



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

NOV 15 2024

FOR/TO : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas and Supervising Undersecretary for Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Luzon and Visayas, Environmental Management Bureau-Luzon and Visayas

THE UNDERSECRETARY
Field Operations - Mindanao and Supervising Undersecretary for Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Mindanao, Environmental Management Bureau-Mindanao

THE DIRECTOR
Environmental Management Bureau

THE DIRECTOR
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Organizational Transformation and Human Resources

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING REGARDING THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POW/MIA) ACCOUNTING AGENCY (US DPAA) CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES ON 26 NOVEMBER 2024**

This refers to the letter dated 07 November 2024 of Major General Arvin R. Lagamon, Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations, J7, Armed Forces of the Philippines, inviting four (4) representatives from the DENR to attend the abovementioned meeting.

In this regard, we are forwarding to you the said letter with its attachments for your consideration and identification of appropriate representatives to attend the said TWG meeting.

For your information and consideration.


AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA

MEMO NO. 2024 - 1024



NOV 09 2024

**DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS, J7
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY**

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environmental and Natural Resources
DENR Bldg. Visayas Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City Metro Manila 1100 Philippines

Dear **Hon. Loyzaga**:

Salutations!

The Armed Forces of the Philippines respectfully invites **four (4) representatives** of your agency to the Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting regarding the United States Defense Prisoners of War / Missing In Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Agency (US DPAA) conduct of activities in the Philippines **on November 26, 2024 at 09:00 AM at the 2nd Floor Ballroom, West Wing, The Metropolitan Theater Padre Burgos Avenue corner Arroceros Street, Ermita, Manila.**

The US DPAA is responsible for locating, recovering, and identifying the remains of US Department of Defense personnel from designated past conflicts. Relatedly, the US DPAA intends to conduct activities in the Philippines. As such different government agencies need to convene during the abovementioned meeting to learn the background and previous efforts of DPAA, discuss the administrative requirements for its conduct of activities, and ways forward. Further, staff of the US DPAA will also participate in the meeting via online platform.

On September 25, 2024 at the Holiday Inn and Suites, Makati, the US DPAA invited various Philippine government agencies to initially sift through the possible requirements and clearances for their conduct of activities in the country. During the meeting, it was observed that some government agency representatives lack answers or cannot respond to the queries of the US DPAA. As such, it was proposed that the government agencies must have a TWG to address concerns through its appropriate proponents.

For clarifications and other inquiries, you may contact **Ms Beatrize Yangzon CivHR**, Asst. Chief, Interagency Collaboration Branch, Civil Affairs Division, OJ7 with mobile number: **+63915 238 7115**, and email address: cmdr.oj7.afpa@gmail.com.

I hope this request merits your favorable response.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, AFP:


ARVIN R LAGAMON
Major General PA

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON
2025 US DPAA CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

PROGRAMME

**November 26, 2024 | 2nd Floor Ballroom, West Wing, The Metropolitan Theater
Padre Burgos Avenue corner Arroceros Street, Ermita, Manila**

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 08:30 – 09:00 AM | Registration |
| 09:15 AM | Welcome Remarks |
| 09:30 AM | Presentation of US DPAA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Background- Previous Efforts- Plans for 2025 US DPAA Activities |
| 10:10 AM | Presentation of National Museum of the Philippines <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Background- Ongoing Efforts- Challenges and Gaps- Way Ahead |
| 10:40 AM | Open Forum |
| 11:30 AM | Photo Opportunity |
| 11:40 AM | Closing Remarks |
| 12:00 NN | Lunch |
| 01:30 PM | Egress |

Priorities

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Priorities Statement. The following Agency Priorities Statement will underpin all operations and activities across our enterprise: **“Maximize the capability and capacity to account for eligible missing personnel by taking care of people, leveraging partnerships, and investing in innovation”**

Agency Priority Directives

- In allocating operational funding, DPAA prioritizes efforts in the following order: Vietnam War (Operational Main Effort), World War II (Europe), Korean War, WWII (Indo-Pacific), Cold War, and Gulf War missions, concurrent partner activities are applied across cases from all conflicts.
- Strengthen the Agency's robust network of external partners to augment and support DPAA operations and all efforts applied towards case progression.
- Enhance the Case Management System and integration of data management across the Agency to ensure a comprehensive prioritization of case files for research, analysis, and field operations.
- Enhance research capabilities in support of efforts to increase Family Reference Samples (FRS) for WWII unaccounted for personnel.
- Enhance and maintain an integrated and proactive strategic communication system nested with research, analysis, and field operations.

DPAA Mission, Vision, Values

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Our Mission

Provide fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation

Our Vision

A world-class workforce fulfills our nation's obligation by maximizing the number of missing personnel accounted for while ensuring timely, accurate, information is provided to families

Our Values

Compassion, Integrity, Teamwork, Respect, Innovation

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph E. Gantt



Photo by Gantt Family



Sgt. Stanley W. Bear



Photo by Bear Family



Global, Generational Scope

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



❖ Aprox 81,500 remain unaccounted-for (estimate 38,000 can be recovered)

» 72,254 from WWII
Korean War

» 7,514 from

» 1,581 from Vietnam War

» 126 from Cold

War

» 6 from Iraq and other conflicts

❖ Widely-recognized as humanitarian effort with strong bonds with 46 partner nations whose cooperation is essential

❖ Domestically, highly visible and charged issue that garners significant attention from families, and Congress and veterans

