

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

September 16, 1999

RELEASE NO. #99-25

---

## MIA SEARCH TEAM DEPLOYS TO VIETNAM

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII -- A team of 98 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists leave for Vietnam Friday (Sept. 17) evening with hopes of recovering remains that may lead to the identification of American service members listed as missing in action since the war in Southeast Asia.

On Tuesday, 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 23 Vietnamese provinces and cities. Sixty-eight cases involving aircraft and ground losses are scheduled for investigation during the 30-day operation. There are six primary excavation sites and three alternate locations.

Since 1973, the remains of 529 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. There are currently 2,054 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 1,530 in Vietnam.

This will be the 42nd Joint Field Activity conducted in Vietnam, and the 103rd 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. The 98 team members are comprised of 46 U.S. Army, 21 Air Force, 12 Navy, 10 Marines, and nine Department of Defense civilians.