



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

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The following monthly update for August 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

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 53

NEW MEMBERS TYTD 350

ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 12775

ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 11877

DECREASE 898

DECEASED COMRADES TYTD 977 AVG/MO 122

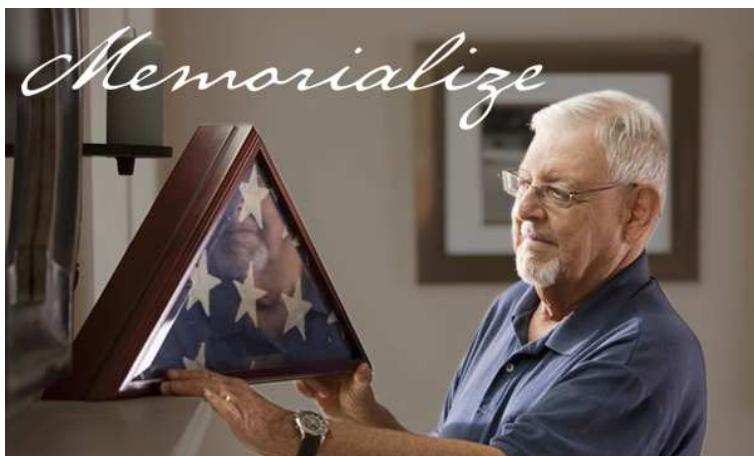
DEPARTMENT AND CHAPTERS WITH 3 PLUS NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

AZ-3 FL-5 IL-3 MA-3 MO-7 NE-5 NY-4 PA-5 VA-4

IT IS GOOD TO SEE THAT SOME DEPARTMENTS AND CHAPTERS ARE RECRUITING MORE. MO SHOULD BE COMPLIMENTED FOR THEIR RESULTS THIS MONTH.

- **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)



We are the National Cemetery Administration.

You may already know the [National Cemetery Administration](#) (NCA) cares for 136 VA national cemeteries across the nation, but our work extends beyond that. We lead the way in providing a variety of world class burial and memorial benefits and memorialize our nation's Veterans in perpetuity. We work to accomplish this in a variety of ways, and all of them involve Veterans, families and partners like you. Learn how you can help commemorate and share the stories of Veterans to ensure their legacy never dies.

• **'STRONG POSSIBILITY' OF SECOND TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT BEFORE YEAR'S END: REPORT**

BY [JESSE JOHNSON](#)

STAFF WRITER

Momentum for a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly gained steam, with a source close to Pyongyang's position telling CNN that there is a "strong possibility" of another meeting before the year's end.

The report Tuesday cited the unidentified official as pointing to the recent exchange of letters between Trump and Kim as a positive sign.

Trump received a letter last week from Kim and had U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo deliver a response to North Korea's foreign minister at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting Saturday.

The official said that although the date and location of the summit have yet to be determined, it would take place "sometime later this year."

In confirming that he had received a letter from Kim, Trump on Thursday thanked the North Korean leader for the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the Korean War and alluded to the possibility of another meeting.

"Thank you to Chairman Kim Jong Un for keeping your word & starting the process of sending home the remains of our great and beloved missing fallen!" Trump tweeted. "I am not at all surprised that you took this kind action. Also, thank you for your nice letter- I look forward to seeing you soon!"

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders has said that no second meeting is "locked in" as a follow-up to the landmark Singapore summit in June, but they remain open to discussions.

At that summit, Kim and Trump released a vaguely worded joint declaration in which Trump said the U.S. was "committed to provide security guarantees" to the North, while Kim "reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

But doubts have grown in recent weeks over whether the two sides can move toward the goal of denuclearization.

Over the weekend, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho called America's actions since the June 12 Singapore summit "alarming," highlighting economic sanctions and a lack of a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War as major issues that could stop the nuclear talks in their tracks.

Speaking at the ASEAN forum in Singapore over the weekend, the North's Ri, said his country had taken a series of steps toward denuclearization, including halting nuclear and missile tests, demolishing its underground nuclear test site and dismantling a missile engine test stand.

But Ri said that Washington was dragging its feet in taking reciprocal measures to build mutual confidence and improve ties with Pyongyang. Such steps, Ri said, include a easing crippling sanctions and declaring an end to the Korean War, a move that would be seen as a prelude to negotiating a formal peace treaty to replace the armistice.



“However, the United States, instead of responding to these measures, is raising its voice louder for maintaining the sanctions against the DPRK and showing the attitude to retreat even from declaring the end of the war — a very basic and primary step for providing peace on the Korean Peninsula,” Ri said, according to an English transcript of his speech, acquired by South Korea’s Yonhap news agency.

CNN quoted the unidentified official as characterizing those statements as a “negotiating tactic to put pressure” on the Trump administration ahead of U.S. midterm elections in November. North Korea hopes that Trump and Kim will negotiate denuclearization terms that are more favorable to Pyongyang, the official added. Trump is widely expected to tout his progress on the North Korean issue as a key accomplishment ahead of the elections.

- **NORTH KOREA SENDS POSITIVE SIGNAL BY DISMANTLING SATELLITE LAUNCH SITE**

While credibility of denuclearization has still not been established, new moves signal possible North Korean acceptance of US position linking satellites and missile programs [By ANDREW SALMON](#) This satellite image courtesy of Airbus

Defense and Space and 38 North dated July 22, 2018 shows the apparent dismantling of facilities at the Sohae satellite launch site in North Korea. Photo: AFP

North Korea is dismantling a satellite-launch and rocket-engine test site in a move that seems aimed at boosting confidence in Washington, where signs of frustration have reportedly appeared over the apparent lack of progress on



nuclearization.

Authoritative, US-based website 38 North, which boasts a specialized focus on satellite data analysis of North Korea, announced the findings early on Tuesday, complete with photographs of the site, known as the Sohae Satellite Launching Station.

Facilities being dismantled include a “rail-mounted processing building — where space launch vehicles are prepared before moving them to the launch pad — and the nearby rocket engine test stand used to develop liquid-fuel engines for ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles,” 38 North reported.

“Since these facilities are believed to have played an important role in the development of technologies for the North’s intercontinental ballistic missile program, these efforts represent a significant confidence-building measure on the part of North Korea,” 38 North said. In June, during their landmark summit in Singapore, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un told US President Donald Trump – according to Trump himself – that he was preparing to dismantle a rocket-engine test site. 38 North’s findings appear to indicate that this process is underway.

Moreover, in other, unilateral goodwill moves made since the Singapore summit, North Korean state media has run flattering coverage and images of Trump. The nation has also canceled its annual series of anti-American rallies held between June and July – the months in which the Korean War respectively started (in 1950), and concluded (in 1953). However, none of these steps are related to official denuclearization negotiations held between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his North Korean opposite number in denuclearization talks, Kim Yong-chol.

After the last meeting between the two in the first week of July – which was also the only high-level, bilateral meeting so far held since the Singapore summit – North Korean state media slammed Pompeo for his “gangster-like” demands. This apparent ill feeling, plus multiple reports that work continues at North Korea’s major nuclear facilities, and a lagging momentum in the overall process have all raised questions over North Korea’s true commitment to denuclearization.

Moreover, unconfirmed news reports from Washington over the weekend indicate Trump has, privately, been frustrated by the lack of progress since his June meeting with Kim.

Against this backdrop, the North’s latest move stands out for a prominent reason.

Acceptance of US view on satellite-missile link?

In 2012, a promising deal was struck between the Barack Obama administration in Washington and the then-nascent Kim Jong-un regime in Pyongyang, which had taken power after the death of Kim Jong-il in 2011. However, that so-called “Leap Day” deal, on missile and nuclear test moratoriums, fell apart just weeks later when North Korea launched a satellite.

While Pyongyang insisted the satellite-launch rocket was a peaceful technology, Washington considered it a breach of faith, given that satellite-launch vehicles are dual-use technologies which share many features with inter-continental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs.

After the failure of this early attempt to generate bilateral goodwill, there were no more significant denuclearization initiatives on North Korea for the remaining years of the Obama government.

The fact that Pyongyang is now dismantling a satellite-launch site may signal acceptance of the US position that satellite and ICBM programs are inter-linked.

“Certainly, they are dual-use technologies,” said Dan Pinkston, a Seoul-based international relations expert at Troy University. “There are some things you’d do slightly differently for a space-launch vehicle and an ICBM, but if you have one, you have the knowledge for the other.”

Credibility still not established

Still, issues hang over the dismantlement steps at Sohae. Like the destruction of above-ground facilities and tunnel entrances at North Korea’s underground nuclear test-site at Punggye-ri in May, the steps being taken appear reversible. “Are they going to abandon those assets or capabilities? It raises that question, as there is a lot of investment sunk into those projects,” Pinkston said. “Or, are they upgrading? In six months they could build a better facility.”

Neither of the two dismantlement processes, at Sohae and Punggye-ri, were overseen by professional international monitors. Nor has North Korea, as yet, made any apparent preparatory moves to join or rejoin international arms control treaties, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, or the Missile Technology Control Regime.

The activities underway at Sohae, “are positive, in the sense that they are necessary,” Pinkston said. “But they are not sufficient to show full compliance with international norms.”

Seoul announces DMZ pullback gesture

Also on Tuesday, Seoul’s Ministry of National Defense announced that it would withdraw some guard posts inside the Demilitarized Zone on a trial basis, according to Yonhap news agency.

While heavy weapons are not permitted inside the DMZ – major assets such as armor and artillery are widely deployed on either side of it, by both sides – small infantry positions are maintained inside the 4-kilometer-wide strip that runs across the width of the peninsula.

During their summit in April, South Korean President Moon Jae-in had agreed with the North’s Kim to transform the DMZ into a “peace zone.”

The move follows recent attacks in North Korea state media on Moon's efforts to play an intermediary role between Pyongyang and Washington. North Korean media has also renewed demands to return to North Korea a group of restaurants workers who apparently defected to the South in 2016.

Recent investigative reports by two South Korean media outlets have indicated that, in fact, the North Koreans were lured to the South, against their will, by Seoul's National Intelligence Service.

U.S. HOPES TO RESUME JOINT FIELD OPERATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA TO FIND WAR REMAINS



An honor guard signals a command as caskets containing the remains of American servicemen from the Korean War handed over by North Korea arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Honolulu on Aug. 1. (Hugh Gentry/Reuters)

by Paul Sonne

The Defense Department agency that accounts for missing American service members from past wars hopes to negotiate the resumption of joint operations to recover remains in North Korea, an official said Thursday, calling such efforts a "sacred obligation."

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Director Kelly McKeague, speaking at the Pentagon, said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed to recovering remains when he met with President

Trump in Singapore in June.

Talks on resuming field operations, which ran for a decade before they were suspended by the Bush administration in 2005, could take place soon, McKeague said. While North Korea at times has unilaterally handed over boxes of remains, as the country did this week, more fruitful in the eyes of U.S. officials have been joint efforts to find and recover remains with American personnel on the ground.

"Given the fact that the North Koreans reaffirmed that commitment to Secretary Pompeo last month, we fully expect that there might be an environment in which case they would be open to sitting down to negotiate," he said.

The United States is preparing to analyze and identify remains of presumed U.S. war dead that North Korea handed over in 55 boxes last week, the largest number of boxes of remains Pyongyang has returned at any one time since the modern process began in the 1990s.

The U.S. military sent 200 boxes to the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea in anticipation of the latest transfer, but North Korea handed over only 55 boxes, McKeague said, explaining that U.S. officials didn't know the specifics in advance. The last time North Korea handed over remains, in 2007, the country transferred six boxes, out of which seven individuals were identified, he said.

The Hawaii military laboratory that analyzes and identifies the remains is planning to double the number of people working on its Korean War team to 10 from five as a result of this week's influx, chief scientist John Byrd said, noting that the process of DNA sampling would begin immediately.

Byrd cautioned that the 55 boxes did not necessarily equate to the remains of 55 individuals. He said many of the remains appear to have come from a village associated with the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, a harrowing fight against Chinese forces in late 1950 that claimed thousands of American lives.

[For the U.S., a frustrating history of recovering human remains in North Korea]

About 7,700 American service members are missing from the battlefields of the Korean War, including some 5,300 believed to have died north of the 38th parallel in what is now North Korea.

Family members of about 92 percent of those missing have given DNA samples, according to McKeague. He described the extensive efforts by the United States to identify those service members who remain missing as a “sacred obligation and moral imperative.”

The United States has sent North Korea \$22 million since 1990 as it recovered an estimated 629 sets of remains, according to a spokesman for the U.S. military. Much of that money was sent as reimbursement for the costs incurred during the recovery process, which for years involved North Korean officials accompanying American delegations as they traveled to war sites and obtained remains.

McKeague said North Korea did not receive any payment for the transfer this week.

“There are no costs associated with this particular repatriation,” he said. “None whatsoever. No caveats. No conditions.”

McKeague did not say whether the United States would continue reimbursing North Korea, should field operations in the country resume.

“Looking back on it, I would say it was challenging but very successful,” said Byrd, who took part in the joint field operations that stretched from the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s. He said he “would go back in an instant if we were asked to.”

The agency’s officials expressed confidence that the remains the North Koreans handed over this week were indeed those of Americans service members who died during the war.

According to Byrd, the boxes contained items typical of what the agency normally recovers from battlefields — boots, canteens, buttons, buckles and pieces of uniforms. U.S. officials say they have already contacted the family of a service member whose dog tag was returned.

Despite such clues, the process of identifying the remains is onerous.

The lab will begin by taking DNA samples from the remains and checking to see whether they match those of other remains in the inventory or those that family members of missing service members have provided. The lab’s Korean War team will then pursue any matches.

Lab officials also will check to see whether any teeth are among the remains, and if so, compare them with a database of dental records of service members missing from the Korean War.

The military also has chest X-rays on file for about three-quarters of the Korean War missing, Byrd said. If any chest bones are among the remains, the lab’s analysts can check them against those records. Byrd said he couldn’t say how LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO MAKE A FIRST IDENTIFICATION OR IDENTIFY ALL OF THE REMAINS.

- **PENTAGON TO DOUBLE SIZE OF ID TEAM AS ANALYSIS OF KOREAN WAR REMAINS BEGIN**

A case of remains repatriated from North Korea is carried off a C-17 Globemaster at Osan Air Base, South Korea, Friday, July 27, 2018.

MARCUS FICHTL/STARS AND STRIPES

By [COREY DICKSTEIN](#) | STARS AND STRIPES

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon said Thursday that it is doubling the size of its Hawaii-based team responsible for identifying Korean War remains after North Korea turned over 55 boxes last week believed to contain missing U.S. troops.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency will expand its Korean



War Program team of scientists from five to 10 people after receiving the first transfer of remains from North Korea in more than a decade, said Kelly McKeague, the director of the DPAA, the organization charged with searching for and identifying missing troops and prisoners of war. The team has already begun collecting DNA samples and examining teeth and bones to begin the process of identifying the individuals, McKeague said.

That process could take anywhere from a couple of months to several years, he said, noting some remains recovered in the 1990s still have not been positively identified.

The transfer, which took place July 27, followed an agreement made by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump when they met in June in Singapore. It was the largest unilateral turnover of remains from the North Koreans to the United States on record, but it was not immediately clear how many individuals were contained in the 55 boxes, said Dr. John Byrd, director of scientific analysis for DPAA.

"It's too early to tell," he said. "You should not assume that one box is one person. There are many possibilities ... including that one person may be in two boxes."

In addition to human remains, Byrd said the boxes contained several artifacts that appeared to belong to American servicemembers who served in the Korean War, including canteens, boots and metal parts of uniforms.

One set of military dog tags included in the boxes will be returned to the family of a missing soldier next week, though Byrd warned the inclusion of the soldier's identification tags did not indicate his remains were among the materials returned.

Many of the boxes turned over last week contained remains recovered from the North Korean village of Sinhung-Ri, a town just east of the Chosin Reservoir, Byrd told reporters. American soldiers and Marines fought in November and December of 1950 along the infamous reservoir against Chinese troops during a brutal and frigid battle that cost thousands of lives.

Among the roughly 5,300 missing American servicemembers believed to remain in North Korea, at least 1,600 are believed to be in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir.

Byrd and McKeague expressed hope North Korea and the United States would soon reach an agreement to allow DPAA military teams to return to the North to conduct search operations alongside North Korean troops for the first time since 2005.

A veteran of dozens of such search operations, Byrd said he hoped to return to North Korea to help in those searches, noting the North Koreans sounded open to restarting such a relationship after the joint mission fizzled in 2005 amid tensions.

The recovery missions are considered humanitarian and American troops deployed as part of the DPAA teams do not wear military uniforms or carry weapons, McKeague said. That means they must rely on North Korean soldiers for protection.

McKeague said restarting such a relationship would require major security guarantees from North Korea. But Byrd said that in all his years conducting the joint operations with North Korea's military, he never felt any concern for his safety.

"It was a slightly stiff relationship but professional," he said. "It was challenging but very successful." An agreement to allow American military teams back into North Korea to search for its combat missing would signal that Kim Jong Un is serious about improving his country's standing in the world.

"This is an opportunity for them to again be a responsible partner in the international community," Byrd said, adding cooperation could help with the "normalization process" between the two nations.

- **PENTAGON TO DOUBLE SIZE OF ID TEAM AS ANALYSIS OF KOREAN WAR REMAINS BEGINS**



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MARCUS FICHTL/STARS AND STRIPES

By [COREY DICKSTEIN](#) / STARS AND STRIPES August 2, 2018

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- **Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Families Meet:** The Korean War Veterans Association's Washington Office, consisting of President Paul Cunningham, Executive Director Jim Fisher and Director Rocky Harder joined the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs this week at their annual meeting in Arlington, Va. This year's atmosphere was supercharged with hope after last week's return of 55 cases of American remains from the Korean War. The remains are now at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identification lab in Hawaii where they are being anatomically arranged and sampled for DNA sequencing. There are approximately 7,690 unaccounted-for Americans lost on the Korean

Peninsula, with an estimated 5,300 being north of the DMZ. Cold War losses in the vicinity number 111. American-led recovery teams have not operated in North Korea since 2005 due to security reasons, but the possibility they could resume is being met with the full support of the families and the KWVA, who will ensure any increase in mission requirements is met with a corresponding increase in mission funding.

• WHY IS THE U.S. WARY OF A DECLARATION TO END THE KOREAN WAR?

President Trump and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, in Singapore in June. The two sides have clashed over just what their agreement at the summit meeting means.
Credit Doug Mills/The New York Times

By Edward Wong



with denuclearization.

But there is a range of reasons American officials have refused so far to embrace a formal peace declaration. The Trump administration wants North Korea to first halt its nuclear weapons program — a tough line that could create a divergence between the United States and South Korea, its ally.

In turn, analysts said, that gives an opening to North Korea — and maybe China and Russia — to exploit the gap between Washington and Seoul.

“You have South Korea moving so quickly on these projects to push for reconciliation with North Korea, and in Washington you have people pushing for denuclearization before anything else happens,” said Jean H. Lee, director of the Wilson Center’s center for Korean history and public policy. “They have very different end games and very different time frames. It’s very problematic.”

First, the U.S. wants proof of Pyongyang’s efforts to denuclearize.

The Trump administration, like those of Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, is focused on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program above all else. That’s in large part because North Korea has been developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that would give Pyongyang the ability to strike the United States mainland with a nuclear warhead.

In a joint statement released after the Singapore summit meeting in June, the United States and North Korea said Pyongyang “commits to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

But the two sides didn’t agree on the definition of denuclearization.

For President Trump’s top foreign policy officials — Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state, and John R. Bolton, the national security adviser — denuclearization means North Korea halting and dismantling its nuclear weapons program. Mr. Bolton said last week that North Korea had not taken steps necessary for denuclearization, a process that American officials have said should include turning over a list of Pyongyang’s atomic weapons stockpiles, nuclear production facilities and missiles.

North Korea has not agreed to do so and, according to Mr. Pompeo, is still producing fissile material at plants.

Separately, American intelligence officials have concluded that North Korea is continuing to make long-range missiles at a site north of Pyongyang, according to news reports.

South Korea wants the United States to give Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, something significant — ideally an end-of-war declaration — to build domestic political will for denuclearization.

WASHINGTON — As a reward for its broader foray into diplomacy, North Korea wants a formal and official declared end to the decades-long Korean War that settled into an uneasy truce in 1953. South Korea wants this, too. But the United States, which first sent military forces to the Korean Peninsula in 1950 and still keeps 28,500 troops there, is not ready to agree to a peace declaration.

No doubt the issue will be high on the agenda when the leaders of the two Koreas hold their third summit meeting next month, in Pyongyang. Both want the end of the war to be declared this year with the United States and, possibly, China. And North Korea insists on securing the declaration before moving forward

It's Been 65 Years. Why Hasn't the Korean War Ended?

South Korean officials also have noted that North Korea is focused on the order of points made in the joint statement from Singapore. The commitment to denuclearization was third, while the first and second points called on the United States and North Korea to establish new relations and to build "a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula."

For the North Koreans, that means prioritizing an end-of-war declaration and peace treaty, analysts said.

Joseph Y. Yun, the former senior diplomat on North Korea at the State Department, said in an interview that Washington and Pyongyang could try for a "declaration-for-declaration" agreement: North Korea would declare its nuclear assets in exchange for the United States' supporting a declaration to end the Korean War.

• **THE TWO KOREAS WANT A DECLARATION BY THIS FALL — WAY TOO SOON FOR THE U.S.**

For the declaration, the two Korean governments are working on a year's end deadline at the latest, but ideally by the Sept. 18 start of the annual United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York. It is widely believed that United Nations officials might invite Mr. Kim to attend the assembly and deliver a speech.

"The best-case scenario is that Kim Jong-un visits the United Nations with a peace declaration in hand," said John Delury, a professor at Yonsei University in Seoul who writes on the Korean conflict and Chinese history.

The Koreas had originally considered putting together an end-of-war declaration in July, but that did not happen. Given their skepticism over North Korea's commitment to denuclearization, American officials said the timeline was much too fast.

As always, the wild card is Mr. Trump. He insisted that the Singapore summit meeting be held in June, even though American officials wanted more time to prepare.

Mr. Trump might aim for a similar foreign policy extravaganza in the fall, timed to the United Nations assembly and before the crucial November midterm elections in the United States.

• **THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SAYS THE VETERANS DAY MILITARY PARADE ORDERED UP BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP WON'T HAPPEN IN 2018.**

Pentagon Delays Trump's Military Parade Until at Least 2019



FILE - In this Jan. 20, 2017, file photo, military units participate in the inaugural parade from the Capitol to the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 20, 2017. A U.S. official says the 2018 Veterans Day military parade ordered up by President Donald Trump would cost about \$92 million _ more than three times the maximum initial estimate. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen, File) The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department said Thursday that the Veterans Day military parade ordered up by President Donald Trump won't happen in 2018.

Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman, said the military and the White House "have now agreed to explore opportunities in 2019."

The announcement came several hours after reports that the parade would cost about \$92 million, according to U.S. officials citing preliminary estimates more than three times the price first suggested by the White House.

According to the officials, roughly \$50 million would cover Pentagon costs for aircraft, equipment, personnel and other support for the November parade in Washington. The remainder would be borne by other agencies and largely involve security costs. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss early planning estimates that have not yet been finalized or released publicly. The estimate was first reported by CNBC.

Officials said the plans had not yet been approved by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Mattis himself said late Thursday that he had seen no such estimate and questioned the media reports.

The Pentagon chief told reporters traveling with him to Bogota, Colombia, that whoever leaked the number to the press was "probably smoking something that is legal in my state but not in most" — a reference to his home state of Washington, where marijuana use is legal.

He added: "I'm not dignifying that number (\$92 million) with a reply. I would discount that, and anybody who said (that number), I'll almost guarantee you one thing: They probably said, 'I need to stay anonymous.' No kidding, because you look like an idiot. And No. 2, whoever wrote it needs to get better sources. I'll just leave it at that."

The parade's cost, which was confirmed by multiple officials, has become a politically charged issue, particularly after the Pentagon canceled a major military exercise planned for August with South Korea, in the wake of Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump said the drills were provocative and that dumping them would save the U.S. "a tremendous amount of money." The Pentagon later said the Korea drills would have cost \$14 million.

Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said earlier Thursday that Defense Department planning for the parade "continues and final details are still being developed. Any cost estimates are pre-decisional."

The parade was expected to include troops from all five armed services — the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard — as well as units in period uniforms representing earlier times in the nation's history. It also was expected to involve a number of military aircraft flyovers.

A Pentagon planning memo released in March said the parade would feature a "heavy air component," likely including older, vintage aircraft. It also said there would be "wheeled vehicles only, no tanks — consideration must be given to minimize damage to local infrastructure." Big, heavy tanks could tear up streets in the District of Columbia.

The memo from Mattis' office provided initial planning guidance to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His staff is planning the parade along a route from the White House to the Capitol and would integrate it with the city's annual veterans' parade. U.S. Northern Command, which oversees U.S. troops in North America, is responsible for the actual execution of the parade.

Earlier this year, the White House budget director told Congress that the cost to taxpayers could be \$10 million to \$30 million. Those estimates were likely based on the cost of previous military parades, such as the one in the nation's capital in 1991 celebrating the end of the first Gulf War, and factored in some additional increase for inflation.

One veterans group weighed in Thursday against the parade. "The American Legion appreciates that our President wants to show in a dramatic fashion our nation's support for our troops," National Commander Denise Rohan said. However, she added, "we think the parade money would be better spent fully funding the Department of Veteran Affairs and giving our troops and their families the best care possible."

Trump decided he wanted a military parade in Washington after he attended France's Bastille Day celebration in the center of Paris last year. As the invited guest of French President Emmanuel Macron, Trump watched enthusiastically from a reviewing stand as the French military showcased its tanks and fighter jets, including many U.S.-made planes, along the famed Champs-Elysees.

Several months later Trump praised the French parade, saying, "We're going to have to try and top it."

- **NORTH KOREA STILL PRODUCING NUCLEAR MATERIAL, POMPEO TELLS LAWMAKERS**

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo testifies to Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, D.C.

By [SETH ROBSON](#) | STARS AND STRIPES

President Donald Trump remains upbeat about eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons although the communist regime has yet to shutter its nuclear program, the secretary of state has told Congress.

"Yes, they continue to produce fissile material," Mike Pompeo said of the North in response to a question from Sen. Ed Markey, D-Massachusetts, during a hearing Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The administration's objective remains the "final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea, as agreed to by Chairman Kim Jong Un," Pompeo told the lawmakers.

Pompeo, who earlier this month traveled to Pyongyang for the third time since April, said last week that the North Koreans reaffirmed their commitment to denuclearize during his most recent visit.

ADVERTISING

The pledge was one of several points made in a historic summit between Trump and Kim last month in Singapore that included an agreement to resume a long-stalled search for the remains of thousands of Americans believed lost in the North during the 1950-53 Korean War. The North is expected to hand over as many as 55 sets of remains on Friday.

"We are engaged in patient diplomacy, but we will not let this drag out to no end," Pompeo told lawmakers on Wednesday. "Progress is happening. We need [Kim] to follow through on his commitments that he made in Singapore. Until North Korea eliminates its weapons of mass destruction, our sanctions, and those at the ... United Nations will remain in effect."

Multiple UN Security Council resolutions require North Korea to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs, Pompeo added.

"Those resolutions were passed unanimously, and they remain binding. We absolutely need every single nation to maintain the enforcement of those sanctions to which every nation is committed," he said. "The path ahead is not easy, but our hopes for a safer world and a brighter future for North Korea endure."

Markey expressed concern that there is "no verifiable evidence that North Korea ... is denuclearizing."

"I am afraid at this point that the Trump administration is being taken for a ride," he said.

"Fear not, senator," Pompeo responded. "This administration has taken enormously constructive actions that have put us in a place that is far better than in either of the two previous administrations, one Republican, one Democrat. We have put sanctions regime in place that is unequaled."

The secretary of state declined to answer questions in public about whether North Korea is still trying to develop submarine-launched ballistic missiles and whether its nuclear program is advancing, Reuters reported.

Pompeo said he would answer in a classified setting if required, but that public statements on the issue wouldn't help "a complex negotiation with a difficult adversary," the report said.



- **TOP US COMMANDER BACKS S. KOREAN PLAN TO REMOVE SOME DMZ GUARD POSTS**



Gen. Vincent Brooks, leader of U.S. Forces Korea, the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command, attends a press conference at the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club, Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018.

KIM GAMEL/STARS AND STRIPES

By [KIM GAMEL](#) / STARS AND STRIPES Published: August 22, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — The top U.S. commander in South Korea expressed support Wednesday for a plan to remove some guard posts from the tense border, saying it's a "reasonable" risk that may help denuclearization talks with the North.

South Korea's defense ministry has said it plans to close about 10 guard posts along the Demilitarized Zone and expects the North to reciprocate as part of a bilateral summit agreement to ease tensions.

Gen. Vincent Brooks — who wears three hats as the leader of U.S. Forces Korea, the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command — said he supports the initiative to reduce tensions and build trust between the rival nations.

"I have some concerns about what that means militarily to the ability to defend along the Military Demarcation Line and in depth beyond it," he said at a press conference at the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club.

"I believe that there's a reasonable amount of risk that's involved in this, not an excessive amount of risk," to the defense of South Korea, he said.

The border post decision was the latest in a series of moves by Seoul to improve relations with the North even as nuclear talks between North Korea and the United States have stalled.

South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo didn't give a timeline but said it would be a gradual process.

"What it means is that we will withdraw one or two guard posts first, then additional ones," he was quoted as telling the National Assembly's defense committee on Tuesday.

The two Koreas have been divided by the heavily fortified border, which is lined with barbed wire and dotted with landmines, since their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The U.S. maintains about 28,500 servicemembers in the South.

Brooks dismissed criticism that President Donald Trump's decision to suspend joint U.S.-South Korean war games during negotiations with the North could jeopardize the allies' ability to fight.

"We'll find other ways to maintain readiness and that means more creativity in how we do our work, sharing knowledge with different leaders as they change out to make sure we don't atrophy in our readiness while our diplomatic effort is ongoing," he said.

"Perhaps we've been told for now to put our sword back into the sheath, but we have not been told to forget how to use it," he added.

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NORTH KOREA LIAISON OFFICE IS A SOURCE OF US-SOUTH KOREA TENSIONS



- **KEEPING AMERICA STRONG. PROMOTING FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN**

RIGHTS ABROAD.

‘THE ART OF THE DEAL’ MEETS ‘THE ART OF DECEPTION’: REFLECTIONS ON THE TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Suzanne Scholte | President, Defense Forum Foundation; Seoul Peace Prize Laureate

Having devoted over twenty years of my life promoting freedom and human rights for the people of North Korea, I confess I got a very queasy stomach seeing the American flag, the symbol of freedom, next to the flag of the Kim family dictatorship – better known as the flag of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

My stomach got even queasier seeing the democratically elected leader of the Free World, Donald J. Trump, treat the hereditary dictator Kim Jong Un, known for his crimes against humanity, as an equal.

And it got even worse when Trump described Kim as an “honorable man” who “loves his people.”

What flashed back in my memory at that moment was a document sent to me secretly in 1999 by a disgruntled Voice of America (VOA) reporter. The document was a Department of State memo spiking the reporter’s article about the first hearing ever held exposing the horrific political prison camps in North Korea with eyewitnesses, survivors of these camps.

The Congressional hearing held on April 29, 1999, was chaired by then Senators Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) and John Kerry (D-Mass.) but the VOA story about the hearing was spiked because the accuracy of the survivors was questionable and because the “timing [was] not good” because the Four Party Talks had just concluded with North Korea’s promise to allow inspection of an underground nuclear site.

I keep this document always at hand as a way to remind myself of how far we have come and to never give up, because — despite the initial skepticism that North Korea was committing unspeakable atrocities against its own people — today, no one questions the horrific violations occurring in North Korea every day in these camps and throughout the country.

So, you can imagine how for those survivors of this regime and for those of us who have worked so hard to expose these atrocities, the Singapore Summit looked like all of that was slipping away with human rights once again being shoved aside.

But then it dawned on me the morning after the Singapore Summit: this is the beginning of the end of the Kim regime because it is “The Art of the Deal” personified by Trump vs. “The Art of Deception” personified by Kim Jong Un. I will predict at this moment in history that because of President Trump, we will finally see the end of the Kim dictatorship. This summit has set that outcome into irreversible motion.

Here’s why I make this bold prediction:

When Trump responded via tweet to Kim Jong Un with: I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!” I laughed so hard, I cried. I realized it was brilliant. It rattled that young dictator to his core and it rattled North Koreans who have been raised from childhood to treat Kim as their “god.”

But Trump has got this dictatorship in his sight, and if Kim Jong Un does not change his wicked ways, his reign is over. I know that my dearest colleagues, the escapees from North Korea and the North Korea human rights activists, are currently despondent about this summit and its potential to further elevate Kim to his god-like status in North Korea and solidify his power among those who dare to challenge him, but what Trump, in fact, has done is pull the rug right out from under the dictator.

Among the ways that Kim has maintained power is by isolating his people from the outside world and brainwashing them to believe that America is their sworn enemy bent on their destruction. They are literally fed propaganda from childhood to hate Americans as “Yankee imperialist wolves” who are the source of all their misery, the occupiers of South Korea and the reason the Korean family is divided.

Thanks to the North Korean defectors and their nonstop relentless campaign of radio broadcasting, balloon launches and cross-border transfers of getting information into North Korea, North Korea’s isolation is ending.

Thanks to the women of North Korea, North Korea has a thriving capitalist market system with close to 5,000 markets all around North Korean including micro size local grasshopper markets where North Koreans trade and sell and thus are no longer dependent on the regime for survival.

Thanks to the Trump administration, the U.S. Congress and the U.N. Security Council, the regime is under enormous economic stress through the enhanced sanctions. This stress is what led Kim to the negotiating table in the first place as he no longer has the resources to pay his million-man army and rewards his elites to maintain their loyalty.

Right now, Kim is using “The Art of Deception” that was so successfully used by his father and saved Kim Jong II’s regime from collapse: make false promises to give up nukes and get rewarded billions of dollars from South Korea, America and the international community. Kim Jong Un believes that because it worked beautifully for his father during the Sunshine years, it will work during the Moonshine years for him.

But “The Art of Deception” has now met “The Art of the Deal.”

Thanks to Trump, Kim can no longer use the anti-American propaganda that so successfully helped the regime stay in power and the subjects loyal. Trump has shown them the real America: an earnest sincerity that what Americans want is for North Koreans to thrive and succeed. If Kim does not take the steps he has promised to begin the complete dismantlement of their nuclear program, you can bet that the Trump administration will not be deceived.

With the team of Mike Pompeo, John Kelly and John Bolton, coupled with the fervent prayers of Mike Pence, and the greatest deal maker wielding his best skills in Trump, Kim is in a trap. There are too many North Koreans who desire change to continue to be loyal to this dictatorship if this dictatorship does not also change. The regime can no longer claim they must have nuclear weapons because the Americans want to destroy them when Trump is promising wealth and prosperity and opportunity.

The only choice the elites of North Korea — and the people — have ever had in the past was simple: loyalty to Kim or the worst possible death imaginable.

Trump has shown very clearly there is another way forward. So, Kim either reforms or dies. He either follows through on his promises or his regime ends.

And if Kim does adopt reforms, the wonderful irony is that this guarantees his regime will end.

I am betting “The Art of the Deal” will beat “The Art of Deception.”

Suzanne Scholte, one of the world's leading North Korea human rights activists, hosted the very first North Korean defectors to ever speak out publicly in the U.S. in 1997 and serves as chair of the North Korea Freedom Coalition and as co-vice chair of the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

GET ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES THROUGH VA

Finding the best long-term care approach can be a challenge. VA health care offers sick and disabled Veterans options regarding the setting of their care and the types of care they receive.

When Ken, an Air Force Veteran, had a stroke, he suddenly became dependent on his wife. VA was there to help. “When people told us it was time to put him in a nursing home we just weren’t ready for that,” says Maria, Ken’s wife and caregiver. “We got in the program and they made it so very easy for us.”

Long-term care services include:

Nursing and medical care

Physical therapy

Help with daily tasks, like bathing, dressing and making meals

Comfort care and help with managing pain

Support for caregivers

This care is available in many different settings, including nursing homes, adult day homes, and assisted living centers. Programs like Home Based Primary Care and Veterans-Directed Care give Veterans the care that they need at home, so they can continue to live independently. To access these services, Veterans must be enrolled in VA health care and VA must determine a specific service is necessary.

Visit Explore.VA.gov to learn about all VA benefits and how to apply or click on the button below for information about VA health care.

[Explore VA Health Care](#)

http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwODAxLjkzMjE5OTAxJm1l3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDgwMS45MzIxOTkwMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE4MzYyODM1JmVtYWlsaWQ9anJmaXNoZXIxMTIxQHZlcml6b24ubmV0JnVzZXjpZD1qcmZpc2hlcjExMjFAdmVyaXpvbi5uZXQmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&100&&&https://www.va.gov/?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=august-healthcare-monthly_8.1&utm_term=logo-header-page&utm_content=homepage-applicat

- **IMPORTANT BILLS BEING CONSIDERED AT A SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

The primary focus of the hearing was H.R. 299, which would expand Agent Orange-related benefits to Korean DMZ veterans who were exposed to harmful toxins in 1967, and children born with spinal bifida due to a parent's exposure during service in Thailand.



VA News Release

[VA, Walgreens collaborate to improve care coordination for Veterans](#)

WASHINGTON - As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to improve care coordination for Veterans, the department is working with pharmacy services provider Walgreens to coordinate patient and pharmaceutical care for VA-enrolled patients.

How to ***donate wisely*** and **avoid charity scams**



When you decide to support a cause you care about, you want your donation to count. Doing some research and planning your giving can help ensure your donations get where they'll do good. Here are tips to help you plan your donation— and avoid scams.

Do some research online

- Looking for a charity to support? Search for a cause you care about – like “hurricane relief” or “homeless kids” – and phrases like “best charity” or “highly rated charity.”
- When you consider giving to a specific charity, search its name plus “complaint,” “review,” “rating,” or “scam.”
- Use these organizations to help you research charities.

Be careful how you pay

- If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don’t do it. That’s how scammers ask you to pay.
- To be safer, pay by credit card or check.
- It’s a good practice to keep a record of all donations. And review your statements closely to make sure you’re only charged the amount you agreed to donate – and that you’re not signed up to make a recurring donation.
- Before clicking on a link to donate online, make sure you know who is receiving your donation. Read Donating Through an Online Giving Portal for more information.

Keep scammers’ tricks in mind

- Don’t let anyone rush you into making a donation. That’s something scammers do.
- Some scammers try to trick you into paying them by thanking you for a donation that you never made.
- Scammers can change caller ID to make a call look like it’s from a local area code.
- Some scammers use names that sound a lot like the names of real charities. This is one reason it pays to do some research before giving.
- Scammers make lots of vague and sentimental claims but give no specifics about how your donation will be used.
- Bogus organizations may claim that your donation is tax-deductible when it is not.
- Guaranteeing sweepstakes winnings in exchange for a donation is not only a scam, it’s illegal.

If you see any red flags, or if you’re not sure about how a charity will use your donation, consider giving to a different charity. There are many worthy organizations who will use your donation wisely.

Report scams to [FTC.gov/complaint](#). Find your state charity regulator at [nasconet.org](#) and report to them, too. Share any information you have – like the name of the organization or fundraiser, phone number, and what the fundraiser said.

Organizations that can help you research charities

These organizations offer reports and ratings about how charitable organizations spend donations and how they conduct business:

- [BBB Wise Giving Alliance](#)
- [Charity Navigator](#)
- [CharityWatch](#)
- [GuideStar](#)

The IRS’s [Tax Exempt Organization Search](#) tells you if your donation would be tax deductible.

You can find your state charity regulator at [nasconet.org](#). Most states require the charity or its fundraiser to register to ask for donations.

- **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 live 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/>
- **Defense Health Agency Transition:** Beginning on Oct. 1, 2018, the Defense Health Agency will assume responsibility for the administration and management of health care at all military treatment facilities operating under DOD. This consolidation aims to provide a more integrated, efficient, and effective system of readiness to better support the lethality of the force by eliminating many of the redundancies that have historically plagued the military health system (MHS). The transition hopes to significantly increase our nation's ability to provide world class medical support to warfighters, their dependents, and our military retirees.
- **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.](#)

Veterans Identification Card Fact Sheet

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015, Public Law (PL) 114-31 which amended Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code to require that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issue an identification card to Veterans that request a card and present a DD-214 or other document that validates service in the military, naval or air service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Veterans can use the VIC with participating vendors in lieu of their DD-214. Implementation of the VIC closes the gap for individuals that do not have an identification card that designates them as a Veteran. Moreover, it allows the VA to ensure Veterans are able to take advantage of the benefits and discounted services available to them without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. The VIC does not replace the or serve as an alternate means of identification in place of the Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) or retirement card issued by the Department of Defense, or other state or federal identification highlighting their Veteran status. Veterans who have served honorably will be able to apply for a VIC online using [Vets.gov](#) or [AccessVA](#).

Key Facts:

- On November 29, 2017, VA launched the Veterans Identification Card (VIC) Program.
- Veterans can submit an electronic application for the VIC using [Vets.gov](#) or [AccessVA](#). To sign in, they can use their ID.me account or the same log-in that they use for their eBenefits account (DS Logon).
- Individuals that have a character of discharge type of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for a VIC.
- Individuals with a Dishonorable, Other than Honorable conditions or Bad Conduct discharge are not eligible for a VIC.
- The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor's acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.
- The VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency.
- The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran.
- The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or state department or agency.

How to Apply for a VIC

- Veterans can apply for a VIC using [Vets.gov](#) or [AccessVA](#)

Explanation of Initiative

- The VIC can be used in lieu a DD-214 and will provide Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold with a more portable and secure alternative for proof of service.

VIC FAQ's

Q. What is the Veteran Affairs identification card (VIC)?

A. On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the “Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015”. This Act allows eligible Veterans to be issued an identification card directly from VA.

Q. How can the VIC card be used?

A. The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor’s acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.

Q. Is there eligibility criteria in order to qualify for the VIC?

A. Yes, any Veteran who served in the Armed Forces (includes: active Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines as well as Reserve Component, National Guard, or Coast Guard) and have a character of discharge type of Honorable, General (Under Honorable Conditions) may request the VIC. Veterans Affairs will review eligibility to ensure a Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document of discharge is present and a character of discharge type is annotated describing the service of the Veteran.

Q. Are individuals that served in the Reserves, National Guard, or Coast Guard eligible for a VIC?

A. Individuals that served in the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard of the United States, or the Air National Guard of the United States qualify for a VIC if they received a DD-214 or other approved document of discharge and completed their obligated time in service.

Q. Are individuals that have an Unknown or Uncharacterized discharge status eligible for a VIC?

A. Individuals with an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status may be eligible. They will have to submit a copy of their DD-214 so that we can verify the nature of discharge and determine eligibility.

Q. I served in Army from 5/11/2005 - 5/10/2009 and Navy from 5/11/2009 - 3/18/2011. However, when I was discharged from the Navy in 2009, I received a dishonorable discharge. Am I still eligible for a VIC?

A. No, if you have multiple segments of service that are not all honorable or general (under honorable conditions) you are not eligible for a VIC.

Q. Are all individuals that have VA benefits automatically eligible for a VIC?

A. No, the two are not the same. VA can render a Character of Discharge Determination on discharges that are not Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) and can assign limited benefits to an individual. VA cannot change the discharge of record on the actual DD-214 and that is the discharge field that determines VIC eligibility.

Q. Will the Veteran be required to be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) in order to verify eligibility for VIC?

A. No, not all Veterans retain their DEERS account after they are discharged. All active duty and retirees are automatically kept enrolled in DEERS. A VIC applicant does not necessarily need to have a DEERS account or be eligible for a DEERS account. It is required if they need to use a DS Logon. However, ID.me does not require that same system verification and individuals can access the application from there. If the Veteran has a DEERS account, they need to ensure it is updated with current information before they try to use their DS Logon to access Vets.gov or AccessVA.

Applicants can update their DEERS information using the information below:

- Visit your personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 800-538-9552. You can find your nearest personnel office at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/>.
- Visit the DEERS website at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/indexAction.do>.
- Go online to TRICARE to update your information: <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS>.

Q. Will the VIC give a Veteran access to any other benefits, goods, or services that they don't already get with their Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC); DoD retired identification card or state-issued identification with a Veteran designation?

A. No, the VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency. The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran. The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or other federal or state department or agency. If a Veteran already has a VHIC, retirement card issued by DoD, or state issued identification with a Veteran designation they do not need to apply for a VIC. The VIC does not qualify individuals for additional benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not serve as proof for any benefits to which they may be entitled

Q. How can Veterans submit a request for a VIC?

A. Veterans can submit requests for a VIC on [Vets.gov](#) or [AccessVA](#)

Q. How do I sign in to Vets.gov?

A. You can sign in with your DS Logon account (used to access eBenefits or MilConnect)—and we'll connect your account to Vets.gov through ID.me. ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe. If you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you'll need to verify your identity through ID.me. We can also help you use ID.me to add an extra layer of security to your account (called 2-factor authentication). If you don't have a DS Logon account, you can create an account for Vets.gov through ID.me.

Q. What if the Veteran does not have an ID.me account, can they still apply for the VIC?

A. Yes, the same log-in used for eBenefits or DS Logon, can be used to log into their Vets.gov or AccessVA account.

Q. For Veterans without the ability to submit an electronic application, is there another way to submit a VIC request?

A. We encourage all Veterans interested in applying for the Veteran ID card to visit Vets.gov or AccessVA. At this time those are the only methods available for applying for the card.

Q. Will the VIC allow me to access military post or installations?

A. No, the VIC will not grant you access to military installations.

Q. Will the VA charge a fee to issue the VIC?

A. Veterans will not be asked to pay for the Veteran ID card. To ensure security of Veteran information, the application process is managed within the VA and the printing and shipping costs for the card are covered through a public-private partnership agreement.

Q. Is the list of vendors that offer discounts to Veterans available online?

A. Promotional discounts and services offered to Veterans may vary by location. Check with your local retailer to verify if they offer discounted goods or services to Veterans.



VIC Application Process

Before You Start

Make sure you have a valid copy of your state or federal issued ID, a personal photo to appear on your card, and a copy of your last/final DD-214 or other official military discharge document that reflects an Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) character of discharge.

Part I: Sign In/Set up Your Account

1. Visit <https://www.vets.gov/veteran-id-card> and sign into your Vets.gov account.
2. Sign in by selecting one of the following options:

[Sign in with DS Logon](#)

[Sign in with My HealtheVet](#)

[ID.me Sign in with ID.me](#)

3. After you are logged into your account click and proceed to Part III.

Part II: Verify Your Identity

1. If you used your DS Logon account to sign into Vets.gov and you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you'll need to verify your identity through ID.me to finish setting up your account.
2. If you used ID.me to sign into your Vets.gov account and the “**Apply for VA ID Card**” link is “grayed out” you must click “**Verify your Identity**” to finish setting up your account.
3. After your identity is verified you will be directed to the VIC site.

Part III: Complete Your VIC Request

1. Verify your personal information.
2. Upload a valid copy of your state or federal issued ID, a personal photo, and a copy of your DD-214 (if needed).
3. Once you have confirmed that your information is accurate and uploaded all required documents, click and then click

Are You Having Issues Submitting a VIC Request? We Want to Help!

If you experienced issues submitting your VIC request using Vets.gov, you can use [AccessVA](#) to submit your application using your DS Logon or ID.me username and password.

Send an email to vic@va.gov if you have any additional questions or concerns.

- **MEDICAL IMAGES AVAILABLE ON MYHEALTHEVET:** Medical images such as mammograms, CT scans, MRIs and X-rays can now be viewed, downloaded, and printed through MyHealtheVet, under VA Medical Images and Reports. Go to the following site to find out more:
<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20180418-medical-images-available-on-my-healthevet?inheritRedirect=true>

- **TIPS FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY SUMMER**

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy the sun, outdoor dining, and water activities. Although fun, these summer activities can pose some risks to your health.

In the event you need to see a medical professional, know your TRICARE benefit and the different types of covered services available to you and your family, including preventive care, urgent care, and emergency care. If you're not sure if you need medical attention, remember the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is free and available 24/7.

Keep in mind the following tips so you and your family stay safe and healthy this summer:

1. **Protect Skin from Sun Exposure:** When you and your family are having fun outdoors, use these tips to stay safe in the sun:

- Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher.
- Wear clothing that covers your skin.
- Avoid direct sunlight by sitting in the shade or using a beach umbrella.
- Wear a hat to protect your face, head, ears, and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that block ultraviolet rays.

If you're at a higher risk of developing skin cancer, get checked out. TRICARE covers skin cancer exams for individuals with a family or personal history of skin cancer, increased occupational or recreational exposure to sunlight, or clinical evidence of precursor lesions.

2. **Prep, Cook, and Store Food Properly:** When hosting outdoor summer gatherings, food safety is key, especially since keeping food cool can be a challenge. Check out these tips to reduce your chances of food poisoning from summer foods:

- Wash your hands, kitchen surfaces, cookware and utensils thoroughly before you prepare food.
- Separate your foods to avoid cross-contamination.
- Cook your meats, whether using the oven or grill, until they're the correct internal temperature.
- Chill food within two hours (within one hour if hotter than 90 F) and don't leave food in the heat or sitting at room temperature for a long time.

3. **Make Smart Decisions in or near Water:** If engaging in water fun, here are a few safety tips to protect yourself and loved ones while you're in or near water:

- Know how to swim and any limitations in your swimming ability.
- Always supervise kids when around water.
- Bring a friend.
- Wear a lifejacket.
- Swim in supervised (lifeguarded) areas.
- Drink responsibly and avoid alcohol during water activities.

To ensure this summer is filled with good memories, make safety a priority at all times.

- **VA UPDATES SKIN CONDITIONS DISABILITY RATING:**

VA is currently updating multiple categories of the Schedule for Rating Disabilities, including conditions related to the skin. No conditions have been removed from the skin rating, though several were restructured. Claims that were pending before Aug. 13 will be considered under both the new and old rating criteria. The more favorable criteria for the veteran will be used for claims pending before Aug. 13. Claims filed after Aug. 13 will be rated under the new schedule. [Read more information](#)

- **WILKIE THE RIGHT CHOICE TO LEAD VA**



Veterans Affairs Secretary nominee Robert Wilkie is sworn in at the start of a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee nominations hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Wilkie is expected to become secretary of Veterans Affairs when the Senate votes Monday, July 23 to confirm him. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

Amid the furor over President Donald Trump's ever-changing policies on trade and relations with Russia, the confirmation of a new Veterans Affairs chief went virtually unnoticed last week. It shouldn't have.

Robert Wilkie, who was sworn in on Monday, is a solid selection to direct the troubled agency. His long experience on Capitol Hill and as a Department of Defense administrator ensures knowledgeable leadership for a much-needed VA course correction.

The Senate recognized as much when it voted, 86-9, to confirm Mr. Wilkie to the post, filling a position that had been open since David Shulkin, an Obama administration holdover, resigned.

President Trump initially nominated White House physician Ronny Jackson, who withdrew amid allegations that he fostered a hostile work environment among his staff.

Mr. Wilkie, an Air Force reservist, previously served as head of military personnel policy for the White House, and has years of experience working on defense and national security issues on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon. He has no prior experience working for the VA, which may not necessarily count as a negative.

Mr. Shulkin's departure was followed by the transfer or resignation of other high-ranking officials viewed as insufficiently in tune with the administration's plans for the VA.

Critics have called it a purge of the upper ranks of the federal government's second-largest agency.

It could as easily be said that personnel changes and transfers have cleared the decks for the new VA secretary, who will be implementing major policies for improved medical care and expedited benefits.

"The first thing VA needs right now is employee confidence in their senior leadership," VFW spokesman Joe Davis said, in comments to The Washington Post. "There's a morale problem. There's nobody captaining the ship. VA is often a headline away from a nationwide crisis." That should change with Mr. Wilkie at the helm.

One recent concern has been the antagonism between the agency's inspector general and the interim VA administration. The IG has played an essential role in providing independent criticism on a range of VA problems. There is no justification, legal or otherwise, to try muzzling him. As VA head, Mr. Wilkie should make clear his support of the IG and of the agency whistleblowers who have served a similar purpose of pointing out problems.

After years of continuing employee misconduct and cover-up, the personnel problem at the VA is like the Augean Stables. It may take a river to clean it up. Mr. Wilkie will have the help of a new agency within VA created by Congress last year called the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. This addition to the VA personnel system will have some hard work ahead, and Mr. Wilkie must push it to succeed and carry out its recommendations faithfully. A July 19 report by the Government Accountability Office, for example, found a persistent culture of retaliation against whistleblowers is still in place at the VA and that personnel accountability is inconsistent. Those and other problems will take time to correct, but whistleblower protection should be an immediate priority and accountability for proven misconduct should be swift and firm.

Serving military veterans, particularly in health care, is not only the prime goal of the VA, it is an essential responsibility of the nation. Mr. Wilkie can provide the skills and leadership to get it right.

• PENCE WELCOMES RETURN OF PRESUMED KOREAN WAR DEAD

By: Audrey McAvoy, The Associated Press and Kim Tong-Hyung, The Associated Press

of remains believed to be U.S. troops killed in the Korean War. The repatriation of the remains are part of warming diplomatic relations between the U.S. and North Korea. (Ben Murray / Staff)

HONOLULU — Decades after the end of the Korean War in 1953, the remains of dozens of [presumed U.S. war dead](#) returned Wednesday to Hawaii for analysis and identification. The U.S. military believes the bones are those of U.S. servicemen and potentially servicemen from other United Nations member countries who fought alongside the U.S. on behalf of South Korea during the war.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence spoke at a ceremony before the flag-draped containers carrying the remains were brought off airplanes in sets of four as solemn music played.

"Whosoever emerges from these aircraft today begins a new season of hope for the families of our missing fallen," Pence said. "Hope that those who are lost will yet be found. Hope that after so many years of questions, they will have closure."

• WHY IDENTIFYING THE KOREAN WAR REMAINS JUST BROUGHT HOME COULD TAKE YEARS

Fifty-five cases of remains believed to be U.S. troops arrive in Hawaii tonight, but with only one dog tag and no other information.

By: Leo Shane III, Tara Copp

Each container was accompanied by one Marine, one sailor, one soldier and one airman. They set the caskets gently on risers lined up inside the hangar as Pence stood watching with his hand over his heart. Adm. Phil Davidson, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, saluted.

Some of the invited guests wiped tears from their eyes during the procession of the containers off the planes.



People listen at a ceremony marking the arrival of the remains believed to be of American service members who fell in the Korean War at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. North Korea handed over the remains last week. (Susan Walsh/AP)

North Korea handed over the remains last week. A U.S. military plane made a rare trip into North Korea to retrieve the 55 cases.

About 7,700 U.S. soldiers are listed as missing from the 1950-53 Korean War and about 5,300 of the remains are believed to still be in North Korea.

Hanwell Kaakimaka's uncle, John Kaakimaka, is among

those who never came home.

"We've been watching the news, and we've been hopeful that my uncle is among the remains," he said, adding that it could bring his family some closure.



As war remains return home, advocates ask families for help with identification process

- **DEFENSE OFFICIALS DON'T HAVE FAMILY DNA SAMPLES FOR HUNDREDS OF TROOPS MISSING FROM THE KOREAN WAR.**

By: Leo Shane III

His uncle, who was from Honolulu, was a corporal in the 31st Infantry Regiment of the Army's 7th Infantry Division. He went missing on or about Dec. 2, 1950.

Hanwell Kaakimaka said the story he heard from his dad was that his uncle was injured and was being brought back from the front when Chinese troops overran the area and attacked the convoy.

If John Kaakimaka's remains are ever identified, his family wants him to be buried in a cemetery at the base of Diamond Head crater in Honolulu because that's where his parents and brothers were laid to rest, Hanwell Kaakimaka said.

The Kaakimaka family provided DNA samples to the U.S. military's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency over a decade ago, hoping officials would be able to make a match.

The agency identifies remains of servicemen killed in past conflicts. It typically uses bones, teeth and DNA to identify remains along with any items that may have been found with remains like uniforms, dog tags and wedding rings. But North Korea only provided one dog tag with the 55 boxes it handed over last week.



"Military members carry transfer cases from a C-17 at a ceremony marking the arrival of the remains believed to be of American service members who fell in the Korean War at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. North Korea handed over the remains last week."

Before the remains were put on military planes bound for Hawaii, hundreds of U.S. and South Korean troops gathered at a hanger at the Osan base in South Korea for the repatriation ceremony.

"For the warrior, this is a cherished duty, a commitment made to one another before going into battle, and passed on from one generation of warriors to the next," Vincent Brooks, chief of the U.S. military in South Korea, said in a speech.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said last week that the return of the 55 boxes was a positive step but not a guarantee that the bones are American.

A U.S. defense official said Tuesday that it probably will take months if not years to fully determine individual identities from the remains. The official, who discussed previously undisclosed aspects of the remains issue on condition of anonymity, also said North Korea provided a single military dog tag along with the remains. The official did not know details about the single dog tag, including the name on it or whether it was even that of an American military member.

The repatriation is a breakthrough in a long-stalled U.S. effort to obtain war remains from North Korea.

There are 7,699 U.S. service members listed as unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War, of which about 5,300 are believed to have died on North Korean soil. There remainder are those who died in South Korea but have not been recovered; those who died in air crashes at sea or on ships at sea, as well as a number who are believed to have been taken to China.

The bones' return was part of an agreement reached during a June summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump thanked Kim for the return.

"Military members carry transfer cases from a C-17 at a ceremony marking the arrival of the remains believed to be of American service members who fell in the Korean War at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. North Korea handed over the remains last week."



During the summit, Kim also agreed to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in return for Trump's promise of security guarantees. Trump later suspended annual military drills with South Korea which North Korea had long called an invasion rehearsal.

But Trump now faces criticism at home and elsewhere that North Korea hasn't taken any serious steps toward disarmament and may be trying to buy time to weaken international sanctions against it.

North Korea halted nuclear and missile tests, shut down its nuclear testing site and began dismantling facilities at its rocket launch site. But many experts say those are neither irrevocable nor serious steps that could show the country is sincere about denuclearization.

North Korea may want to use the remains' return to keep diplomacy with the United States alive and win a reciprocal U.S. concession. Experts say the North likely wants a declaration of the end of the Korean War as part of U.S. security assurances.

Charles McDaniel Jr. was at home in Indianapolis on Thursday when his wife told him he had a phone call. To his surprise, he learned that among the 55 boxes believed to be the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean War was his father's dog tag.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/08/08/missing-korean-war-soldiers-sons-receive-their-fathers-dog-tag.html>

- **LAWMAKERS BOOST FUNDING TO IDENTIFY KOREAN WAR REMAINS, DEFENSE PRIORITIES**



The first of 55 cases of remains repatriated from North Korea is carried off a plane at Osan Air Base, South Korea, Friday, July 27, 2018.

MARCUS FICHTL/STARS AND STRIPES

By CLAUDIA GRISALES | STARS AND STRIPES Published: August 21, 2018

WASHINGTON — The Senate has approved provisions that would boost funding for the identification of Korean War remains and trigger a study of a new digital, military health records system.

The approvals took place by the second day of Senate floor debate on a more than \$850 billion spending plan to fund defense, labor, health and human services and education priorities. Of that, the vast majority, \$675 billion, would be directed to defense spending.

So far, senators approved an amendment to the so-called “minibus” appropriations bill, H.R.6157, to direct an additional \$10 million towards the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, to aid the ongoing identification of remains turned over last month by North Korea.

They also approved a study for the new Military Health System Genesis electronic system that lets clinics share medical records for servicemembers, veterans and dependents. In the coming days, they might debate several more measures, including one to purchase an additional Navy littoral combat ship and possible, new funding requirements for the new Army Futures Command in Texas.

“First and foremost is our promise to defend the nation — and to meet our obligation to the brave men and women who do so. To ensure that if we send them into battle, they will be prepared and equipped to prevail,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in opening remarks to Tuesday’s debate. “This week, we have the opportunity to follow through by appropriating the necessary resources.”

The debate follows this month’s passage of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which would authorize a wave of significant military increases, including servicemembers’ biggest pay boost in nearly a decade, higher troop levels and new equipment and weapons for the upcoming fiscal year.

Remains from North Korea in moderate to poor condition, could take years to identify

But the effort moves on two tracks: the annual NDAA sets policy changes and expenditures for the military and determines how the money will be spent, while the defense appropriations bill, which is now part of the larger labor,

health and human services and education spending bill, is what actually moves money to the Pentagon to support the plan.

By including the defense spending measure with a package that includes other priorities, it's more likely to gain passage by the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1, lawmakers have said. Otherwise, lawmakers will have to turn to a temporary funding measure, known as a continuing resolution.

"By combining these bills in one package, we increase the certainty they will be enacted into law, on time, and avoiding the devastating effect of long-term continuing resolutions," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Lawmakers are expected to continue debate in the coming days on the massive measure, which now includes a \$10 million boost to aid DPAA in its work to identify 55 boxes of Korean War remains turned over July 27 by the North Koreans.

Of the 7,700 missing American servicemembers who fought in the Korean War between 1950 and 1953, about 5,300 remain in North Korea, according to DPAA, the group in charge of searches for missing troops and prisoners of war. Many of the boxes contain remains recovered from the North Korean village of Sinhung-Ri, a town just east of the Chosin Reservoir, officials have said. American soldiers and Marines fought in November and December 1950 along the infamous reservoir against Chinese troops during a brutal and frigid battle that cost thousands of lives.

Among the roughly 5,300 missing American servicemembers believed to remain in North Korea, at least 1,600 are believed to be in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir.

"For the families who remain lost, this is a long-awaited opportunity to gain closure and give their loved ones the respectful, dignified remembrance that they deserve," said Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., sponsor of the DPAA funding amendment that passed by a vote of 85-0, with several lawmakers absent during the rare August session for the Senate. "For that to happen, we must ensure that DPAA has the resources it needs to conduct the forensic analysis of these new remains and continue working to locate and account for American servicemembers."

The Pentagon recently said it would double the size of its Hawaii-based team responsible for identifying the Korean War remains from five to 10 scientists. Last month's transfer was the first from North Korea in more than a decade.

The team is collecting DNA samples and examining teeth and bones to begin the process of identifying the individuals, which could take anywhere from a couple of months to several years. For example, some remains recovered in the 1990s still have not been positively identified.

And the remains are apparently in moderate to poor condition, DPAA officials said this month.

This month, DPAA returned a dog tag recovered for the late Army Master Sgt. Charles Horbert McDaniel, a medic who went missing in the Korean War nearly 70 years ago. It marked the first physical confirmation that U.S. soldiers could be among the remains.

● KWVA URGES MIA FAMILIES TO PROVIDE DNA SAMPLES

Return of American MIAs from North Korea begins

WASHINGTON: Now that North Korea has unilaterally turned over 55 boxes of remains believed to contain missing American servicemen from the Korean War, the National Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process.



Some 5,300 of 7,699 American unaccounted-for war dead are believed to be in North Korea, and 111 of our 126 Cold War missing are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, yet family reference samples on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses.."

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, all immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a

family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. Relatives should contact a military service casualty officer for information on how to provide a DNA sample. Those numbers are:

- United States Army: (800) 892-2490
- United States Marine Corps: (800) 847-1597
- United States Navy: (800) 443-9298
- United States Air Force: (800) 531-5501
- Department of State: (202) 485-6106

This is why ensuring a family reference sample is on file is so important. Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match.

WASHINGTON — The Korean War Veterans Association is very encouraged by the news that North Korea has returned 55 boxes of remains believed to be U.S. service members who have been missing in action since the Korean War. This is a major step in the right direction that we hope will finally bring peace to the peninsula and closure to American families who have been waiting more than six decades for their loved ones to return home from their war.”

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency lists 7,699 missing Americans from the Korean War, with some 5,300 believed to be in North Korea. DPAA also lists 111 Cold War losses in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula.

The Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America sent a letter to President Trump in advance of the June 12 Singapore summit to urge him to include the return of American remains as a discussion point with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The United States government, specifically DPAA search and recovery teams, has not operated in North Korea since 2005 due to team safety and security concerns.

KWVA will continue to work towards the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans on the Korean peninsula and elsewhere because we leave no one behind. We owe it to their families and we owe to their battle buddies. This is a top priority to the KWVA and we thank President Trump for making this issue his priority, too.

• **RIVAL KOREAS' GENERALS DISCUSS EASING MILITARY CONFRONTATION**

South Korean Maj. Gen. Kim Do-gyun leaves for the border village of Panmunjom to attend a joint meeting between North and South Korea to discuss how to ease military confrontations, at the Office of the South Korea-North Korea Dialogue in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 31, 2018. (Ahn Young-joon/AP)



SEOUL, South Korea — Generals from the rival Koreas met Tuesday at their shared border for talks meant to ease a decades-long military standoff, Seoul officials said. The meeting comes days after [North Korea returned the reported remains of U.S. war dead](#), the most recent sign of blossoming diplomacy after last year's threats of war.

The general-level officers were discussing ways to implement April's inter-Korean summit agreements on non-nuclear military issues, but no huge announcement is expected from the talks at the border village of Panmunjom. Some experts say South Korea can't agree on any drastic measures to reduce animosity unless the North takes serious nuclear disarmament steps.



How will the US know the war remains North Korea sent are real? Q&A with Mattis

Mattis called the return an important first step in finding more war dead still in North Korea.

By: Tara Copp

During the April 27 summit, the leaders of the Koreas agreed to disarm a jointly controlled area at Panmunjom, work to prevent accidental clashes along their disputed sea boundary and halt all hostile acts. Since then, the Koreas dismantled their frontline propaganda loudspeakers, restored a military hotline and held their first general-level talks since 2007.

Tuesday is the second meeting of its kind since the summit. The generals will likely discuss dropping the number of military guards at Panmunjom, withdrawing heavy weapons from the area and pulling some army guard posts away from the Demilitarized Zone, a buffer zone that separates the two countries. They may also talk about ways to make sure their fishermen peacefully operate along the Korean sea boundary, the site of several bloody naval skirmishes in recent years.

The Defense Ministry won't discuss any detailed agenda for the talks.



South Korean Maj. Gen. Kim Do-gyun, center, speaks to the media before leaving for the border village of Panmunjom to attend a joint meeting between North and South Korea to discuss how to ease military confrontations, at the Office of the South Korea-North Korea Dialogue in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 31, 2018. (Ahn Young-joon/AP)

The meeting comes four days after North Korea returned what were said to be dozens of remains of American soldiers missing from the 1950-53 Korean War, something that leader Kim Jong Un promised during a June summit with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trump thanked Kim for "fulfilling a promise" to send back U.S. remains and said it was a step in the right direction following their summit.

During the Singapore meeting, Kim also committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula while Trump promised to provide him with security assurances. But there have been worries that North Korea hasn't since taken any serious disarmament measures.

The North suspended its missile and nuclear tests and shut down its nuclear test site, and recent satellite photos indicated the country had also begun dismantling key facilities at its main rocket launch site. But many foreign experts say those were not enough to prove it's serious about its disarmament commitment, saying the North must first submit a list of nuclear assets to be dismantled.

As a reward for returning the U.S. war dead, North Korea may demand that the United States agree on a declaration to end the Korean War as a U.S. security guarantee. That issue could be discussed at Tuesday's meeting, according to analyst Cho Han Bum at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

The Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula in a technical state of war. North Korea has long argued its nukes are aimed at coping with U.S. military threats, saying it wants to sign a peace treaty with the United States to formally end the war. That could then allow the North to demand the pullout of 28,500 U.S. troops deployed in South Korea.



- **MIA UPDATE:**

WASHINGTON, July 19, 2018 — **Army Cpl. Albert E. Mills**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on July 13.

In July 1950, Mills was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, blocking the Korean People's Army from advancing along a corridor linking the cities of Taejon and Taegu. South Korea. On July 23, 1950, enemy forces attacked American defenses at Yongdong. Mills was reported missing in action on July 25, 1950, as a result of the fighting, when he could not be accounted for by his unit.

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.

Mills' name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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.

For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420/1169.

-- **Army Cpl. Terrell J. Fuller**, 20, of Toccoa, Georgia, accounted for on April 13, will be buried Aug. 11 in his hometown. In February 1951, Fuller was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting Republic of Korea Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in an area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea. After enduring sustained enemy attacks, the American units withdrew to Wonju, South Korea. It was during this withdrawal that Fuller was reported missing, as of Feb. 12, 1951.

In December 1951, Fuller's name appeared on a list provided by the CPVF and Korean People's Army (KPA) of allied service members who died while in their custody. Following the war, a fellow soldier from the same company reported that he had been held prisoner with Fuller, but was unaware of his status. When Fuller was not returned after the armistice, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Feb. 18, 1954.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which were later determined to contain the remains of at least 400 U.S. servicemen who died during the war. On May 20, 1990, North Korea turned over five boxes of remains believed to be unaccounted-for servicemen from the war.

To identify Fuller's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome (Y-STR) DNA analysis, dental and anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and looks forward to the continued fulfillment of the commitment made by President Trump and Chairman Kim on the return and recovery of U.S. service members in North Korea.

Today, 7,691 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Fuller's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific 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 Sgt. William A. Larkins**, 20, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, accounted for on May 4, 2017, will be buried Aug. 10 in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. In late November 1950, Larkins was a member of A Battery, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting off persistent Chinese attacks in the Ch'ongch'on River region of North Korea. Through a series of attacks, the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) pressed 2ID units into local withdrawals to avoid being outflanked. On the night of Nov. 25, 1950, the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) began relentless attacks which continued until the end of the month. On Dec. 1, 1950, the 503rd FA BN began their movement down the Main Supply Route under continuous enemy mortar, small arms and machine gun fire, toward the town of Sunchon, where Larkins was reported missing in action.

Following the war, one returning prisoner of war reported that Larkins had been captured and had died at an unknown prisoner of war camp in January 1951. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Jan. 31, 1951.

In April and May 2005, a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (now DPAA,) and KPA Recovery Team conducted the 37th Joint Field Activity in Unsan County, North Pyongan Province, North Korea. A site southeast of the Pukchin-

Tarigol Prisoner of war camp cluster was found to have probable human remains and material evidence, and was completely excavated. The remains were sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis on May 27, 2005.

--**Army Pfc. John A. Taylor**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for May 9, 2018.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1596654/soldier-killed-during-korean-war-accounted-for-taylor-j/>

In August 1950, Taylor was a member of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in South Korea. On Aug. 11, his regiment encountered a Korean People's Army unit near the village of Haman. Taylor's company was ordered to move southwest, where they were ambushed and forced to disperse. In the days following, the battalions of 24th Infantry Regiment consolidated their positions, reorganized and began accounting for their Soldiers. After several days of checking adjoining units, aid stations

and field hospitals, Taylor was reported as killed in action on Aug. 12, 1950, but his remains were not recovered. 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. Taylor's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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 Pfc. Leo J. Duquette, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Aug. 8, 2018.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1597529/soldier-killed-during-korean-war-accounted-for-duquette-l/>

In July 1950, Duquette was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Choch'iwon, South Korea. Duquette could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 11, 1950.

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.

Duquette's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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 Master Sgt. Carl H. Lindquist**, 32, of Willmar, Minn., was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit engaged with forces of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 29, 1950. Interment services are pending. [Read about Lindquist](#).

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Rufus L. Ketchum**, 38, will be buried Aug. 14 in his hometown of Superior, Wis. In late November 1950, Ketchum was a member of Medical Detachment, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, when they were forced to withdraw south due to overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. Ketchum was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950. [Read about Ketchum](#).

— **Army Pfc. George L. Spangenberg**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on August 14.

In November 1950, Spangenberg was a member of Company E, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950 following a battle in Unsan, North Korea, the days prior. Spangenberg's name was never included on lists of American Soldiers being held as prisoners of war by the Korean People's Army (KPA) or the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF,) and no returned American prisoners of war had any information on his status.

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and looks forward to the

continued fulfillment of the commitment made by President Trump and Chairman Kim on the return and recovery of U.S. service members in North Korea.

Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Spangenberg's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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 Pfc. Mathis O. Ball, Jr.**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on August 14. In July 1950, Ball was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Choch'iwon, South Korea. Ball could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 12, 1950.

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.

Ball's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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 Pfc. Joe S. Elmore, 20**, of Seminary, Kentucky, accounted for on July 3, will be buried August 18 in Albany, Kentucky. In late November, 1950, Elmore was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd 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. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. Because Elmore could not be accounted for by his unit, he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 2, 1950. Elmore's name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists and no returning Americans reported him as a prisoner of war. Due to the prolonged lack of evidence, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of May 1, 1953.

On Oct. 19, 1995, during a United Nations Command/Korean People's Army meeting at Panmunjom, the KPA offered to repatriate the remains of a British soldier killed during the Korean War. The KPA identified the remains to be Pvt. J. Edmunds, who was reportedly found by a KPA work crew in July 1995, near Wangsan, Rimkangni, Kaesong City. The remains were handed over on Oct. 30, 1995, and the British government asked DPAA's predecessors to identify the remains.

On Feb. 28, 1996, the remains were declared unidentifiable.

On Sept. 1, 1997, the British Army Headquarters Adjutant General, Personnel and Training Command, sent a request to the Adjutant General, U.S. Army Personnel Command, requesting the remains be returned for burial in Busan, South Korea, during the visit of the British Korean Veterans Association to Korea in April 1998. The remains were transferred to the custody of British authorities and were buried in a grave marked as "British Unknown."

Following the institution of the Korean War Project, DPAA was able to associate the unknown remains with two missing U.S. service members.

In November 2017, the remains were disinterred by the 8th Army Mortuary, U.S. Forces Korea and transported to DPAA.

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

DPAA is grateful to the British government and military authorities and South Korean government for their partnership in this mission.

--**Army Pfc. Kenneth B. Williams**, captured and killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on August 13. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1607858/soldier-captured-and-killed-during-korean-war-accounted-for-williams-k/>

In late November 1950, Williams was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd 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. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. Williams was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after he was last seen near the Chosin Reservoir.

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and looks forward to the continued fulfillment of the commitment made by President Trump and Chairman Kim on the return and recovery of U.S. service members in North Korea. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Williams' name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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.

- **KWVA Director attends The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Korean War/Cold War MIA Conference**

Director Rocky Harder, attended the subject briefings on Thursday, August 9 and Friday, August 10, 2018, at the Renaissance Capital View Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. This meeting is for family members of unaccounted-for Servicemen from the Korean and Cold War to inform them about the latest developments on the issue and to allow them to get an individual update from DPAA and the Service Casualty officer on the case of their unaccounted-for serviceman.

This is an annual event usually occurring during early August of each year. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency organizes the event and hosts it with the assistance of the military service casualty offices (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps) and the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL). AFDIL is part of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System. The U.S. government reimburses a portion of the travel expenses to Washington for two family members for every unaccounted for service member from the Korean War and the Cold War. This years meeting had the second largest attendance of family members on record. The number of attendees was over 700. The exact number of attendees has not yet been released by DPAA. Family members travel from all over the United States to attend this event.

Attached is a copy of DPAA's booklet that was distributed to each family member. It includes the agenda for the briefings, schedule of events, and biographic information on each of the government officials who participated in the meeting. I suggest you print out the document to read it as it was printed in booklet format.

Below is summary of information from notes that I took during the meeting. Most of my notes are from the briefing presented by Mr. Kelly McKeague, the Director of DPAA, on August 9, 2018.

As a result of the Singapore summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un, both sides committed to recovering POW/MIA remains including the immediate repatriation of remains already recovered by the DPRK.

On August 2, the DPRK returned 55 boxes of remains and artifacts to the United States at the Wonson Airport in North Korea. The 55 boxes were opened and inspected by DPAA forensic experts at Wonsan Airport. Later that same day the boxes were flown from Wonson to Osan AFB in the Republic of Korea by USAF transport aircraft where a detailed

field forensic review was conducted of each box. Following a repatriation ceremony in the ROK, the boxes were flown to Hickam AFB in Hawaii where another repatriation was conducted before bringing the boxes to the DPAA laboratory at Hickam AFB in Hawaii. At this point, DPAA is just beginning the identifications process. None of the remains have been identified yet. It will take some time to determine the number of individuals who were returned in the 55 boxes.

Director McKeague said he believes there is reason for optimism about making progress on Korean War personnel accounting because of recent developments. He gave several reasons why he feels uplifted about the future.

First, we have a solid partnership between DPAA and the ROK MND Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI). MAKRI and DPAA work in close coordination and partnership on the personnel accounting process. DPAA focuses on accounting for unaccounted for U.S. servicemen and MAKRI focuses on accounting for ROK servicemen from the Korean War. They are constantly working closely with each other and sharing information. MAKRI has already helped to locate and return the remains of U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. At the present time, MAKRI works exclusively in the ROK to locate, recover, and identify the remains of ROK soldiers, but is always looking for possible remains of U.S. servicemen that might be collocated with the remains of ROK servicemen.

Second, the disinterment of the remains of unidentified servicemen from the Korean War from the "Punchbowl" Cemetery in Hawaii and the identification process has been going well. So far, 197 remains have been disinterred and to date 105 of those have been identified. Recently, DPAA received approval to disinter the remaining 651 unidentified remains from the Punchbowl cemetery and begin the identification process on each of them.

Third, The U.S./Russian Joint Commission working groups have been talking and exchanging information and interacting with U.S. veteran organizations and family group members. Work is continuing in the Russian archives looking for information about U.S. servicemen who might have been taken to Russia.

Fourth, last month DPAA met with Chinese PLA Archives counterparts. The Chinese have offered to conduct unilateral investigations of losses of U.S. servicemen in China even the sensitive border area near the border with the DPRK. We still have a few Korean War losses in China from the Korean War.

Fifth, he said Congress approved DPAA's full \$156M budget request and even added \$20M to the budget for the Korean War personnel accounting effort.

Sixth, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Tom Holland, public and private partnerships have been increasing with 60 arrangements with external agencies currently in effect. This adds increased capability and flexibility to DPAA's personnel accounting effort across all the past wars.

Director McKeague concluded by saying DoD is committed to the mission accounting for our servicemen and considers it a sacred obligation.

Also in attendance at the meeting were U.S. government officials from the Department of State and Department of Defense and the National Security Council. Mark Lambert is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Korean Affairs at the Department of State. Randall Schriver is the current Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia and Pacific Security Affairs. Alison Hooker is the Korean Desk Officer for the National Security Council. Each of them made statements about current developments with the DPRK and the possibility of resuming remains recovery operation in the DPRK.

Mark Lambert (Dept. of State) said the U.S. is committed to ending the nuclear threat from North Korea, but wants to handle the Korean War personnel accounting issue as a separate humanitarian issue. He said they are committed to a peaceful solution to the nuclear weapons issue. Also, he said current developments offered a great opportunity for progress on the humanitarian issue of recovering our Korean War servicemen's remains from North Korea. Randall Schriver offered a similar assessment of the situation as Mark Lambert.

Alison Hooker, the NSC Director for Korea offered the following points:

- > The president is invested in this issue; honoring American heroes is one of his highest priorities.
- > The president responded to letters he received on this issue and directed charges in U.S policy
- > During the Summit meeting with Kim Jong Un, the North Koreans agreed quickly to the proposal to recover Korean War remains and repatriate remains that the DPRK already had recovered.
- > The president believes we have a solemn obligation to bring home the remains of our servicemen.
- > The President expects the other side to live up to their agreement.

Currently, there is no signed U.S.-DPRK arrangement to resume remains recovery operations in North Korea, but it appears that the North Korean side is interested in resuming the recovery effort. I estimate that at least another round of talks will be required to develop a written arrangement that both sides can sign. Like all talks with the DPRK, it will be a difficult negotiation, but I believe that we have a real opportunity to resume the remains recovery effort in the DPRK if both sides want it to happen.

In summary, the meeting environment was excellent and well planned, and the turnout of the family members was the best seen in several years. For the first time in several years, there was a sense of optimism about the future. You could feel it in the air. There is reason for hope that the Korean War personnel recovery effort has an opportunity to move forward that we have not witnessed since 2011.

Bruce Harder
harderbr@aol.com
KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator and Director
540-659-0252

- **EXPLOSIVE SOUVENIRS ARE UNSAFE:**

Veterans sometimes unknowingly put themselves, their families, and neighbors in danger by keeping munitions as war souvenirs or keepsakes. Veterans and their families also incorrectly assume such munitions are safe because they are frequently handled or because the munitions are old. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) continues to be concerned with the type and number of military munitions they recover voluntarily each month from veterans and from the families of deceased veterans. The ATF reports about 50 recoveries every month of munitions ranging from hand grenades and smoke grenades to mortar rounds and landmines. No matter what you call them — souvenirs, war mementos, duds, or simulators — munitions are dangerous by design and should never be considered safe. This has led the Department of Defense to launch a new campaign against souvenir munitions and explosives called the 3Rs Explosives Safety Education Program, which instructs people to: **recognize** the danger souvenir munitions pose to yourself, your family and neighbors; **retreat**, do not disturb, touch, or move it; and **report**, call 911 and advise the police.

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

• GOVERNOR HONORS KOREAN WAR VETERANS DURING ARMISTICE DAY ANNIVERSARY

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Rick Scott signed the annual Korean War Armistice Day Proclamation, honoring the state's Korean War veterans and commemorating the 65th anniversary of the end of the war. More than 139,000 Korean War veterans currently reside in Florida.

More than 34,000 Americans were killed in action during the war, with approximately 103,000 wounded and more than 7,800 missing, including more than 150 Floridians.



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE DAY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Korean War was fought from June 25, 1950, through July 27, 1953; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, more than 139,000 Korean War veterans currently reside in Florida; and

WHEREAS, we honor America's Korean War veterans whose service and sacrifice allow us to enjoy the freedoms and liberties we have today; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2018, we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the end of the Korean War with the signing of the cease-fire on that date;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing July 27, 2018, as *Korean War Armistice Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 26th day of July, in the year two thousand eighteen.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Rick Scott", followed by a horizontal line and the word "Governor" underneath it.

DisasterAssistance.gov

ACCESS TO DISASTER HELP AND RESOURCES



e-Newsletter

DisasterAssistance.gov is the official website devoted to helping disaster survivors. It's a portal to help survivors locate more than 70 forms of assistance across 17 federal agencies via the internet using their desktop computer, tablet or mobile device. Using prescreening technology, DisasterAssistance.gov offers an anonymous questionnaire that generates a personalized list of assistance a survivor can apply for based on the answers. The site also provides other disaster-related information and resources to help before, during and after a disaster.



IN FOCUS

FEMA Releases 2017 Hurricane Season After-Action Report

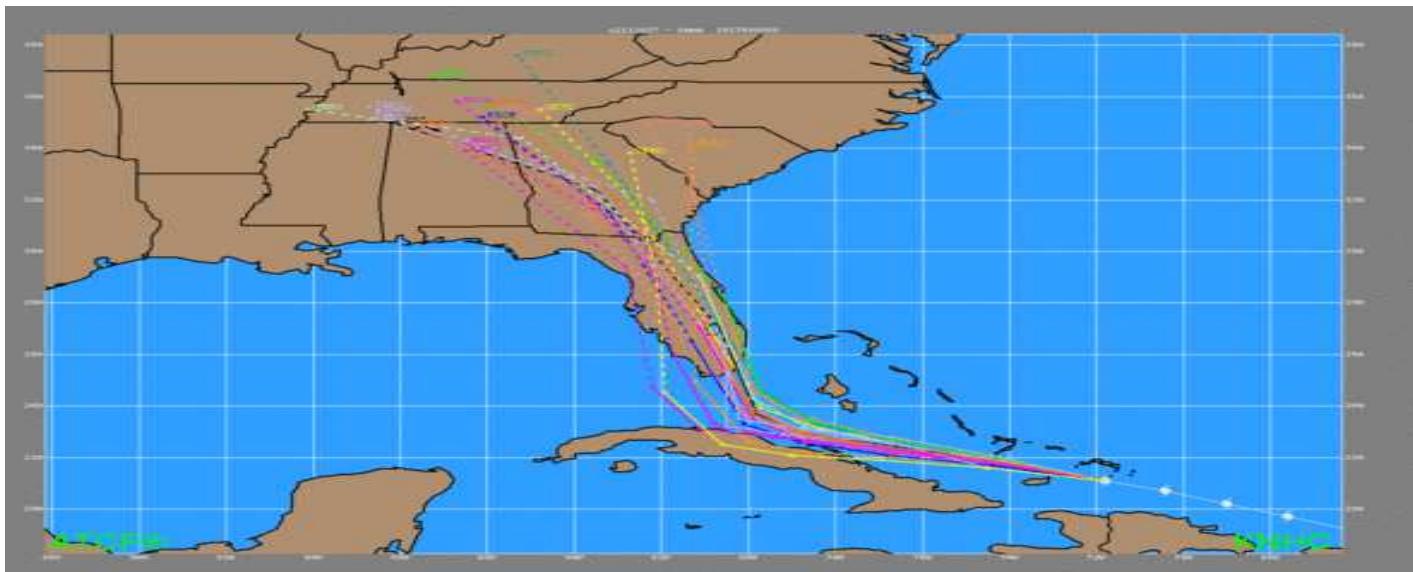
FEMA released its [2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report](#) on July 12, 2018. Last year, hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria devastated the nation. The hurricanes caused a combined \$265 billion in damage and were each among the top five costliest hurricanes on record. As a result, FEMA coordinated large deployments of federal personnel, both before and after the storms' landfalls, to support response and initial recovery efforts across 270,000 square miles. FEMA facilitated logistics missions that involved more than \$2 billion in commodities moving across several states and territories using multiple modes of transportation. FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, composed of state and local emergency responders, saved or assisted nearly 9,500 lives across the three hurricanes. During the hurricane responses, California also experienced historic wildfires. In total, the hurricanes and California wildfires affected more than 47 million people — almost 15 percent of the nation's population. FEMA registered nearly 4.8 million households for assistance.

As a cornerstone of the discipline, emergency managers use lessons from disasters in order to improve outcomes, minimize errors, and better serve survivors. Following the 2017 hurricane season, FEMA conducted an after-action review of the agency's preparations for, immediate response to, and initial recovery operations for hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The report identified 18 key findings across five focus areas and offered targeted, agency-wide recommendations for improvements as well as broader lessons for partners throughout the whole emergency management community.

FEMA is focused on the 2018 hurricane season. The agency has taken immediate actions based on the findings from the report. These actions include, but are not limited to: updated hurricane plans, annexes, and procedures for states and territories; increased planning factors for the Caribbean and disaster supplies; and updated high priority national level contracts. FEMA has also exercised its response and initial recovery capabilities in the National Level Exercise 2018, which occurred in May and focused on thematic areas identified from real-world continuous improvement findings in this after-action review.

FEMA has incorporated many of the findings from this report into its [2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#), which will guide implementation of long-term goals to build a more prepared and resilient nation. Recommendations identified in the 2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report support 10 of the agency's 12 strategic objectives including Strategic Plan Objective 1.4 to better learn from past disasters, improve continuously and innovate. The 2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report captures transformative insights from a historic hurricane season that will help the agency, the emergency management community, and the nation chart a path into the future.

National Weather Service director cautions: Don't chase single model runs this hurricane season



The sultry summer months along the Gulf Coast and East Coast are a time of volatile weather as warm ocean water fuels storms, some just bringing rain and some growing into fierce tropical storms and hurricanes. The World Meteorological Organization rotates an alphabetical naming system every year to simplify

references to tropical storms and hurricanes, but selecting a name is perhaps the simplest task surrounding them, while the more complex challenge lies in predicting where they will go.

The oftentimes destructive nature of tropical storms and hurricanes makes it paramount for the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center (NHC) to accurately predict the track, intensity, and size of tropical storms and hurricanes, and provide information related to various hazards, such as storm surge, wind, and heavy rainfall. NHC forecasters rely on numerical weather prediction models run on advanced supercomputers to develop their forecasts.

Dr. Louis Uccellini, director of the National Weather Service, explains that “numerical modeling itself - the introduction of those models, the continued improvements, the ability to run them in real time - has fundamentally revolutionized weather forecasting and has allowed us to make accurate hurricane forecasts up to five days in advance.”

NHC forecasters don't rely on one run of a single computer model to create a forecast. Rather, they've found that the best predictions of a hurricane's future track and intensity are formed based on a multi-model ensemble - grouping several models together. Multi-model ensembles, also called the consensus approach by forecasters, significantly increase forecast accuracy over any individual model by canceling out biases found in individual models. Think of a modeling ensemble as you would a musical ensemble: while each individual instrument is vital, it is the unified whole that accomplishes harmony.

When forecasting Atlantic hurricanes, the NHC creates a “consensus” forecast from five unique models - each with different initial conditions, physics, and model resolutions - to be used as guidance when making the official forecast.

Unfortunately, when a potential hurricane is inciting worry and stress, it is easy to mistake a prediction from one model for a final forecast. On this topic, Dr. Uccellini wants to impress upon the public that “we have a partnership with the international community, we exchange our models, we exchange our model output, we exchange our ensembles. And it's all of these model runs that our forecasters are using to develop what they believe will be the best forecast, with a higher level of certainty, that allows us to then sit down with the emergency management community and give them not only the options, but what we believe is going to be the best option.”

When you want a hurricane forecast the most reliable source is the official National Hurricane Center website, which you can always find [here](#).



DAIP Taking Steps to Prevent Online Fraud

On [DisasterAssistance.gov](#), survivors are able to create an account and log in to the system to check the status of their application, update information, and upload and view documents. While the current system is secure, DAIP is implementing secure access code technology that will help prevent fraudulent activity when new online accounts are created and used.

What is it?

Similar to accessing online bank accounts, health and school records, etc., [DisasterAssistance.gov](#) will require a secure access code each time an online account is retrieved. It will ensure that the person trying to access the online account is the person who created the account.

Implementing the secure access code provides additional security because the code is:

- Only valid for one login session.
- Randomly generated as opposed to a password that is used repeatedly.
- Sent to an email address or phone number that was obtained from the FEMA registration.

How does it work?

Each time a survivor accesses their online account, they will enter their username, password, and PIN – just as they do today. Then, with information obtained from the FEMA Registration, the survivor will be prompted to choose how to receive their one-time secure code.

Similar to other online technologies that use secure access codes, users can:

- Receive the code by email or phone (text or voice call).
- Request another code if the first code wasn't received.
- Obtain another code if the initial code was entered incorrectly.

DAIP continues to work with FEMA stakeholders, online security experts, and other federal agencies to identify and implement other enhancements that will increase security and help protect disaster survivors from fraud. More of that to come in a future newsletter.

Find a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center

If you are affected by a hurricane or natural disaster, you can visit a Disaster Recovery Center to speak face-to-face with staff from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and your state about disaster assistance or low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses. Staff can also help you apply for federal disaster assistance.

For a complete list of centers and addresses:

- Download the [FEMA App](#) and under Disaster Resources tap “Talk to FEMA in Person.”
- Text DRC and your zip code to 43362 (4FEMA) (ex. DRC 12345) to find an open recovery center location in your area -- standard message/data rates apply.
- [Click here](#) to search online

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/rsi</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, SW TX, 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
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Korean War Veterans Association, USA