

NEWS RELEASE  
JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
(808) 477-5301

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## HAWAII MIA SEARCH TEAM DEPLOYS TO LAOS

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII - A team of 43 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists are scheduled to depart for Laos Friday night with hopes of recovering human remains that may lead to the identification of American servicemen listed as missing in action from the war in Southeast Asia.

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 Lao Democratic People's Republic to begin joint remains recovery operations within the southeastern province of Savannakhet. The 43 team members are comprised of 30 U.S. Army, five Air Force, three Navy, one Marine, and four Department of Defense civilians. As many as 10 sites may be excavated during the 30-day operation.

Since 1973, the remains of 510 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. Of the 2,073 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 444 are in Laos. This will be the 40th Joint Field Activity conducted in Laos, and the 97th 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.

(Note to Media: Media organizations interested in covering the team's departure should RSVP to JTF-FA Public Affairs at 477-5401 (or cell phone 292-4869) by noon, Friday, Jan. 8, to arrange a showtime at Hickam's main gate visitor center parking lot. Deploying personnel will be gathering at 9 p.m., with the aircraft scheduled to depart at 10:45 p.m.)