



our e-mail: POWMIACTFMNA@netscape.net
Prisoner of War/Missing in Action
CT Forget-Me-Nots, Inc.

January 3, 1999

Dear Friends:

This newsletter consists of articles you should have as background information. I had hoped to have them to you sooner, especially since we had used a scanner, but that was not meant to be. Lynn O'Shea, of the National Alliance worked very hard to prepare the information about mt-DNA. Even though Michael Blassie's remains have been properly returned to his family, the information provided by Lynn is an enlightening report you must read. Given the information cited by Senator Bob Smith in the 12/31/98 newsletter, the list of last known alive Korean cases from Pat Dunton should also be available to you.

We will have our 14th annual Bell Ringing ceremony marking the twenty-sixth anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accord in 1973 on Sunday, January 24 at 11:45 a.m. Bells will ring at noon. I'll confirm our annual location this week. Folks in the area should watch for press releases in the local newspapers, or call me to confirm the details.

I plan to update the renewal dates to six digits for easier readability in the new millennium. In the works is an updated bibliography, including books for children, to have as a handy reference.

Vice Principal Robert Caouette of Naugatuck High School should be commended for the Wall of Remembrance. The students have a growing memorial to veterans from Naugatuck and to Connecticut's POWs and MIAs. At the school's entrance, student volunteers painted U.S. and Connecticut flags on the wall and have posted the names of veterans and POW/MIAs. The daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance is dedicated to a Naugatuck veteran and a CT POW/MIA. These names are posted on certificates and added to the Wall of Remembrance.

Korean/Cold War Family Association of the Missing

United Nations Requests China Accounting of Korean War POWs

By Pat Dunton

On my February, 1998 research trip to the National Archives, College Park, MD, I discovered the following document in an obscure State Department file. It has a hand written notation that reads "Prepared to give to Wang Jan. 19, '57 meeting (not used)". The file was information for a Geneva Convention meeting of that date.

The typed portion of the file reads:

Information is requested concerning the fate of the following Americans, last seen in Korea under circumstances which indicate that the Government of the People's Republic of China should possess such information:

United States Navy and Marine Corps Personnel

Batson, Roland Russel, Jr.; Biesterveld, Thomas Clarence; Brown, William Edmund; Cochran, Billy Edward; De Lacy, Arthur Donald; Garrison, Charles; Gleaves, James A., Jr.; Nelson, Forrest Archie

United States Air Force Personnel

Adler, Ernest M.; Akin, Roland M.; Allen, Jack V.; Anderson, Robert E.; Andrews, Robert B.; Arms, John W.; Ashley, Gilbert L., Jr.; Austin, Arthur M.; Beardall, Harold M.; Bell, Donald Edwin; Bell, William J.; Bergmann, Louis H.; Biggs, Elmer T.; Bigham, Donald G.; Black, Wayne F.; Bolt, Donald D.; Botter, William J.; Brennan, John C.; Burrell, Jackson A.; Burton, Woodrow; Bushroe, Sterling J.; Carlisle, Osborne T.; Cave, James A.; Cherry, Clarence M.; *Cogswell, Robert W.*; Collins, Joseph S.; Cooper, Spencer R. Jr.; Coulter, John Robert; Crane, Alvin E.; Crutchfield, James F.; Culbertson, Gene A.; Derakis, Peter M.; Davies, Howard J.; Davis, Norman G.; Davis, Ramon R.; Denn, Willard M.; DeRosier, Albert P.; Differ, Patrick M.; Dorsey, Joyce M.; Dougherty, Joseph S.; Duer, Victor L.; Duncan, James H.; Edens, Malcolm Brodie; Evans, Emmett O.; Festini, Steve J.; Fleming, James W., Jr.; Foster, Robert R.; Fouids, James A.; Fuefirer, Alois A.; Gahan, John W.; Garrison, Fred H.; George, Winifred R.; Gibb, Robert D.; Glessner, Milton F., Jr.; Golden,

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Kathy

A non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the return of our unrecovered POWs and an accounting of our missing.

Newman C.; Gross, Robert F.; Guilfoyle, Cornelius P.; Guthrie, Edward S.; Guthrie, Marvin L.; Hamblin, Robert W.; Hammon, Keith E.; Harker, Charles Abbot, Jr.; Harrell, Guy Buchanan; Haskett, William Thomas Jr.; Hawkins, Luther R.; Hays, Melvin B.; Heer, David T.; Heise, Arthur; Henry, Dewey R.; Hoff, Warren M.; Holcom, William L.; Holz, Scott A.; Homer, John J.; Hoult, Arthru W.; Howell, Howard D.; Hudson, Laurence H.; Huatt, Don; Ishida, Hidemaro S.; Jacobs, Harrison C.; Jacobson, Paul J.; Jensen, Morton H.; Jensen, Wayne F.; Johnson, Gerald E.; Johnson, Johnny M.; Jones, James L.; Jones, Oliver Eugene; Karpowicz, Jerome; Keene, Kassel M.; Keister, Harold O.; **Kelleher, Robert P.**; Kepford, Joseph C.; King, Alfred H.; Kirk, Charles F.; Knapp, Kingdon R.; Knueppel, Raymond John; Koontz, Frederick R.; Krumm, Robert M.; Kuehner, Gordon V., Jr.; Laier, Robert H.; Larkin, Hugh Francis; Layton, Laurence Coe; Lewis, Jack; Lewis, Wayne E.; Lewis, Wilber E.; Logan, Samuel P.; Long, Joseph S. Jr.; McAdoo, Ernest R.; McAllaster, John A. Jr.; McFee, Claude D.; McKee, Robert E.; McLoughlin, Robert J.; Martin, Dominique K.; Mast, Clifford H.; Miller, Henry D.; Mitchell, Bernard; Mooradian, Ara; Moore, John G.; Myers, Thomas E.; Nelson, Lawrence A.; Nichols, James L.; Nikles, Rudolf-, Nye, Glenn Carlyle; O'Brien, Warren E.; Olcott, Ray W.; Olsen, Arthur R.; O'Mera, James J. Jr.; O'Neal, Julius E.; Osborn, Jess A. Jr.; O'Toole, Damian F.; Oyler, Ernest R.; Padilla, Alexander B.; Palmer, Alford Cleve; Palmiotti, Nicholas M.; Parham, Charles Easton Jr.; Peck, James K.; Penninger, Roger W.; Peterson, Norman W.; Phelps, Ralph L.; Phillips, Duane M.; Pincus, Herbert; Pope, James D.; Porter, James H.; Poynor, Con F.; Pratt, Charles W.; Raymond, Gerald W.; Rehm, Harry M.; Rhinehart, Charles Walter; Ritter, Herbert E.; Rodney, Daryl E.; Roundtree, Fred B.; St. Mary, Robert R.; Schauer, Gilbert J.; Schmitt, Warren W.; Schneidt, Norman W.; Schwab, Edward A.; Selman, Clifford G.; Shaddick, John P. III; Sheehan, Robert E.; Shields, Thomas L.; Smith, James Dela Jr.; Southerland, John Edward; Spath, Charles R.; Spence, Marvin J.; Starck, John S.; Steele, Robert C.; Stefan, Frank; Stevenson, Frank J.; Sweney, Bruce A.; Tahsequah, Meech; Thompson, Charles Russell; Thompson, Raymond; Tilch, Philip W.; Tiller, Horace

N.; Trantham, Archie P.; Turner, Harold P.; Van Fleet, James Alward Jr.; Vanwey, William H.; Wahlgren, Edward C.; Webb, Edward A.; Weeks, Grady M.; West, Carl E.; Whitman, William H.; Williamson, Kenneth E.; Wonnack, Thelbert B.; Worth, George W. Jr.; Zeigler, Joseph Patrick

United States Army Personnel

Aki, Clarence H.; Alcom, Phillip F.; Arrendondo, Isidoro; Balbi, Joseph A.; Bastie, William R. Jr.; Bedell, Norman C.; Beller, James E.; Bernard, Elton, J.; Besemer, Robert L.; Billigmeier, Milton P.; Boyd, Harold R.; Bradford, Edward F.; Brock, James B.; Broome, Otis L.; Brown, James C.; Bull, Clifford G.; Buster, Johnnie J.; Buttrey, William V.; Buxman, Roger F.; Callis, Henry O.; Carter, Andrew; Chaney, James O.; Chavez, Daniel; Clatterbuck, Roland W.; Clifton, William L.; Cole, Merle L. Jr.; Conner, Connie M.; Cornell, Roy G.; Cozad, Kenneth L.; Craig, Paul E.; Crevelling, Myron; Crews, Irvine T.; Cruz-Ramos, Jesus; Dahms, Donald E.; Davis, Esekiel A.; Day, Dave H.; DeMoll, Casimire T.; DeSau, Lawrence K.; Desautels, Richard G.; Dick, William L. Jr.; Dill, Paul N.; Dove, Leroy J.; Dulyea, Harold B.; **Dumas, Roger**; Elias, Daniel A.; Evans, Junior C.; Fetzer, Leo E.; Figureid, Ronald; Fischer, James F.; Flores, Willie s.; Frech, John Jr.; Fulk, Lester E.; Fuller, Terrell J.; Garver, Charles E.; Gilley, Homer B.; Glasser, Gerald W.; Gowtz, George R.; Grenier, Donald T.; Gresser, Arnold G.; Grimsley, Robert L.; Hadnot, Charles D.; Haag, Douglas H.; Hamage, Lawrence A.; Harpster, Fred W.; Harry, Edward S., Jr.; Haynie, Robert E.; Hebert, Sylvio L.; Hogan, Kenneth A.; Holt, Crenshaw A.; Hoogacker, Philip T.; Houston, James L., Howell, James; **Hoysradt, Donald C.**; Hughes, Wayne G.; Hull, Leonard C.; Humiston, Donald L.; Ishida, Mitsuyoshi; Jarrett, Carl E.; Jennings, John E., Jr.; Jerome, Richard; Jewett, Richard G.; Jinks, Leonard W.W.; Johnson, Daonld R.; Johnson, Leroy; Johnson, Myron; Johnson, Ray; Jones, Kassidy K.; Kalama, Herbert; Kidd, Elmer C.; King, Ralph K.; Klingler, James F.; Konze, Anthony; Kost, Stanley; Krygowski, Francis; Lagoni, Ditlef J.; La Pointe, John N.; Lee, Emil; Levitski, Walter J.; Linebaugh, Orvill F.; Litchfield, Billie; Lopes, Alfred Jr.; Louviere, Ray V.; Malanga, Angelo S.; Masters, Louis R.; Mattingly, Donald L.; McClure, Clarence Jr.;

McDowell, William; Meagher, Neil W.; Meyers, Robert E.; Mireles, Marcafio; Moreland, Harry D.; Morris, Russel F.; Munoz, Moises; Nearhood, John W.; Nicowski, Anthony J.; Nystrom, John W.; Ottesen, Eugene L.; Overgard, Elwood E.; Peiffer, Alfred G.; Peterson, Lyle E.; Pierce, Albert C.; Pitts, John W.; Preas, Curlous M.; Guigg, John F.; Ragin, Carl W.; Rausch, Charles L.; Reddick, Frank T.; Reimer, Walter F.; Renneberg, Anthony; Richey, Aggie L.; Roden, Tracy R.; Rose, Nokomis J.; Royer, Charles B.; Rozear, John M., Jr.; Samora, Jose M.; Sampson, James W.; Sanford, Royal W.; Schanck, Russell D.; Schnepfer, Paul W.; Schonder, William D.; Schuring, Gerald G.; Seggie, William R.; Serwise, Luther D.; Sharp, James W.; Shepard, Robert A.; Smith, Lawrence J.; Snider, Carl G., Jr.; Snodgrass, Robert G.; Spiller, William R.; Springer, William; Steger, William H.; Stone, Neil R.; Stemad, John T.; Stoeber, Walter Jr.; Stumpf, Marion F.; Sweeney, John R.; Switzer, Contee L.; Takahara, Sam O.; Tatarakis, George G.; Thomas, Mitchell C.; Tish, Clarence A., Jr.; Tomlinson, Marvin E.; Toole, Arnold; Torres, Louis P.; Tucker, Lloyd L.; Van Wyk, Clayton F.; Vernon, Raymond A.; Vranic, Anthony; Walczak, Casimir; Walker, Archie; Wallen, James A.; Ware, Raymond O.; Watkins, Samuel K.; Watson, James D.; Webb, Jerald C.; White, Waddell; Williams, Albert; Wilson, Berble E.; Wilson, Richard L.; Winrader, Howard W.; Woods, Joseph H.; Wooster, Audrey H.; Worley, Frank; Wright, Edward C.; Yoshida, Kanji; Young, Charles H.; Young, Russell V.; Zawacki, Frank J.

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If you find your loved one's name on the list, you may wish to contact Pat Dunton of

Korean /Cold War Family Association of the Missing at:

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E-mail: patdunton@worldnet.att.com

The four names in bold italic are from Connecticut.

US Tracked Movement of Korean War POWs

Associated Press February 15, 1998

By ROBERT BURNS -WASHINGTON

Hundreds of American servicemen were shuttled through a clandestine network of prison camps in China during the Korean War, say formerly secret U.S. Army intelligence reports, which speculate that many died in captivity from malnutrition or lack of medical care.

Rumors have persisted for years that China, which intervened on North Korea's side in the 1950-53 war, took large numbers of U.S. captives for interrogation and indoctrination in camps inside China and never accounted for them. Declassified reports in the files of the Army's assistant chief of staff for intelligence now make clear that the United States knew of the prisoners, closely tracked their movements and feared for their lives.

On a visit to Beijing in January, Defense Secretary William Cohen asked top Chinese officials to open People's Liberation Army record archives and other files that might help account for missing U.S. servicemen. About 8,100 are unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Cohen got no explicit assurances from President Jiang Zemin, but a Cohen aide present in the meetings said lower-level Chinese officials indicated Jiang's nonresponse should be interpreted as tacit acceptance.

China has consistently maintained that all POW questions were settled at the end of the war. Chinese troops entered the fray in the fall of 1950 in a surprise offensive that killed and captured thousands of U.S. and other United Nations troops.

It has been well documented that China, with Russian help, ran most of the POW camps in North Korea. Less well understood has been the extent of POW camps in China and what became of American and other prisoners held there.

"One of the most significant features in U.N. POW treatment and policy is the movement of U.N. POWs into Manchuria and into South China," an Army intelligence summary dated Dec. 15, 1951, said. Its unidentified author added that he believed "Manchurian camps house a great many U.S. POWs, and Manchuria is a staging area or collecting point for U.S. POWs."

The report is one in a series of eight written at regular intervals during the war by Army intelligence officers attempting to track POW movements. Each is titled "UN Prisoners of War Camps and Conditions in Korea, Manchuria and China," and labeled "secret." They were declassified in 1996 at the request of Mark Sauter, a New York-based reporter for the syndicated TV program Inside Edition, but were not publicized until now.

The Dec. 15, 1951, report said a "careful assessment" of available intelligence on prison camps led to the conclusion that about 2,500 American POWs were being held in Manchuria, about 1,500 in other parts of China.

"Specially selected groups are sent to China in relatively small numbers to undergo political indoctrination," the report said. "Of those POWs processed in Manchuria, the ones not going to China are apparently being sent to mines and labor camps in Manchuria itself."

"Because of obvious diplomatic complications it follows that the communists would neither wish to return these men to U.S. control nor admit to their existence at this time," the report said. It cited "almost conclusive evidence" that some POWs were being supervised by Soviets.

"These factors, together with the usefulness of U.S. POWs in a slave labor capacity, render the ultimate fate of any U.S. personnel in Manchurian camps in grave doubt," the report said.

Intelligence reports often are based on information from sources whose reliability is questionable, and wartime reports often contain errors and misunderstandings. Even so, the Army intelligence documents leave little doubt that the Chinese prison camps existed and that Americans were held in some.

A report dated June 20, 1952, said more than 1,000 American POWs were held in a former military prison outside Nanking, now called Nanjing.

"A Russian colonel named Nokelov is in charge. All POWs 20-25 years old. Brought here from Peking (Beijing) in December 1951 for re-indoctrination in communist thought," the report said, citing a source rated as "fairly reliable."

A Feb. 15, 1952, report said without elaboration that about 500 POWs at a camp 10 miles east of Mukden, China, were being indoctrinated "pending dispatch to USSR."

The Aug. 20, 1952, installment said POWs were grouped according to perceived political leanings. Those judged by the Chinese to be promising for anti-Western propaganda were kept in what the Army described as "peace camps."

The largest of this type as of May 1952 was at Chungchun in the Manchurian region of northeastern China, the August 1952 report said.

"2,000 POWs here; they will not be exchanged," it said, meaning they would not be returned at the end of the war. It reported other peace camps in Beijing, Dandong and Shanghai.

American POWs also were reported in Chinese camps in Harbin and Tsingtao, now Qingdao. The last in the series of Army intelligence reports, dated Jan. 20, 1953, said that because of a lack of reports on 12 prison camps in China since April 1952, it was assumed all 12 had been abolished.

There was no word on disposition of the prisoners unaccounted-for American servicemen from the Korean War. Your letter was forwarded to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), and we are pleased to respond.

The mission of the DPMO is to lead and oversee the Department of Defense (DoD) effort to locate, account for, and repatriate Americans missing or captured as a result of past, current, and future hostile actions. We are vigorously working to account for the more than 8,100 Americans who are unaccounted for from the Korean War.

The major key to unlocking most of the answers we need in our accounting efforts for the Korean War lies in gaining access to North Korea. Last summer our long years of frustrating negotiations with the North Koreans succeeded in establishing joint recovery operations. In July 1996, 10 DoD experts deployed to North Korea on the first joint United States-North Korea remains recovery operation. During this operation, the remains of an American soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division were recovered and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. In May 1997,

we successfully negotiated with the North Koreans to conduct three recovery operations this summer and fall. Two of the operations have been conducted and the remains of five American servicemen were recovered and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

MAY THE TRUTH BRING THEM HOME 24 Jan 1998

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S MISSING SERVICEMEN WORLD WAR 11 - KOREA - COLD WAR VIETNAM. This Bits N Pieces is dedicated to Kenny Plumadore, Mark Judge, William Berry, the Unknown of Yureka California, the Men of Operation Kingfisher, wherever they are, Victor J. Apodaca and Michael J. Blassie.

This is perhaps one of the most important issues of Bits 'n' Pieces ever done. It certainly took the longest to prepare and was one of the hardest to write. Today, we will tell you why mt-DNA testing must be banned as the PRIMARY means of identifying missing servicemen. We will also tell you why mt-DNA testing can be a useful tool as a Secondary or confirming means of identification.

We delayed this report for several reasons. First, we realized we were in over our heads on the technology. So we checked, double checked and triple checked all information. Second, we hoped the Marine Corp, the Central Identification Laboratory - Hawaii (CIL-HI) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) would correct their errors. Lastly, in December of 1997, Steven S. Honigman, General Council of the Navy, contacted Mary Judge Jellison to discuss the case. We briefly hoped the U.S. government was about to take responsibility for their errors and grant Mrs. Judge-Jellison's demands, for records and independent testing of all remains.

Instead, he offered Mary Judge Jellison a financial settlement, of \$25,000.00, to relinquish the remains in the Indiana grave, she believes are her son's. Her reply, "my son is not for sale." Several days later, the offer was upped to \$50,000.00. That offer was also refused. A third phone call withdrew all financial offers with the comment "this isn't about money." Instead,

she was offered CIL-HI (AFDIL) testing on the Indiana remains with no provision for independent testing or release of records. Again, she refused.

In the September 6th, 1997, edition of Bits 'N' Pieces, we said that the next time we wrote about this case it would bring embarrassment to the Marine Corp, CIL-HI and AFDIL. We weren't bluffing.

The National Alliance of Families has always been against the use of mt-DNA testing, as the primary means of identification of remains. Our practical experience, in the case of L/Cpl. Mark Judge, raised serious concerns about the application of mt-DNA testing. These concerns are confirmed by a Department of Defense (DoD) study titled "Defense Science Board Task Force on THE USE OF DNA TECHNOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ANCIENT REMAINS" dated July, 1995. This study shows that strict scientific guidelines must be followed. Our research shows these guidelines are ignored in order to produce an identification. We know, for a fact:

1) mt-DNA testing is only 100% conclusive in proving a NO MATCH and offers only a statistical probability of a match.

2) the database categorized in racial and ethnic backgrounds does not meet guidelines set forth by the Department of Defense, i.e.: 500 blood samples or bases in each category compared to actual bases of 233 or less (example: a base or samples of 90 for Hispanics.)

3) There is no database (blood samples) for Native Americans or Asians.

a) Guidelines set forth by the Department of Defense are very clear regarding the absolute need for an Asian database.

b) The study does not mention a database for Native Americans.

Also confirmed by the DoD study is the fact that two non-related individuals can match in a mt-DNA test. Granted, the chances are slim. However, when the lack of a complete database is factored in, this fact takes on a new importance.

Used as a primary means of identification, with no evidence other than the statement of the Vietnamese, mt-DNA testing offers only a probability as to the identification. Following the DoD guidelines that

probability may be as high as 99%. However, the guidelines as set forth by DoD are totally ignored.

The accuracy of an identification depends on the completeness of the database and quality control in the laboratory. We can't speak for the quality control in the lab, but we can tell you about their database.

During the June 1997 meeting of the National Alliance of families Mr. James Canick, of AFDIL, confirmed that the database does not meet the scientific guidelines. According to the DoD guidelines a complete database with a 500 Blood Sample average, offers an accuracy of 99%.

Logically, the statistical probability of an accurate identification is reduced as the database is reduced.

a) Statistically a database of half, or 250, would offer an accuracy of 48.5%.

b) Half the database again, for a base of 125, would bring the accuracy level down to 24.75%.

According to the DoD study, and Mr. Canick, AFDIL should have databases (blood samples) on the following ethnic/racial categories: U.S. Caucasian, European Caucasian, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, African, Hispanic and Asian. Within each ethnic/racial category there should be a database (blood samples) of 500 each category. Actual figures are substantially lower as shown in the chart below.

Ethnic/Racial Actual*	Recommended Database
U.S. Caucasian 233	500
European Caucasian 100	500
African-American 90	500
Afro-Caribbean 115	500
African 114	500
Hispanic 90	500
Asian -0-	500
Total 742	3,500

* Actual Figures as of 30 August 1996

Using the above chart, the average recommended database is 500. The average for the actual AFDIL database is 106. The DoD guideline states a database of 500 is needed for a 99% accuracy rating. A database of 106 would give an accuracy rating of roughly 21.2%. This 21.2% figure hardly inspires confidence, especially when attempts are made to identify POW/MIAs whose ethnic racial background are either not represented, i.e. Asia or Native American, or very poorly represented, i.e. African American and Hispanic.

The following quotes are taken from the DoD study titled "Defense Science Board Task Force on THE USE OF DNA TECHNOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ANCIENT REMAINS." The information in this fifty-seven (57) page report, dated July 1995, is extremely important.

"...The Task Force finds that the present probability of coincidental matches between mt-DNA control region sequences is no more than a few percent. Once sequences from 500 members of a population have been determined, precise statements about the chance of a false association of a set of remains with a family will be able to be made. Published data may be of value, but samples will be needed from Southeast Asian populations..."

AFDIL can not determine the "chance of a false association of a set of remains with a family" until 500 databases in each racial/ethnic category is obtained. Tests conducted prior to achieving a 500 database offers results that are highly questionable. The Department of Defense is presenting families with mt-DNA identifications, based on questionable remains and a substandard and incomplete database.

"...Moreover, to allow for the possibility of non-U.S. remains being typed, and to allow for the genetic differences within the U.S. population, sequences should be collected from the major groups, Caucasian, African - American, Hispanic and Asian. As data accumulate, it will become evident if there are substantial mitochondrial differences among different Asian countries, or with the racial groups..."

Our readers are familiar with the case of L/Cpl. Kenneth Plumadore, Mark Judge and William Berry, USMC. The Vietnamese returned a full set of remains, in 1986. According to the Vietnamese the remains were of the Marine captured at Con Thien in September, 1967. That would have been Plumadore, the only acknowledged MIA from the incident. CILHI immediately found that the remains were not those of L/Cpl. Plumadore.

No identification of this full set of remains could be made forensically or dentally. In fact, CIL-HI had that a "probable dental exclusion eliminated Mark Judge as the CIL-HI remains. Yet, 1994, representatives of the U.S. Marine Corp. notified the family of Mark Judge that there had been a wartime misidentification of remains. Mark's mother, Mary Jellison, was told Mark had been captured and died in the Vinh Linh hospital in North Vietnam. Buried in Mark's grave, the Marines said, was L/Cpl. William Berry. Kenneth Plumadore, they said, was in William Berry's grave.

During 1994, there was a ban on the use of mt-DNA as the primary means of identification. This ban was in effect due to prior questionable test results. A onetime waiver was obtained and mt-DNA testing was done on the remains once thought to be Kenneth Plumadore. Samples from four (4) different bones, including the skull were tested.

The Judge family was assured, in 1994, of a perfect match, due to "unique" sequencing found in both mother and son. For many reasons, the family fought the identification.

After several challenges and FOIA requests from the Judge-Jellison family, AFDIL, in March of 1997, reexamined the test results, for this case. As a result of that re-examination, the test results were changed. Of the unique sequence AFDIL wrote on March 21, 1997, "As stated in the 17 Oct 94 report the Jellison family sequence was not found when compared to 271 population samples, and "less than one percent of the general population would be expected to carry this MT-DNA sequence." This statement was made without confidence limits associated with it. In order to place 95% confidence intervals around this estimate (i.e., you would expect your estimate to be correct 95% of the time), we would have to compare the Judge sequence to

approximately 500 U.S. Caucasians. Thus, the statement could be considered misleading and we are preparing an addendum report to retract it."

The letter continued "In reviewing the 17 Oct 94 data, we reported that the 02A sequence was unique in the database of 100 unrelated British Caucasians. When doing the current database search on the 741 sequences, 02A matches one British Caucasian. This finding does not have any bearing on the conclusion drawn in this case, but does marginally decrease the significance of the match between sample 02A and the Jellison family references.

In addition, given the position of 16354 in the sequence for sample 01A (Skull) should be designated an "N," a new database search was performed, and 64 of 741 sequences matched. Thus, this significantly decrease the weight of the match between 01A and the Jellison family references..."

The unique sequences of mother and son in 1994 became, in 1997, a match to 64 other individuals in the database or a match to 8.6% of the database. In AFDIL's own words "this significantly decreases the weight of the match between 01A (Skull) and the Jellison family references." Information contained in backup documentation accompanying the letter, show that the match to individuals in the database breaks down as follows: U.S. Caucasians - 27; European Caucasian - 15; African-American - 2; Afro-Caribbean - 10; African 5; and Hispanic - 5 for a total of 64 database matches.

Simply put the skull of the CIL-HI remains once thought to be Mark Judge actually match 63 other POW/MIA families in the AFDIL database. Who is this serviceman? Where are Mark Judge, Kenny Plumadore, and William Berry? Who is the hero exhumed from the California grave?

If you are a family member who has contributed blood for the mt-DNA data base, you may want to contact your Casualty Officer to see if you might be a match to the Skull identified as Mark Judge.

A less publicized mt-DNA case is that of Air Force Captain Victor J. Apodaca. On July 13, 1988, the Vietnamese returned a box with the name association "Apodaca Victor J. Jr." The Vietnamese also returned a

mutilated dog tag (of questionable origin) a plastic map overlay and non-human bones.

In April of 1989 the Vietnamese returned another box with the name association "Apodaca Victor." According to the Vietnamese the remains were "collected in Ho Chi Minh City" (formerly Saigon.) "Collected," in this case, means turned in by a "remains trader." Apodaca was lost over North Vietnam. This means that the remains traveled quite a distance to end up in Ho Chi Minh City.

Message traffic, dated September 22, 1989, issued by the Commander Joint Casualty Resolution Center, Barbers Point, Hawaii, refers to the two remains repatriations. Referencing Victor Apodaca the message reads: "recovered from remains dealers. Repatriated to the U.S. twice with dog tag. The U.S. side reports the remains were animal bones." Today, those "animal bones" are undergoing mt-DNA testing with the goal of identifying them as Victor Apodaca.

Publicly, CIL-HI and the DoD represent mt-DNA testing as a great technical achievement, allowing them to identify missing servicemen from the smallest of bone fragments.

What they say privately is quite different. A memo dated August 23, 1996, shows just how unsure CIL-HI is about the accuracy of mt-DNA testing. According to the memo "AFDIL has extracted and sequenced mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA) from samples taken from remains associated with REFNO 0727 (Apodaca). A unique sequence has been extracted indicating the possibility of an individual identification. Reference specimens from the Apodaca family have been compared with and matches the sequence from the bone sample associated with REFNO 0727."

What is the confidence level in this so called match? Captain Apodaca's ethnic/racial background is Hispanic/Native American. There is no database for Native Americans at AFDIL and the Hispanic database is 90 or 18% of the required 500. What database did AFDIL use to find their so called match?

As disturbing as this information is, it is not as disconcerting as the balance of the information contained in the memo. The memo directs the Air Force to contact the family of Lt. Jon Busch, the pilot of the aircraft and request a blood sample from them.

According to the memo "Reference specimens from the Busch family are requested to exclude any possibility of the remains being those of Lt. Busch."

For those unaware, the remains of Lt. Jon Busch were returned, identified, and buried over nine years ago. Why is CIL-HI concerned about the possibility that the bone fragment which supposedly matches the Apodaca sample, could be that of Lt. Busch?

While we do not know Lt. Busch's racial/ethnic background, we do know he is not Hispanic / Native American. Yet, CIL-HI is concerned about the possibility that the remains could be those of Lt. Busch. Clearly, CIL-HI is concerned about the AFDIL "match" and not willing to make a formal identification of the remains until they can rule out Lt. Busch.

This alone calls into question the use of mt-DNA testing as the primary means of identification. It can only exclude possibilities. If the Busch family blood sample proves not to match the AFDIL results for this bone fragment, then by default this bone will become Victor Apodaca. Can we allow CIL-HI and AFDIL to bury Victor Apodaca because the blood sample does not match Jon Busch?

The Department of Defense is using inadequate and unscientific methods to "identified" our questionable remains, as our Prisoners and Missing. The use of mtDNA testing, without a proper database has given the Defense Department a new method to creatively account for our missing servicemen.

The National Alliance of Families can no longer remain silent on this issue as families are misled to believe that the finest scientific methods are used to identify their loved ones; when in many cases the identification is actually based on process of elimination. As a primary means of identification mtDNA testing as it is applied today is useless and should be banned.

While we strongly object to the use of mt-DNA testing as the primary means of identification, we do believe with the proper database it can be a useful tool in confirming an identity, when forensic, dental or circumstantial evidence is available. The perfect example of its use as a confirming tool, is the case of 1Lt. Michael J. Blassie, buried as the "Unknown Soldier" of the Vietnam War.

The remains "believed to be" those of Lt. Blassie were recovered in late 1972. According to documentation shown on CBS Evening News, the remains were recovered with an identification card and some money. Also recovered were remnants of a flight suit, parachute, a I man life raft, and pistol holster. Only three men were lost within a 2,500 mile radius of the remains recovery. Two were from a helicopter and the other was fighter pilot Michael J. Blassie. Since an identification card was found naming Lt. Blassie, and helicopter crews do not carry parachutes, a reasonable assumption would be that the remains were those of Michael Blassie. The use of mtDNA testing, in this case, will either show the remains are not those of Michael Blassie or offer a probability that they are Lt. Blassie. In this case with the strong circumstantial evidence identifying AND pointing to the identity of Lt. Blassie, mt-DNA testing could provide an answer.

With regard to the case of Lt. Blassie, much more needs to be said but not today. We thank CBS for their excellent reporting. We especially thank Ted Sampley, publisher and editor, of the U.S. Veteran Dispatch for his reporting of this story in July of 1994. Ted got a lead and ran with it. Almost 4 years later he was proven to be 100% correct.

As this story is reported in the days and weeks ahead, don't believe reports that the entombment of Michael Blassie, as the Vietnam "Unknown Soldier" was a "mistake." It was calculated, planned and therefore sanctioned by the Department of Defense. When they needed an "Unknown Soldier" they made one. When they need controversial POW/MIAs declared dead and identified, they do so on far less evidence than they had to prove Michael Blassie's identity.

From the POW/MIA Weekly Update, January 2 1, 1998 - "The Department of Defense is reviewing information relating to the interment of remains of a Vietnam War unknown at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery."

"The review will determine if there is sufficient credible evidence to make a recommendation on two key questions: 1) does current science enable us, with confidence to take steps that could help identify the

remains in the Tomb; and 2) do the circumstances surrounding the loss incident of the individual possibly believed to be interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns warrant mitochondrial DNA testing? DPMO officials have stated that this review will be done in a measured, methodical manner, to ensure the decisions carefully weigh the competing interests of our commitment to the families of the missing, and the sanctity of the Tomb as hallowed ground, and the ability of DNA testing to identify remains once considered unidentifiable."

To Whomever Wrote this Update - Thank You. You have just retracted your position on the use of mt-DNA testing as a primary means of identification. We would estimate 80% to 90% of the identifications made over the last two years were based on mt-DNA testing. Many of those identifications were on remains previously considered unidentifiable. yet, the ability to identify the "unknown" is questioned. Are mt-DNA test results accurate only when it suits the Pentagon's purposes?

One of those identified was Capt. Robert Young - In the words of DPMO "By 1996, through the advances in mitochondrial DNA technology, the remains previously turned over in 1989 were determined to be those of Young." No chain of custody exists from the time of death to repatriation. The remains returned were commingled and we would assume in very poor condition.

The "in process" identification of Victor J. Apocada based on a bone which was originally reported as non-human strains believability. In spite of this, AFDIL reports a family match.

Now the Defense POW/MIA Office expresses doubt regarding the "ability of DNA testing to identify remains once considered unidentifiable." We would remind DPMO that the remains believed to be Lt. Blassie spent very little time exposed to the elements, as they were recovered within months of loss. From recovery to entombment the remains were housed in U.S. facilities.

Now, before the next DPMO Weekly Update is issued offering a possible explanation as to why mtDNA testing can not be used, in this case, we would remind them of AFDIL Representative James Cannick's briefing at last years Alliance Meeting.

If your renewal date is highlighted, please send in your \$10.00 dues.
Thank you! Family members do not pay dues.
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It is AFDIL who should make the determination as to the use of mt-DNA testing in this case.

When asked about the ability to extract mt-DNA from a bone, Mr. Cannick stated: "By looking at a bone, if you would bring a bone into us and say, Hey, can you get DNA from this, I would not say yes or no. We really don't know until we try."

In later questioning Mr. Cannick stated that the condition of the bone does not determine the ability to extract mt-DNA. Referring to bone samples, Mr. Cannick said: "We've had some that often look really bad where we've gotten results and other that, you would expect to get results where you don't."

In the past, DPMO has represented mt-DNA technology as the finest science available to bury questionable remains, that otherwise might be forever unidentified. Yet, now they wish us to believe they must question the science by asking "does current science enable us, with confidence to take steps that could help identify the remains in the Tomb."

Finally, DPMO speaks of "competing interests of our commitment to the families of the missing, the sanctity of the Tomb, as hallowed ground and the ability of DNA testing to identify remains once considered unidentifiable."

We have the highest respect for the Tomb of the Unknowns.

However, the "competing interests" have won out over the interests of the families for far too long. The United States Government, now has the opportunity to end the uncertainty of one family. The Tomb of the Vietnam Unknown must be exhumed. If the remains prove to be Michael Blassie, he must be returned to his family.

Note: We wish to thank Patricia Plumadore, sister of L/CPL. Kenneth L. Plumadore POW/MIA September 21, 1967, for her invaluable assistance in putting together this information on mt-DNA testing. She was skeptical of the science; when we were willing to believe it. It was through her efforts that AFDIL reviewed the original test results on the CIL-HI remains once thought to be those of Mark Judge. Thanks to her efforts, we know that identification would not stand in a court of law.