



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

Washington, D.C.

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The following monthly update for April 2018 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

- **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John "Sonny" Edwards – AS OF 4-26-18

NEW MEMBERS TYTD 144
NEW MEMBERS LYTD 181

ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 12,566
ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 12,153
DECREASE 413
DECEASED COMRADES REPORTED TYTD 333 83/MO

DEPARTMENT OR CHAPTERS 3 PLUS NEW MEMBERS THIS MO
CA-4 MO-4

- **HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER:** Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name
- Next of kin information
- Social security number and/or service number
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Retirement date
- Copy of the death certificate
- Retired rank
- Copy of the Statement of Service (Last DD Form 214)



- **VA News Release**

Debunking the VA Privatization Myth
04/05/2018 04:19 PM EDT



There is no effort underway to privatize VA and to suggest otherwise is completely false and a red herring designed to distract and avoid honest debate on the real issues surrounding Veterans' health care.

- **FRANK GAYLORD, SCULPTOR OF KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL SOLDIERS, DIES AT 93**



SNOW-COVERED STATUES IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ARE SEEN ON MARCH 14, 2017, IN WASHINGTON. (MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

NORTHFIELD, Vt. — A VERMONT SCULPTOR WHO DESIGNED THE STATUES OF SOLDIERS FOR THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON HAS DIED.

FRANK GAYLORD WAS 93. GAYLORD DIED MARCH 21 AT HIS DAUGHTER'S HOME IN NORTHFIELD, ACCORDING TO THE HOOKER WHITCOMB FUNERAL HOME IN BARRE, VERMONT, WHICH IS HANDLING THE ARRANGEMENTS.

GAYLORD WAS AN ARMY PARATROOPER IN WORLD WAR II AND WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR, ACCORDING TO AN OBITUARY IN THE TIMES ARGUS NEWSPAPER. AFTER GRADUATING FROM TEMPLE UNIVERSITY IN PHILADELPHIA WITH A DEGREE IN FINE ARTS, HE AND HIS WIFE MOVED TO BARRE, VERMONT, IN 1951, WHERE HE WORKED AS A SCULPTOR IN THE CITY KNOWN FOR ITS GRANITE

QUARRIES AND GRANITE ART.



IN THIS MARCH 28, 2015 PHOTO, FRANK GAYLORD LOOKS AT A PHOTO OF HIMSELF AT WORK IN HIS OLD STUDIO IN BARRE, VT.

GAYLORD, WHO DESIGNED THE STATUES OF SOLDIERS FOR THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON HAS DIED. (JOE LAMBERTI/CAMDEN COURIER-POST VIA AP) GAYLORD WAS PICKED TO BE THE SCULPTOR FOR THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL,

WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS IN 1987, BECAUSE OF HIS ARTISTIC ABILITY AND HIS FAMILIARITY WITH THE UNIFORMS OF THE ERA, SAID RETIRED COL. WILLIAM WEBER, CHAIRMAN OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, WHO IS ALSO A KOREAN WAR VET.

“THERE AREN’T ENOUGH ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE THE SUPERB EXCELLENCE OF WHAT HE DID,” WEBER SAID OF THE 19 STAINLESS STEEL STATUES. “HE WAS ABLE TO CONVEY IN THE ARTISTRY OF THE SCULPTURES, NOT ONLY THE AUTHENTICITY OF UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO WITH THE FLOWING PARKAS AND PONCHOS THE SEVERITY OF THE WEATHER CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THAT WAR WAS FOUGHT.”

THE MEMORIAL WAS DEDICATED IN 1995.

GAYLORD, WHO CREATED OTHER MONUMENTS FOR SITES AROUND THE COUNTRY, TOLD THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS THAT WATCHING THE SCULPTURE ARRIVE ON THE NATIONAL MALL WAS “THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WHOLE LIFE.”

“LOOKING BACK, I CAN SEE THAT IT WAS MY FINEST MOMENT: TO SEE YOUR OWN WORK UNLOADED ON THE MALL, AT THE NATION’S CAPITAL, WITH A MONUMENT THAT REQUIRES A SCULPTURAL SOLUTION,” HE SAID.



IN THIS MARCH 28, 2015 PHOTO, FRANK GAYLORD LOOKS AT PHOTOS OF HIS WORK IN HIS OLD STUDIO IN BARRE, VT.

IN 2013, HE WON A SETTLEMENT OF NEARLY \$685,000 IN A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FOR USE OF AN IMAGE OF THE SOLDIERS ON ONE OF ITS STAMPS.

GAYLORD WAS AN ARMY PARATROOPER IN WORLD WAR II AND WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR. AFTER GRADUATING FROM TEMPLE UNIVERSITY IN

PHILADELPHIA WITH A DEGREE IN FINE ARTS, HE AND HIS WIFE MOVED TO BARRE, VERMONT, IN 1951, WHERE HE WORKED AS A SCULPTOR IN THE CITY KNOWN FOR ITS GRANITE QUARRIES AND GRANITE ART.

HE SCULPTED THE 19 STAINLESS STEEL SOLDIERS FOR THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL THAT WAS DEDICATED IN 1995.

- **VA, POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE SPOT 2 SCAMS TARGETING VETERANS**

By Nicole Ogrysko @nogryskoWFED

The Veterans Affairs Department and U.S. Postal Inspection Service is warning veterans of two kinds of scams which are specifically targeting former service members.

Fake charities posing as organizations that benefit the veteran population and companies claiming to offer pension buyouts are becoming prevalent and dangerous to this community, VA wrote in a recent blog post.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and non-profit AARP say they are noticing more fake charities using names that sound real and authentic as a ploy to convince veterans to donate. These fraudulent organizations attempt to appeal to a veteran’s sense of duty and honor when soliciting donations.

Most of these “charities” are pocketing the donations for themselves, the agencies said. One scammer operated two fake charities and pocketed the veterans’ donations, then used the personal information written on the checks to steal donors’ identities and take more cash, according to a VA blog post. Before donating to a charity, veterans should verify the organization’s name and do some research about their mission and reputation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said.

In addition, veterans should understand where specifically their donations will go and who will benefit from them. The Postal Inspection Service and VA recommend CharityWatch as a resource, which reviews charities’ financial statements and gives organizations a rating based on their transparency and spending.

Others are scamming veterans in attempt to go after their pensions, the agencies said.

For most veterans, their VA pensions are hard-fought, but the Postal Inspection Service said some fraudulent companies are offering veterans a “pension advance” or buyout. In these situations, a company offers a veteran a lump sum in exchange for a piece of all future pension payments.

Watch for scams’ high fees

Veterans might see this as an attractive option, especially if they are looking for fast cash. But VA and the Postal Inspection Service say these schemes are typically a bust, because these companies often charge high interest rates. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has seen some interest rates as high as 106 percent, the agencies said.

Again, these organizations often have patriotic-sounding names and logos and sometimes claim they have been endorsed by the VA.

The Postal Inspection Service suggested veterans avoid high fees and interest rates, and that they should never sign over control of their benefits.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and AARP Fraud Network teamed up late last year to launch “Operation Protect Veterans,” a campaign designed to better educate veterans about possible scams and how they can protect themselves.

According to an AARP November survey, 16 percent of veterans have lost money to fraudsters, compared to 8 percent of non-veterans.

Fraudsters often like to target specific groups of people, like veterans or federal annuitants, the Securities and Exchange Commission said.

The Office of Personnel Management warned the federal workforce last year of an aggressive marketing campaign by companies offering cash payments in exchange for all or part of beneficiaries' annuity payments.

Last summer, the SEC warned Thrift Savings Plan participants of a scam from a fake federal benefits consulting group, which created a misleading impression that it was affiliated with and approved by the TSP.

- **POSSIBLE MEDICARE SCAM –BE AWARE**

Just a heads up that there is a scam going around involving the new Medicare Cards coming out in April.

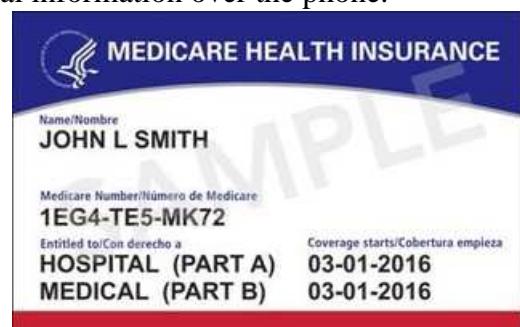
Pass it along . It might come in handy to know Medicare will never call you on the phone.

It is true that the new cards will be sent out from April 2018 to April 2019. Medicare has also warned on scams. They do not charge for cards or want your personal information over the phone.

This change is coming up. DO NOT give out information over the phone. Medicare Cards without Social Security Numbers Coming .

Example of the new Medicare cards.

This is pretty important to get to people with Medicare, their families, and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare



Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently, the ID number is your social security number. This is starting to hit the media. Scammers are opportunistic .

First of all the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

WHAT'S THE SCAM?

Somebody from "MEDICARE " will call to tell you-you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between \$5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to.

Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call.

Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled to".

- **LOCATIONS OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS:**

If you are looking for a VA Hospital or Medical Center near you, please click on to the attached site and each hospital and medical center is located under the state you line on.

<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp>

- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**

- The digital 2017 Benefits Book is here:

https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

- The Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) has a BAS also has a summary of VA benefits available here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits_summary_materials.asp

- Veteran Data Pocket Card: Attached and at the following link:

<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/pocketcards/fy2018q1.pdf>

- VA Cemetery Factsheet on Weekend Burial:

https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf

- **Preserving the Past**

If you are looking for military records or honors/awards for yourself or a loved one, this article from Military Times has detailed information on how to obtain what you need:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/salute-veterans/2017/11/14/preserving-the-past-9-tips-on-obtaining-military-records-medals-for-you-or-a-loved-one/>

- **VA RESUMES APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VETERANS ID CARD:** After temporarily

suspending applications for the recently created veterans identification (ID) cards due to high demand, VA is once again accepting applications. The new veterans ID card was created by the *Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015* so veterans who do not have a Veterans Health Identification Card are able to prove their veteran status without having to carry their DD-214. The cards are valid only for proving military service and cannot be used for VA or military benefits. [Apply for a new veterans ID card.](#)

- **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE:**

Are you aware that the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (a non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia) is seeking funding to place the names of the 36,574 fallen veterans on a Wall of Remembrance (WOR) to be added to the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation's Capital, so as to honor all who gave their all during that War? That Wall of Remembrance will finally give credence to the Memorial's theme that "Freedom is not Free." Just as Huntsville honors its veterans from every war, so will the Foundation honor our nation's veterans fallen in battle during the Korean War.

Someone once said that "our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice" and that the Foundation seeks to do. It was just last November when the Foundation's efforts to shepherd legislation through numerous Congresses finally succeeded in having the legislation signed into law (Public Law 114-230) to build that Wall - using solely private, tax-deductible, funding. If you are interested in writing another or follow up story on particularly the Korean War Veterans to let your community know of the Foundation's efforts, please get back in touch with me.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Help us commemorate those who served and sacrificed.

To make a contribution, please visit:



WWW.KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt foundation chartered in

the District of Columbia as a 501C3 Foundation.
Donations made to the Foundation are justified as a tax deduction by the donor

Bridging Past And Present

June 24-27, 2018

Charleston, South Carolina

Hosted by The Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc.

DATES

- Check in: June 24th
- Conference: June 25th to 26th
- Check out: June 27th

ELIGIBILITY

The conference is open to educators who are willing to either:

- Complete 1 interview of a veteran
- Complete 1 transcript of a veteran interview in the archive.
- Educators who exceed expectations will be considered for a research trip to South Korea.

LOCATION

Patriots Point Maritime Naval Museum (Quality Inn)

COST

Thanks to the generous support of the KWLF, there is **NO COST** for double occupancy room, meals and conference speakers. Attendees only pay a \$55 registration fee.

- New attendees are eligible for a \$450 airfare scholarship.

REGISTER TODAY

www.kwdhproject.org/teacher-conference



March 27, 2018

Special Invitation to Join Korean Government's 70th Korean War Anniversary Project

My name is Jongwoo Han—I am the President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), which is supported by the ROK's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA). I am writing to request your participation in a special project executed by the KWLF and MPVA.

As you may know, 2020 is the 70th anniversary of the breakout of the Korean War. To commemorate this special occasion, we are launching a special website that will hold interviews of Korean War Veterans from the 21 countries that participated in the war. These interviews will be conducted in veterans' mother tongues and then translated into Korean.

The KWLF, incorporated as a non-for-profit in New York, has accumulated more than 1,000 in-depth interviews and 6,000 historical memorabilia of KWVs, available at www.kwvdm.org. Based on this KWV digital archive, we have created lesson plans, history book chapters, the Korean War Memory Bank (a database of interviews and artifacts), and a special documentary film for teachers and students. All of this will be completed by the end of 2018 and can be, currently, viewed at www.koreanwarlegacy.org.

In addition to this 70th anniversary project, we would also like to invite History, Social Studies, and other relevant teachers to our annual Teachers Conference, upon your recommendation. The annual conference is about the Korean War and its legacy of Korea's advanced economy and democracy. The foundation will extend invitations, with consideration of full financial support, to those who are interested in this conference. This year, the conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from June 24-27, 2018.

Those who successfully attend this conference can also be considered to join our annual "Teachers Korea Visit Program."

I sincerely hope you help your veterans participate in this special 70th anniversary project. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I hope to hear from you soon.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jongwoo Han".

Jongwoo Han, Ph.D. (315) 480-9427 jonghan@syr.edu



- **MIA UPDATE:**

--**Army Sgt. Donald L. Baker**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1481886/soldier> -missing-from-the-korean-war-accounted-for-baker-donald/

In September 1950, Baker was a member of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Sept. 6, 1950, as a result of fighting that occurred between his unit and enemy forces near Haman, South Korea.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Baker's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Cpl. Thomas W. Reagan**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1484412/soldier> -missing-from-the-korean-war-accounted-for-reagan-t/

In August 1950, Reagan was assigned to Company A, 14th Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, participating in the defense of the 24th ID's main supply route and the town of Yongsan in an area known as the

Naktong Bulge, in South Korea. Reagan's company, an engineer unit, was overwhelmed and outmaneuvered by the Korean People's Army, and utilized as an infantry unit in an attempt to hold open the supply route. On Aug. 12,

1950, the company was able to withdraw to a safe area to account for their Soldiers. Reagan could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission. Reagan's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from the Korean War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

--**Army Master Sgt. George R. Housekeeper, Jr.**, 28, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, accounted for on June 15, 2017, will be buried April 11, in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. In late November 1950, Housekeeper was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. The American forces withdrew south with the Chinese attacks continuing. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately

1,500 wounded service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured or killed in enemy territory. Because Housekeeper could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, he was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950.

Housekeeper's name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists and no returning American prisoners reported Housekeeper as a prisoner of war. Due to the prolonged lack of evidence, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.

In September 2004, a joint U.S. and Korean People's Army (KPA) recovery team conducted a Joint Recovery Operation at a burial site in the vicinity of Twikkae Village, Changjin District, South Hamgyong Province, North Korea, on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir. The site was consistent with the 31st RCT's location during its withdrawal. During the excavation, the recovery team recovered material evidence and several sets of osseous material. The remains were sent to the laboratory for analysis.

To identify Housekeeper's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA) and autosomal (auSTR) DNA analysis, which matched his brother, as well as anthropological analysis, which matched his records, and circumstantial evidence.

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Milton M. Beed**, 30, of Meadow Grove, Neb., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried April 25 in Norfolk, Neb. Beed was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. The unit was supporting South Korean forces in the village of Hoengsong, an area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea, when Chinese forces launched a massive counteroffensive, forcing them to withdraw to Wonju. Beed could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action as of Feb. 12, 1951.

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Lester R. Walker**, 19, of Ferriday, La., whose identification was previously announced, was buried April 18 in Downsville, La. Walker was assigned to Battery B, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. On Sept. 3, 1950, Walker was attached to Task Force Haynes in the vicinity of Changnyeong, South Korea, when he disappeared. Based on a lack of information concerning his status, the U.S. Army declared him deceased and his remains non-recoverable.

-- **Army Cpl. Leonard V. Purkapile**, 26, of Potosi, Wis., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried April 26 in Lancaster, Wis. Purkapile was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, Purkapile's unit was engaged by Chinese forces in the vicinity of Unsan while withdrawing southeast to Yongbyon, North Korea. Purkapile could not be accounted for following the battle and was declared missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950.

-- **Army Master Sgt. Finley J. Davis**, 39, of Pittsburgh, whose identification was previously announced, was buried April 19 in North Charleston, S.C. Davis was a member of Company D, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. On Nov. 25, 1950, Chinese forces initiated an offensive along the 8th Army front, forcing all 8th Army units to withdraw on November 29. Davis' battalion, assigned to provide security for the division, was attacked again by the Chinese and Davis was reported missing in action as of Dec. 1, 1950. Read about Davis.

- **Arlington Launches Second 'Future of the Cemetery' Survey:** Only 1 percent of all veterans are buried or inurned at Arlington National Cemetery, but the cemetery is still projected to run out of space

in two decades unless new land is obtained, eligibility requirements change, or some combination of both. That's why Congress asked the Department of the Army to consider what could be done to preserve Arlington as an active military cemetery well into the future, and that's why Arlington has launched a second survey to hear from its stakeholders. The first survey was conducted in July 2017 in partnership with the VFW and other organizations. Those results can be found here. The new survey further refines the first. Finding new land that is adjacent to the cemetery would be extremely difficult in an urban environment, but would closing Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall be a solution or just prolong the inevitable, since one acre extends the service life of the cemetery by only three months? Should Arlington be reserved just for active-duty deaths, combat deaths, former POWs, high heroism medal recipients, or not? "Your opinion matters — not only to us, but to our military and civilian leaders as they face a difficult future for our hallowed national shrine," said Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera. Take the new survey here.

<https://survey.foreseerresults.com/survey/display?cid=EshUt0ZwxRE9xtVJtgle9g4C&sid=link-en>

- **TRUMP, KIM SUMMIT MAY BOOST RECOVERY OF US KOREA WAR REMAINS**

By: Eric Talmadge, The Associated Press



American flag and POW/MIA Flag fly high. (Staff Sgt. Kenny Holston/Air Force)

TOKYO — More than six decades after the troops died for their country, the repatriation of the remains of thousands of U.S. military personnel missing in action and presumed dead from the Korean War may finally get a boost now that President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are expected to hold the first-ever summit between their countries.

Nearly 7,800 U.S. troops remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. About 5,300 were lost in North Korea.

Efforts to recover and return the remains have been stalled for more than a decade because of the North's development of nuclear weapons and U.S. claims that the safety of recovery teams it sent during the administration of President George W. Bush was not sufficiently guaranteed.

There are indications, however, that Trump may raise the issue directly with Kim when they meet. There is also a chance Kim might return some remains even before the summit. The location and date of the summit have yet to be announced, though officials have suggested the meeting should take place by May.

"Hopefully, the North Koreans will turn over some remains as a goodwill gesture before the summit," said Bill Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador and New Mexico governor who secured the return of six sets of remains from North Korea in 2007. "This would help enormously to diffuse some tension." Frank Metersky, a Korean War veteran and a leading advocate of efforts to recover the remains with Korea Cold War Families of the Missing, one of three main support groups for families of service personnel missing in action, said he has been told by administration officials dealing with the matter that it is tentatively high on the summit agenda.

"The MIA issue, recovery of remains from the Korean War is the third item on the list if they get to it," he said by phone from New York. "If the meeting takes place and they get past the nuclear and missile issues, it's the third item on the agenda."



In this Dec. 3, 2015, photo, village elder Kim Ri Jun digs up a burlap sack which he claims contains the remains belonging to a soldier who fought in the Korean War from a burial site on Ryongyon-ri hill in Kujang county, North Korea. (Wong Maye-E/AP)

Trump's decision to meet Kim has come under criticism amid skepticism over whether he will be able to negotiate a nuclear deal with the North.

An agreement from Kim to return remains or allow future search missions would allow Trump to claim a concrete success. Hopes are high that Kim might also be willing to release three Americans of Korean descent it is now holding in custody for what it calls "anti-state" activities.

According to the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, most of the missing Americans died in major battles or as prisoners of war. Others died along the wayside or in small villages. Many of the losses from aircraft crashes also occurred near battle zones or roads connecting them.

North Korea and the United States remain technically at war because the 1950-53 fighting ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. But between 1996 and 2005, joint U.S.-North Korea military search teams conducted 33 joint recovery operations and recovered 229 sets of American remains.

Washington officially broke off the program because it claimed the safety of its searchers was not guaranteed, though the North's first nuclear test, in 2006, was likely a bigger reason. Critics of the program also argued the North was using the deal to squeeze cash out of Washington, calling it "bones for bucks."

The total cost to the U.S. to carry out the joint missions was \$19.5 million.

Talks to restart recovery work resumed under President Barack Obama in 2011, only to fall apart after North Korea launched a rocket condemned by the U.S. as a banned test of ballistic missile technology. There has been essentially no government-to-government progress since.

Richard Downes, president of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIA, said the North had expressed a willingness to return remains as recently as 2016, when he traveled to Pyongyang as a private citizen with a non-profit headed by Richardson.

"If progress is made, even without the remains issue being raised, windows may open sometime afterward," he said in an email to The Associated Press.

The passage of time is making recovery efforts more difficult.



In this Dec. 3, 2015, photo, human remains, which village elders claim belong to soldiers who fought in the Korean War, is laid out at a burial site on Ryongyon-ri hill in Kujang county, North Korea. (Wong Maye-E/AP)

In 2016, the AP visited a site about 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Pyongyang where villagers have buried what they claimed to be dozens of sets of remains that were unearthed during the construction of the Chongchon River No. 10 Hydroelectric Power Station.

The villagers collected the remains that had been dug up, put them in large burlap bags and buried them in three separate places on a nearby hill overlooking a valley that was to be flooded as part of the construction project. Whether

the remains are actually of Americans, of course, can't be determined until they are recovered, separated and probably DNA tested.

But the U.S. government has estimated as many as 270 sets of American remains are likely recoverable in the area, which is now called Kujang County. Searching for them was one of the top priorities when the U.S. missions were still going to North Korea. Nearly a dozen joint searches were conducted in the area from 1998-2000.

OFFICIALS: NORTH KOREA CONFIRMS TO WHITE HOUSE IT IS WILLING TO DISCUSS DENUCLEARIZATION



A man reads a copy of the Munhwa Ilbo newspaper featuring President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the front page in Seoul on March 9, 2018.

By DAVID NAKAMURA / The Washington Post / Published: April 8, 2018

WASHINGTON — North Korea has confirmed directly to the Trump administration that it is willing to negotiate with the United States over potential denuclearization, administration officials said Sunday.

The confirmation offers the administration greater assurances that North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un is committed to a potential meeting with President Donald Trump by the end of next month.

"The U.S. has confirmed that Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," an

South Korean emissaries, in a visit to the White House last month, had presented Kim's invitation to meet with Trump, who quickly agreed.

But Pyongyang has been silent publicly since then about a summit, even as Kim visited Beijing earlier this month in his first visit outside North Korea since assuming control of the country after his father, Kim Jong Il, died in 2011. The Wall Street Journal was the first to report that the North has confirmed the offer to the United States.

Trump said last month that he was willing to have the historic meeting with Kim and instructed his aides to arrange it before the end of May. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is scheduled to make a two-day visit with Trump at Mar-a-Lago, the president's resort near Palm Beach, Fla., to coordinate strategy between the allies. South Korean President Moon Jae-in plans to meet with Kim at the end of April in the demilitarized zone between the North and South.

White House officials have not said where the Trump-Kim summit will be held. The agenda of the meeting is not yet known, and North Korea has not been clear about what steps it is willing to take to move toward denuclearization. During previous negotiations under different U.S. administrations, the North has agreed to freeze its nuclear weapons program in exchange for the lifting of international economic sanctions, only to violate the agreement by testing more weapons.

- **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:
 Chairman, Alves J. Key, Jr.,
 Tell America Program
 5506 Emerald Park Blvd.
 Arlington, TX 76012
 817-472-7743
- **Certain Adoption Expenses Reimbursable:** VA has amended its regulation to provide reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses incurred by veterans with a service-connected disability that results in infertility. Covered veterans may request reimbursement for qualifying adoption expenses incurred for adoption finalized after Sept. 29, 2016. With this rulemaking, funds are authorized to provide reimbursement for qualifying adoption expenses incurred by a covered veteran in the adoption of a child under 18 years of age. More information is available here. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/03/05/2018-04245/reimbursement-of-qualifying-adoption-expenses-for-certain-veterans> VA Form 10152, Reimbursement Request for Qualifying Adoption Expenses.

US Forces Korea plans to dedicate new headquarters in late June

- **THE NEW U.S. FORCES KOREA HEADQUARTERS IS PICTURED UNDER CONSTRUCTION LAST SPRING AT CAMP HUMPHREYS, SOUTH KOREA.**

By KIM GAMEL / STARS AND STRIPES

SEOUL, South Korea – The U.S. military's main command in South Korea plans to dedicate its new headquarters building in late June, marking the beginning of its historic relocation to a newly expanded base south of Seoul, a spokesman said Monday.



and other issues.

“USFK will begin its transition in earnest from Yongsan to its new headquarters at Camp Humphreys in June — a transition that will take some months,” USFK spokesman Col. Chad Carroll told Stars and Stripes in an email.

U.S. Forces Korea's move from its longtime home on the Army's Yongsan Garrison in Seoul to Camp Humphreys near the rural city of Pyeongtaek has been a long time coming. Seoul and Washington agreed to station most American troops, contractors and family members in 2004, but the effort was delayed several times due to construction problems

The new U.S. Forces Korea

"USFK has tentatively scheduled dedication of their headquarters building for late June, but ongoing consultation between (South Korea) and U.S. may lead to some flexibility on relocation events," he added.

The new headquarters building, which has a tiled roof and sits next to the already-occupied Eighth Army headquarters, was completed and determined to be troop ready in January, other officials have said.

But it has been complicated by delays in the completion of a secure operations center, which is not expected to be fully ready until January 2021, according to a timeline laid out at a Yongsan town-hall meeting last month.

Col. Jon Haight, the lead relocation planner, said a temporary secure facility is being built to expedite the relocation, although it's not expected to be finished until February.

- Largest overseas commissary opens for business at Camp Humphreys
- South Korean man captured after breaching gate at Camp Humphreys
- Long-awaited PX opens at Camp Humphreys in time for holiday shopping
- Camp Humphreys has been transformed from a remote outpost to the equivalent of a small American town in a nearly \$11 billion construction project that was largely funded by the South Koreans.

The population doubled to about 26,000 after the Eighth Army moved from Yongsan last year, although several facilities, including the new hospital, have yet to be completed.

Gen. Vincent Brooks — who wears three hats as the commander of USFK, the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command — has pressed for the acceleration of the relocation plans.

"Gen. Brooks has directed us to accelerate our headquarters relocation from Seoul to the maximum extent possible," Haight said during the March 14 town hall.

"We have already commenced a four-phase operation that will ultimately split the three commands and completely relocate all three of them to new headquarters facilities by the summer of 2021," he added.

While officials stress the situation is fluid and timelines are subject to change, Haight said that two-thirds of the UNC and USFK headquarters, or about 650 employees and their families, were expected to move to Humphreys this summer.

"The vast majority of staff will move within the months of June and July after the school year is finished on June 14, 2018," he said.

The Combined Forces Command staff will move from Yongsan to facilities on the adjacent South Korean defense ministry compound in Seoul. Haight said that will position the command to eventually transition from U.S. to South Korean wartime operational control.

Haight said that was expected to happen later this year but could be pushed back to the middle of next year depending on the completion of the new facilities.

South Korean media also have reported that President Moon Jae-in's administration has pressed for the Americans to completely vacate Yongsan despite a deal that would allow them to keep a residual force and the Dragon Hill Lodge.

"The USFK will likely vacate the Dragon Hill Lodge hotel in the South Post of the Yongsan base," the Yonhap News Agency quoted an unidentified source as saying. U.S. and South Korean officials have not confirmed the reports.

In addition to freeing up prime real estate in Seoul, the move will provide the military with upgraded and hardened facilities at Humphreys, about 40 miles south of Seoul.

It also will put the bulk of the some 28,500 American servicemembers, civilian contractors and family members at a safer distance from North Korea's massive arsenal of conventional weapons poised on the border, just 35 miles north of Seoul.

- **3 NORTH KOREAN DEFECTORS VISIT DELAWARE TO EXPRESS THANKS**

By MARGIE FISHMAN / The News Journal / Published: April 7, 2018

WILMINGTON, Del. — Among North Korea's most wanted is a 13-year-old boy with a bowl haircut who wears Nikes and steals glances at his smartphone.

Flanked by two North Korean activists who had arranged for his escape from a brutal regime, last month Kim Moon Hyuk — who uses an alias to protect his identity — was introduced to some of the Cab Calloway School of the Arts students who funded his lifesaving journey.

Wiping away tears, their shoulders shaking, a half-dozen students in Cab's global humanitarian club encircled Kim in a Newark living room Tuesday afternoon. Outside, frozen raindrops pelted the driveway, a reminder that this intimate gathering would have never come to pass had a nor'easter not intervened.

Earlier in the day, the North Koreans appeared at a human rights forum hosted by Appoquinimink High School. A public event at the University of Delaware that evening was canceled due to the storm.

As a result, Kim made an impromptu visit to the home of a Cab teacher to meet with his benefactors. Just a few years ago, he assumed that all Americans were "bastards," using their images to practice toy shooting games.

He admitted that he was nervous to set foot on U.S. soil for the first time.

"I heard about the gun violence in America," Kim explained through an interpreter. "That's why I'm afraid."

Ruled by one family with an iron fist for 70 years, North Korea has been called the Hermit Kingdom and the most isolated country in the world, where starving families commit suicide while the elite frequent luxury Pyongyang department stores. More than 31,000 North Korean defectors entered South Korea from 1998 to 2017, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Cab's 60-member club, P4, sold more than \$2,800 in holiday cards over two years to fund a major leg of Kim's journey from China to South Korea. The boy had been diagnosed with leukemia, according to his mother, and was left to deteriorate in North Korea, where it's estimated that 40 percent of the country's 25 million people live below the poverty line.

"I'm living every day to prepare for unification," Kim, a cancer survivor and budding activist, told the students. "I want to help North Korea and South Korea become one country."

"You make it possible to have this vision and this dream."

"It was just so surreal that we could meet someone who could've died," said Cecilia Tadlock, a Cab junior who is studying Korean and wants to devote her career to advocating for the North Korean people.

"One by one," she said, "we're helping a country."

How a trio of North Korean defectors, including one recently highlighted in President Donald Trump's State of the Union Address, wound up in tiny Delaware on this frigid first day of spring is a tribute to the personal relationships forged years prior.

In 2015, Ji Seong-ho, a North Korean double amputee with uncrushable courage, was a featured speaker at the Oslo Freedom Forum.

After watching a video of Ji's speech on Facebook, Wilmington businessman Brian DiSabatino was shocked not only by Ji's harrowing story, but by the neglected humanitarian crisis in North Korea.

"When you hear the story, you have to be dead not to be moved by the struggle, the strength and the faith this kid has," DiSabatino said of Ji, who is now in his mid-thirties.

A few months later, DiSabatino, the chief executive of EDiS, a major construction management firm in Wilmington, coordinated Ji's first trip to Delaware. The polite, bespectacled activist toured Longwood Gardens, dined at the Charcoal Pit, met with Delaware's congressional delegation and spoke at multiple schools.

"The intention was to bring a ripple of understanding and empathy," DiSabatino remembered. Cab piano teacher Margaret Badger, who founded P4, attended one of those assemblies. Over the years, the school club has funded literacy efforts in Pakistan and supported Syrian refugees and Rohingya refugees on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Badger sprang into action, enlisting students to design holiday cards and gather flash drives for North Koreans with information about democracy and the West. In North Korea, the Internet is highly restricted.

"As a teacher, what I'm most grateful for is that students believe that they can make a difference," she said recently.



North Korean defector Kim Moon Hyuk, center, reads a letter of gratitude to Cab Calloway students Sophie Miroznik, from left, Emma Miller, Angela Yu, Cecilia Tadlock, Sachi Shetty, and other members of local humanitarian club P4 who helped fund the boy's safe transfer to South Korea during a meeting of the two in Wilmington.

DiSabatino never pegged himself a "social justice warrior." Yet Ji personalized the North Koreans' plight in a way that elicited a visceral response. Movies like "The Interview," which pokes fun at the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, barely scratched the surface. News alerts about the growing nuclear threat posed by North Korea ignored daily life under a totalitarian state.

Ji exemplifies the "power of one person," said DiSabatino.

Now an international human rights icon, Ji grew up during the North Korean famine of the mid-1990s that killed 1 million people, including his grandmother. He and his family survived on roots and corn stalks. They fought rats for the seeds stashed in their burrows.

At age 14 and just 45 pounds, Ji jumped between freight trains to steal coal. One time, faint with hunger, exhaustion and coal dust in sub-zero temperatures, he blacked out.

When he awoke, he was lying on the tracks, his left leg dangling by a tendon. He recalls trying to stanch the gushing blood, before realizing that three of his fingers had also been sheared off when a train ran him over.

Ji underwent a four-hour operation without painkillers or blood for transfusions, shrieking in agony as the surgeon sawed off bones. During his recovery, his family bought penicillin on the black market, he recalls, bearing the labels of a misappropriated UN aid shipment.

Ji says he spent 240 days in constant pain and considered killing himself to no longer burden his family. His siblings gave him their meager rations, which stunted their growth.

Crippled, Ji slipped into China, where "common animals were eating better than the humans in North Korea," to beg for a few kilograms of rice.

On the way out, he was spotted by North Korean police, who confiscated his rice, beat him viciously and scolded him for "embarrassing our nation," Ji remembers. In North Korea, the disabled are viewed as inferior and exist in the shadows, he said.

That injustice motivated Ji and his brother, in 2006, to cross the Tumen River into China to begin an arduous, 6,000-mile trek through Laos, Myanmar and Thailand and eventually, by plane, to South Korea.

Ji nearly drowned that day on the river, after falling into a deep seam. His brother yanked him out by his hair, he recalls. The pair later separated at Ji's urging.

At one point on the journey, Ji was surrounded by Chinese police on a train. North Koreans passing through China aren't considered refugees, but illegal trespassers. Once they are sent back home, they are tortured in labor camps.

Not able to speak Chinese or present valid identification, Ji bowed his head in prayer and stood silent. The three officers shot him disdainful looks but eventually left, he recalls.

Ji learned later that his traveling helper had told police that Ji was mentally ill and suffered from a movement disorder.

"If you touch him, he will go crazy and jump off the train," the helper warned police.

Another time, while hobbling across the jungle, Ji cursed his lot as a North Korean when there are so many other progressive countries around the world. He vowed to work toward a reunified Korea so that no one would be forced to repeat his miserable journey.

Ji's father, who tried to escape after the rest of the family, was caught and tortured to death. Officials carted off his body in a wheelbarrow and dumped it in the family's empty house.

Upon arriving in South Korea, Ji received an artificial arm and leg courtesy of the South Korean government. At first, it was difficult to adjust, he remembered. In North Korea, "thank you" is reserved for the "Dear Leader."

Over time, Ji earned his law degree and established NAUH, Now Action and Unity for Human Rights, a Seoul-based nonprofit that has rescued 270 North Korean defectors over seven years, from babies to senior citizens.

Private brokers charge upwards of \$4,000 for the journey, which is paid out of South Korean welfare benefits that are provided to defectors when they enter the country. NAUH charges about half that amount, Ji said, working through an underground network. The organization doesn't track where the defectors eventually settle.

- **PRESIDENT TOM STEVENS HELPS DEDICATE NEW KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL**

POINT LOOKOUT, Mo. - Veterans say the Korean War is a war often overlooked.

Thomas Stevens, a Korean War veteran, said, "People were fed up with the war at that time. World War II had ended in 1945. And Korea started in 1950. Just five years later."

They want to make sure their sacrifices will be remembered for generations to come.

Herbert Cozort, a Korean War veteran, said, "Teach a little bit more about it than a paragraph in a

history book. We lost a lot of men over there." Details



<http://www.ky3.com/content/news/Korean-War-Memorial-unveiled-at-College-of-the-Ozarks--480205263.html>

But today those 36,574 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice were honored at College of the Ozarks, and 944 of them were from Missouri.

Naomi Murrell, a student at College of the Ozarks, said, “It’s just really really cool to see what people are willing to do for the sake of freedom.”

Students and staff members built the memorial and today they unveiled it in front of hundreds of people. White roses were placed around the memorial to remember the Missourians who lost their lives.

Gunnery Sgt. Red Millis, whose father served in the Korean War, said, “It was important for me to come out and see what the vets did, what my father did hadn’t been forgotten.”

Some veterans said as far as the future and talks between North and South Korea, they’d like to see a united Korean Peninsula.

Stevens said, “But when you think about the practicalities of that, I don’t know how that will happen because you have a dictatorship in the North and a democracy in the south, and how they will ever merge, I don’t know.”

And this ceremony shows the sacrifice that these men and women made to be able to get to that point today.

Stevens said, “It’s such a memorable event. It’s a memory I’ll never forget.”

The memorial is open every day to the public from sunrise to 10 p.m.



Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
DPAA 2nd Quarter 2018 Update
April 12, 2018



Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. This update is intended to provide an overview of efforts during the previous quarter to account for our missing.

Items of Note:

Budget Status

On March 23, 2018, Congress passed, and the President signed, the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, otherwise known as the omnibus appropriation, funding the Federal government through 30 September 2018. The legislation provides DPAA with a \$146.3M Operations and Maintenance appropriation, which fully funds our budget request and provides a \$15M increase (\$10M specifically for Southeast Asia operations and \$5M for partnerships). Details of the FY 2018 DPAA budget request can be found at:

<http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/FY2018/budget Justification/pdfs/01OperationandMaintenance/OMVOL1PART1/DPAAOP-5.pdf>

DPAA Organizational Nomenclature Changes

The Indo-Pacific (IP) Directorate (formerly Asia-Pacific) aligns with the 2018 U.S. National Defense Strategy references to this geographic region. The Partnerships & Innovation (PI) Directorate (formerly Strategic Partnerships) better reflects its role and purpose and deconflicts this DPAA function with that of the Secretary of Defense and Combatant Commanders' purview.

Director's February Feb 18-25 Trip to Europe

Mr. McKeague's visits in Germany included key leader engagements at the U.S. Embassy, U.S. European Command, and U.S. Africa Command, advocating for increased collaboration and logistical and personnel support for DPAA missions. Additionally, German news magazine *Der Spiegel*, one of Europe's largest publications, interviewed the Director, highlighting the impact and cooperation between DPAA and communities throughout Europe. Mr. McKeague then traveled to Ukraine, meeting with the U.S. Ambassador and Defense Attaché to coordinate their support for DPAA research and recovery operations. Additionally, he met with senior officials from Ukraine's Ministry of Defense and Security Services to advocate for support for archival and archaeological research. Finally, Director McKeague traveled to France meeting with the U.S. Ambassador as well as American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) leadership to discuss the DPAA mission and future requirements.

Family Member Updates (FMU)

We hosted an FMU in Jacksonville, Florida, on February 24, 2018, with more than 200 Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II family members in attendance, and one in El Paso, Texas, on March 24, 2018, with 90 family members attending it. At both FMUs, local representatives from

Congressional offices and Veterans Service Organizations attended as observers. The full FMU and Annual Meetings schedule can be found at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>

Repatriation Ceremony and Solemn Movement in Palau

During 18-1PW, the Underwater Recovery Team successfully collected possible human remains from two American aircraft lost during WWII. On February 24, with the U.S. Ambassador to Palau in attendance, a plane-side repatriation ceremony was conducted in Koror, with the remains later transported to DPAA. For more information, please see <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4181124/us-military-dive-team-repatriate-remains-wwii-aviators-palau>

American Legion Annual Washington Conference

On February 26, Director McKeague provided an agency update that covered current missions, future operations, and developing initiatives. During a question-and-answer session, he addressed issues that included cooperation from foreign nations to federal budget impacts on the agency.

United States – Russian Joint Commission (USRJC) World War II Technical Talks

The Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD) and Europe-Mediterranean Regional Director traveled to Russia for the 2018 USRJC World War II Technical Talks on February 28. The working group sessions went very well with the Russian side answering previous questions and continuing to pursue more information. Likewise, JCSD members were able to address Russian information requests. Planning and coordination sessions took place for the upcoming joint expedition to Vladivostok, Russia, scheduled for May 11-25, 2018. The next Vietnam Working Group Technical Talks is being planned to take place at DPAA's Hawaii facility in late April.

Director's March 11-21 Trip to Southeast Asia

Mr. McKeague completed his first oversight visit to Southeast Asia assessing the U.S. Government's efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War. He visited DPAA detachments in Bangkok, Thailand; Vientiane, Laos; and Hanoi, Vietnam; and met with senior U.S. officials in each country as well as senior host nation counterparts and a visiting Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) delegation. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, he met with the U.S. Ambassador and had an informal meeting with Cambodian counterparts. Lao and Vietnamese officials were receptive to further discussions on advancing initiatives that were proposed. Also, Mr. McKeague, the U.S. Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, and Vietnamese officials visited a joint recovery team operating in Quang Ngai. For more information on this trip, please see <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1473712/powmia-director-concludes-first-southeast-asia-oversight-visit/>

Repatriation Ceremony in Tarawa

On March 14, possible American remains discovered in South Tarawa during a contracted recovery by History Flight were returned to the U.S. after a repatriation event at Bonriki International Airport, Republic of Kiribati. This was the first repatriation of remains from Tarawa this calendar year. For more information, please see <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4214397/dpaa-conducts-repatriation-ceremony-tarawa>

Deputy Director for Operations March 18-30 Indo-Pacific Trip

Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz traveled through the Indo-Pacific region stopping in Guam, Japan, Indonesia, and Burma. His visits in Guam included discussions with the U.S. DoD Joint Region Commander and the senior leadership of the University of Guam, advocating for increased collaboration and the establishment of partnerships to support increased operations throughout Micronesia. Rear Admiral Kreitz then traveled to Japan, meeting with senior officials at the U.S. Embassy, the Commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, members of the Japanese Diet, the Special Advisor to Prime Minister Abe, and senior members of the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare to garner support for an agreement to increase collaboration on operations and to standardize field forensic review procedures. Rear Admiral Kreitz also had the honor of presenting flowers during a ceremony at the Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery, which contains the remains of 367,328 Japanese unknown war dead from World War II. Next, Rear Admiral Kreitz traveled to Indonesia, meeting with the U.S. Ambassador as well senior leaders of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Defense, the National Archeological Agency, and their national forensics medical laboratory to discuss support for the DPAA mission and future requirements. Finally, Rear Admiral Kreitz traveled to Burma, meeting with the U.S. Ambassador and senior leaders of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defense to discuss support for the DPAA mission.

Partnerships & Innovation (PI) highlights

As a result of early FY18 partnered activities, five sets of remains were accessed into the lab. During the past quarter, DPAA continued to work with eight research universities or related institutions to conduct historical research and analysis for unresolved cases. Partnered activities continue to be an agency priority as we expand our capability and capacity to account for the missing.

Case Management System (CMS)

CMS reached initial operating capability March 1st and we have begun training and user testing. The team is excited as this new system will greatly enhance our internal communications, information flow, and collaboration.

Public Portal

Progress on the Public Portal continues to streamline and modernize and leverage new information technology to improve information sharing. Over the past year, DPAA has been publishing Profiles of Unaccounted for Personnel to our website profiles of the missing summarizing the circumstances in which these courageous service members dutifully served our country. We invite you to browse our collection at: <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfileHome>.

VFW Senior Leader Trip March 10-25, 2018

VFW's Vice Commander-in-Chief and Executive Director visited the DPAA team and facility in Hawaii and then traveled to Vietnam and Laos, where they met with U.S. senior officials, DPAA personnel, and host nation officials. While in Vietnam, they also visited a joint DPAA-Vietnamese recovery team conducting operations in Quang Ngai.

Recent Awards

Recently, DPAA photojournalists were recognized at the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) levels for their photojournalism skills. DPAA photojournalists continue to provide tremendous mission support and enable DPAA to better tell our story through photos and videos. We are extremely proud of these valued members of the team as these awards are a testament to the dedication, team approach and excellence. Please see the below categories and links to the products that these Soldiers and Airmen produced.

PACAF 2017 Media Contest Award DPAA winners: Operational Photo Series:

1st Place: SSgt Matthew Bruch, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,

JBPH-Hickam, Hawaii

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044030/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044060/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044033/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044036/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044068/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044074/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044073/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044048/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

3rd Place: SSgt Leah Ferrante, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,

JBPH-Hickam, Hawaii <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757550/17-2-bulgaria>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757552/17-2-bulgaria> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757554/17-2-bulgaria>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757558/17-2-bulgaria> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757582/17-2-bulgaria>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757551/17-2-bulgaria> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757572/17-2-bulgaria>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757575/17-2-bulgaria> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757557/17-2-bulgaria>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757563/17-2-bulgaria> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757584/17-2-bulgaria>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757568/17-2-bulgaria>

Picture Story:

1st Place: SSgt Matthew Bruch, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,

JBPH-Hickam, Hawaii <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3710541/17-4vm-uit>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748099/17-4vm-uit> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748105/17-4vm-uit>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748108/17-4vm-uit> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748111/17-4vm-uit>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748123/17-4vm-uit> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748129/17-4vm-uit>

Photojournalism:

2nd Place: SSgt Leah Ferrante, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,

JBPH-Hickam, Hawaii <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/247839/miss-yankee-rebel>

Feature Photo:

2nd Place: SSgt Matthew Bruch, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,

JBPH-Hickam, Hawaii

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044030/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

Military Photographer of the Year:

SSgt Matthew Bruch, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, JBPH-Hickam, Hawaii

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3085176/17-1vm> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3179337/17-2la>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3748129/17-4vm-uit> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3770945/repatriation-fireman-1st-class-charles-casto>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044065/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044082/dive-training> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044060/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044073/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044074/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044033/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044036/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044068/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044048/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

Air Force 2017 Media Contest DPAA Award winners: Feature Photo

1st Place: SSgt Bruch

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4044030/mia-recovery-operations-vietnam>

Operational Photo Series

2nd Place: SSgt Ferrante <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3757584/17-2-bulgaria>

Army Pacific Keith L. Ware 2017 DPAA Award Winners: Category J: Video Story

1st Place: SSG Jamarius Fortson (DPAA)/Search for the Fallen <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/553448/search-fallen>

Category A: Operational Photo Series

1st SPC Lloyd Justine Villanueva (DPAA)/DPAA Disinterment <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263127/dpaa-disinterment> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263111/dpaa-disinterment>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263114/dpaa-disinterment> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263108/dpaa-disinterment>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263123/dpaa-disinterment> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263117/dpaa-disinterment> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3263134/dpaa-disinterment>

Category F: Picture Story

1st Place: SGT Lloyd Justine Villanueva (DPAA)/Military Honors <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4034380/funeral-us-army-pfc-albert-e-atkins> <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4034381/funeral-us-army-pfc-albert-e-atkins>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4034388/funeral-us-army-pfc-albert-e-atkins>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4034385/funeral-us-army-pfc-albert-e-atkins>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3635570/cpl-glen-edward-kritzwers-funeral>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4034405/funeral-us-army-pfc-albert-e-atkins>
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4034390/funeral-us-army-pfc-albert-e-atkins>

Thursday, February 8, 2018 Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Quarterly Family/VSO/MSO Call Notes
<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1454592/defense-powmia-accounting-agency-dpaa-quarterly-familyvsmso-call-notes/>

Field Operations Overview

Indo-Pacific (IP) Region:

Operations in Last 60 Days:

Tarawa, (via History Flight Group, DPAA partner)

Laos, 3x Recovery Team (RT)/ 1x Investigation Team (IT)

Philippines, (via University of Illinois-Chicago, DPAA partner)

Vietnam, 4x Recovery Teams (RT)/ 3x Research and Investigation Teams/ 1x Unilateral Excavation Team

Tarawa, Repatriation of remains

Palau, Repatriation of remains

Burma, 1x IT

Japan, 1x Joint IT (Saiki City Cemetery)

Operations next 30 days:

Papua New Guinea, 1x IT

South Korea, 1 Research/Investigation Team

Philippines, (via University of Illinois-Chicago, DPAA partner)

Disinterment Operations:

Punchbowl Cemetery (Hawaii): 16 disinterred in February and 16 in March Eight planned for April

Manila ABMC: 20 disinterred in March

The Europe-Mediterranean Directorate concluded its 2nd Quarter investigation missions and are finalizing preparations for its 3rd Quarter investigation and recovery missions. The directorate conducted its first partnered mission, investigative work in Italy with East Carolina University, and is preparing for 10x partnered RTs and 5x partnered UITs in 3rd and 4th Quarters.

Operations in Last 30 Days:

Poland, 1x IT

Italy 1x IT (East Carolina University, DPAA Partner)

Upcoming Operations (next 30 days):

Italy, 1x RT

Poland, 1x RT

Germany, 1x IT, 1x RT

France, 1x RT

Romania, 1x IT

Russia, 1x IT

Disinterment Operations

These operations in Europe will resume Spring 2018

Scientific Analysis: The large scale project teams (i.e., Korean War Project, Tarawa Project, USS *Oklahoma* Project etc.) continue to work diligently and are adding to the cases for identification in monthly loss review meetings.

Statistics:

FY 2018 Identifications, as of March 28, 2018:

Total = 62 (62 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel)

WWII = 47

Korean War = 11

Cold War = 0

Vietnam War = 4

• **Celebrate The 15th Annual North Korea Freedom Week: The Truth Will Set Them Free**

SUZANNE SCHOLTE

The 15th annual North Korea Freedom Week will be held in Seoul, April 28 to May 5, 2018. Freedom Week focuses on the work of the North Korean defectors to change the hearts and minds of the people of North Korea to peacefully bring an end to the tyranny they suffer under Kim Jong Un. It is critically important that "in between" the ROK-DPRK summit and the US-DPRK summit that we do not lose sight of two critical facts:

1. Kim Jong Un is committing atrocious violations of human rights and crimes against humanity every day, and the latest charm offensive is aimed at your forgetting about those facts; and

2. The North Korean people — both in North Korea and those over 30,000 who have escaped — are our greatest and most valuable, but underutilized resource, for peaceful change.

To fail to address human rights concerns at any meeting with North Korea is not only a complete betrayal to the people of North Korea, but it strengthens the lies of Kim Jong Un's propaganda that justifies his nuclear program. When we fail to raise our concerns about what Kim is doing to destroy the lives of his own people, he triumphs because he has convinced people in North Korea through a steady diet of brainwashing since childhood that the United States of America is bent on their destruction. Yet, the reality is that what America wants for North Korea is for North Koreans to have the same freedoms and human rights and the prosperity and dignity that comes with it.



This is why Donald Trump's address to the South Korean Assembly and his State of the Union were masterful. Calling Kim Jong un a "Rocket Man" was also "brilliant" — in the words of Dr. Thomas Belke, the foremost expert on North Korea's Juche religion — because Trump openly mocked North Korea's "god."

Right at the point when finally there is no doubt in the international community of the atrocities being committed by the Kim regime, the person who should care the most in the world about their suffering, President Moon Jae-In, seems to have decided to forsake them by not addressing any human rights issues at his upcoming summit.

Thus, it is even more important that the United States make human rights the priority in any talks with North Korea. At the very least, we should ask for the release of all political prisoners (including the Americans held there) and abductees and that the International Red Cross have access to the political prison "reeducation" camps before we sit down with Kim Jong Un. Anything less is to empower and embolden the Kim regime.

Secondly, we have continued to fail to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the people of North Korea in the face of horrific suffering.

It is the women of North Korea through their own efforts to save their families from starvation that created the capitalist market system that is their means of survival today.

It is the people of North Korea, hungry for knowledge, who have risked their lives to listen to foreign radio broadcasts, to watch foreign movies, and South Korean soap operas who have educated themselves about the outside world so they are no longer literally living in total darkness and isolation.

It is the people of North Korea who have escaped who have taken up the work once done by the military of the ROK and the USA to get the truth to North Korea

Well over 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea. Many have formed organizations focused on getting information to their homeland believing fervently the truth will set them free. Thus, North Korea Freedom Week will focus on their efforts through radio broadcasting, balloon launches, and cross border information transfers to spread truth to their homeland as well as their work rescuing those trying to escape.

The world needs to understand that what the defectors are doing – at great risk to their lives and their financial security – is the key to resolving the crisis in North Korea.

In the words of Kim Seong Min, who heads Free North Korea Radio: "Kim Jong Un justifies his enormous expenditures developing nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by claiming that the DPRK is under threat of attack from the United States. This is a powerful lie, but it is a lie, and once it is exposed as a lie, the people of North Korea begin to open their eyes to the truth: that Kim Jong Un is the source of all their misery and suffering."

In the words of another defector Park Sang Hak, who chairs the North Korean Defector Association and regularly sends in information through balloon launches: "What a liar fears most is the truth and the greatest liar in the world is Kim Jong Un. We can end the North Korean regime in a really simple way: by spreading the truth to our homeland."

Everyone around the world can be a part of the 15th annual North Korea Freedom Week as we will begin with an International Day of Prayer and Fasting for the freedom of the North Korean people. This call for a worldwide day of prayer and fasting came as a result of a U.S. congressional briefing in which Dr. Thomas Belke testified that the spiritual evil pervading North Korea can only be defeated by prayer and fasting.

Anyone can sign up to join this day.

North Korea Freedom Week is a week devoted to promoting the freedom, human rights and dignity of the people of North Korea and first began on April 28, 2004 in Washington, D.C. as "North Korea Freedom Day." At the time it was the largest gathering ever held outside the Korean peninsula to promote freedom for the people of North Korea and led to the unanimous passage of the North Korea Human Rights Act.

For further information visit www.nkfreedom.org

Suzanne Scholte is one of the world's leading North Korea human rights activists, the recipient of the Seoul Peace Prize and chairs the North Korea Freedom Coalition.

- **TRUMP CONFIRMS CIA CHIEF POMPEO MET NORTH KOREA'S KIM POMPEO -- WHO'S AWAITING CONFIRMATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE -- IS THE HIGHEST-RANKING U.S. OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE ISOLATED NATION SINCE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT IN 2000.**

The trip comes as the two sides discuss potential sites for the unprecedented meeting between the U.S. and North Korean leaders, which Trump said could come by "early June or before."

The U.S. president told reporters that the administration had “started talking to North Korea directly” and was discussing five potential sites for the meeting. “We have had direct talks at very high levels, extremely high levels with North Korea,” Trump said, after meeting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

Any summit would likely be the start of a long and potentially fraught process aimed at getting Kim to give up North Korea’s nuclear arsenal -- something his family has held onto for decades as key to their grip on power at home and their only real external deterrent. A successful outcome might simply be an agreement for talks to continue and a plan for the next meeting.

If Trump and Kim manage to establish a rapport, much like Trump’s first meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, it could go a long way to enabling the two countries to overcome tensions that may continue to bubble over Pyongyang’s missile and nuclear weapons tests, and over U.S. military drills that happen regularly near the Korean peninsula.

“It makes the proposed summit all the more likely to happen,” said Suzanne DiMaggio, director and senior fellow at New America in New York, who facilitated the talks in Oslo that resulted in ailing U.S. citizen Otto Warmbier’s release from North Korea. “It is reassuring that the Trump administration is taking serious steps to prepare for that historic interaction.”

Trump and Abe at the Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach on April 17. Photographer: Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images
The Pompeo trip, which was first reported by the Washington Post, is part of a global diplomatic scramble after Trump’s March 8 decision to meet Kim to break the decades-long impasse over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.

Pompeo’s clandestine visit is reminiscent of then National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger’s secret diplomatic mission to Beijing in 1971. Those trips laid the groundwork for President Richard Nixon’s unexpected visit to China the following year, which paved the way to opening up the country.

The Central Intelligence Agency chief arrived in North Korea just days after Kim returned from his own surprise visit to Beijing -- his first trip outside the country since taking power in 2011. Bloomberg had earlier reported that a “very senior” U.S. official spoke directly with Kim, bypassing third parties, citing a person familiar with the matter.

Here Are Nine Potential Locations for the Trump-Kim Summit

Direct U.S. contact with Kim is “a pretty dramatic development,” said Adam Mount, a senior fellow with the Federation of American Scientists. “Before the summit can happen, talks have to happen at a very high level” to set an agenda and other details, Mount said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that Trump hasn’t spoken directly with the North Korean leader. Pompeo, who earlier this year expressed a desire to “separate” North Korea from its regime, told senators considering his nomination as secretary of state last week that there was more room for diplomacy before considering military strikes.

News of Pompeo’s meeting with Kim is likely to boost Pompeo’s chances at confirmation, already shaky due to opposition from many Democrats and at least one Republican, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. Congress would be less likely to deliver a humiliating blow to Pompeo right at the moment he is Trump’s point man on the North Korea talks. The U.S. has picked five sites for the Kim meeting, Trump told reporters, saying an announcement would come “fairly soon.” Locations being discussed with North Korea include Geneva and venues in Asia and Southeast Asia, a person familiar with the talks told Bloomberg.

Peace Treaty

The person said the U.S. wasn’t considering Beijing, Pyongyang, Seoul or Panmunjom, the site of the Korean armistice signing in 1953. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is scheduled to meet Kim at Panmunjom next week, the first trip south of the border by a North Korean leader.

Moon’s planned April 27 encounter with Kim is expected to lay the ground for Trump’s meeting. Trump said he had given Moon his “blessing” to negotiate a peace deal with North Korea, which never formally ended its war with South Korea after agreeing to end open hostilities 65 years ago.

The two sides are discussing plans to announce an official end to the war, South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency reported Wednesday, citing a senior presidential official. South Korea and the U.S. would consider a peace treaty, if the country completely gives up its nuclear ambitions, the official said.

Japanese Abductees

Trump suggested he was responsible not only for the negotiations on a formal peace treaty, but also the success of the Winter Olympics in South Korea. Kim’s Jan. 1 offer to cooperate with Moon on the Games set in motion a series of talks, trips and signals that culminated in Trump’s decision to accept the summit.

"They've been very generous, that without us, and without me in particular, I guess, they wouldn't be discussing anything and the Olympics would have been a failure," Trump said. "As you know, North Korea participated in the Olympics and it was really quite an Olympics. It was quite a success. That would not have happened." Abe said Trump's "unwavering conviction, as well as his determination," have made talks with North Korea possible. Trump agreed to raise the issue of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s, a key concern raised by Abe.

"We will bring up the abductees. We'll bring up many different things," Trump said. "I know that's been a very big factor for you."

Trump said he would meet with Kim in "early June or before that, assuming things go well."

"It's possible things won't go well and we won't have the meetings," Trump said. "And we'll just continue to go on this very strong path we have taken."

• **GOODBYE DMZ? WHAT AN END TO THE KOREAN WAR WOULD MEAN**

As neighborly disputes go, this one really has dragged on. Some 65 years since open hostilities ended, North and South Korea are still technically at war. But after a sudden warming of relations this year, the two sides are set to meet at the end of this month for talks. According to the South Korean publication, Munhwa Ilbo, they're planning to announce the end of military hostilities. Negotiations may focus in part on one of the most enduring symbols of the conflict, the 4-kilometer-wide (2.5-mile) stretch of land separating the countries known as the demilitarized zone. Peace lovers and bird

lovers alike are watching with interest.

The truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone in Paju. Photographer: SeongJoon Cho/Bloomberg

1. What is the demilitarized zone?

The DMZ, as it's known, was created at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, when the United Nations (including the U.S.), China and North Korea signed an armistice, signaling a temporary cessation of fighting, rather than a full-blown peace treaty. Under the terms, the parties undertook to pull troops back from a military demarcation line by 2 kilometers each way (hence the buffer of 4 kilometers). South Korea refused to sign the armistice. According to Munhwa Ilbo, which cited an unidentified South Korean official, a joint statement from the coming



summit may state that the two Koreas will seek to ease military tension, which could involve returning the DMZ to its "original state."

Danger Zone

The Korean Demilitarized Zone is one of the world's most heavily fortified borders, but puts Seoul within range of North Korean artillery.



Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies, 38 North, U.S. Department of Defense

Bloomberg

proposed meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would take place there.

3. What else is there in the DMZ?

Wildlife. The snaking 250-kilometer swath of land has remained untouched by humans, leaving what National Geographic magazine once described as a haven for some of the most endangered animals in Asia, including black bears, musk deer and rare birds and plants.

Visitors at the Odusan Unification Observatory near the Demilitarized Zone in Paju. Photographer: SeongJoon Cho/Bloomberg

4. What is on either side of the DMZ?

Lots of troops and artillery weapons. U.S. and South Korean military personnel patrol the south side of the DMZ and North Korean soldiers guard the north. North Korea has spent decades concealing hundreds of artillery batteries along the frontier that could wreak havoc on South Korea's capital Seoul, home to half the country's 51 million people. Seoul lies about 60 kilometers to the south. South Korea has its own artillery primed. Both sides have mounted giant loud speakers to blast propaganda -- and the occasional K-Pop hit from South Korea -- at each other.

5. Has the DMZ remained skirmish-free?

Hardly. Outbreaks of violence over the years have killed hundreds of troops from North Korea, South Korea and the U.S. More than 30,000 American soldiers are deployed in South Korea as part of the U.S.-South Korean alliance. One of the most gruesome incidents involved ax-wielding North Korean soldiers attacking and killing two U.S. Army soldiers in 1976. In 2015, two South Korean soldiers were injured by landmines allegedly placed on the south side of the DMZ by North Korea.

6. What would happen to the DMZ?

2. Where will the talks take place?
Within the DMZ, in the so-called Joint Security Area, which is also known as Panmunjom, or Truce Village. Several buildings stand on either side of the military demarcation line, including Peace House, which lies on the southern side of the zone and will host the upcoming talks. (There is a building built directly on the line which houses a table that has a line running down the center to show the demarcation line.) U.S. President Donald Trump had to cancel a trip to the DMZ in November because of bad weather, but as yet there's no suggestion his



If returned to its “original state,” the zone would presumably cease to exist and the military demarcation line would become the border. Troops would be pulled back, along with the artillery and other weapons.

A monument stands on display outside the Yanggu Unification Hall near the demilitarized zone in Yanggu. Photographer: Jean Chung/Bloomberg

7. When did the countries last come this close to peace?

At the 2007 summit between President Roh Moo-hyun and Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang. The sides settled on dozens of agreements aimed at supporting North Korea’s economy and recommitted to a declaration made at a summit in 2000 -- the first between leaders of North Korea and South Korea -- that the two sides would seek peaceful reunification.

8. Why did relations deteriorate after 2007?



Negotiations -- known as the “six-party talks” -- broke down in 2008 after North Korea refused to allow international inspectors to visit nuclear facilities. Around the same time, South Korea elected a conservative president, Lee Myung-bak, who favored a harder line and abandoned his predecessor’s so-called "Sunshine Policy" toward North Korea. The sinking of a South Korean corvette, killing 46 sailors, by a suspected North Korean torpedo prompted the newly elected president to cut off all ties with the North.

- **PURPLE HEART VETS GROUP CLOSING VSO SERVICE CENTERS**

This Link provided below is a forward by an out-of-state concerned Korean War veteran and Purple Heart recipient, since I have yet to hear this news headliner here in Illinois, Cook County or its surrounding collar counties I will share with as many of you possible to be the judge.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is alleged to be closing all its 52 VSO service center offices across the US by end of June this year. Their personnel of Service Officers like most groups are paid by donations collected.

Let us be reminded that this is only for the VSO centers and NOT the local MOPH membership Chapters or Districts in the community.

<http://www.kwtx.com/content/news/Waco--Purple-Heart-veterans-service-center-to-close-its-doors-480422933.html>

- **SOUTH KOREA, U.S. EXPECTED TO HOLD SUMMIT IN MID-MAY: SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIAL**

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea and the United States are likely to hold a summit in mid-May, a South Korean presidential official has stated.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity, ahead of a separate proposed summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Trump are also scheduled to speak by a phone shortly after the inter-Korean summit this Friday wraps up, the presidential Blue House said.

The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin.

Please pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD-GIVEN' rights and freedoms. I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means ...

Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers: Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day! The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life. The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America , and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag

against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic..

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Please share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'

-----2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS-----

GENERAL WALTON WALKER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

2018-19 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation was established in 1971 by Ri-Jin Kim, a Korean War veteran, to honor General Walton H. Walker, the first 8th Army Commander in Korea. General Walker, who issued the order, "Stand or Die", is a hero who defended the Pusan Perimeter, and the Nakdong River Line during the Korean War despite being outnumbered and outgunned by North Korean forces. The Foundation under the leadership of current Chairman, Jong Min Kim, is proud to provide scholarships to descendants of Korean veterans to express appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans that has allowed South Koreans to enjoy freedom and peace today.

Scholarship Program

The General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation Scholarship Program consists of fifteen (15) \$2,000 non-renewable scholarships. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship. Although this scholarship is not renewable, the applicants may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Qualifications

- The applicant **MUST** be a descendent (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Veteran of Korea who is a Regular Member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association. Descendants of deceased veterans are eligible to apply with proof of the Veterans service.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- First year students must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from the applicant's university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school names printed on them.
 - For high school students entering college this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
 - For students currently at a freshman level in college it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
 - For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, "***What should the United States do to combat the world threat posed by the North Korean regime***".
- Descendants of Korean War Veterans who are currently serving as a member of the **National KWVA Board of Directors** and descendants of members of the Scholarship Selection Committee are not eligible.

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal Service and **RECEIVED** by **May 1, 2018**.

- The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. For verification that it was received, send the application via US Postal Service Certified Mail.
- Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about May 10, 2018. **Only recipients will be notified.** Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient's college or university to be credited to the student's account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington, D. C. on May 28, 2018 during the Memorial Day ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials

The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately, except transcripts which may be mailed directly from your school, will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.
- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 300-400 words.
- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.
- First year student's Letter of Acceptance.
- Proof of service for applicants deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address

General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

GENERAL WALTON WALKER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Student Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone_____ Email_____

Name of Applicant's Korea Veteran Ancestor_____

Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____ KWVA Member #_____

Note: If Applicant's Ancestor is deceased, applicant must provide proof of service.

College or University Information

School the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.

In the 2018 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Advanced Degree

School _____ Degree Sought _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Financial Aid Officer _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Current Information

Cumulative GPA (as described on information sheet) _____/4.0 scale.

In the space provided in each of the following categories, list your most prominent activities, leadership positions held and honors/awards received.

Scholastic Activities

In-School Extracurricular Activities

Community Activities

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

Employment History including Military Experience

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn.
(Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2018 classes at the school stated.)

Signature _____ Date _____

**AMERICAN VETERANS OF
KOREA FOUNDATION
HONORABLE KIM, JUNG HOON, CHAIRMAN**

2018-19 KOREA VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Korea Veterans Scholarship Program is an outreach of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), a foundation founded by the Honorable Representative Kim, Jung Hoon, member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly. The AVKF's mission is to provide support to American Veterans of Korea and their families in appreciation for the selfless sacrifices of United States veterans for Korea's peace and freedom during the Korean War and to honor their legacy.

Scholarship Program

This Scholarship Program consists of multiple \$2,000 non-renewable scholarships. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship. Although this scholarship is not renewable, the applicants may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Qualifications

- The applicant **MUST** be a descendant (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Veteran of Korea who is a Regular Member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association. Descendants of deceased veterans are eligible to apply with proof of Veterans service.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- First year students must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from the applicant's university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school names printed on them.
 - For high school students entering college this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
 - For students currently at a freshmen level in college it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
 - For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, "***Historical Lessons Learned from the Korean War***".
- Descendants of Korean War Veterans who are currently serving as a member of the **National KWVA** Board of Directors and descendants of members of the Scholarship Selection Committee are not eligible.

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal Service and **RECEIVED** by **June 10, 2018**.

- The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. For verification that it was received, send the application via U. S. Postal Service Certified Mail.
- Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about July 1, 2018. **Only recipients will be notified.** Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient's college or university to be credited to the student's account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington, D. C. in July 2018 during the commemoration ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to Scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials

The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately, except transcripts which may be mailed directly from your school, will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.

Note: You MUST use the 2018-19 Application Form which supersedes all previous Application Forms and add no extra sheets.

- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 300-400 words.
- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.
- First year student's Letter of Acceptance.
- Proof of service for applicant's deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address

American Veterans of Korea Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

**AMERICAN VETERANS OF
KOREA FOUNDATION
KOREA VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

APPLICATION FORM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Student Information

Applicant's Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Applicant's Korea Veteran Ancestor _____

Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____ KWVA Member # _____

Note: If Applicant's Ancestor is deceased, applicant must provide proof of service.

College or University Information

The name of the school the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.

In the 2018 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:

() Freshman () Sophomore () Junior () Senior () Advanced Degree

School _____ Degree Sought _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Financial Aid Officer _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Current Information

Cumulative GPA (as described on information sheet) _____ /4.0 scale.

In the space provided in each of the following categories, list your most prominent activities, leadership positions held and honors/awards received.

Scholastic Activities

In-School Extracurricular Activities

Community Activities

Employment History including Military Experience

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2018 classes at the school stated.)

Signature _____ **Date** _____



APPLY TO BE A 2018 KOREA DEFENSE VETERAN ASSOCIATION SCHOLAR

KDVA is awarding University and College Scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each.

Applications to become a KDVA Scholar are due by April 13, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EST

The KDVA Scholarship Program provides scholarships to KDVA members and their spouses, children, grandchildren (including step children) to help them attain their educational goals.

Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from accredited institutions.

Eligibility

1. Applicant must be a member of KDVA or the spouses, children or grandchildren, (including step children) of a KDVA member who served honorably.
2. Applicant must be accepted into an accredited college or university.
3. Applicant must be a high school graduate with a minimum of a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to apply.

APPLY TO BE A KDVA SCHOLAR

KDVA recognizes the importance of education and the role it plays in personal, professional and economic fulfillment.

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University and College Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$5,000 each.

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1. Applicant must be a member of KDVA or the spouses, children or grandchildren, (including step children) of a KDVA member who served honorably.
2. Applicant must be accepted into an accredited college or university.
3. Applicant must be a high school graduate with a minimum of a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to apply.

Evaluation Criteria:

The application will assess five major areas: GPA, Essay, Extracurricular Activities, and Leadership in Extracurricular Activities, and Financial Need.

The five categories are evaluated and weighted as follows:

- GPA – 25 points
- Essay – 25 points
- Extracurricular Activities – 20 points
- Leadership – 20 points
- Financial Need – 10 points

Total points possible – 100

Refer to KDVA Application – This form is required and must be submitted online.

Awards: Selection of the KDVA Scholarship recipients are made by a Scholarship Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the KDVA.

Scholarships are awarded only to students accepted to accredited institutions. The funds will be sent to the academic institution for documented expenses and must be used in the academic year awarded. The academic year of the award begins the Fall semester after the award announcement. These funds may not be used for prior academic expenses.

If selected, KDVA Scholarship recipients are to provide: a) a photograph and a statement for use in KDVA publications, newsletter, website, social media, and marketing materials, etc. and b) follow-up information and feedback as to how the KDVA scholarship assisted in their education for KDVA research and marketing.

Application Deadline:

All application materials, including the application form, official transcript(s), proof of matriculation at designated accredited academic institution, essay, list of involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership positions in extracurricular activities, and written statement of need.

Application must be submitted and received via email scholarship@kdva.vet not later than Friday, April 13, 2018.

KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 1**CONTACT INFORMATION**

FULL NAME: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

I AM A KDVA MEMBER OR CHILD, GRANDCHILD, STEP-CHILD, SPOUSE OF KDVA MEMBER.

CHECK YES

NAME OF KDVA MEMBER: _____

RELATIONSHIP OF KDVA MEMBER: _____

EDUCATION INFORMATION

NAME/ADDRESS OF CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY:

DATE OF GRADUATION AND/OR EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL POINT OF CONTACT (EX: GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, ADVISOR OR TEACHER)

KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL POINT OF CONTACT:

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): _____

**Must include high school transcript or grade point average for most recent semester completed with application.

LIST NAME AND ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED
AND PLAN TO ATTEND/OR ARE ATTENDING:

**Must include letter of acceptance from college or university you plan to attend.

PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN ESSAY on “The Importance of the ROK-US Alliance – Now and Into the Future” **
Essay must be 2 pages or less, typed, 12 font, Times New Roman, double-spaced and attached with application

PREPARE AND ATTACH A STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED In 250 words or less describe your financial need
for this scholarship. **Statement must be typed, 12 font, Times New Roman and attached with application

KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 3

LIST OF SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (SPORTS, CLUB ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY /CIVIC ACTIVITIES, EMPLOYMENT, ETC):

1
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

2
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

3
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

4
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

5
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

LIST OF LEADERSHIP ROLES IN ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE, AS APPLICABLE:

1
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

2
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

3
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

4
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

5
FROM (DATE): _____ TO (DATE): _____

KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 4

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: SCHOLARSHIP@KDVA.VET
(DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018)

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT:

I certify that the foregoing facts set forth in this application are true and accurate. I understand that if any statements contained herein are false, I will not be considered for a scholarship or if such a scholarship has been granted, it is subject to forfeiture. I further authorize and give permission to KDVA or their duly authorized representative to investigate the statements contained in this application, to contact any person or institution named herein, and to require any information it may desire with respect thereto. If awarded a scholarship, KDVA Scholarship recipients agree to provide: a) a photograph and a statement for use in KDVA publications, newsletter, website, social media, and marketing materials, etc. and b) follow-up information and feedback as to how the KDVA scholarship assisted in their education for KDVA research and marketing.

APPLICANT'S FULL NAME

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 5

Check list of what must be sent in with application for consideration.

1. Completed typed or computer-generated application
2. Verification of KDVA membership or child, grandchild, step child, spouse of KDVA member
3. Official transcript from high school/university through the most recent semester completed showing your grade point average.
4. Letter of acceptance from the University/College you have applied to or are attending.
5. Essay on “The Importance of the ROK-US Alliance – Now and Into the Future”
6. Financial Statement of Need
7. List of school, community activities, and/or employment experience 8. List of leadership roles therein in activities listed above.

For more information visit: www.kdva.vet/programs/scholarship

Helpful Services: Phone Numbers and Web Sites

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Regional Office (Benefits)	800.827.1000	VA.gov
Office of the Secretary	202.273.4800	VA.gov
Office of the Inspector General	202.461.4702	https://www.va.gov/oig
Office of the National Cemetery System	202.461.6240	www.cem.va.gov
Arlington National Cemetery	703.607.8585	www.arlingtoncemetary.mil
Board of Veterans Appeals	202.565.5436	www.bva.va.gov
Central Office (Main Switchboard)	202.273.5400	
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility	703.607.8585	www.cem.va.gov
Government Life Insurance	800.669.8477	www.insurance.va.gov
Personal Locator	202.273.4950	

Other Veteran Government Agencies

Department of Defense	703.545.6700	https://www.defense.gov
Veterans Employment & Training Office	202.693.4700	https://www.dol.gov/vets
Small Business Administration (VA)	202.205.6600	https://www.sba.gov

Congressional Committees

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.224.9126	www.veterans.senate.gov
House Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.225.3527	https://veterans.house.gov
Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition	202.225.6600	www.ruralhealthinfo.org

Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	202.418.3453	uscourts.cavc.gov
Questions on specific Cases	202.501.5970	
National Organization for Vets Advocates (Attorneys)	877.483.8238	https://vetadvocates.org
USO	888.484.3876	https://www.uso.org

POW/MIA

Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs	703.699.1169	http://www.dpaa.mil/
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Incarcerated Veteran

Federal Bureau of Prisons	202.307.3198	https://www.bop.gov
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PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

VA Readjustment Counseling Service	202.273.8967	www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/317
VA PTSD Information	802.296.6300	www.ptsd.va.gov
VA PTSD Help – In Crisis – Suicide Prevention	800.273.8255	www.veteranscrisisline.net
National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Science Division	857.364.4172	www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions

Locator and Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator	866.771.6357	hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm
Navy Times Locator Services	901.874.3388	https://www.navytimes.com
Personnel Locator	800.333.4636	

Archives

Air Force Support Office	202.404.2264	www.afhistory.af.mil
Marine Corps Historical Office	703.432.4877	guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives
National Archives – Military Records	866.272.6272	www.archives.gov/research/military
Naval Historical Center (Operations Archives)	202.433.3170	www.history.navy.mil
United States Army Center of Military History	866.272.6272	www.history.army.mil

Women Veterans

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation	703.533.1155	www.womensmemorial.org
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US ARMY DIRECTORY

<p>Arlington National Cemetery: (877) 907-8585 http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</p> <p>Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; http://www.afrh.gov</p> <p>Army & Air Force Exchange Service: www.shopmyexchange.com Army Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes Editor's e-mail address: ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</p> <p>Army Echoes Blog: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</p> <p>Army Emergency Relief: (866) 878-6378; http://www.aerhq.org</p> <p>Army Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</p> <p>Army Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</p> <p>Army Homepage: http://www.army.mil</p> <p>Army Live Blog: http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Army mobile phone apps: http://www.army.mil/mobile/</p> <p>Army Retirement Services: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</p> <p>Army Stand To!: http://www.army.mil/standto/</p> <p>Army Lodging Program: (877) 711-8326; http://www.pal.army.mil Reservations: http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</p> <p>Army Twitter: https://twitter.com/USArmy/</p> <p>Army YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</p> <p>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</p> <p>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</p> <p>Combat-Related Special Compensation: (866) 281-3254 opt.4; https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</p> <p>Commissary: http://www.commissaries.com</p> <p>Concurrent Retired & Disability Pay: (800) 321-1080, http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</p> <p>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: (855) 411-2372 http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</p> <p>Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death: Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect. https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death</p> <p>DS Logon: https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</p> <p>Funeral Honors (Military): Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</p> <p>ID Card Facilities: (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/</p> <p>Legal Assistance Locator (Military): http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</p> <p>Long Term Care Insurance: (800) 582-3337 http://www.ltcfeds.com/</p> <p>MyArmyBenefits: http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/ Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p>Survivor Outreach Services: (855) 707-2769, https://www.sos.army.mil/</p> <p>Reserve Component Retirements (888) 276-9472 https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</p> <p>RC Application for Retired Pay: Human Resources Command; ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR; 1600 Spearhead Division Ave.; Dept 482; Ft Knox, KY 40122-5402; (888) 276-9472; download the application from: https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664</p> <p>Soldiers Magazine: http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Space-Available Travel: http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</p> <p>Soldier for Life on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</p>	<p>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</p> <p> U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge: Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at https://www.shopmyexchange.com</p> <p>Veterans Service Records — Replace DD Form 214, awards: Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record."</p> <p>Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit http://vetrecs.archives.gov National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002</p> <p>DFAS (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) http://www.dfas.mil/ myPay (888) 332-7411; https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx Retiree/Annuitant web page http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html</p> <p>Social Security (800) 772-1213 http://www.socialsecurity.gov; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html.</p> <p>Medicare (800) 633-4227 http://www.medicare.gov</p> <p>TRICARE http://www.tricare.mil</p> <p>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcaco, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p>TRICARE North: (877) 874-2273; http://www.hnfs.com; CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some ZIPs in IA, MO, TN</p> <p>TRICARE South: (800) 444-5445; http://www.humana-military.com/ AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN ZIP codes near Ft Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)</p> <p>TRICARE West: (877) 988-9378; https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/; AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 Iowa ZIP codes near Rock Island, IL) KS, MO (except the St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, SWTX, UT, WA, WY</p> <p>TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; http://www.tricare-overseas.com</p> <p>TRICARE for Life: (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</p> <p>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296; http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</p> <p>TRICARE Network Pharmacy: (877) 363-1303; http://www.express-scripts.com</p> <p>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan: (888) 838-8737; http://www.TRDP.org</p> <p>US Family Health Plan: http://www.usfhp.com/</p> <p>Armed Forces Recreation Centers http://www.armymwr.com</p> <p>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii: (800) 367-6027; http://halekoah.com</p> <p>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria: 011-49-8821-9440 http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</p> <p>Shades of Green, Florida: (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</p> <p>Dragon Hill, Korea: 011-822-790-0016 http://www.dragonhillodge.com</p> <p>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information http://www.va.gov</p> <p>Burial & Memorial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/ (877) 907-8199</p> <p>Benefits and Services: (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</p> <p>GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</p> <p>Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387; http://www.va.gov/health</p> <p>Insurance: SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477</p>
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Sister Service Publications for Retired Service Members

Air Force Afterburner: <http://www.Retirees.af.mil/afterburner/>

Coast Guard Evening Colors: <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews/>

Marine Corps Semper Fi: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/> then click
Career/Retired Marines, then Semper Fidelis Newsletter

Navy Shift Colors: <http://www.navy.mil/> then click Links/Shift Colors

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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