

From the desk of DPAA Director Kelly McKeague.

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From: McKeague, Kelly K SES DPAA FO (US)

Sent: 26 July, 2018 22:16

To: Undisclosed recipients:

Subject: Update on Korean War Unaccounted-for in DPRK

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know, the joint statement by President Trump and Chairman Kim issued as a result of their summit in Singapore included a commitment to repatriating and recovering remains of US service members from the DPRK. Since then, we have been actively engaged with US Government partners to ensure fulfillment of this pledge. Many thanks to those of you for publicly emphasizing the importance of this humanitarian endeavor. Your efforts certainly contributed to the DPRK's commitment, as the President had previously alluded to.

We are pleased that a few hours ago the DPRK turned over 55 boxes containing the possible remains of missing DoD personnel to the United Nations Command. Four anthropologists and one forensic photographer from DPAA conducted a preliminary review of the remains at Wonsan Airport prior to being transported to joint US-RoK air base at Osan on an USAF aircraft.

During the next few days, those scientists will perform a more detailed field forensic review, and on Aug 1, the remains will be honorably carried onto two USAF aircraft for their return to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. After the dignified ceremony, the remains will be accessioned into our laboratory where in-depth forensic analyses will begin.

We have not yet reached an agreement with the DPRK regarding future field recoveries; however, we are working closely with our DoD, State Department, and National Security Council partners on this matter. Our collective goal is to commence field operations in the DPRK next Spring.

Of the 400+ U.S. remains either unilaterally turned over by the DPRK in the early 1990s or recovered during DoD's 1996-2005 operations in North Korea, over 337 individuals have been identified, accounted-for and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. The most recent of these occurred this past April.

We are guardedly optimistic about the weeks and months ahead, as we endeavor to bring long-awaited answers to more families who lost loved ones in the Korean War.

We look forward to seeing some of you at next month's Korea/Cold War Government Briefings in Arlington, VA.

Best regards,
Kelly

Kelly McKeague
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

"Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise"