accounted for and he was reported missing in action. Due to a prolonged lack of information regarding his whereabouts, the U.S. Army declared Campbell deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which helped account for the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. Lab analysis, in conjunction with the totality of circumstantial evidence available, established Campbell's remains were included. Interment services are scheduled for August 26 in Waterford, Connecticut. Welcome home and rest in peace, Sgt. Campbell

- **Army Cpl. Ronald M. Sparks**, killed in the Korean War, has now been accounted for. On Feb. 12, 1951, Sparks was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 3th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and was declared missing in action when his unit was clearing a road block held by enemy forces in the vicinity of Hoengsong, South Korea. Due to a prolonged lack of information regarding his status, a military review board amended his status to deceased. In 1951, the remains of Korean War service members were returned to the United States in an operation called "Operation Glory." The remains unable to be identified were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. Due to advances in technology, the remains were exhumed in 2015 for analysis. Lab analysis, in conjunction with the totality of circumstantial evidence available, established Cpl. Sparks' remains were among those exhumed. Interment services are planned for August 19 in Everett, Massachusetts. Welcome home and rest in peace, Cpl. Sparks.

- **Army Master Sgt. Charles J. Brown**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In early November 1950, Brown was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, when the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) attacked the regiment and forced the unit to withdraw to the village of Ipsok, approximately five miles south of Unsan. The survivors attempted to set up a defensive perimeter, but many soldiers became surrounded and attempted to escape and evade the enemy, but the majority were captured and marched to POW camps. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which helped account for the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. Lab analysis, in conjunction with

the totality of circumstantial evidence available, established Brown's remains were included. Interment services are scheduled for Sept. 26 in Sarasota, Florida. Welcome home and rest in peace, Master Sgt. Brown.

- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence J. Smith**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. On February 11, 1951, Smith was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, supporting South Korea's Army attacks against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in an area known as the central corridor. The CPVF launched a massive counterattack, forcing the Americans to fight at Changbong-ni. Smith was reported missing near the village of Saemal, South Korea, on Feb. 12, 1951. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which helped account for the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. Lab analysis, in conjunction with the totality of circumstantial evidence available, established Smith's remains were included. Interment services are scheduled for Sept. 30 in Crowley, Louisiana. Welcome home and rest in peace, Sgt. 1st Class Smith.
- **Army Cpl. Curtis J. Wells**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, while Wells was assigned to Company C, 65th Engineer Combat Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, his company joined with Task Force (TF) Wilson to fight the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea. The TF was overwhelmed by a large force of CPVF soldiers, and by Nov. 27, 1950, they began to extricate themselves south and Company C returned to the control of the battalion. As the battalion attempted to account for its casualties, Wells was reported missing in action. In October 1998, during a Joint Recovery Operation, a U.S./North Korean recovery team excavated a site in Kujang County, North P'yongan-Pukto Province, North Korea, based on information provided by witnesses concerning buried American soldiers. This site correlated with the area of the battle between TF Wilson and the CPVF. Lab analysis, in conjunction with the totality of circumstantial evidence available, established Wells' remains were included. Interment services are set for Sept. 10 in Harbor Beach, Michigan. Welcome home and rest in peace, Cpl. Wells.
- **POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY TO SPEED UP REMAINS IDENTIFICATION**

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The reorganized agency tasked with accounting for the nation's missing warfighters has improved its communication with family members and boosted cooperation with outside partners to find and retrieve remains, say some advocates involved in the effort.

But those observers also wonder whether the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which reached full operational capacity in January, will flounder with the sudden July departure of its first director, Michael Linnington. While DPAA officials say the overhaul and reforms are well-established, critics contend that inefficiencies and lack of transparency still dog the agency.

Linnington stayed for only a year, despite repeated promises to families of missing servicemembers that he was in the job for the long haul.

"It's really hard to say what exactly the positives are," said Ann Mills-Griffiths, chairman of the board for the National League of POW/MIA Families. "Things were in a state of complete flux at the time that Linnington decided to step out."

Although his departure was a "shock," DPAA can rebound if his replacement "can handle the complexities of this mission," she said. The reorganized agency has been trying to improve, though "clumsily" so, Mills-Griffiths said. "I think it has the chance of being better," she said. "Is it better yet? No, it's still dysfunctional. It still has a lot of work to be done to make it as productive as I think it could be."

In an interview with Stars and Stripes shortly before he left to head the Wounded Warrior Project, Linnington said he believed the new DPAA had strengthened its relationships with families and members of Congress.

“I think it’s really been a year of great change and great progress,” he said. “Are we where we need to be? No, I don’t think any organization can ever fully rest and say they’re where they need to be. We still have some processes we need to look at in terms of maturing them to where they can be most effective. I think we need to continue to improve our ability to provide answers to our families of our missing that ask us those questions.”

“Over the hump” was how Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, DPAA’s deputy director, who heads the Hawaii lab at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, described the agency’s status. “We are focused,” he said. “I think the organization understands the objectives. They understand the mission.”

That has not equated to a significant rise in the number of identifications made annually. As of Aug. 8, DPAA has this year identified the remains of 62 missing servicemembers. At that rate, by year’s end, the total would slightly exceed the 100 identifications made in 2015 and 107 made in 2014.

“I certainly feel like things are better than they used to be, but things were pretty damn bad,” said Jed Henry, a documentary filmmaker who spearheaded a years long quest to repatriate the remains of Army Pvt. 1st Class Lawrence Gordon from an “unknown” grave in France.

Henry said DPAA was doing a better job at disinterring and working to identify World War II remains buried as unknowns, which he said had been “virtually impossible” under the management of the three agencies that merged to become DPAA: Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Air Force Life Science Equipment Laboratory.

“If someone had told me they wanted to do one of those cases two years ago, I would have told them they don’t have a hope in hell, that it was just a wasted effort,” he said.

Henry pointed to a successful outcome in the case of John E. Anderson, a World War II sailor who died during the D-Day invasion of 1944 and whose remains ended up in an “unknown” grave at the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

With Henry’s help, the Anderson family assembled evidence strongly suggesting the grave belonged to the sailor. The DPAA exhumed the remains and identified them as Anderson in about four months, Henry said, citing briefings he received from Linnington.

That was “light-years faster compared to the past,” said Henry, who added that it took about five years for the identification to be made from the time the family became actively involved in the search. Anderson was buried in Minnesota in May.

“Until last year, the most disinterments they’ve done in a year was two,” Henry said. “And this year they had a goal of 50 in Europe and 50 in the Pacific. That’s taken a huge step.”

Identifying remains from “unknown” gravesites is how the agency intends to reach a 2010 mandate set by Congress for 200 IDs a year, Spindler said.

The agency plans to reach that number in the near term by working with outside organizations that often have a niche geographical interest or narrow-but-deep historical knowledge. Among them are History Flight, which specializes in recovering World War II remains, and The BentProp Project, which began by searching for servicemembers killed in Palau, but has expanded.

DPAA partnered last year with Archaeologists of the Air, an Italian organization that searches for lost WWII aircraft. Last fall, they recovered remains from a site belonging to pilot Robert L. McIntosh, who crashed near Imola, Italy, in late 1945.

Mary Ann Reitano, who works for World War II Families for the Return of the Missing, said she was “very impressed with the new direction” DPAA has taken with the strategic partnerships, which she called a “phenomenal idea.” Her cousin’s remains have yet to be found in Vietnam, where he went missing in 1966.

She said the outside organizations allow DPAA “to do what I call cherry picking the really easy cases, which is inadvertently going to save the government money because they don’t have to send out an entire team,” she said. “That saves them money that can be redirected into Vietnam cases where you have all that overhead and costs because of all the restrictions put on teams that go into Southeast Asia.”

More than 80 percent of the identifications made by DPAA from the beginning of 2014 through Aug. 8 have been from remains connected to World War II or the Korean War. Thirty IDs of remains from Southeast Asia have been made during that period.

Many analysts for Vietnam cases have left the agency, and the process of restoring those numbers is of “major proportions,” said Mills-Griffiths, of the National League of POW/MIA Families.

Spindler — the DPAA deputy director — admitted there is a shortage of such analysts, and that the agency is in the process of filling those positions.

“But there’s nothing overly dynamic that has challenged us in our analyst capability in Southeast Asia,” he said.

Reitano’s assessment of DPAA’s handling of research and analysis was harsh. At least four analysts have been assigned to her cousin’s case since she became involved about a dozen years ago, she said.

She and her family members have met with their case analyst three times in the past two years, and outside of ordering some paperwork one time “she’s done absolutely nothing for us,” said Reitano, who added she was “infuriated” that that paperwork request had been made only a week before the family met with the analyst earlier this summer, she said.

“It really contradicts the image that they try to portray to the general public and to Congress that they follow every lead, that they’re working diligently on these cases, that they’re working in concert with the families,” she said. “Our personal experience has been the complete opposite.”

Reitano described her family’s experience as “the norm.” Speaking with many of the family members who attended the National League of MIA/POW Families’ annual meeting in June, she said she found only one person who “had a positive working experience” with a case analyst.

Henry said that general communication with families has improved but credited that to the now-departed director.

“Linnington was kind of a soldiers’ general, and he seemed to be very sensitive about remarks about him and other people,” he said. “He was accessible. He called me a couple times. He responded to my emails. He had real answers.” Some families have seen changes for the better at DPAA.

Valarie Wolfe, whose father’s plane was shot down in Laos during the Vietnam War in 1966, said she and several family members had grown exasperated with the government’s efforts to repatriate Capt. Thomas Wolfe. The government has had a standing recommendation since 2006 to excavate a site believed to hold his remains. But year after year, nothing was done, she said.

“This is the 50th year of my father’s loss,” Wolfe said. “We just came to a point in our case where we felt like we needed to take additional measures.”

That meant contacting elected officials, veterans groups and the media.

While attending the National League of MIA/POW Families’ June meeting, Wolfe said she felt a “fresh enthusiasm” from some DPAA staff there, along with “a lot of new technology” and “people who were very dedicated to implement those technologies.”

This summer, DPAA notified the family that the site believed to hold Wolfe’s remains will be excavated this fall, she said.

Pessimism over Linnington’s untimely departure, however, runs deep.

“I think most people felt we had the right people in place, and things were actually going to happen,” Henry said. “But unfortunately, to leave within a year – and while he probably leaves the agency better off than it was before he came in, which is a significant accomplishment – the bad side to that is that whoever comes in next could undo everything he did.”

Spindler believes otherwise. “The stripe of a great organization is that it can carry on without him,” he said of the former director. “This organization is most capable of doing that. We’ll be fine.”

- **MARINE GETS HIS DYING WISH: A UNIFORM TO BE BURIED IN**

DIGHTON, Mass. -- Normand Dupras sat at the Dighton Nursing Center, amazed to hear from his granddaughter, Dona Silva, that a group of people was there to see him.

"We've got a surprise for you," Silva told him Wednesday. That's when Glenn Dusablon, of the Veterans Memorial Museum, in Woonsocket, presented Dupras with a full [Marine Corps](#) dress uniform, including the white hat, belt and gloves. "I love this," Dupras said, looking over each item. Dupras, of Swansea, Massachusetts, a former reserve police officer in that town, served in the Korean War. At 86, and now suffering from dementia, it was his dying wish a few years back to be buried in the uniform, he said.

Asked what happened to his former uniform, Dupras said he did not know, but believes it was taken at a hospital. "I got wounded in action," he said, when a grenade sent shrapnel into his back. Dupras received the Purple Heart. "It brings back some memories, believe me," Dupras said, both good and bad. "I was in there when it was really hot." Asked why his dying wish was to be buried in the uniform, Dupras said, "I fought for it," and added, "that's the only Marine uniform I have." Before long, Dupras was wearing the hat and, with the help of Dusablon, slipped into the jacket. Smiling widely, he saluted and then put both of his thumbs up. "Very spiffy!" Dusablon said. Getting the uniform was a challenge of its own.

Silva got in touch with her cousin, Melinda Grocott, of Exeter, who said she enlisted the help of her boyfriend, Rodney Santos, who served in the Navy during the Persian Gulf war and now works for the Department of Defense. All started making calls. Eventually, a volunteer at the VA Medical Center in Rhode Island heard from the family and called Dusablon. "You can't ignore a request like that," Dusablon said. In November, Dusablon opened the Veterans Memorial Museum, and is now raising money for an elevator so that more veterans can visit. There, he has amassed not only uniforms but also the equipment soldiers used from the Revolutionary War to the present day. The family hoped he had a Marine Corps uniform to spare. After he received the measurements from the family (which were a little too large), he realized none was the right size. He then purchased a uniform for about \$400 out of his own pocket, and raised money for reimbursement. People from as far away as Florida sent money, he said, many of them veterans themselves. "That's all we are about," Dusablon said. "Preserving the history and honoring the service." Grocott, who was on hand and snapped pictures of the happy event, wiped away tears.

"We have to take care of our veterans," she said. "Without them, we have nothing."

10. **POW/MIA FOREVER STAMP:** A MESSAGE FROM TOM THIEL ~ KWVA CID169 Sec, Ed, Web, DoF Web, AL#41. 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL 32736 [352-408-6612](tel:352-408-6612), kwvathiel@gmail.com

There are more than 83,000 MIAs in all wars starting with WWII to the present. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, More than 7,800 Americans remain unaccounted-for from the Korean War. They were our brothers and sisters in arms, and U.S. Citizens. The Korean War and Korea Defense Service Veterans of Lake County, Chapter 169 Inc., has pledged to do all that it can to return all MIAs so that their families may gain some peace. We must do still more to keep the public aware of these 83,000 Missing in Action Americans. A First Class POW/MIA Forever Stamp would surely help us do this, and we want to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue such a stamp. But the Post Office objects. Fortunately, one of our Korean War brothers, a POW for some 33 months, the late William “Bill” Allen, author of “*My Old Box of Memories*,” had already done a lot of spadework on this effort. But, sadly, Bill was not able to convince the Postal Service. So he went to his Congressman, Gus Bilirakis of Florida's 12th District who in 2013 introduced HR2794, the Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act. In September 2015, Mr. Bilirakis reintroduced it as H.R. 3558 with the same name.

I obtained this new information from Congressman Ron DeSantis, of FL 11th District. According to Mr. DeSantis, “This legislation would provide for the issuance of a forever stamp depicting the National League of Families POW/MIA flag to honor members of the Armed Forces who are still prisoners, missing, or unaccounted for.” Mr. DeSantis went on to say”H.R. 3558 has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.” Mr. DeSantis continued “As a member of this committee, I will diligently review this legislation with my colleagues and keep your thoughts in mind should this, or any similar measure, come to the House floor for a vote.” Sadly, our legislation is still buried in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. We sincerely appreciate all that have contacted their U.S. Representatives on behalf of the original bill. But now you need to do it again—contact your Congress person, our FL representatives on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and leaders of this committee. Please also send this to your Veteran’s Group’s National Level so that this action might be implemented throughout the U.S., not just in Central Florida. Selected addresses follow:

Congressman Gus Bilirakis 2187 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5755; Fax:(202) 225-4085 7132 Little Road New Port Richey, FL 34654 (727) 232-2921; FAX:(727) 232-2923

Congressman John Mica 2187 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4035; Fax:(202) 226-0821 100 East Sybelia Avenue, Suite 340 Maitland, FL 32751-4495 407-657-8080; Fax: 407-657-5353

Congressman Ron DeSantis 308 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-2706; Fax: 202-226-6299 1000 City Center Circle Port Orange, FL 32129 386-756-9798; Fax: 386-756-9903
United States House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, UT-3 2236 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-7751 51 S University Ave., Suite 318 Provo, UT 84601 Phone: (801) 851-2500

Congressman Elijah Cummings, Ranking Mbr, MD-7 2230 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4741; Fax: (202) 225-3178, 1010 Park Avenue Suite 105 Baltimore, MD 21201, (410) 685-9199; Fax: (410) 685-9399

11. **TELL AMERICA PROGRAM:**

The Map Poster of the Korean War continues to be requested. The map is available to those participating in the Tell America Program. If you would like maps for your presentations, please contact: Director Roy Aldridge, Chairman, Tell America Program
6544 Grand Ridge, Dr
El Paso, TX 79912
Phone: 915-581-4725 ~ Email: Royaldridge@sbcglobal.net



"Freedom Is Not Free"



1950-1954



1954-Present

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.



Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2016.
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser,
**complete the attached form. Winners will be
announced on www.KWVA.org and in the Greybeards.**



Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2016

KWVA Coins - \$20
Bulk Sales 25/50 Available

Super Cash Prizes!

Special KWVA Coins - \$20
20th Anniversary Memorial

1st Prize
\$1,500

2nd Prize
\$1,000

3rd Prize
\$1,000

4th Prize
\$1,000

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\$1,000



FIVE ALL CASH PRIZES FIVE HAPPY MEMBERS

This (ALL CASH DRAWING) will allow the winners to: Enjoy life.

Go on vacation. Buy a rifle. Fix a car. Get an item of your choice.

Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA

For more tickets, copy or go to www.KWVA.org For applications click "HOW TO JOIN" link

KWVA INC. Korea War and Korea Service Veterans

Contact: Thomas Mc Hugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee, tmrchugh@msn.com for info.

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card Visa Master Card

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ V-Code _____

You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets
with your payment to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
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City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

Return this ticket with donation of \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Membership No: _____

12. **FUND RAISING:** Director Tom McHugh has published the 2016 flyer for the Korean War Veterans Associations annual fund raiser. The goal for 2016 is to raise \$70,000.00 to be applied toward administrative costs to run our organization. PLEASE help and sell the fund raising tickets below.

13. **HONOR FLIGHTS:** The Honor Flight schedule for the month of September is listed below. If you can make it out to the KWV Memorial to greet them, I know they would be very appreciative.

9/3	Honor Flight Dayton	95	9/3	9/3	DCA 9/3	AA	Jim Salamon
			3:45 PM	8:45AM		charter	513-310-9706
	DAY		5:00 PM	10:45AM		7:22 AM	hfdayton@zoomtown.com
9/3	Indy Honor Flight	89	9/3	9/3	DCA 9/3	AA	Grant Thompson
			9:45 AM	12:30 PM			(317) 702-0306
	Able		11:45 AM	2:00 PM		8:34AM	director@indyhonorflight.org
9/3	Indy Honor Flight	89	9/3	9/3	DCA 9/23	AA	Carol Ford
			12:45 PM	2:45 PM			(317) 459-0654
	Baker		2:30 PM	4:50 PM		9:34AM	carol.i.ford@gmail.com
9/7	HF Arizona	30	9/7	n/a	BWI 9/6	SWA	Susan Howe
			12:00PM	n/a		TBA	928 713-6772
	Phx Sky Harbor		1:30Pm	n/a		TBA	rshowe@cableone.net
9/7	HF Chicago	105	9/7	9/7	IAD 9/7	SWA Charter	Mary Pettinato
			12:35 PM	2:00 PM		8013	773-495-2278
	MDW		1:45 PM	3:10 PM		9:20 AM	mpettinato@honorflightchicago.org
9/9	HF Bay Area California	26	9/9	9/10	DCA 9/8	Virgin	TBD
			9:00 AM	9:00 AM		VX0001	TBD
	SFO		10:30 AM	10:30 AM		4:20 PM	TBD
9/10	TLC/Lone Eagle	56	9/10	9/10	BWI 9/9		Jim McLaughlin
			9:00 AM	10:45 AM		varies	614 558-6220
	A/P varies **		10:30 AM	12:15 PM			chairman@honorflight.org
9/10	HF Rochester	61	9/10	9/10	BWI 9/10	SWA	John Burns
			9:00 AM	10:20 AM		783	585-410-3257
	(ROC)**		10:00 AM	12:00 PM		7:30 AM	jbnyjets@frontoernet.net
9/10	HF Columbus	82	9/10	9/10	BWI 9/10	SWA	Susan Barr
			12:00 PM	1:30 PM		8048	740-272-0612

	CMH		1:15 PM	2:45 PM		8:10 AM	HonorFlightRN@gmail.com
9/10	HF North Country	14	9/10	9/10	BWI 9/10	PenAir	Gary Liberty
			1:00 PM	1:00 PM		8066	518-569-1908
	NCHF		3:00 PM	3:00 PM		11:45AM	gliberty@yahoo.com
9/10	Space Coast Honor Flight	25	9/10	9/10	BWI 9/10	TBD	Tim Olson
			TBD	TBD		TBD	321-482-4539
	MCO (Orlando)		TBD	TBD		TBD	tim.olson1234@gmail.com
9/12	HF Northern Colorado	123	9/12	9/12	BWI 9/11	AA	Stan Cass
			9:00 AM	2:30 PM		9432	970-396-8487
	(DEN)**		10:45 AM	3:45 PM		4:16 PM	hellfirecas@msn.com
9/13	Central Valley HF (CA)	70	9/13	9/13	BWI 9/12	Allegiant	AI PERRY
			9:30 AM	3:00pm		4401	(559) 970-9853
	**		11:00am	3:45pm		5:00 PM	alperry559@gmail.com
9/13	LAND OF LINCOLN HONOR FLIGHT	87	9/13	9/13	DCA 9/13	SUN	JOAN BORTOLON
			10:15 AM	11:30 AM		8603	217 652 4719
	SPI		11:15 AM	tbd		9:00 AM	JMB4604@AOL.COM
9/13	SHD Cedar Valley HF		9/13	9/13	BWI 9/13	Miami	Linda Bergmann
			11:45AM	1:30PM		659	319-2908720
	CIO		12:45PM	3:45PM		10:15AM	gr8auntwin@gmail.com
9/14	Old Glory HF	90	9/14	9/14	DCA 9/14	Sun	Drew MacDonald
			10:35 AM	12:30 PM		TBD	(920) 277-5934
	ATW		11:30 AM	2:00 PM		9:35 AM	drew@maclaw-llc.com
9/15	Honor Flight of the Quad Cities	0	9/15	9/15	IAD 9/15	SUN	Stephen Garrington
			6:00PM	1:00 PM		TBD	309-569-0660
	Moline (MLI)		7:00 PM	3:00PM		7:15AM	mhansen@ridgecrestvillage.org
9/17	HF Cleveland	24	n/a	n/a	BWI 9/17	SWA	Joe Benedict
			n/a	n/a			216-225-5841
			n/a	n/a			krbjeb@sbcglobal.net
9/17	Freedom Honor Flight	90	9/17	9/17	DCA 9/17	AA	Cheryl Higgins
			TBD	TBD		9436	402-350-3225

	LSE		TBD	TBD		10:20 AM	cdhiggins7@Yahoo.com
9/17	Stars & Stripes HF	90	9/17	9/17	DCA 9/17	AA	Paula Nelson
			1:00 PM	11:30 AM		9432	262 305-6424
	GMIA Milwaukee		1:45 PM	12:15 PM		9:45 AM	paulanelson19@gmail.com
9/17	Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight	145	9/17	9/17	IAD 9/17	SUN	Ron Newsum
			3:10 PM	11:45 AM		TBD	515-571-4477
	FOD		4:30 PM	2:00 PM		10:00 AM	rjnewsum@mchsi.com
9/20	Eastern Iowa Honor Flight	85	9/20	9/20	DCA 9/20	SUN	Allen Stekl
			10:45AM	12:30PM		8600	605-770-0677
	CID		11:50AM	2:40PM		9:35 AM	allen.stekl@pepsico.com
9/20	HF of West Central Florida	80	9/20	9/20	BWI 9/20	Allegiant	Gary Dombrowski
			12:30 PM	2:30 PM		4801	727-858-1837
			2:00 PM	3:30 PM		8:15 AM	gfd@tampabay.rr.com
9/20	Honor Flight Tri-State	72	9/20	9/20	DCA 9/20	AA	Cheryl Popp
			1:50 PM	3:35 PM		Charter	513-324-9634
			3:25 PM	5:30 PM		9:20 AM	poppair@fuse.net
9/21	HF Arizona	30	9/21	n/a	BWI 9/20	SWA	Susan Howe
			12:00PM	n/a		TBA	928 713-6772
	Phx Sky Harbor		1:30Pm	n/a		TBA	rshowe@cablone.net
9/24	HF Oregon	25	9/24	9/24	DCA 9/23	Alaska	Gail Yakopatz
			9:00 AM	10:45 AM		AS0764	541 218-4988 cell
	PDX**		10:30 AM	12:00 PM		5:40 PM	honorwwivets@gmail.com
9/24	Greater St. Louis HF	23	9/24	9/24	BWI 9/24	SWA	Rolando Lopez
			10:15 AM	12:15 PM		1622	314-226-5713
	STL		11:45 AM	1:45 PM		9:00 AM	info@gslhonorflight.org
9/24	TexasSouthPlainsHF	100	9/24	9/26	BWI 9/24	SWA	Janis Vaughn
			12:30 PM	12:30 PM		TBA	806-787-8713
	Lubbock,Tex		2:30 PM	2:30 PM		TBA	jkvaughn@suddenlink.net

9/24	Badger Honor Flight	90	9/24	9/24	DCA 9/24	US Air	Jody McClain
			2:45 PM	4:30 PM		TBD	608-345-6564
	MSN		3:45 PM	6:00 PM		10:02 AM	kksmom2001@sbcglobal.net
9/25	Puget Sound Honor Flight	55	9/25	9/25	BWI 9/24	ASA	Renee Peavey
			9:30 AM	11:00 AM		707	253-686-2324
	(SEA)**		10:50 AM	12:30 PM		4:04 PM	renee.jim.peavey@gmail.com
9/26	Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette	85	9/26	9/26	DCA 9/25	AA	Pam Mow
			10:45 AM	12:15PM		9435	765-430-4141
	GLHF		11:45AM	2:00PM		9:14AM	lgsmons@gmail.com
9/27	Greater Peoria Honor Flight	80	9/27	9/27	DCA 9/27	Sun	Margaret Hanley
			10:30 AM	12:00 PM		8601	309-472-1703
	PIA		11:30 AM	1:00 PM		9:30 AM	business@gphonorflight.org
9/27	Greater St. Louis HF	-	9/27	9/27	DCA 9/27	SWA	Rolando Lopez
			11:30 AM	1:15 PM		TBD	314-226-5713
	STL		12:45 PM	2:30 PM		TBD	info@gslhonorflight.org
9/27	SHD Cedar Valley HF		9/27	9/27	BWI 9/27	Miami	Linda Bergmann
			11:45AM	1:30PM		661	319-290-8720
	CIO		12:45PM	3:45PM		10:15AM	gr8auntwin@gmail.com
9/29	Heartland HF	90	9/29	9/29	DCA 9/29	American	John Doole
			10:15 AM	11:45 AM		9435	913 707 -4828
	MCI		11:30 AM	1:00 PM		9:21 AM	jdoolep@aol.com

10. GROUP TO RECOGNIZE KOREAN WAR VETERANS

The Fayetteville Korean American Association is hoping to celebrate its homeland and honor local veterans during an event later this month. The association will host a celebration of the Korean Independence Day and recognize Korean War veterans Aug. 14. At 3 p.m. at Cumberland United Methodist Church on George Owen Drive, the organization will host a program marking the holiday, which marks the day, Aug. 15, 1945, in which the Republic of Korea was liberated at the end of World War II. Three years later, on the same day, the Republic of Korea was established following three years of being overseen by a U.S. military administration. The Korean War began a few years later and would involve hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops, with tens of thousands killed and thousands still unaccounted for, before the regular fighting ended with a stalemate between North and South Korea. Officials said the Korean community will honor those U.S. troops who fought for Korea on Aug. 14. At 5 p.m. at the Korean War Memorial in Freedom Memorial Park, officials will present a wreath and hold a separate service. Veterans and members of the public are welcome to attend both events.

11. ARMY SECRETARY GETS CLOSE-UP LOOK AT KOREAN FRONT LINE



By Kim Gamel

USFK COMMANDER: THAAD IS SAFE, MUST BE IN SOUTHEAST REGION

The U.S.-South Korean agreement to deploy THAAD, in the farming region of Seongju has drawn protests from residents worried about health risks from the high powered radar and critics.

RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE RANGE, South Korea — The Army's new civilian leader has taken a real hands-on approach during his first tour of the Pacific, even firing a rocket from a Kiowa helicopter during a demonstration flight near the border with North Korea.

But it's the real military drills held regularly by the U.S. and its allies that impressed him the most.

Army Secretary Eric Fanning kicked off his visit to the region in Hawaii where multinational naval exercises were being held and wrapped it up in South Korea where the U.S. and its ally are preparing for annual war games later this month.

"Those integrated exercises are one of the ways we're enhancing our capabilities as we draw down the Army," Fanning told Stars and Stripes in an interview Wednesday.

Fanning said his trip, which also included stops in Guam, Malaysia, Japan and Alaska, highlighted the challenges facing the Army as it deals with budget constraints, aging equipment and a massive troop drawdown. "We're asking a lot of our soldiers, and the requirements are going up, and you see more of that here certainly on this peninsula," he said after meeting with soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division that mans the front lines near the heavily militarized border with North Korea.

"Part of that is the rotational concept that we're using, which allows us to have a bigger footprint even as we draw down the Army," he said.

The Army dissolved the division's permanent 1st Brigade Combat Team last year as part of reorganizations in the face of mandated budget cuts and modernization efforts. The combat brigade, which had been stationed on

the peninsula since 1965, was replaced with rotational units serving nine-month deployments, and the 2ID was transformed into a combined U.S.-South Korean unit.

“One of the benefits is we get higher readiness in the soldiers that we bring over here, but it’s another requirement we’re levying on the Army, and it’s a tough deployment schedule,” Fanning said.

Fanning, who was sworn in on May 18, has said he would look for ways to reverse as many of the combat cuts as possible. But he acknowledged Wednesday that reductions are necessary.

“We use as many voluntary methods as are at our disposal to try and draw down,” he said. “But it’s important that we have a force structure that we can afford and that we can keep modernized, we can keep trained.”

“The worst thing would be to keep an Army that’s too large and not have the money to buy equipment, to maintain the equipment and to keep it ... ready for the types of fights that we need to be ready for,” he added. He spoke after flying in a Kiowa Warrior that test-fired rockets into a tree-covered hillside on this 3,390-acre training complex. The historic helicopters are on their last deployment in South Korea.

On Tuesday, Fanning conducted a reload drill on a Patriot missile launching system during a visit to Osan Air Base. During his visit to Hawaii, he tried his hand at starting a fire with a 9-volt battery and steel wool, hoisted a heavy litter up a hillside and scrambled across a rope line.

The U.S. and South Korean governments also have agreed to deploy an advanced Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, on the peninsula to help counter a growing threat from the North.

Highlighting the rising tensions, North Korea launched two intermediate-range missiles earlier Wednesday, including one that landed in the sea near Japan.

Fanning, who had three GoPro cameras recording his flight in the Kiowa, said social media also provides a valuable tool for reaching out to Americans in recruiting efforts and for advertising the Army’s mission.

“I think that we should all be trying to find ways at all levels to use those tools to reach out to new audiences and younger audiences,” he said.

“It’s been a concern of mine and many others about this perception of a growing divide between those who serve and those who are protected so I think it’s incumbent on us to engage in any way we can to show the country what this Army is doing.

12. **EMBASSY NEWS:**

- Ambassador Ahn is planning a possible visit to Ann Arbor, Michigan in the near future and requested that I identify the nearest Korean War Veterans Association Chapter near Ann Arbor and some names of Korean War Veterans who live in this area. No further information given at this time as to whether there will be a trip and what the trip is for. I will provide the information as it becomes available.
- The Defense Attaché for the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, MG Kyoung Shin will be leaving his position toward the end of 2016. He has been a true friend to the Korean War Veterans across the United States. He will be truly missed.

Save the Date!!
Farewell Dinner Honoring

MG Kyoung Soo & Mia SHIN
Thursday, November 10, 2016
6:30 - 9:00PM

More Details to follow

13. **PHONE SCAM SEEKS DONATIONS IN NAME OF WOUNDED-VETERANS GROUP:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart — a congressionally chartered service organization for active-duty and combat-wounded veterans — is warning about a telephone scam being conducted in its name. Unknown individuals have been cold-calling people across the United States, often from 315-516-2512,

and requesting donations for the upcoming presidential election. The callers say they're doing so on behalf of MOPH and mention the name of the group's national commander, Robert Puskar. "The public should be informed that these calls are a hoax," a MOPH statement said. "MOPH remains an apolitical organization and, as such, 'shall not contribute to or otherwise support or assist any political party of candidate for public office.'" The statement asks people to contact local authorities if they receive such calls. MOPH was formed in 1932 "for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active-duty men and women who have received a Purple Heart, the statement said. The group also helps with Veterans Administration claims, homelessness and employment assistance.

14. **MASSACUSETTS APPROVES KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS MONUMENT:** The State of MA has approved the Korea Defense Veterans monument that Chapter #299 (Korea Veterans of America), designed and raised money for. They would like to unveil/ dedicate it on VETERANS DAY, November 11th at the Charlestown Navy Yard. The cities of Boston and Charlestown, along with State VA officials and various veterans groups will be present. They have asked that Jeff Brodeur, the driving force behind this initiative, and officers of Chapter #290 be present at the dedication.



15. **RESCHEDULED: KWVMF FUND RAISING GALAS:** A Gala Benefit is scheduled for, October 31, 2016, at the Sheila Hotel, Seoul, Korea to raise money for the maintenance program at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Wall of Remembrance in Washington, D.C.
16. **SAN FRANCISCO KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION:** Opening Ceremony, Monday, August 1, 2016, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, Lincoln Boulevard at Sheridan Avenue, The Presidio, San Francisco. Here is the update posting on the KWVMF. First Vice President Warren Wiedhahn represented and gave remarks on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association, USA.
- Sunday, July 31, 2016 the San Francisco Sunday Examiner featured a very well-written story about the Opening Ceremony of the Korean War Memorial, and about several local Korean War veterans. Here's the link: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/etched-history-korean-war-veterans-honored-presidio-memorial/>
17. **CHOSIN FEW MEMORIAL DEDICATION** at Quantico Marine Corps Base (Museum) has been postponed indefinitely due to contractual problems.
18. **VETERANS DAY 2017:** Director Paul Cunningham has been appointed Chair of the Veterans Day 2017 Committee. Other members include Director Whitmore and Executive Director Jim Fisher. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please inform Director Cunningham.

Our urgent interest in this planning lies in the necessity for the Korean War Veterans to prepare for Veterans Day, 2017 when we will be Host VSO.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agenda items included:

- Review of quotes from caterers for Reception. Polish food items were included in the menu and reflected in the quotes of just under **\$32,000 (this includes all taxes and usage fees)**. This represents the largest single expense.
- Logistics of setting up the reception area to provide informative information regarding the PLAV, membership applications, National Service Director on Benefits available to veterans. Volunteers to "man" the tables, greeters and personnel to check the names of guests against the issued invitations. (Must meet restrictions and/or rules set by VA) Signage and its display.

- Invitation Cards for the reception.
- Ordering Lapel Pins for reception attendees and possibly members who will be unable to attend.
- Reception location. Women in Military Service Memorial Building. **RENTAL FEE: \$1, 500.00** (SUBJECT TO CHANGE).
- Determination of Need for a Specific Checking Account for the 2017 Veterans Day Event with the requirement that 2 signatures be required for all checks.
- Hotels and Transportation needs for Departments. Consideration of “Specials” such as tours and monument visitations. Several area lodging sites had been visited and were discussed.
- Seating for the Ceremonies at Arlington Amphitheater and Bus information. Early arrival for PLAV is encouraged because of expected crowds. Amphitheater seating is limited and opens to the public on a “first come-first seated” basis after 8:00AM

VA SECRETARY MCDONALD DESIGNATES THE 2016 KOREAN WAR VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL A REGIONAL SITE OBSERVANCE

Department of Veterans Affairs



The Veterans Day National Committee

hereby designates

Korean War Veterans Association

as a Regional Site for the Observance of

Veterans Day 2016



Robert A. McDonald

Robert A. McDonald
 Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 Chairman, Veterans Day National Committee

19. **PRAYER LIST:**

- Mrs. Virginia Edwards (Sonny's wife) – remission
- Jeff Brodeur's sister – Need a liver transplant
- Fred Ragusa's wife – Three upcoming surgeries
- COL Bill Weber – Fitting of new prosthesis
- Director George Bruzgis – Upcoming surgery for lack of circulation in leg.
- Director Tine Martin's wife – recovery from recent heart surgery
- Dody Green – Upcoming heart surgery

It is an honor to work with each of you and I hope we continue to look forward to continuing our progress in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

James R. Fisher
National Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association, USA

Korean War Veterans Association Annual General Membership Meeting



**October 10 – 14, 2016
Gold Coast Casino and Hotel
4000 West Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102**



Room Rate Deluxe Rooms

**Sunday- Thursday \$35.00 plus tax and resort fee = \$53.75
Friday & Saturday \$99.00 plus Tax & Resort fee = \$125.43**

Premium Rooms

**Sunday – Thursday \$42.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = \$ 61.59
Friday & Saturday \$ 114.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = \$ 142.23**

**To make reservations on-line go to <http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups>
To receive your special KWVA group rate, you will need to enter the assigned
Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA**

**If you are calling to make reservations, please call 888-402-6278 and identify yourselves
as members of a group convention.**

**Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA
CUT-OFF DATE September 9, 2016**

Make your reservations NOW as we are expecting a large amount of attendees

Come join the fun in Las Vegas!!!

Please call 888-402-6278 and identify yourselves as members of a group convention.

**Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA
CUT-OFF DATE September 9, 2016**

Make your reservations NOW as we are expecting a large amount of attendees

Come join the fun in Las Vegas!!!