

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

January 7, 1998

RELEASE NO. #98-02

---

JTF-FA DEPLOYS TEAMS TO LAOS JANUARY 7, 1998

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII -- On January 13, 1998, (Lao date) technical representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the United States will begin joint investigations and remains recovery operations pertaining to Americans unaccounted for in Laos as a result of the war in Southeast Asia.

This will be the 36th Joint Field Activity conducted by U.S. and Lao representatives since Joint Task Force-Full Accounting was formed in January 1992. Operations are planned for five Lao provinces and are scheduled to last 31 days. The joint team plans to investigate as many as 27 cases and excavate up to eight sites. The U.S. team will consist of 43 specialists with experience in investigations and remains recovery operations and will be joined by Lao officials.

The U.S. team will be led by U.S. Army LTC James Ransick, Commander of JTF-FA Detachment Three in Vientiane. There are 2,099 Americans still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Of that total, 450 are unaccounted for in Laos.

Seeking the fullest possible accounting of Americans unaccounted for as a result of the war in Southeast Asia is a matter of highest national priority for the United States. The U.S. welcomes and appreciates the co-operations and assistance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in these upcoming field operations.

Please contact Lt. Col. Roger King or Lt. Col. Barbara Claypool at 477-5401 or 477-5301 with any questions or for additional information.