

NEWS RELEASE
JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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HAWAII MIA SEARCH TEAM DEPLOYS TO VIETNAM

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII – A team of 101 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists left for Vietnam last weekend with hopes of recovering human remains that may lead to the identification of American servicemen listed as missing in action since the war in Southeast Asia.

On Thursday, members from Joint Task Force-Full Accounting at Camp Smith and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Lab at Hickam Air Force Base will join technical representatives from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to begin joint investigations and remains recovery operations in 26 Vietnamese provinces. Fifty-two cases involving potential aircraft and ground losses are scheduled to be investigated during the 30-day operation. As many as 10 sites may be excavated.

Since 1973, the remains of 505 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. Yet, there are currently 2,078 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 1,549 in Vietnam. Seeking the fullest accounting of American service members is one of the highest national priorities for the United States, which welcomes and appreciates the cooperation and assistance of the Vietnamese in these investigative and recovery operations.

This will be the 38th Joint Field Activity conducted in Vietnam, and the 94th overall JFA in the tri-country region of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia since Joint Task Force-Full Accounting was formed in January 1992 at Camp Smith.

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(Note: The 101 team members are comprised of 55 U.S. Army, 21 Air Force, nine Marines, nine Navy, and seven Department of Defense civilians.)