

Institute of National Remembrance

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Directors of an American government agency visit Professor Krzysztof Szwagrzyk, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance - 6 November 2018







On 6 November 2018, Prof. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, and Anna Szelağ, Deputy Director of the IPN's Office of Search and Identification, hosted Colonel Brian Pearl and Russell L. Grimley of the American government agency "Defense Prisoner of War / Missing in Action Accounting Agency" (DPAA). During the meeting the participants discussed the scope of work of both institutions and their similar goals. Professor Szwagrzyk underlined that Poles treat the remains of their soldiers with equal respect as the Americans. During the meeting, the principles of future cooperation were discussed. It would involve searching for the remains of American soldiers who died during the Second World War. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk emphasized that the IPN and DPAA, both being state institutions, apply highest standards to their work and cannot afford the slightest mistake. He added that the Institute cooperates only with experienced, tried and trusted institutions employing top-class specialists.

Colonel Brian Pearl talked about the search for soldiers killed in Vietnam, which ended in the 1970s, and the resolution of the Congress of 2010, ordering the search for the remains

of American soldiers from the Second World War. At the same time, he emphasized that one should hurry, because the closest family members are passing away and gathering genetic material becomes more and more difficult.

During the meeting, the Deputy President of the IPN talked about the work of the Office of Search and Identification and the ceremonial handing out identification notes to members of the families of victims of communist totalitarianism, during which IPN announces the names of people whose remains were found as a result of the work carried out by the Office.

Both parties declared their will to cooperate and the readiness to sign an official agreement.