

CHARRTS No.: SHSGAC-03-001
Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
Hearing Date: August 01, 2013
Subject: Mismanagement of POW/MIA Accounting
Witness: Maj Gen Winfield
Senator: Senator Ayotte
Question: #1

Question: The 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) sets an accounting goal of identifying at least 200 missing persons annually. The Secretary of Defense is "to increase significantly the capability and capacity" of the Department of Defense (DoD) to better contribute to the mission. - Secretary Winfield and Major General McKeague, what funding levels would you need in FY14 and FY15 to achieve the 200-identification requirement by FY15? - Major General McKeague, how will sequestration in 2013 and 2014 affect the mission?

Answer: The Department continues to fund the personnel accounting community to comply with the goal of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY10 to increase the capability and capacity of the Department to account annually for the remains of 200 formerly unaccounted-for service members beginning in FY15. In FY14, the Department of Defense requested, via the President's budget request, approximately \$21 million for the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, \$118 million for the Joint POW/Missing in Action Accounting Command, \$11million for that part of the Armed Forces Identification Laboratory that supports the personnel accounting community, and \$300,000 for the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory. The President's FY15 budget request is still being developed.

Question: #2

Question: The July 2013 Government Accountability Office report acknowledged that Secretary Winfield has made improvements in some areas, but it found that problems persisted and impeded DoD's efforts to ensure the effective and efficient accomplishment of the mission. -Secretary Winfield and Major General McKeague, what reforms are you pursuing to make DPMO and JPAC more efficient and to help accomplish the mission?

Answer: Since arriving at DPMO in May 2012, I have undertaken several initiatives to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. To increase cooperation and collaboration in the personnel accounting community, I initiated monthly Video Teleconferences (VTCs) that include all the accounting community partners. Representatives from the Joint Staff, the military services, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, General McKeague and I, participate in these VTCs. These conferences allow the personnel accounting community to regularly come together and discuss issues vital to accounting for our missing. Additionally, I directed that DPMO issue annual planning guidance to the personnel accounting community to ensure that we are all planning towards the same goal. Separate from this, DPMO is issuing updated guidance on roles and responsibilities among DoD organizations for the personnel accounting mission and on personnel accounting processes and procedures.

DPMO also leads capability planning for the accounting community through a series of working

groups and is leading efforts to implement the GAO's recommendations. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Dr. James Miller, fully embraced the recent findings in the Government Accountability Office report about the longstanding challenges in accounting for missing persons, concurring in eight of their recommendations, and concurring in part in the ninth. Dr. Miller recently asked the Joint Staff for assistance in implementing three of the recommendations: developing a memorandum of agreement between the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory and JPAC; formalizing communication procedures between JPAC and the Military Departments' casualty offices; and developing and implementing a coordination mechanism between the U.S. Pacific Command and other commands where JPAC is likely to operate. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy is leading the implementation of the other six recommendations and DPMO performs an important role in implementing these recommendations.

Regarding improvements within DPMO, I asked the DoD's Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) to perform a capability and capacity assessment for DPMO and to assist me with strategic planning to achieve the goals in the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. I also asked that DCMO provide supporting external reviews of the DPMO and Accounting Community process and capabilities. This assessment identified organizational process and performance improvement recommendations to ensure we would have sufficient resources increased capabilities by Fiscal Year 2015. Through this effort we better defined our strategic goals and instituted an internal re-organization of DPMO to help achieve those goals.

Question: #3

Question: The 2010 NDAA required the Secretary of Defense to "implement a comprehensive, coordinated, integrated, and fully resourced program" to account for missing persons. -Secretary Winfield and Major General McKeague, when will the FY14 Capacity and Capability Plan be finalized and released to the committee?

Answer: The Personnel Accounting Community Capability and Capacity Plan is currently being revised based on input received during internal DoD coordination of the initial draft and the continued impacts of the Budget Control Act of 2011. The finalized plan will also reflect any recommendations identified in the Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) organizational review of the entire personnel accounting community. We expect CAPE's review to be completed in early 2014. The Department commits to provide a briefing to the Committee once it is finalized.