

ss 33(a)(iii), 33(b)

ss 33(a)(iii), 47F(1)

ss 33(a)(iii)



## Australian Korean War Unrecovered War Casualties

### Talking Points

- . Encouraging to see North Korea return the remains of the 55 US service personnel, who were missing in action (MIAs) from the Korean War.
- . 43 Australian service personnel are still unrecovered on the Peninsula due to the Korean War
  - their families and the Australian public would be grateful for the opportunity to work with you to help return their remains to Australia
    - : particularly interested in the return of any human remains which may be of Australian origin through the United Nations Command
    - : keen to discuss the potential for access for Australian forensic teams
      - to sites in the North Korea known as the last location of missing Australian service personnel
      - and to the Demilitarised Zone to locate Australian remains
- . would it be possible for our officials to arrange working level discussions about potential exhumation and recovery of our fallen?

### Background

Australia does not have access to North Korea to undertake searches for our missing service personnel. s 33(a)(iii)

. Australia is working at all levels to highlight the importance of our missing service personnel s 33(a)(iii)

The joint declaration signed by President Trump and Kim Jong Un on 12 June 2018 specifically committed to the recovery and repatriation of POW and MIA remains. This and the recent repatriation of 55 sets of remains to the United States, offers hope for the recovery of some of the still missing Australian servicemen.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has made diplomatic representations to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regarding unrecovered war casualties from the Korean War. For example, in November 2016, senior officials from the Australian embassy in Seoul raised the issue with the North Korean government in Pyongyang. In March 2018, DFAT conveyed further correspondence on the matter to the North Korean authorities.

The Australian Department of Defence is responsible for, and committed to, the recovery of historic unrecovered war casualties. It maintains a small and niche forensic recovery capability, including specialists in anthropology, dental identification, archaeology and DNA, as well as investigators and historians. If access was granted, a team could be deployed. s 33(a)(iii)















