



UW MIA RECOVERY & IDENTIFICATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE MIA RECOVERY & IDENTIFICATION TEAM LEAD

Dear Reader, the Team and I are very excited to publish our first newsletter. We appreciate you taking the time to read and learn about our current activities. We are excited to start the new year on campus with the ability to work in person as it is

beneficial to the students and staff to work on cases in a close working environment. COVID has impacted the Project significantly over the past two years. With the postponement of field missions, our focus has been diverted primarily to historical

investigative case work, database entry with the inclusion of AI and machine learning, and the advancement of biological identification processes. We have a busy year ahead of us, and we look forward to reporting future achievements!

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- Launching a new giving program
- A look ahead at MIA RIP field missions in 2022
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- The MIA Research and Identification Team 'Out & About in Wisconsin'



POW/MIA DAY AT THE WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL

POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September to remember and honor prisoners of war and those who remain missing during service. This year, military and veterans organizations gathered at the Wisconsin State Capitol to dedicate a permanent chair as a memorial to POWs and

MIAs from all past U.S. conflicts. At present, approximately 82,000 service members are still considered Missing in Action. Charles Konsitzke, the team lead of the UW MIA RIP, participated in the Capitol ceremony as the keynote speaker, along with state representatives and Governor Tony Evers.

NEW ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM LAUNCHED!



The UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project has created new ways to give.

Check out our suggested contribution levels, including scholarship opportunities, case research support, and field mission support. Each level is named after a military aircraft, making it more fun to give!

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

HUEY HELICOPTER - \$25+

F-100 SUPER SABRE - \$100+

C-5 GALAXY - \$500+

F-16 FIGHTING FALCON - \$1,600+

F-35 LIGHTNING - \$3,500+

T-7 RED HAWK - \$7,000+

A-10 THUNDERBOLT - \$10,000+

B-25 MITCHELL - \$25,000+

CONTRIBUTE NOW!

All donations (100%) go to support MIA Project objectives!

FIELD MISSIONS ABROAD

We are following leads on excavation sites in Belgium, Poland, and China for Summer 2022 and beyond!

Each summer since 2016, COVID permitting, our field mission team has traveled abroad to excavate and recover the remains of U.S. MIAs in partnership with the DPAA. We plan to return to the field in Summer 2022.



MIA RIP Field Team in Madison testing new shakers developed by the Team. These new shakers will be easier to transport, can be assembled in just five minutes, and are much more convenient than current shakers (shown below from our recent field mission in France).



STUDENT AND STAFF RESEARCH UPDATE

COVID has forced us to adapt, but we are still going strong!

Each year, we work with about 30 undergraduate and graduate students, who volunteer their time to help research individual MIA case biographies, military service, and the possible location of remains.



Above - Staff Torrey Tiedeman and V. Cook visit the WWII Air Show, Waukesha
Below - Dr. Vaneesa Cook, MIA Project Historian, researching at WI Veterans Museum



Our volunteers have conducted their research and training online this past year, but we are meeting again in the MIA Recovery and Identification Project Suite on campus this fall semester.



SOLDIERS ON SCREEN

During the winter of 2021, we hosted a virtual discussion of films that depict service members. In this six-week series, we partnered with co-host historians to discuss and analyze films related to service members and their experiences as depicted on the big screen. Films included *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Apocalypse Now*, *The Green Berets*, *Rambo: First Blood*, *Home of the Brave*, *The Messenger*, and *Da 5 Bloods*. You can listen to the hour-long recordings of each session here: <https://www.biotech.wisc.edu/missing-in-action/Film-Webinars>

THE MIA RIP TEAM 'OUT & ABOUT IN WISCONSIN'



Top - The MIA RIP Team at the American Legion Conference in Middleton, WI;
Bottom left - Team Lead Charles Konsitzke with Governor Tony Evers; *Bottom right* - The MIA RIP Team at the POW/MIA Day presentation at the State Capitol.