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MIA SEARCH TEAM DEPLOYS TO VIETNAM

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII - A Joint Field Activity consisting of one underwater investigation team and five recovery teams will deploy from Hickam Air Force Base to Vietnam on July 6, with hopes of recovering remains leading to the identification of American servicemen still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The teams consist of 89 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists from Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii and the Joint Field Operating Base, Hawaii (Stony Beach).

On July 9, team members will be joined by technical representatives from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to begin joint investigations and remains recovery operations in nine Vietnamese provinces and cities. Eight underwater cases involving aircraft losses are scheduled for investigation during the 30-day operation. In addition, five primary sites involving aircraft and ground losses are scheduled for excavation.

Since 1973, the remains of 619 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. There are currently 1,966 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 1,481 in Vietnam.

The 89 investigation and recovery team members consist of 49 Army, 11 Air Force, three Marine, 17 Navy personnel, and nine Department of Defense civilians.