

POW Investigative Project (PIP) Launches on Veterans Day Innovative Site Combines Investigative Reporting & Global Crowdsourcing

(Washington, Nov. 11, 2017) Designed to help solve some of the most controversial and enduring mysteries in US history, the POW Investigative Project (PIP) www.powinvestigativeproject.org launches this Veterans Day, Nov. 11th. The multilingual site combines global crowdsourcing, investigative reporting, international freelancers and insights from former top government experts on POW/MIA and human rights issues. [@POWIProj](http://www.powinvestigativeproject.org)

The project invites contributors from across the world to provide information on US servicemen missing from the Korean, Cold and Vietnam Wars. The site launches with information in seven languages plus English (Russian, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Lao, Polish and Spanish), with more to come. Online contributors may volunteer to share information or, in some cases, accept paid research assignments to resolve specific leads.

With the Pentagon now largely focused on identifying POW/MIA remains already stored in its labs, the PIP investigates reports of Americans secretly held by communist regimes and never returned (alive or dead) – reports the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) now asserts are supported by “no substantiated evidence.”

Take Cold War Navy aviators Lloyd Smith, Jr. and William McClure. Declassified US files obtained by PIP report the men were likely captured by communist forces after their recon plane was shot down off Shantou, China in 1953. The family of Smith is actively seeking information on his fate. The PIP site provides information on the incident in Chinese and asks contributors to track down PRC government records, photos, local newspaper reports or other evidence that could help resolve the fates of Smith and McClure. As part of its mission, the PIP also fights to declassify US intelligence records (some decades old) on American POW/MIAs, including Top Secret and Secret records held back earlier this year related to US prisoners in North Korea and other locations (The family of a POW featured on the PIP site is suing the US government for files on Americans taken to the USSR. goo.gl/fQuuwc)

PIP advisors and consultants include:

- Garnett “Bill” Bell: Widely-regarded as among America’s top experts on Vietnam POW/MIA issues, Bell served as Chief of the U.S. Office for POW/MIA Affairs in Hanoi;
- Chuck Downs: Expert on North Korea, former Executive Director of the US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and ex-Deputy Director in the Pentagon’s East Asia office;
- Norm Kass: Leading expert on the involvement of the Soviet Union with US POW/MIAs, Kass served for 18 years as the US Staff Director of the Presidentially-mandated US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs;
- Eric Longabardi: A national-award winning TV producer and investigative journalist with expertise in national security issues; and
- John Zimmerlee: Known for his unmatched databases on cases of specific POW/MIAs from the Korean War, Zimmerlee is the son of Capt. John H. Zimmerlee, an Air Force officer missing in Korea.

A nonprofit company, the PIP was founded by Mark Sauter, who serves as its president and investigative correspondent. An author and former award-winning investigative reporter and online news executive, Sauter’s research on unrepatriated US POWs has been widely cited by major media organizations. He is also a former Army officer with service in the DMZ between South and North Korea.