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JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING CHANGE OF COMMAND

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Joint Task Force-Full Accounting Public Affairs

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii - Brig. Gen. Steven J. Redmann, U.S. Air Force assumed command of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) from Brig. Gen. Harry B. Axson, Jr., U.S. Army, during a change of command ceremony July 23 at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Dennis C. Blair was the guest speaker as well as the official presiding over the ceremony. Blair presented the Defense Superior Service Medal to Axson and commented not only on Axson's achievements during his tenure, but on the overall importance of the task force's mission. "Today we are bearing witness to a change of command of a very unique mission. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting's mission is a pledge that we keep to each other, to all of our brothers and sisters in arms." Blair added, "The Joint Task Force's mission is about binding wounds and healing the scars of war."

Once the JTF-FA guidon was passed to Redmann and he officially assumed command, he told his troops that he expects them to keep doing the excellent work that JTF-FA has become so well known for. "I can not fully express how fortunate I am to be selected to command JTF-FA. In the few days that I've been here I've talked to a few of the service men and women that go out on these mission to bring our men home. In every conversation, one thing has become clear; this has been the most rewarding experience that our soldiers, sailors, airman and Marines have had in their entire careers."

Brig. Gen. Steven J. Redmann hails from Belleville, Ill. and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a Master of Science degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas. Redmann has served in various operational and staff positions and most recently as commander of the 15th Air Base Wing at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Brig. Gen. Redmann has earned two Legions of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Force Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal and several unit awards.

Prior to its inception in 1992, the task force was known as the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC). This was an organization that began spearheading U.S. government accounting efforts in 1973. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting directly reports to U.S. Commander in Chief Pacific and was officially established in 1992. Since 1992, JTF-FA has performed over 3,400 case investigations and 590 recovery operations which have led to the repatriation of more than 500 sets of remains believed to be those of American servicemen unaccounted-for as a result of the war in Southeast Asia. As of press time, there are 1,957 unaccounted-for Americans in Southeast Asia. In the Socialist Republic of Vietnam there are 1,476, 415 in the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, 60 in the Kingdom of Cambodia and eight in the Peoples Republic of China.

Brig. Gen. Harry B. Axson, Jr. is scheduled to report to Washington, D.C. to serve as the Director of Military Personnel Management, Office to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, U.S. Army.

More information about the U.S. government's full accounting can be found on the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Office web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo. JTF-FA point of contact is: Capt. Gina Jackson (808) 477-5301.