

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

No. 003-M
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Chinese officials will return human remains believed to be from a World War II bomber crew to a U.S. team in Beijing, China, in a ceremony on January 17. The bomber, a B-24, crashed in a southern province on August 31, 1944, after a bombing mission against Japanese shipping near Formosa. The B-24 carried a crew of 10 airmen.

A six-member U.S. team will survey the crash site to assess plans to return for a full-scale excavation in the spring. It is believed that remains of other crew members may still be in place with the aircraft debris, based on information provided by the Chinese. The crash had apparently remained undisturbed for 52 years because of its extremely remote location. It was discovered by villagers searching the mountainous area for herbs.

U.S. officials charged with accounting for missing U.S. servicemen have established contact with representatives of all ten crewmembers, and will update the families as the forensic identification process continues.