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Last Updated: 04/21/2023

U.S. to Pay Air Fare for Relatives To Conference on Vietnam Missing

Knight-Ridder

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The federal government will pay round-trip air fares this week to Washington for relatives of 2,494 Americans unaccounted for after the Vietnam war.

The invitation was in Defense Department letters mailed nationwide. Except for a letter sent last year seeking current addresses, some relatives said the announcement was the first military correspondence received by them since their relatives were reported missing or killed in action as long as 18 years ago.

The trip to a meeting of the National League of POW-MIA Families was approved by the government last week, and the cost was not immediately known. The meeting date is to commemorate the 10th anni-

versary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, which marked the end of hostilities in Vietnam.

An Air Force spokesman said 313 acceptances were received by the deadline last Friday. Air Force planes will be used to transport the relatives from 19 Air Force bases throughout the country.

Relatives are being asked to bring full-facial photographs and dental and medical records of their missing kin from personal physicians.

According to the letter, the government has received 1,682 reports of prisoners of war or of personnel missing in action since the capture of Saigon in 1975. Of those, 465 were first-hand "live-sighting" reports, with 241 individuals since accounted for.

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This is the
kind of thing we
need to get active
in. Take care.
—WBR