



PERSONNEL PROFILE



Service Member

MAJ JOHN CREIGHTON GILLE KERR

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Conflict

Service

Status

Date of Identification

VIETNAM WAR

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Accounted For

04/24/2024

On April 24, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Major John Creighton Gillespie Kerr, missing from the Vietnam War.

Major Kerr entered the U.S. Air Force from Florida and served in the 606th Air Commando Squadron. On August 22, 1967, he piloted a two-person A-26A Invader (tail number 64-17662) which took off for an armed reconnaissance mission over road routes in Laos. The aircraft made radio contact with a ground control station near Route #6, and then proceeded on to reconnoiter a series of other roads and the area around the town of Ban Ban. The Invader last made radio contact near and reported no signs of trouble; however, ground control soon lost radar contact with the aircraft, and it did not return from its mission. Immediate searches were unsuccessful due to the large size of the possible loss area. After the war, a crash site was located, and in 2005 the navigator's remains were positively identified. Following multiple investigations over a period of decades, possible human osseous material was found during a 2023 mission. These remains were sent to a DPAA laboratory for further study, and the laboratory analysis together with the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between the osseous remains and Maj Kerr.

Major Kerr is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

If you are a family member of this service member, you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.



PERSONNEL PROFILE



Service Member

SGT DAVID STANLEY PRICE

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Conflict

Service

Status

Date of Identification

VIETNAM WAR

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Accounted For

06/21/2024

On June 21, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Sergeant David Stanley Price, missing from the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Price entered the U.S. Air Force from Washington and served with Detachment 1, 1043rd Radar Evaluation Squadron. In 1968, Price and 18 other men were assigned to Lima Site 85, a tactical air navigation radar site on a remote, 5,600-foot mountain peak known as Phou Pha Thi in Houaphan Province, Laos. In the early morning of March 11, North Vietnamese commandos attacked the site with grenades and mortars, causing the Americans to seek safety on a narrow ledge of the steep mountain. A few hours later, under the protective cover of A-1 Skyraider aircraft, U.S. helicopters were able to rescue eight of the men. SGT Price and 10 other Americans were killed in action and unable to be recovered. From 1994 to 2009, in cooperation with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) and Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.), joint teams led by DPAA's predecessor Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted multiple recovery operations, pursuing witness leads and recovering evidence and remains. In 2023, DPAA personnel and members from partner organizations discovered unexploded ordnance, incident-related materials, and possible osseous remains from the research site. Believed to be a potential match to SGT Price, the remains were transferred to the DPAA laboratory for further study and identification. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between this set of remains and SGT Price.

Sergeant Price is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

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PROGRESS IN LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM

Current status of unaccounted for Americans lost in the Vietnam War

More than 280 Americans are still unaccounted for in Laos, more than 40 Americans are still unaccounted for in Cambodia and of the remaining missing personnel still unaccounted for in Vietnam, over 400 are in a “non-recoverable” category. This means from all three countries that through rigorous investigation, we have conclusive evidence that the individual perished, but do not believe it is possible to recover his remains. On rare occasions, new leads can arise that bring a case back to an active status.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting (DPAA) has identified more than 1,000 missing personnel associated with the Vietnam War conflict. This identification effort is called the “Vietnam War identification Project” or VWIP. These Americans have been returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

DPAA and their partners continue to build on nearly 3 decades of Joint Field Activities (JFA) with the government of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Each year, DPAA plans multiple investigations in each country to collect evidence, investigate leads, and conduct excavations.

Personnel Accounting Progress in China

Remains repatriated unilateral operations (1975) – 2

Remains recovered and repatriated through investigative and recovery operations since 1992 – 23

Total remains identified – 1975 to present – 25

At present, more than 81,500 American remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf War/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,500 missing, 75% of these losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea – ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.

WWII – Dec.7,1941 to Dec.31,1946

Missing – 73,678

Accounted – 1,652

Unaccounted – 72,026

Korean War – June 27,1950 to July 27,1953

Missing – 8,157

Accounted – 699

Unaccounted – 7,458

Vietnam War – July 8,1959 to May 15,1975

Missing – 2,641

Accounted – 1,066

Unaccounted – 1,575

Cold War – Sep.2,1945 to Aug. 21,1991

Missing – 128

Accounted – 2

Unaccounted – 126

Gulf War and Libya Operation – April15, 1986 to Present Day

Missing – 6

Accounted – 0

Unaccounted – 6

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA)

UPDATE FROM JAN 1 TO SEP 18, 2024

REMAINS ACCOUNTD FOR

WWII

U.S. Army – 30

U.S. Marines – 7

U.S. Navy – 6

U.S. Army Air Force – 20

South Korea

U.S. Army 11

North Korea

U.S. Army – 10

Vietnam War

U.S. Air Force – 2 (From Laos)

Total - 86