



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

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POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance on Prioritizing Remains Recovery and Identifications

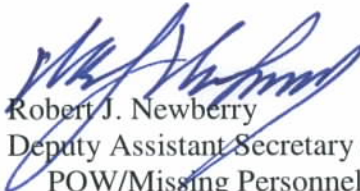
This policy provides United States Department of Defense guidance for prioritizing remains recovery operations and remains identification activities for persons missing in action from our nation's prior wars and conflicts.

We place a high priority on the recovery and identification of our nation's missing. For those still missing from World War II through Desert Storm, our first priority is to recover and identify Americans who continue to lie in the foreign battlefields where they perished or are buried in unmarked graves in foreign countries. We will give a higher priority to investigation and recovery efforts where the potential for success is highest and where the risk of losing access to remains at particular sites is greatest.

Identifying the remains of unknowns already recovered and buried with honor in U.S. national cemeteries at home and abroad must take a lower priority. This is also so with activities to identify additional remains of persons already recovered and identified.

Because our efforts affect the families of the missing from many different conflicts, and because of the increasing sensitivity of veterans, Congress, and the Secretary to how and where we devote our resources, beginning with the schedule for Fiscal Year 2011, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) annually will submit to DPMO its projected schedules for investigation and recovery operations through PACOM and the Joint Staff for review and response prior to execution. JPAC will work with the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office to adjust the schedule of investigative and recovery operations, which may become necessary due to changing fiscal, international, or environmental factors.

This policy memo has been fully coordinated with the Joint Staff and the services. DPMO will coordinate with the Department's Director of Administration and Management to incorporate this policy into the next revision of the applicable DoD Directives.


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POW/Missing Personnel Affairs

