

Sailor Accounted For From Vietnam War (Lannom, R.)

By DPAA Public Affairs, / Published Oct. 17, 2018

Naval Reserve Lt. Richard C. Lannom, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2018.

On March 1, 1968, Lannom, a flight officer assigned to Attack Squadron Three Five (ATKRON 35), USS Enterprise (CVA-65), was the bombardier/navigator aboard an A-6A aircraft on a night strike mission over Quang Ninh Province, North Vietnam. Radar contact with the aircraft was lost due to the low altitude of the aircraft, and the pilot had been instructed to turn his identification beeper off. The flight path to the target was over islands known to have light anti-aircraft artillery. When the aircraft failed to rendezvous with the carrier, a search and rescue effort was mounted. No evidence of the plane could be found. Lannom and his pilot were subsequently declared missing in action.

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of Vietnam for their partnership in this mission.

Lannom's name is recorded on the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420/1169.

Lannom's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000BTUmEAO>

U.S. Civilian Accounted For From Vietnam War (Ritter, G.)

By DPAA Public Affairs, / Published Oct. 17, 2018

Mr. George L. Ritter, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for on Sept. 25, 2018.

On Dec. 27, 1971, Ritter, an employee of Air America Incorporated, was piloting an Air America C-123K from Udorn Airfield, Kingdom of Thailand, headed for Xienhom District, Xaingnabouli Province, Laos. The aircraft was on a routine resupply mission for U.S. Agency for International Development and was last heard from when they were northeast of Sayaboury. Laos. Search and rescue efforts were continued through Dec. 31, 1971, but no sign of the aircraft or the four crewmembers were found. Ritter was subsequently reported missing.

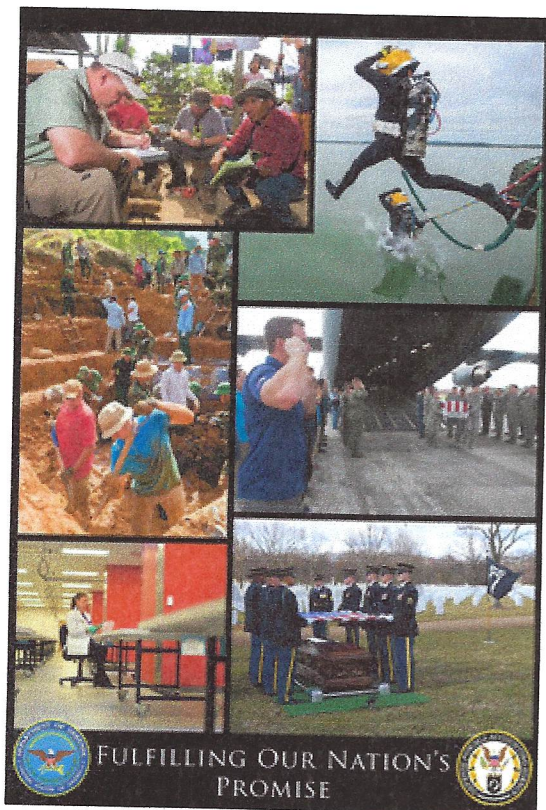
DPAA is grateful to the government and the people of Laos for their partnership in this mission.

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Ritter's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000BTbTEAW>

DPAA Accounts for 203 Missing Personnel in Fiscal Year 2018

By DPAA Public Affairs, / Published Oct. 10, 2018



In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) accounted for 203 formerly missing persons from past conflicts, the highest yearly total reached by the agency or its predecessor organizations. Also, the agency individually identified the remains of three additional personnel, who were previously accounted for as part of group burials.

“Providing the families of the missing those long-sought answers with which they can at least achieve some solace is a profound manifestation of our nation's steadfast commitment to them and their loved ones. Because it's a sacred obligation, if not moral imperative, our over 600 military and civilian professionals earnestly contribute their talents, dedication, and passion to the noble mission with which we are entrusted,” said DPAA Director Kelly McKeague.

Broken down by conflict, 10 were accounted for from the Vietnam War, 37 from

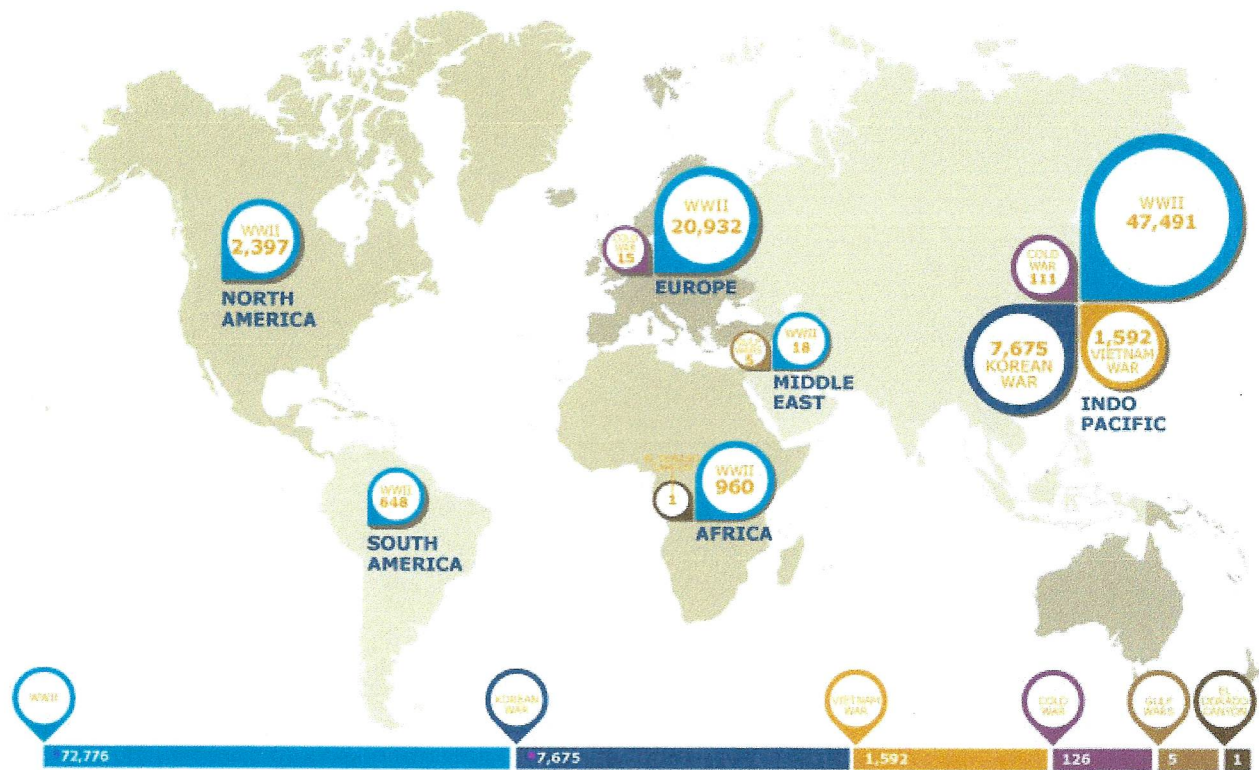
the Korean War, and 156 were from World War II.

“Science and technology have expanded exponentially in recent years, enabling identifications that even five years ago seemed impossible. We also attribute the increasing yearly trend to DPAA’s expanded use of partnerships, a more precise management of disinterments, and improvements in our robust field operations,” said Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz, DPAA’s Deputy Director for Operations.

DPAA’s partnerships are strong and extensive. First, the government officials and people in each of the countries the agency operates in provide invaluable assistance and respect to the mission. Collaborative support from the four Service Casualty Offices; the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory; U.S. Indo Pacific Command, the U.S. European Command and the Defense Intelligence Agency – Stony Beach; the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries are also vital. DPAA’s partnering with non-Federal entities continues to expand agency capacity and capabilities. Additionally, agency efforts benefit from partnerships with Family Groups and Veterans Service Organizations.

Today, the DPAA is focused on the research, investigation, recovery, and identification of the approximately 34,000 (out of approximately 83,000 missing DoD personnel) believed to be recoverable, who were lost in conflicts from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for DoD personnel still missing and unaccounted-for while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, or find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa.



AS OF 23 NOVEMBER 2018

As this map shows, at present, more than 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the 82,000 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ships losses, known aircrafts water losses, etc.).

UNACCOUNTED AMERICANS BY THE DIFFERENT WARS

WWII – 72,776

Korean War- 7,675

Vietnam War – 1,592

Cold War – 126

Gulf Wars – 5

El Dorado Canyon - 1

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Funeral Announcement For Soldier Killed During Vietnam War (Kipina, M.)

Press Operations

Release No: 18-165

Oct. 12, 2018



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted for from the Vietnam War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina, 21, of Calumet, Michigan, accounted for on Feb. 1, 2018, will be buried October 18 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. On July 13, 1966 Kipina was assigned to the 131st Aviation Company, serving as an observer aboard an OV-1C aircraft, on a night surveillance mission from Phu Bai Airfield over Attapu Province, Laos People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.). Visibility was poor due to heavy

thunderstorms. Radar and radio contact were lost with the aircraft, which was not uncommon due to the mountainous terrain in that part of Laos. When the aircraft did not return as scheduled, search efforts were initiated, but no crash site was found. Also lost in the crash was Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Nopp, 31, of Salem, Oregon, the aircraft's pilot.

During the 1990s and 2000s, joint U.S./L.P.D.R. teams investigated the incident and recommended a potential crash site in Attapu Province, L.P.D.R. for excavation. The site, located in extremely difficult terrain, required multiple missions to excavate. The teams recovered osseous material, personal equipment and material evidence. Analysis of the aircraft indicated the crash was of the same aircraft Kipina was in, and an ejection seat component indicated at least one person was in the aircraft when it crashed. Nopp was identified concurrently with Kipina.

To identify Kipina's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), as well as anthropological analysis and circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of Laos for their assistance in accounting for Kipina.

Today there are 1,594 American servicemen and civilians that are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Kipina's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

Kipina's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000BTgsEAG>

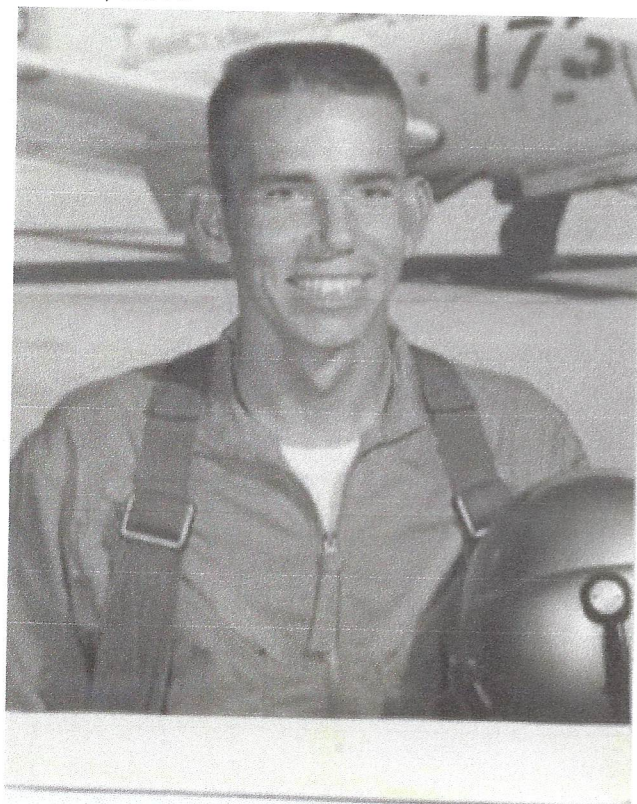
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Funeral Announcement for Naval Pilot Killed During Vietnam War (Goodwin, C.)

Press Operations

Release No: 18-159

Oct. 4, 2018



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted for from the Vietnam War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Navy Reserve Cmdr. Charles B. Goodwin, 25, of Haskell, Texas, accounted for on May 18, 2017, will be buried October 12 in Abilene, Texas. On Sept. 8, 1965, Goodwin was the pilot of an RF-8A aircraft, assigned to Detachment D, VPF-63, CVW-15, when he launched from the USS Coral Sea, scheduled for a combat photo mission over the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now Socialist Republic of Vietnam.) At the time of the early-morning flight, numerous intense

thunderstorms were reported between the USS Coral Sea and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Fifteen minutes after launching, Goodwin reported that he had encountered thunderstorms en route to the target area. That was the last transmission heard from him. Search efforts over the target area and adjacent coastal waters were unsuccessful, no emergency radio signals were heard, and no aircraft wreckage was sighted. Goodwin was declared missing in action as of Sept. 8, 1965.

In February 1988, a Vietnamese refugee provided information regarding the location of possible human remain and material evidence, including identification media correlated to Goodwin.

Between April 1993 and December 2016, multiple attempts were made by the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) and Joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams to locate the crash site, but attempts were unsuccessful. In December 2016, a Joint Forensic Review team received possible human remains that had been in the possession of a Vietnamese national. The remains were sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

In the identification of Goodwin, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, which matched his records, as well as circumstantial evidence.

The support from the government of Vietnam was vital to the success of this recovery.

Today there are 1,594 American servicemen and civilians that are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Goodwin's name is recorded on the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

Goodwin's personal profile can be viewed at

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Funeral Announcement For Pilot Killed During Vietnam War (Mellor, F.)

Press Operations

Release No: 18-149

Sept. 21, 2018

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, accounted-for from the Vietnam War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. Fredric M. Mellor, 30, of Cranston, Rhode Island, accounted for on July 13, will be buried Sept. 28, in Exeter, Rhode Island. On Aug. 13, 1965, Mellor, who was assigned to the 20th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, and on temporary duty with the 15th Reconnaissance Task Force, was flying the lead RF-101C aircraft in a flight of two on a mission to conduct photo and visual reconnaissance of a suspected surface to-air missile site in Son La Province, in the then-Democratic Republic of Vietnam. During the flight, hostile ground fire damaged the aircraft, causing it to crash. Mellor survived his ejection and attempted to evade the enemy. Initial radio contact was established, however contact was lost, and, despite a two-day search, neither Mellor nor his aircraft were found. He was subsequently listed as missing in action.

North Vietnamese witnesses claimed they saw or participated in the shoot-down of an American aircraft and the capture and death of its pilot on Aug. 13, 1965.

On Nov. 22, 1991, four Vietnamese witnesses returned to the site where the pilot was allegedly killed. One witness recovered remains and personal effects and turned the evidence over to U.S. investigators.

To identify Mellor's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA) DNA analysis, anthropological and isotopic analysis, as well as material and circumstantial

evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the government and the people of Vietnam for their partnership in this recovery.

Today there are 1,594 American servicemen and civilians who are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Mellor's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

Mellor's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt00000001UdSEAU>

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Funeral Announcement For Marines Killed During Vietnam War (House, J., Killen, J., Runnels, G.)

Press Operations

Release No: 18-148

Sept. 21, 2018

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, accounted for from the Vietnam War, are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Capt. John A. House, II, 28, of Pelham, New York; Lance Cpl. John D. Killen, III, 18, of Davenport, Iowa; and Cpl. Glyn L. Runnels, Jr., 21, of Birmingham, Alabama, all U.S. Marine Corps. These men, accounted for on Dec. 22, 2015, will be buried as a group Sept. 27, 2018 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C.

Partial remains of two other servicemen who were lost in this incident and were individually identified in 2013, are also represented in this group. They are Marine Lance Cpl. Merlin R. Allen, 20, of Madison, Wisconsin, and Navy Hospital Corpsman Michael B. Judd, 21, of Cleveland, Ohio.

On June 30, 1967, House was the pilot of a CH-46A Sea Knight helicopter, who with three other crew members, was attempting to insert eight members of Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, into hostile territory in Thua Thien-Hue Province, Vietnam. As the helicopter approached the landing zone, it was struck by enemy fire from the surrounding tree line, causing the aircraft to catch fire and crash. Although three crew members and four of the reconnaissance patrol passengers survived and were later rescued, House, Killen, Runnels, Allen, and Judd died in the crash.

In 1993, a joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) team investigated the case in Thua Thein-Hue Province. The team interviewed local villagers who claimed to have discovered an aircraft crash site in 1991 in the nearby forest while searching for wood. The team surveyed the location, finding

helicopter-related wreckage with no distinguishing markings.

In 2012, joint U.S./S.R.V. recovery teams excavated the crash site and recovered human remains, material evidence, life support equipment, and aircraft wreckage from the CH-46A helicopter. Additional recovery efforts in 2013 and 2014 failed to yield any additional human remains. Vietnam's support to the U.S. accounting mission was vital to the recovery of these individuals.

DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis, dental analysis, anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence to identify House, Killen and Runnels individually.

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of Vietnam for their partnership in this mission.

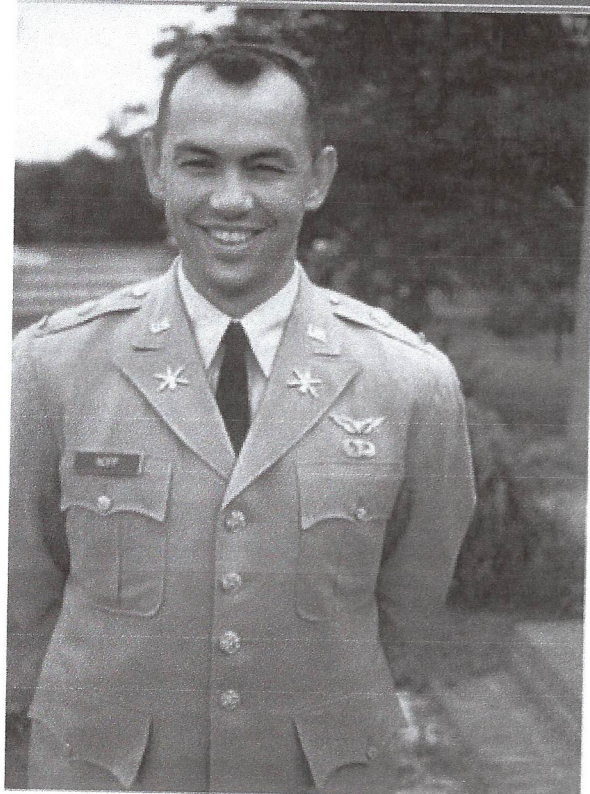
Today, there are 1,594 American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. House's, Killen's and Runnels' names are recorded on the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to their names to indicate they have been accounted for.

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House's personnel profile can be viewed at
<https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt000000oW625EAC>

Killen's personnel profile can be viewed at
<https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt000000oW62FEAS>

Runnels' personnel profile can be viewed at
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Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Nopp, 31, of Salem, Oregon, accounted for on Feb. 1, 2018, will be buried October 18 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. On July 13, 1966 Nopp was assigned to the 131st Aviation Company, serving as a pilot aboard an OV-1C aircraft, on a night surveillance

mission from Phu Bai Airfield over Attapu Province, Laos People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.). Visibility was poor due to heavy thunderstorms. Radar and radio contact were lost with the aircraft, which was not uncommon due to the mountainous terrain in that part of Laos. When the aircraft did not return as scheduled, search efforts were initiated, but no crash site was found. Also lost in the crash was Army Staff Sgt. Marshall F. Kipina, 21, of Calumet, Michigan, the aircraft's observer.

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To identify Nopp's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), as well as anthropological analysis and circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the government of Laos for their assistance in accounting for Nopp.

Today there are 1,594 American servicemen and civilians that are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Nopp's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

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Nopp's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000BTgnEAG>