



## The Knox County Joint Veterans Council are looking for **volunteers!!!**

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. **Contact Carol Riley @**

**[740-504-3264](tel:740-504-3264) if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!**



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. And they do this without thought of payment. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased soldier, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

### Remains of soldier who disappeared during Korean War identified

BOSTON — A soldier from Massachusetts who went missing during the Korean War and was later reported to have died in a prisoner of war camp has been accounted for using modern scientific techniques, military officials said.

Army Cpl. Joseph J. Puopolo, 19, of East Boston, was accounted for in August, according to a statement Friday from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

It was the news his family — including his now 99-year-old sister Elizabeth Fiorentini — has been awaiting for decades, Fiorentini's grandson and Puopolo's grandnephew, Richard Graham, said in a telephone interview Saturday. "We have all heard about him, and we all knew of him, and we all knew he was a war hero. We always hoped we'd find him," he said. "But I never thought my grandmother would be here for it."

Fiorentini had not seen her brother since she was in her 20s, and had mixed reactions on hearing the news that his remains had been identified. "In her mind it was like he died again," Graham said.

Puopolo, an artilleryman with the 8th Army, was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after his unit attempted to withdraw from Kunu-ri, North Korea, following the Battle of Ch'ongch'on, according to the military. Four former POWs reported in 1953 that Puopolo had died at a POW camp in February 1951.

After the war, the sides exchanged remains, but not all could be identified and those were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, the agency said.

A set of previously unidentified remains were disinterred in December 2019, and identified as being those of Puopolo through dental and anthropological analysis, mitochondrial DNA analysis and circumstantial evidence, the agency said.

The family hopes to hold a burial service for Puopolo in another month or so either in a family plot in Malden or the veterans' cemetery in Bourne, Graham said. Puopolo was one of six children, all of whom had large families of their own, and as many as 60 or 70 relatives might show.

"He has not been forgotten," Graham said.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2022/09/25/remains-of-soldier-who-disappeared-during-korean-war-identified/>

### USS Ronald Reagan, South Korean ships launch drills

SEOUL, South Korea — The aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan and its carrier strike group launched drills with South Korean warships off the Korean Peninsula's east coast on Monday in their first such training in five years, a day after North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile in a possible response to the exercise.

North Korea could conduct more tests in coming days as it views U.S.-South Korean military exercises as practice for an invasion and often reacts with displays of weapons designed to attack its rivals.

The four days of drills are aimed at demonstrating the allies' "powerful resolve to respond to North Korean provocations" and improving their ability to perform joint naval operations, the South Korean navy said in a statement.

More than 20 U.S. and South Korean navy ships, including the Reagan, a U.S. cruiser and South Korean and U.S. destroyers, were mobilized for the drills, according to the navy statement. It said U.S. and South Korean fighter jets and helicopters will also take part in the training.

It would be the first such joint drills involving a U.S. aircraft carrier near the peninsula since 2017, when the U.S. sent three aircraft carriers including the Reagan for naval drills with South Korea in response to North Korean nuclear and missile tests. The allies had since cancelled or downsized some of their regular drills to support now-dormant talks on North Korea's nuclear program or guard against COVID-19.

The North Korean missile fired on Sunday flew about 370 miles at the maximum altitude of 37 miles before falling into the waters off the North's east coast, according to South Korean estimates. Some experts say North Korea might have launched a nuclear-capable, highly maneuverable ballistic missile and that its 600 kilometer-flight had enough range to strike a southeastern South Korean port where the Reagan was previously docked.

North Korea has performed a record number of missile tests this year as it steadfastly rebuffs U.S. and South Korean calls to resume the nuclear diplomacy. North Korea has said it won't return to talks unless the United States drops its hostile policies in an apparent reference to U.S.-South Korean military drills and U.S.-led economic sanctions on it.

Earlier this month, North Korea adopted a new law that authorized the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in some situations, a development that showed its increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine. Some analysts say North Korea would eventually aim for arms control negotiations with the United States to get sanctions relief and other concessions in return for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/09/26/uss-ronald-reagan-south-korean-ships-launch-drills/>



## US, China lead list of top defense spenders in 2021

The United States once again topped the list of military spenders, a report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute found.

Globally, the amount spent on defense reached an all-time high in 2021, with more than \$2.1 trillion spent on the world's militaries. And while that equates to only a 0.7% increase from expenditures in 2020 — which topped out at \$1.98 billion and was the largest total spent since 1988 — it remains a telling number, considering tensions both in Europe and in the Pacific.

“Even amid the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, world military spending hit record levels,” Diego Lopes da Silva, senior researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program, said in the report. “There was a slowdown in the rate of real-terms growth due to inflation. In nominal terms, however, military spending grew by 6.1%.”

The top five spenders — the U.S., China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, respectively — accounted for 62% of the world's total military expenditures last year.

Reaching a massive \$801 billion spent in 2021, the U.S. has increased its military research and development costs by a whopping 24% in the last decade, the report showed, despite spending less on arms procurement. “The increase in R&D spending over the decade 2012–2021 suggests that the United States is focusing more on next-generation technologies,” Alexandra Marksteiner, a SIPRI researcher, said. “The U.S. government has repeatedly stressed the need to preserve the U.S. military's technological edge over strategic competitors.”

Numbers are projected to be even higher for 2022, as the war in Ukraine kicked off a global defense spending spree for countries on both sides of the conflict. Russia spent approximately \$65 billion last year building up its military prior to February's invasion of Ukraine.

“High oil and gas revenues helped Russia to boost its military spending in 2021,” Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program, said in the report. However, “Russian military expenditure had been in decline between 2016 and 2019 as a result of low energy prices combined with sanctions in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.”

In the wake of that Russian invasion and subsequent annexation of Crimea, Ukraine's military spending had risen by 72%. Total spending fell in 2021, however, to around \$6 billion.

Prior to the Aug. 23 announcement of another \$3 billion in aid, the U.S. had already contributed more than \$10 billion in support of Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion.

On the other side of the world, both Australia and Japan also increased military spending in 2021, moves analysts attribute to China's aggressive growth in the region. China allocated approximately \$293 billion to military spending in 2021, marking a nearly 5% increase from 2020.

“China's growing assertiveness in and around the South and the East China seas have become a major driver of military spending in countries such as Australia and Japan,” SIPRI senior researcher Nan Tian said.

“An example is the AUKUS trilateral security agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States that foresees the supply of eight nuclear-powered submarines to Australia at an estimated cost of up to \$128 billion.”

Japan added \$7 billion to its military spending budget, topping out the island nation at \$54.1 billion spent in 2021 and marking the country's highest annual increase since 1972. Australia's total spending grew by 4%, reaching around \$31.8 billion for the year.

Other notable spenders include Nigeria, which increased military spending by more than 50% to help in the fight against Boko Haram and Islamic State-West Africa, and Iran, which increased its military budget for the first time in four years, reaching \$24.6 billion.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2022/09/23/us-china-lead-list-of-top-defense-spenders-in-2021/>



Air Force 1st Lt. Zach McDermott, a pilot assigned to the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, conducts preflight checks on an WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.



Air Force explosives detection dog Sseneca works with handler Staff Sgt Sirmann Toliver at Air Base 201, Niger .