

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FORMER PRISONER OF WAR VETERANS



Annual Report

**Part I: Summary of the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoner of War
(ACFPOW) 2020 Recommendations Report**

**Part II: ACFPOW 2020 Recommendations, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Responses and 2020 Action Plans**

Part I: Summary of ACFPOW 2020 Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Office of Enterprise Integration (OEI): The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS), shall update the NCVAS Pocket Card with the “Estimated Number of American Former Prisoners of War,” as of 9/30/2020, by the end of the third quarter of FY 2021, and subsequently update this information on an annual basis.

Recommendation #2: The National Cemetery Administration (NCA): The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration shall add a specific checkbox termed “POW” in an appropriate placement on VA Form 40-1330 for future inscriptions, and include a POW headstone or marker in the illustrations, when the form is updated subsequent to its December 31, 2020, expiration.

Recommendation #3: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration shall develop an accurate demographic review of living Former Prisoners of War through collaboration with other departments (e.g., the Department of Defense, the Social Security Administration, etc.), which results in listing/count of living American Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) as of 9/30/2020. The review to be provided by the end of the first quarter of FY 2021.

Part II: ACFPOW 2020 Recommendations, VA Responses and 2020 Action Plan Templates

Committee Recommended Action 1: The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS), shall update the NCVAS Pocket Card with the “Estimated Number of American Former Prisoners of War,” as of 9/30/2020, by the end of the third quarter of FY 2021, and subsequently, update this information on an annual basis.

VA Response: Concur.

OEI, NCVAS, is collaborating with VBA to acquire this information for incorporation into the NCVAS Pocket Card during fiscal year (FY) 2021.

OEI Action Plan					
Recommendation #1:					
Lead Office	Other Offices	Tasks	Due Date	Current Status	Contact Person
VBA	OEI	Provide data on the estimated number of living FPOWs.	3/31/2021	In progress	Kevin Secor, (Observation & Examination (O&E))
OEI	VBA	Incorporate data received from VBA into the NCVAS Pocket Card.	6/30/2021	Pending	Angus St. Hilaire, (OEI)

Part II: FPOW 2020 Recommendations, VA Responses and 2020 Action Plan Templates

Committee Recommended Action 2: The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration shall add a specific checkbox termed “POW” in an appropriate placement on VA Form 40-1330 for future inscriptions, and include a POW headstone or marker in the illustrations when the form is updated subsequent to its December 31, 2020, expiration.

VA Response: Concur in principle.

NCA will add a box for POW and EX-POW to include adding a photograph of a marker showing an inscription of either POW or EX-POW to VA Form 40-1330, *Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker* with these changes will be completed no later than December 2021 due to the process and approval procedures for updating. The current VA Form 40-1330 will remain valid until this update has been completed.

NCA Action Plan					
Recommendation #2:					
Lead Office	Other Offices	Tasks	Due Date	Current Status	Contact Person
NCA		1. NCA will add a box for POW and EX-POW to the VA Form 40-1330.	12/31/2020	Pending	Eric Powell, (NCA)
NCA		2. NCA will add a photograph of a marker showing an inscription of either POW or EX-POW to the VA Form 40-1330.	3/31/2021	Pending	Eric Powell, (NCA)
NCA	OMB	3. NCA will submit a new form to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval.	6/30/2021	Pending	Eric Powell, (NCA)
NCA		4. NCA will publish new VA Form 40-1330.	12/31/2021	Pending	Eric Powell, (NCA)

Part II: FPOW 2020 Recommendations, VA Responses and 2020 Action Plan Templates

Committee Recommended Action 3: The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration shall develop an accurate demographic review of living Former Prisoners of War through collaboration with other departments (e.g., the Department of Defense, the Social Security Administration, etc.), which results in listing/count of living American Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) as of 9/30/2020. The review to be provided by the end of the first quarter of FY2021.

VA Response: Concur in principle.

VBA will work with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain a listing/count of living American Former Prisoners of War by the end of the first quarter of FY 2021. We concur in principle that VBA can only provide an account based on the FPOW within the VA system and data received from collaborating Federal agencies.

VBA Action Plan					
Recommendation #3:					
Lead Office	Other Offices	Tasks	Due Date	Current Status	Contact Person
O&E	Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity (PA&I)	1. Work with PA&I to obtain a current listing of all FPOW within the VA system to include the date of death.	10/12/2020	Pending	Kevin Secor, (O&E) Frank Smith, (PA&I)
O&E	DoD	2. Work with DoD to obtain a listing of all FPOW.	10/12/2020	Pending	Kevin Secor, (O&E) Stephen Wellock (DoD: Human Resources Activity Defense Manpower Data Center)
O&E	SSA	3. Work with SSA request assistance in determining the date of death.	11/30/2020	Pending	Kevin Secor, (O&E) Paula Geppi (SSA: Office Central Operations)
O&E	OEI	4. Provide numbers of FPOW to OEI for Pocket Card.	12/04/2020	Pending	Kevin Secor, (O&E) Jennifer Jessup, (OEI)
O&E		5. Provide a final number of FPOW to ACFPOW.	12/31/2020	Pending	Kevin Secor, (O&E)