

FY 2001 Budget Estimate

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)



**Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide
Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Budget Estimates
Budget Activity: 4 Administration & Service-wide Activities**

I. Description of Operations Financed:

Under the provisions of the Defense Authorization Act of 1996 Congress directed the formation of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) to provide planning, policy and oversight within the Department of Defense for all issues pertaining to personnel recovery and for personnel accounting from all conflicts; past, present and future. The former concerns actions taken to recover live service members who become separated from friendly forces or captured, and the latter refers to actions to recover and account for war dead. DPMO reports to and provides advice and assistance to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs (DASD-POW/Missing Personnel) is the principal policy proponent on the POW/MPA issue. He directs through the ASD/ISA, all policy and national security and intelligence aspects of the issue concerning Service Members, civilians and selected foreign personnel unaccounted for from current and previous national conflicts. In an effort to build public credibility and trust, the DASD-POW/MPA maintains channels of communication on POW/MPA matters among DoD, Congress, POW/Missing Personnel families, veteran's organizations and the general public.

In addition the DASD for POW/MP Affairs provides support to the Presidentially mandated US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. The commission works to ascertain the facts regarding American servicemen who were not repatriated and whose fate remains uncertain and may be resolved as a result of information available in the Former Soviet Union. Additional work by the Commission has been expanded to include research initiatives in a number of East European countries.

II. Force Structure: N/A

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III. Financial Summary (O&M: \$ in Thousands):

A.	FY 1999 <u>Actuals</u>	FY 2000 Budget <u>Request</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	Current <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2001 <u>Estimate</u>
DPMO	13,558	14,505	14,505	14,434	14,827

B. Reconciliation Summary:

	<u>Change FY 2000/FY 2000</u>	<u>Change FY 2000/FY 2001</u>
1. Baseline Funding	14,505	14,434
Congressional Adjustments (Distributed)	0	0
Congressional Adjustments (Undistributed)	0	0
Congressional Adjustments (General Provision)	0	0
d) Congressional Earmarks		0
e) Congressional Earmark Billpayers	-32	0
2. Appropriated Amount (Subtotal)	14,473	0
Adjustments to Meet Congressional Intent	0	0
Across-the-board Reduction (Rescission)	-39	0
Approved Reprogrammings/Transfers	0	0
3. Price Change	0	354
4. Program Changes	0	39
5. Current Estimate	14,434	14,827

C. Reconciliation of Increases and Decreases:

1. FY 2000 President's Budget Request	14,505
2. Congressional Adjustment (Distributed)	0
3. Congressional Adjustment (Undistributed)	0

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4. Congressional Adjustments (General Provisions)	0
5. Congressional Earmark Bill Payer	-32
6. FY 2000 Appropriated Amount	14,473
7. FY 2000 Rescission	-39
8. Functional Transfers	0
9. Revised FY2000 Estimate	14,434
10. Price Growth	354
11. Functional Transfers	0
12. Program Increases	39
13. Program Decreases	0
14. Total Decreases	0
16. FY 2001 Budget Request	14,827

IV. Performance Criteria Summary:

In 1996, the Secretary of Defense was mandated by Title 10, United States Code, Section 1501, to establish an Office of Missing Persons. This legislation required the existing office (DPMO) to greatly expand the scope of its roles and responsibilities to include establishment of comprehensive and uniform procedures for determining and updating the status of missing persons, their personnel files and contents and mandated case review dating to 2 September 1945. Under these requirements, the mission has expanded to encompass policy oversight of the personnel recovery process as well as the traditional POW/MIA accounting effort. DPMO's efforts to fulfill these requirements have yielded results in the following areas:

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IV. Performance Criteria Summary: (Continued)

Policy

During FY1999 DPMO reviewed and streamlined the number of existing policies and procedures on POW/MIAs from more than thirty separate policies to less than ten. Among the significant policy issues included were: underwater recovery operations; family member access to POW/MIA related information; private citizens visiting incident excavation sites; recovery of non-DoD personnel and remains; releasing Vietnamese Archival Photographs to the public (to comply with Executive Order 12812); Next of Kin requests for the return of artifacts; guidelines for families obtaining a second DNA identification opinion; and a disinterment policy for the purpose of identification.

Outreach

Families of our unaccounted military service personnel continued to benefit from our "Family Update" program. DPMO conducted ten meetings at cities in the US that offered families' personal attention and direct access to a team of specialists who spoke on our current work. This year we reached more than 800 family members with information on government operations in Southeast Asia, in North Korea and in areas of World War II and Cold War losses. Experts presented information on the latest technologies used to identify remains, including mitochondrial DNA, archival research and other pertinent topics. We afforded families the opportunity to review details of their own cases and to discuss issues of concern with substantive experts. To further build and extend our support for the Department's efforts, Family Update Program experts also met with veterans organizations and concerned citizens to brief them on the on-going mission and status of our efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting. DPMO's outreach program also addressed such varied audiences as middle school children, an international audience in Cambridge, England, and the Special Forces Association.

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IV. Performance Criteria Summary: (Continued)

Personnel Recovery

Personnel recovery continues to gain importance within the Department of Defense and the interagency community. Operations in Kosovo/Serbia, including the downing and subsequent rescue of the F-117 and F-16 pilots, and the capture and eventual release and repatriation of three soldiers by the Serbians, challenged the personnel recovery community in a manner it has not experienced since the enactment of the Missing Persons Act. Operation ALLIED FORCE (OAF) validated the level of effort and priority now afforded to this critical mission area. Policies DPMO wrote, staffed, and issued formed the basis for the operational enactment of personnel recovery plans and responsibilities within the combatant commands. These included two DoD Directives and three DoD Instructions based on lessons learned from OAF. OAF also confirmed the importance of the USD(P)'s Personnel Recovery Response Cell, which was activated upon the shoot-down of the F-117 to provide policy advice to the Secretary. Major progress in intelligence support to personnel recovery as a result of DPMO's close relationship with the Intelligence Community on recovery matters, and in acquisition and technology matters associated with rescue of isolated personnel, also significantly enhanced the ability of the military to rescue those in harm's way. Finally, DPMO's annual DoD-wide personnel recovery conference, attended this year by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, quarterly Personnel Recovery Advisory Group meetings, and quarterly Personnel Recovery newsletters fulfilled our charter as prescribed in the Missing Persons Act to, "coordinate with other Departments and agencies of the United States Government (USG) on all matters concerning missing personnel and personnel recovery."

Southeast Asia

As the twenty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War approaches, DPMO's efforts focused on improving the efficient and effective recovery operations in the countries of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs made three visits to these countries to increase cooperation in the President's four key accounting goals: concrete results from efforts to recover and repatriate American remains;

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continued resolution of last known alive priority discrepancy cases; implementation of trilateral investigations, and; access to POW/MIA related documents, archives and oral history interviews. As a result of these meetings, host government officials stressed their desire to cooperate fully on this humanitarian issue and pledged their continued support for joint operations. DPMO insured language of cooperation and coordination between Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are included in all consultative and technical talks with these nations. In addition, DPMO is working to facilitate the digitization of over one thousand reels of Lao wartime archival films for USG analytical review. In Cambodia, policy is working with other

governmental agencies to assist the Cambodians in conducting interviews with former Khmer Rouge members to develop leads on our missing. DPMO analysts concluded a major study on the organization, systems, and results of Vietnam's recovery and repatriation of American remains during and after the Vietnam War. The study revealed the number of remains recovered and stored by the Vietnamese is lower than previously assessed. A second study identified trends from the past 12 joint field activities in Vietnam and Laos. This information provided projections on the completion of joint activity in those nations through the year 2008, and dramatized the need to increase the pace of operations, especially in Laos. DPMO assisted Vietnamese archivists in their research of U.S. archives for clues to their 300,000 missing from the war.

Northeast Asia

As the fiftieth anniversary of the Korean War approaches, DPMO significantly broadened our access to this isolated nation and dramatically increased our overall accounting effort. To assist our in-country efforts, DPMO released the Personnel Missing in Korea (PMKOR) now on our web site. This list, configured to allow the public to download it by state or service, generated considerable public interest and more than 16,000 Internet "hits". In anticipation of future mission requirements, analysts created a Korean War Order of Battle database. This database compiles friendly force against enemy force data, matching dates and places battles were fought, and will help analysts identify which particular Chinese or North Korean units were in the area where US forces were lost. DPMO's Oral History Program for the Korean War

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continued to progress. The information provided by veterans was particularly helpful in piecing together the conduct of battles and pinpointing the location of combat units during the battles of Unsan, the Chongchon River, and the Chosin Reservoir. In other Korean War accounting efforts, DPMO facilitated efforts to obtain mitochondrial DNA samples from suitable family members. Scientists now expect to use mitochondrial DNA to help identify Korean War remains. This includes 70 cases originally buried as unknowns and scheduled for possible disinterment from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific commonly known as "The Punchbowl." Officials collected nearly 1,000 samples of mitochondrial DNA in 1999 for use in a family member database.

World War II

A recent amendment of Section 1506, Title 10, United States Code, requires the U.S. Government to make every reasonable effort to search for, recover, and identify the remains of US service men lost in the Pacific Theater during World War II while engaged in flight operations. The USG has maintained a recovery program for WWII losses since the end of that war (on average, five WWII excavation activities are conducted annually). This year, DPMO built a five-year WWII recovery plan which, if approved and implemented, will ultimately provide the funding and manpower for an estimated 18 site excavations and more than 150 individual case investigations each year. The plan should be achieved without impacting other existing recovery programs.

Cold War

DPMO will soon place the Persons Missing Cold War (PMCOLD) database on its web page. Similar to the Persons Missing Korea (PMKOR) database already on line, PMCOLD will serve as a historical record of the thirteen (13) Cold War losses tracked by DPMO. It is expected that the information which PMCOLD makes readily available to the public will facilitate research into a period of history from which scores of US servicemen remain among the unaccounted for. The availability of this information will ease the process of public research into this period of our history and continue to assure our accountability to the families of missing

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servicemen. Impetus for further inquiry into the loss of US military personnel during the Cold War has come from a number of initiatives during 1999. Noteworthy here is Secretary Cohen's meeting in July 1999, with his Russian opposite number, Defense Minister Sergeyev, who endorsed the SecDef's suggestion that Russian military archives be rigorously examined for any information about missing US servicemen. Efforts by the US-Russia Joint Commission, of which the DASD is a member, to pursue Cold War loss incidents have been intensified, with a number of site visits, witness interviews and archival searches anticipated into FY 2000.

DPMO's accessions by era for 1999 are summarized below:

Remains Recovered

Korea	10 accessions (DPRK-9/ROK-1)
	Believed to be 16 (DPRK-13/ROK-3) remains
Southeast Asia	37 (SRV-22, Laos-12, Cambodia-2, China-1)
World War II	19
Cold War	0
Total Number Remains Recovered: 66	

Remains Identified

Korea	2
Southeast Asia	41 (SRV-22, Laos-17, Cambodia-2)
World War II	24
Cold War	0
Total Number Remains Identified: 67	

Number of Operations Conducted by Country

North Korea	3	South Korea	1
Vietnam	4	Laos	5
Cambodia	1	China	2
Papua New Guinea	4	New Hebrides	1
Kiribati (Makin)	2	France	1
England	1	Germany	1
Bulgaria	1	Panama	1
Total Number of Operations: 28			

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V. Personnel Summary:

	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	Change FY 2000/FY 2001
<u>Civilian End Strength (Total)</u>				
U.S. Direct Hire	75	74	69	-5
<u>Civilian FTE's (Total)</u>	77	74	69	-5
U.S. Direct Hire				
 <u>Military</u>				
Army	14	18	18	0
Navy	3	4	4	0
Marine Corps	1	1	1	0
Air Force	<u>0</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	0
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>45</u>	0

VI. OP 32 Line Items as Applicable (Dollars in Thousands):

	<u>Change from FY 1999 to FY 2000</u>			<u>Change from FY 2000 to FY 2001</u>			
	FY 1999 <u>Actuals</u>	Price <u>Growth</u>	Program <u>Growth</u>	FY 2000 <u>Estimate</u>	Price <u>Growth</u>	Program <u>Growth</u>	FY 2001 <u>Estimate</u>
Civ Pay	6,424	308	(450)	6,282	232	(7)	6,507
Travel	1,622	19	72	1,713	26	(40)	1,699
Rent	800	10	0	810	12	0	822
Communications	125	2	0	127	2	0	129
Supplies	33	0	100	133	2	(50)	85
Equipment	2,219	27	190	2,436	37	(307)	2,166
Other Contracts	2,335	29	569	2,933	43	443	3,419
	13,558	395	481	14,434	354	39	14,827