

NEWS RELEASE
JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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REPATRIATION CEREMONY JANUARY 12, 1998

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII -- Remains believed to be those of five U.S. servicemen unaccounted for from the conflict in Southeast Asia will be repatriated in a ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1998.

The remains were recovered during joint field work conducted by U.S. and Vietnamese officials in the northern provinces of Vietnam in November 1997. The recovery of remains followed extensive investigative work to locate aircraft crash or burial sites.

Joint Task Force-Full Accounting was created six years ago to expand U.S. government efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for Americans who did not return from the war in Southeast Asia. Since its creation, the task force has repatriated more than 400 remains. Excavation sites relating to more than 200 additional unaccounted-for Americans have also been identified for future excavation work.

After the repatriation ceremony, the remains will go to the Central Identification Laboratory at Hickam AFB where they will under go analysis for individual biological identification.

Media representatives who wish to cover the repatriation ceremony should contact Maj. Joe Davis at 15th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office, Hickam AFB HI. Ph. 449-2490

Please contact Lt. Col. Roger King at 477-5301 or Lt. Col. Barbara Claypool at 477-5401 with any questions or for additional information about JTF-FA.