



Korean War MIA Meeting

Wednesday 13 April 2016

Venue – Russell Offices, Canberra

Summary of Key Outcomes

This is a summary of the key outcomes to facilitate working group members' ability to communicate with constituents and stakeholders. It does not cover all items discussed, nor does it replace the minutes which are distributed for members purposes. It deliberately does not document the full nature of discussions as it is considered that to do this would stifle open and honest working group discussion over time and is not in the common interest of working group members or their constituents.

Attendance

AHQ - DCOS COL Andrew Hocking, Meeting Chair

UWC-A - Mr Brian Manns, Mr Bradley Ebert, MAJ David Wilson

RAAF - SQNLDR Gregory Williams

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Korean Peninsula and Mongolia Section, Mr John Williams

RAR Association – National President Mr Mike von Berg MC OAM

RAAF Association - President AVM Brent Espeland AM (Rtd)

77 Squadron Association – GPCAPT Milton Cottee AFC (Rtd)

Australian Council of Korean Veterans Associations - National President
RADM Ian Crawford AO AM (Rtd)

Korean Veterans Association of Australia – ACT Representative
Mr Colin Berryman OAM

Family of MIAs - Mr Ian Saunders OAM, Mrs Jill Talty, Ms Julie Dorrington

Apologies

RAN – CMDR Geoffrey Fiedler

RAAF – WGCDR Peter Gibb

RAR Association – National Secretary LTCOL Ted Chitham MC OAM (Rtd)

Update on agreed actions from December 2015 meeting

Liaison with American and South Korean authorities

The meeting agreed that stronger bilateral relations with MAKRI were desirable, rather than using the DPAA/MAKRI liaison arrangements to progress Australian interests regarding our Korean War MIAs.

Provision of Australian FRS to AFDIL

The meeting agreed that Australian FRS would be provided to AFDIL as soon as practicable after they agreed to receive these DNA samples, to enable comparison of Australian FRS against the AFDIL database of recovered Korean War remains.

Correspondence from the DCA to the Director DPAA

The Deputy Chief of Army has written to the Director of the DPAA raising a number of issues related to Australia's servicemen who remain missing from the Korean War, including:

- linking the Australian FRS that we propose to provide with those previously provided to AFDIL by Ian Saunders, for comparison against recovered Korean War remains held by American authorities;
- the notification protocol adopted by DPAA/AFDIL following a positive identification;
- the locations in North Korea from where remains were recovered during joint field activities between 1996 and 2005; and
- the timeline for the ongoing program of processing Korean War remains held by AFDIL/DPAA.

Possible MOU

The meeting agreed to pursue the development of an MOU with DPAA, with the aim of facilitating the recovery and identification of Australia's missing servicemen from the Korean War.

Fact sheet for MIA families

The Chair acknowledged the contribution from Julie Dorrington and encouraged other stakeholders and family members to submit any further questions that they may have. The document will be published on the UWC-A website shortly.

Proposed additional actions

- i. In order to give stakeholders greater confidence in the DNA testing process, UWC-A will:
 - consider a more robust bilateral relationship with MAKRI;
 - seek positive confirmation from DPAA and MAKRI that Australian FRS will be checked against all recovered Korean War remains; and

- in addition to sharing FRS with DPAA and MAKRI, ask these organisations what more we can do to facilitate recovery, identification and repatriation of each country's Korean War MIAs.
- ii. A lay explanation of the identification/exclusion process using DNA, including diagrams, is to be included in the Family Fact Sheet and published on the UWC-A website.
 - iii. After the minutes of each Korean War MIA meeting have been finalised a general summary of the meeting is to be sent to attendees to share with other stakeholders and published on the UWC-A website.

Closing remarks

Three of the attendees at the meeting shared anecdotes that reinforced the moral obligation of the nation to use all possible means to pursue the recovery, identification and burial of our Korean War MIAs and the time imperative involved, particularly for the aging family members of the same generation as the MIAs.

Future meetings

It was agreed that meetings would continue to be held approximately quarterly at this stage, with the next meeting to be held around August 2016.

List of Acronyms / Terms

AFDIL - Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (USA)

AHQ - Army Headquarters

DCA – Deputy Chief of Army

DCOS - Deputy Chief of Staff

DPAA - Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency (USA)

FRS – Family Reference Sample (of DNA)

MAKRI - Ministry for national Defence Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (South Korea)

MIA - Missing in Action

Mitochondrial DNA – maternal DNA, passed from mother to all offspring

JPAC - Joint POW / MIA Accounting Command (now known as DPAA) (USA)

UWC-A - Unrecovered War Casualties - Army

Y-STR - paternal DNA, passed from father to sons