



# *Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet*

## **ISSUE: Personnel Recovery Mission Area Analysis**

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to the passage of the Missing Persons Act, DoD and its components dealt with personnel recovery on an *ad hoc* basis, with no overarching plan for the future. Recent military operations (e.g., DESERT FOX and ALLIED FORCE) relying almost exclusively on air power to achieve U.S. ends reinforce the need for the U.S. Government (USG) to possess a robust recovery capability. As a result, construction of a DoD architecture for recovery has taken on increased emphasis.

**DISCUSSION:** The most significant finding of the 1998 Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel Recovery Conference was the need to undertake a comprehensive mission area analysis for the personnel recovery function. This finding, coupled with the expanding nature of the fullest possible accounting function requires us to reexamine, from a strategic viewpoint, the organizations and activities involved in each of these areas. DPMO is in the process of evaluating vendors' market analyses to undertake such a major study to fulfill these needs. This project is a key component of our strategic plan and will form a basis of our long-range direction into the future.

The mission area analysis will analyze the full spectrum of recovery functions (including subsequent accounting) at the DoD and interagency level to enhance the USG ability to recover its isolated personnel successfully, and to support the President's Strategy of Engagement. Results of the study will directly impact force structure, contingency planning, interagency cooperation, funding, etc., all of which will be of interest to the Secretary of Defense.