



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet

ISSUE: Personnel Recovery Advisory Group (PRAG)

BACKGROUND: Communication within the Personnel Recovery Community (for which DPMO is the policy-lead) is a major challenge. Many agencies from throughout the government, especially within DoD, are undertaking significant initiatives to improve USG personnel recovery capabilities, but not everyone is aware of the various projects underway. Under the Missing Persons Act (MPA), paragraphs 1501(a)(1)(B), and (a)(2), DPMO is responsible for, “coordination for the Department of Defense with other departments and agencies of the United States on all matters concerning missing persons,” and, “within DoD among the military departments, the Joint Staff, and the commanders of the combatant commands.”

DISCUSSION: The PRAG provides a forum for DPMO to exercise this aspect of its responsibilities under the MPA at a senior level. The DASD POW/Missing Personnel Affairs chairs the PRAG. The PRAG is a policy advisory body composed of representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the DoD Intelligence Community, the Air Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the National Security Council, and the Department of State. The PRAG will provide the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary for Policy with independent, informed advice and opinion concerning major matters of U.S. Government personnel recovery policy.

The PRAG’s primary focus is on long-term, enduring issues central to personnel recovery planning. However, the PRAG may also be convened at the request of the DASD (POW/Missing Personnel) or any of the PRAG’s principal members to address problems of a more immediate nature or provide crisis support to the Secretary of Defense. For example, the PRAG met immediately prior to commencement of the air campaign conducted during Operation DESERT FOX.

Principals.

DASD(POW/Missing Personnel Affairs)
 DUSD(ASC)
 Director, Overseas Citizens Bureau, Department of State
 Director, Policy Support, DIA
 Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
 Chief, Military & Special Projects Division, CIA
 Service & SOCOM Representatives

Dep. Dir. for Command, Control, and Communications,
 OASD(C³I)
 Dir. of Operations & Policy, USCG
 DASD for Policy Support, ASD(SO/LIC)
 Deputy Director for Operations, The Joint Staff
 HQ, AF/DXOO
 Director of Defense Policy, National Security Council

Supporting participants.

Operations Directorate, DPMO
 Plans & Policy Directorate, DPMO
 General Counsel, DPMO
 OSD General Counsel
 Mr. Ed Betancourt, Department of State
 Colonel Ken Pribyla, HQ, AF/XOOP
 Colonel Michael Bergstresser Commander, JSSA
 Colonel Denver Pletcher, JCRA
 AF RCC

Chief, J3 (SOD)
 Chief, Personnel Recovery Division, M&SP Division, CIA
 Chief, Office of Search & Rescue, Headquarters, USCG
 Executive Secretary for the ICSAR
 Policy Advisor, DIA
 Staff Officer, NRO
 Staff Officer, NSA
 POW/MIA Analyst, NIMA
 Policy Officer, ASD(PA)