

## **U.S.-Russia Archival Conference April 13-15, 2004**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs) The Honorable Jerry D. Jennings hosted a group of Russian archivists in Washington, D.C., from April 10 to 17, 2004. The primary purpose of the visit by the Russian delegation was to participate in the first-ever U.S.-Russia Archival Conference at the National Archives and Records Administration facility in College Park, Maryland.

The conference, held under the auspices of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, provided a venue for detailed discussions on archival issues. Participants included the Russian archivists, American counterparts, officials and analysts from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, representatives of veterans' groups and family groups representing U.S. missing-in-action military service members, and other American officials from various branches and agencies of the U.S. Government and the academic community.

The conference provided a unique forum for sharing information on a range of topics, including: a comparison of Russian and American systems of classification and declassification of official documents; a comparison of approaches to preparing archival finding guides; a detailed discussion on the important contribution that research in Russian archives makes to the efforts of the U.S. Government to provide the fullest possible accounting for its missing military service members; a presentation by the Russian side on archival holdings from the Korean and Vietnam wars, and a special briefing about a new research program in the Russian Military Medical Archives that seeks to clarify the fates of American servicemen who are unaccounted-for from World War Two.

The conference was a success in all respects. It opened an important dialogue with senior Russian officials from archives that are important to American efforts to account for missing personnel; revealed that important Korean War-era holdings from the Korean War are located at the Central Archives of the Russian Defense Ministry and are available for American research; considered problems that impede American work in Russian archives; began a discussion between the two sides about ways in which these problems might be overcome, and impressed upon the Russian participants the wide interest in the archival work of the Joint Commission in Russia among important American audiences, especially senior U.S. Government officials, families of the missing, and the American archival and academic communities. Finally, the event deepened the

rapport and improved the professional relationships between American researchers who are working in Russian archives and the Russian officials who manage and control access to them.

## **BACKGROUND**

In September 2003, the Honorable Jerry D. Jennings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs, traveled to Moscow, Russia, for talks with Russian counterparts on the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). During his trip, Mr. Jennings visited the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) in Podolsk, Russia, where American researchers working for the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) are engaged in archival research eight days out of every month. During this visit, Mr. Jennings conceived the idea for a joint U.S. – Russia archival conference.

Mr. Jennings' idea was to convene a group of working level archivists and managers from Russian archives to which the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD)<sup>1</sup> either has access or requires access to accomplish its accounting mission. Mr. Jennings said that the conference should explore ways to work more efficiently in Russian archives and to identify new areas for future research and cooperation.

Planning for the conference began in October 2003, envisioning an event that would run for three days at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD. JCSD officials arranged the venue and the formal agenda. Working with Dr. Tim Nenninger, Chief of Modern Military Records at NARA, they developed a list of American and Russian officials who would offer presentations at the conference and worked with the presenters to ensure their presentations responded directly to issues affecting the JCSD's work in Russian archives.

Initially, sixteen Russian archivists and officials were invited to the conference. In the end, only ten Russian participants attended the conference and engaged their American counterparts. These participants, and the archives and agencies in the Russian Federation that they represent, may be found at Enclosure 1. The conference agenda is appended at Enclosure 2.

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<sup>1</sup> JCSD is the directorate in DPMO that provides staff support to the presidentially -mandated U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. JCSD accomplishes investigations and archival research in the former Soviet Union and Central Europe for the purpose of collecting information that might clarify the fates of unaccounted-for U.S. military service members from conflicts since the beginning of World War Two.

The 10-person Russian delegation—headed by Colonel Sergey Ilyenkov, Chief of Archival Services, General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation—arrived in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 10, 2004.

On Monday, April 12, the Honorable Mr. Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, received the delegation in the DPMO conference room. He emphasized how strongly President Bush, his administration, and senior Department of Defense leaders, including Secretary Rumsfeld, support the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) and its effort to account for missing-in-action American and Russian service members. He welcomed the Russian delegation and wished it success in its work.

Mr. Jennings hosted the Russian delegation, representatives of family and veterans' groups, and American archivists and researchers at a dinner Monday evening (April 12, 2004) in Crystal City, Virginia.

## **THE ARCHIVAL CONFERENCE**

### Day One

The archival conference commenced on Tuesday morning, April 13, 2004, with welcoming comments by Dr. Michael Kurtz, Assistant Archivist for Records Services, Washington, D.C. Mr. Jennings then formally welcomed the Russian delegation and the other invited attendees from various U.S. governmental, private, and academic institutions, again conveying the support of the entire leadership of the United States Government for the commission's efforts in the former Soviet Union. Mr. Jennings challenged the conference to confront the issues that impede DPMO work in Russian archives. He charged the attendees to find ways to work together more effectively. He offered the support of the U.S. Defense Department in improving and modernizing American research in Russian archives, and he wished conference attendees success in the three-day conference.

The first presentation of the archival conference was offered by Mr. Danz Blasser, Senior Analyst, Korean War Working Group, JCSD. Mr. Blasser's presentation was entitled, "**Research in the U.S. and Russian Archives: The Human Dimension.**" The presentation highlighted the immense value that access to Russian archival materials has had in efforts to account for missing U.S. servicemen, especially from the Korean War. He compared selected Soviet records on the shoot down of American aircraft during the Korean War with U.S. historical data to illustrate the difficulty of establishing accurate assessments, particularly in the case of shoot down claims. Data presented underscored the importance of ensuring access to all available records as an essential first step in

moving from tentative, fragmentary accounts of a loss incident to resolution of a missing-in-action (MIA) case.

The presentation then turned to the analytical process, noting the added difficulties caused by distorted historical data, both Soviet and American. In the case of the former, examples were cited to show a recurrent Soviet pattern of inflating shoot down reports in a way that wildly exaggerated the actual number of losses inflicted on the opponent. Similarly, in an attempt to conceal the fact they frequently flew across the Yalu River—in defiance of their orders—to engage enemy aircraft, U.S pilots filed false reports which incorrectly identified crash sites. Mr. Blasser examined the problems posed by such distortions and the research efforts undertaken to overcome them.

The presentation concluded with a description of several specific loss cases, indicating how archival findings have led to the clarification of a number of MIA cases, both American and Russian. Mr Blasser expressed the strong support of the families of hitherto unaccounted-for personnel for the work that has been conducted in Russian archives.

Colonel Ilyenkov offered commentary on this subject, followed by an open discussion by those in attendance. In the discussion, the conference agreed that access to Soviet Korean War-era records is very valuable to the work of the USRJC and should be continued. The group considered the theoretical and physical process for accessing documents in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense and the need for new technologies for tracking and copying archival materials. The Russian side assured conference attendees that the military archives will continue to support the work of the USRJC. Colonel Ilyenkov expressed a sentiment repeated several times during the conference: a war is not over until the last soldier's fate is known.

Colonel Sergey Chuvashin, Chief of the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense, presented a paper on **“Korean and Vietnam War Materials held in the Russian Archives.”** Colonel Chuvashin provided an overview of his archive and its history of cooperation with the USRJC. He noted the support that his archive has rendered to thousands of Soviet and Russian veterans, researchers, authors, and journalists. Chuvashin pledged the continued support of the Russian side for American research on its unaccounted-for military service members.

Colonel Chuvashin also noted that, besides its support for the work with the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, the Central Archives also provide German researchers the opportunity to review materials held in the archive on German missing personnel from World War II.

In discussions after this presentation, Colonel Ilyenkov informed the conference that historic records sent to the archives belonging to active Russian military units that trace their lineage back to Soviet units that participated in the Korean War are still classified and cannot be provided to outside researchers without observing a formal Russian process of declassification. He noted that U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (R-TX)<sup>2</sup> has submitted a list of documents for declassification, and the declassification commission, which Ilyenkov chairs, is working to honor this request.<sup>3</sup>

A discussion ensued about documents forwarded to higher echelon organizations during the Korean War. These higher echelon organizations included the Air Force Operational Group in China (the so-called “Krasovskiy Group,” named for its commander, General-Colonel Stepan Akimovich Krasovskiy), the Main Staff of the Air Force of the Soviet Army, and the General Staff of the Soviet Army. Colonel Chuvashin stated that he has never seen anything in his archive indicating that information was sent from the Korean War theatre of operations to the Main Staff of the Air Force or the General Staff. Mr. Blasser disputed this contention, suggesting that this topic should be included on the agenda of the commission’s next plenary session. Later, in an aside to one of JCSD’s analysts, Colonel Ilyenkov confirmed that Russian military archives hold the records of the “Krasovskiy Group,” some of which have been declassified and can be made available to American researchers, he said.<sup>4</sup>

Representatives of the various family organizations in attendance queried Colonel Chuvashin about expanded access to the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense. Chuvashin stated that his staff has other duties, and providing support to researchers is very labor intensive. Mr. Norm Kass, Senior Director, JCSD, and the conference’s moderator, stated that the U.S. side is working in Colonel Chuvashin’s archive as efficiently as possible, and one of the values of the current conference is to identify ways to improve further on that work. He stated that new technologies can perhaps be a “force multiplier,” and he urged the group to consider ways to put modern technologies to work for us in this archive.

Dr. Edgar Raines, of the U.S. Army Center for Military History, asked about the existence of information on ground forces’ activities in the Korean War

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<sup>2</sup> Congressman Johnson is a U.S. commissioner on the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. He is the American Chairman of the commission’s Korean War Working Group, and he is one of the most active supporters of the commission’s work in the former USSR and Central Europe. His personal advocacy of increased archival access in Russia has led to greatly increased availability of fate-related archival materials for American researchers.

<sup>3</sup> During his visit to Moscow in January 2003, Congressman Johnson formally requested the declassification of 108 Korean War-era files held at the Central Archives of the Russian Defense Ministry.

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. side will seek access to these files in the near future.

that might be held in Russian archives. Colonel Chuvashin said that his archive holds some material on this subject, including 64<sup>th</sup> Fighter Aviation Corps reports that begin with a summary of the situation on the ground. The archive also holds some intelligence reports and the reports of Soviet liaison officers and advisors on the ground situation.

Dr. Mark Kramer of Harvard University asked about the declassification of finding guides, and Colonel Chuvashin responded that the declassification of documents and the applicable finding guides go hand in hand. His staff is currently working on declassifying World War II documents, and declassification of later materials is not possible due to resource limitations. Colonel Chuvashin noted that some exceptions to this policy have been granted to the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs with respect to Korean- and Vietnam-War-era documents, but he said that about nine million files from World War II remain to be reviewed. The declassification commission consists of 50 persons, and about 600 pages are the most a declassification expert can review in one day.

### Day Two

The conference heard a presentation by Ms. Laura S. Kimberly, Associate Director for Policy, Information Security Oversight Office, NARA, and Mr. Don McIlwain, Branch Chief, Initial Processing and Declassification Division, NARA, on “**Declassification Procedures Applicable to Korean and Vietnam War Materials.**” The presenters noted that the U.S. declassification system has evolved from an executive order of President Harry S. Truman to President Nixon’s 1995 Executive Order 12958 to another Executive Order issued by President Clinton and recently reaffirmed by President Bush. A distinctive feature of the U.S. declassification system is the provision for *automatic* declassification of information deemed to have permanent historical value after 25 years. The presenters noted that automatic declassification can be prevented only by the overt determination of an agency head that the information falls within a narrow exemption that permits continued classification beyond the 25-year time frame. Otherwise, the material is automatically declassified.

There followed a discussion of the systematic review of documents for declassification and the right of individuals and agencies (in the American system) to seek the declassification of national security information. A component of the declassification program stipulates that all agencies that originate classified information must conduct a systematic review of permanent records after they reach a prescribed age. This includes those records exempted from automatic declassification. The declassification program stipulates that an individual citizen or a governmental agency can require an agency to review national security information to determine if it can be declassified. When such a request to

declassify information is denied, the decision can be appealed to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel, whose decision is final.

The Russian side provided a presentation on this subject—classification and declassification procedures—from the Russian perspective. Colonel Ilyenkov provided a basic overview of the procedures and rules on the declassification of documents in the Ministry of Defense archives. He noted that the MoD Central Archive holds materials originating in 1941 to the present, comprising more than 20 million files. Many of these are now subject to declassification, according to the Russian Federation law of 1993 and the Presidential Order of 1998. Originators of classified material are also guided by the orders of the Ministry of Defense, the General Staff, and regulations of the MoD Central Archives. Generally, documents older than thirty years are subject to declassification review, but in contrast to the American system, this process is not automatic. Colonel Ilyenkov noted that, by the end of 2003, up to 20 percent of previously classified World War II materials in Russian archives had been declassified. With regard to post-war materials, the only documents declassified so far have been those made available to the USRJC, which includes 90 percent of the Korean War-era materials held in MoD's Central Archive. The Russians plan to finish declassification of WWII documents by the end of 2004, after which time they will consider post-war documents for declassification, making as many as possible available for research, he said.

Colonel Ilyenkov stated, “Our experts have studied large amounts of classified matter on the downing of U.S. aircraft and the capture of American pilots in the Vietnam War. A group of researchers...reviewed more than 6,000 files, which represents more than 300,000 pages. We are gaining positive results. We have given the American side several lists of data, starting with a list of 142 instances, given to the U.S. side in 2001 on my first visit to the United States. The other three groups of information were transferred to the U.S. side in later years. Based on archival documents, we were able to authenticate 360 Vietnam War incidents of shoot down and capture of U.S. pilots, including the place and time of the incidents. Unfortunately, we could only identify seven names. However, such information, though far from complete, helps researchers to identify the pilots.”

Ms. Jeanne Schauble, Director of NARA's Initial Processing and Declassification Division, commented that the United States and Russia share several similarities in their procedures for declassification. She highlighted U.S. procedures for automatic declassification as a major difference that stands out from the Russian system. One common challenge we share is that both governments have mandated declassification review without allocating adequate resources to accomplish it. She observed that both countries have done a tremendous amount of work in endeavoring to make materials available to the

public, and there has been much cooperation between archivists and members of the Joint Commission. Ms. Schauble expressed her hope that our two countries will continue to work together in this important endeavor.

Dr. Timothy Nenninger, Chief of Modern Military Records, NARA, and Colonel Chuvashin gave a combined presentation on “**Assisting Veterans And Their Families: Veterans’ Information Requests,**” one of the most important tasks shared by the archival systems in the U.S. and Russia. Dr. Nenninger stated that approximately 25,000 U.S. veterans seek information in a given year. In the U.S., in contrast to Russia, the sources of information for military veterans are decentralized and are found in three locations: the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, Missouri; the archives of the military services, and the National Archives.

Dr. Nenninger described the process from receipt of a veteran’s letter or other communication to provision of the information to the requestor. He detailed computer and software programs that enable the NARA to track such requests and to ensure they are honored.

Colonel Chuvashin noted that one of the basic functions of the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense is to provide legally valid documentation on service in the armed forces or auxiliary forces to military veterans, civilians, and organizations which may accrue financial benefit or recognition by society. In the Russian system, a requester may come to the reading room or receive information by mail. In earlier years, as many as one million inquiries a year were handled. At present, the archives receive about 30,000 inquiries per month. Three fourths of the staff of the archive is engaged in answering requests from veterans and civilians, he said. All requests are handled free of charge.

The archives also work on the problem of clarifying the fates of missing soldiers, particularly with respect to place of burial. The archives try to find the rightful owners of dog tags, medallions, orders, and medals that are found on battlefields. The present obligation of military archivists is not only to provide the requested documentation or to make the documents available for study by researchers, but also to preserve the documents for posterity.

A discussion ensued on the issue of a mass declassification of documents held in Russian archives. It was noted that there are historical Russian precedents for the declassification of documents en masse. The Bolsheviks declassified Tsarist-era documents of police and security departments and treaties between the Russian Government and foreign powers. But, in Russia, precedents are not deemed important, Colonel Chuvashin said. Reiterating an earlier point, he said

that Russian documents become eligible for review for declassification at 30 years, but there is no automatic declassification as in the American system.

The discussion turned to a recent proposal by General-Major Nikolai Bezborodov<sup>5</sup> of the Russian State Duma for declassification of documents from the Vietnam War era. Colonel Ilyenkov said that during the Korean War, Soviet participation was limited almost entirely to the 64<sup>th</sup> Fighter Aviation Corps, and 90 percent of this command's documents have been declassified, many of them at the urging of the USRJC. It was much easier to declassify the Korean War documents, though, because they comprise a single *fond*, or collection, of documents that is stored in one place. The Vietnam-War-era documents are more difficult, he noted. There were no Soviet units that fought in the Vietnam War, the Soviet military contribution being primarily in the provision of advisors to North Vietnamese military units.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, in the case of Vietnam-War-era documents, there is no single unified collection of records. A group of researchers led by Irina Pushkareva had to look through 300,000 pages to come up with 363 isolated reports of the shoot down of American aircraft, he said. It is not feasible to declassify one page of a 300-400 page file for the sake of one or two items of information. Another problem is that the files also contain information on third countries (i.e., other than the U.S. and the Soviet Union), and this material is too sensitive to consider declassifying and releasing, he noted.<sup>7</sup>

Colonel Anatoly Andreyevich Budko, Director of the Military Medical Museum and Archives (MMA) of the Ministry of Defense, gave a special presentation on the work now ongoing in his archive on contract to DPMO to search for World War II information about missing American servicemen. Colonel Budko provided a detailed description of his archive, noting that it contains 60 million documents. He said that, in a recent cooperative project with the French, the fates of 1,000 Frenchmen missing in World War II were clarified. The archive is now engaged in a project on behalf of the U. S. side of the USRJC regarding U.S. servicemen treated in Soviet medical facilities during and immediately after World War II. Colonel Budko described the methodology being used in this project, beginning with an examination of losses on the northern sea

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<sup>5</sup> General Bezborodov is a commissioner on the Russian side of the USRJC. He is the Russian Co-Chairman of the commission's Vietnam War Working Group. In the Russian Duma, he sits on the Defense Committee and, in that capacity, last year requested that the General Staff consider declassifying some Vietnam-War-era documents.

<sup>6</sup> The U.S. side is aware of several Soviet air defense units that fought as a unit for brief periods of time in North Vietnam in the early months of the conflict.

<sup>7</sup> A discussion took place on the margins of the conference between Colonel Valeriy Filippov, Military Memorial Center of the Russian General Staff, and Mr. Roger Schumacher, Director, JCSD, in which Schumacher pressed the Russians to consider declassifying only small portions of files—those pages that contain information pertinent to American loss incidents. Filippov maintained that, in the Russian system, neither partial declassification of a file, nor redaction, is permissible.

convoy routes, and proceeding from there to a review of ground combat operations along the River Elbe and on the second front, and convoys in Iran and Iraq, Southeast Asia, and the Soviet Far East. After examining 226,000 medical histories and 400,000 pages of documents, MMA researchers were able to identify thirty one Americans who were treated in Soviet medical facilities, some of whom are carried on the U.S. list of World War II missing-in-action servicemen.

### Day Three

Dr. Sharon Gibbs Thibodau, Director, Access Programs, NARA, and Ms. Brenda Kepley, Archivist, Old Military Records and Civil Records, NARA, gave presentations on “**Finding Guides.**” These presentations highlighted the development of finding guides for a major archive, noting in example that the NARA comprises more than 2.6 million cubic feet of storage space. Finding guides are intended to accomplish a dual purpose: to control the records and to assist researchers in using the records for research purposes. Finding guides assist researchers by enabling them to “get their bearings” in a potentially confusing world of information, and to narrow their focus from 2.6 million cubic feet of archival materials down to a more manageable universe of information.

Ms. Irina Pushkareva, Senior Research Fellow at the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense, commented on the preceding presentations with her own description of the finding aids system at the Central Archives. She noted that, during the Soviet era, most of the documents held at the Central Archives were classified until 1992, when the Soviet Union collapsed. Therefore, the archive never felt the need to generate finding guides, since the holdings were available only to professional archivists and not to private researchers or the general public. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, an effort was undertaken to declassify materials and to make them more broadly available to researchers. It was only at this point that the Central Archive started to develop finding guides.

The finding guides are an inventory listing of a group of associated files, called an *opis*. These are organized by command structure or chronologically. There are normally four to five files in a box. The *opis* serves both as an inventory and a finding aid.

Pushkareva explained the difficulty the Central Archive faces in providing copies of individual pages from bound, Vietnam-War-era files. She said it would be technically very difficult to unbind a volume to copy just a few pages of text.

Robert E. Richardson, Director, Special Media Archives Services Division, and Ms. Jeannine Swift, Archivist, Modern Military Records, NARA, offered the final presentation of the conference entitled, “**The Impact of Modern**

**Technology on Operations.”** As an example of the impact of technology on archival operations, Dr. Richardson described NARA’s handling of Special Media Records, such as cartographic records, aerial photography from aircraft or satellites, motion pictures, sound and video recordings, and still pictures. NARA makes available special research rooms and offers its researchers the opportunity to use government-owned viewing and listening equipment. Technology has broadened the options available for reproducing materials, for developing a system of finding guides, and for storing documents on compact disks and digital video disks to provide copies of material for viewing.

The discussion turned to the impact of technology, particularly computer systems, on archival operations, enabling communication, personnel management, controlling the flow of paperwork, and tracking documents from accession through daily use by archivists and researchers. The word-processing capabilities associated with computers has provided the ability to answer letters using coded paragraphs addressing various inquiries, as well as the production of reports and memoranda.

Colonel Vladimir Viktorovich Kozin, Chief of the Central Archives, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) of the Russian Federation, provided a brief overview of the archival system in the MVD, whose archive contains 18 million cards cataloguing its holdings. The MVD archive is improving its operations, relying more heavily on computers, e-mail, and automated search, tracking, and inventory systems. Like the Defense Ministry’s Central Archives, the MVD archive is now working to declassify documents from the World War II time frame (1942-43). Colonel Kozin noted that many MVD records are contained in the archives of other agencies, such as the KGB/FSB and the archives of the Federal Archival Service.

Dr. Timothy Nenninger offered closing remarks by thanking participants and presenters. He emphasized that military records play an important role in recognizing the high ideals of the Russian and American servicemen, who so valiantly have served their countries.

Colonel Filippov briefly spoke about the work of the Military Memorial Center in the Russian General Staff. This is the only organization in Russia that maintains the records of military burials of Soviet and Russian soldiers around the world. It holds records on 29,000 graves and works to perpetuate the memory of soldiers who died in service to their country. The Center participates in the reunions of former POWs, mainly, Soviet and German POWs. Over the past two years, 60,000 Soviet soldiers buried in Poland have been identified, he said. Colonel Filippov expressed the appreciation of the Russian delegation to DPMO for organizing the conference.

## **ACTIVITIES ON THE MARGINS OF THE ARCHIVAL CONFERENCE**

On Friday, April 16, 2004, the Russian delegation met with Mr. A. Denis Clift, the President of the Joint Military Intelligence College, at his office in the Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters on Bolling Air Force Base.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Clift congratulated the Russian delegation on a successful archival conference. He discussed several key objectives of the Cold War Working Group, particularly those that involve archival work. These include continued research by Rear Admiral Boris Novyy in the Central Archives of the Russian Navy. Mr. Clift also expressed his hope that the Russian side has cleared access for Admiral Novyy into key archives in the Russian Far East in time for the planned September 2004 expedition to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk.

Following this meeting, Mr. Carl Modig of the Holocaust Museum, hosted the Russian delegation for a luncheon and a special tour of the museum.

The Russian delegation departed Saturday, April 17, 2004, on its return trip to Moscow.

### 2 Enclosures

1. List of Russian Attendees
2. Agenda of the U.S.-Russia Archival Conference

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<sup>8</sup> Mr. Clift is a “charter commissioner” on the USRJC, having occupied the position of American Chairman of the Cold War Working Group since the commission’s formation in 1992.

**Russian Delegation  
U.S.-Russia Archival Conference  
April 10 – 17, 2004**

1. Colonel Sergey Aleksandrovich Ilyenkov - Chief, Archival Services  
Ministry of Defense (MoD) of the Russian Federation
2. Colonel Sergey Ivanovich Chuvashin - Chief, Central Archives of the MoD  
(TsAMO)
3. Lieutenant Colonel Andrey Vladimirovich Tikhonov - Deputy Chief,  
TsAMO
4. Ms. Irina Nikolaevna Pushkareva - Senior Research Fellow, TsAMO
5. Captain First Rank Igor' Vladimirovich Shchetin - Director, Central Naval  
Archives
6. Colonel Anatoliy Andreevich Budko - Director, Military-Medical Museum
7. Colonel Valeriy Alekseevich Filippov - Deputy Chief, Armed Forces  
Military Memorial Center
8. Colonel Valeriy Arkad'evich Sudkov - Chief, Federal Border Guard  
Archive, Federal Border Guard Service
9. Colonel Vladimir Viktorovich Kozin - Director, Center for the  
Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression, Ministry of Internal  
Affairs
10. Rear Admiral (ret) Boris Gavrilovich Novyy - Consultant, Cold War  
Working Group, U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

**U.S.-Russia Archival Conference  
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)  
April 13 – 15, 2004  
Schedule of Topics**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13**

**9:45 – 10:45 A.M.**

**Welcoming Comments:** Dr. Michael Kurtz, Assistant Archivist for Records Services – Washington, D.C.

**Opening Remarks:** Hon. Jerry D. Jennings, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs

**Programmatic Note:** Mr. Norman D. Kass, Conference Moderator, and Senior Director, Joint Commission Support Directorate, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)

**10:45 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

**Research in the U.S. and Russian Archives: The Human Dimension**

This session will stress the importance of archival research to the work of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). Specific examples will be presented to demonstrate how documents identified at the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense (TsAMO) have been correlated with official U.S. records to assist in clarifying the fates of missing servicemen. A Power Point presentation will be included.

Presenter: Mr. Danz Blasser, Senior Analyst, Korean War Working Group, Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD)

Commentator: Colonel Sergey Ilenkov, Chief of Archival Services, General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation

**2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Korean- and Vietnam -War Materials Held in Russian Archives**

The Russian Side will provide an overview of major record groups in the Russian archives pertaining to the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Presenter: Colonel Sergey Chuvashin, Chief, Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense

Commentator: Dr. James G. Connell, Special Projects, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, JCSD

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**

**I. DECLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO KOREAN- AND VIETNAM-WAR MATERIALS**

**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon Session 1: The View from Washington**

Presenters: Ms. Laura Kimberly, Deputy Director, Interagency Security Oversight Office, NARA, and

Mr. Donald McIlwain, Branch Chief, Initial Processing and Declassification Division, NARA

Commentator: Colonel Sergey Ilenkov, Chief of Archival Services, General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation

**1:30-2:30 P.M. Session 2: Moscow's Perspective**

Presenter: Colonel Sergey Ilenkov

Commentator: Ms. Jeanne Schauble, Director, Initial Processing and Declassification Division, NARA

These two complementary presentations compare and contrast archival declassification in concept and design within a historical framework of particular significance to the Joint Commission's work: the periods of the Korean and Vietnam wars. Challenges arising from requirements for proper storage, timely transfer and comprehensive review of classified documents will be presented from both the U.S. and Russian vantage point. Discussion will hopefully elicit ideas for improving the effectiveness of the declassification process and the role of the archivist as its facilitator.

## **II. ASSISTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **2:30 – 3:30 P.M. Veterans’ Information Requests**

A theme central to the work of both NARA and TsAMO is that of providing documentary assistance to veterans and their families. Often records made available by each of these two facilities have been critical to decisions regarding definition of status and eligibility for benefits. This hour-long session allows for a comparison of concepts and approaches to a humanitarian issue shared by both sides. Presentations and ensuing discussion will hopefully generate fresh ideas for providing effective and timely responses to veterans and their families.

Co-Presenters: Dr. Timothy Nenninger, Chief of Modern Military Records, NARA, and Colonel Sergey Chuvashin, Chief, Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense

### **THURSDAY, April 15**

#### **10:00A.M. – 12:00 Noon**

#### **Finding Guides**

This session features a joint presentation on finding guides as a basic tool in configuring and accessing archival records. Audience participation at the end of the briefings will hopefully elucidate the value of finding guides at the various archives represented and identify ways in which finding guides may be used to advance the work being conducted on behalf of missing servicemen and their families.

Presenters: Dr. Sharon Thibodau, Director, Access Programs, NARA, and  
Ms. Brenda Kepley, Archivist, Old Military Records and Civil  
Records, NARA

Commentator: Ms. Irina Pushkareva, Archivist, Central Archives of the Russian  
Ministry of Defense

**1:30 – 3:30 P.M.**

**Impact of Modern Technology on Archival Operations**

The concluding presentations offer a sampling of technologies which may be of assistance in facilitating efforts to locate, examine, analyze and share information helpful in the process of clarifying incidents of loss and subsequent circumstances relating to the fates of missing servicemen.

Presenters: Mr. Robert Richardson, Director, Special Media Archival Services Division, NARA, and

Ms. Jeannine Swift, Archivist, Modern Military Records, NARA

Commentator: Vladimir Viktorovich Kozin, Chief of the Central Archives, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation

**3:30 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Closing Remarks:** Dr. Timothy K. Nenninger, National Archives and Records Administration, and Co-Chairman, World War II Working Group, U.S. - Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs Colonel Sergey Ilenkov, Chief of Archival Services, General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation