

NEWS RELEASE
JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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HAWAII MIA SEARCH TEAM DEPLOYS TO VIETNAM

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII – A team of 93 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists leaves for Vietnam tonight with hopes of recovering human remains that may lead to the identification of American servicemen 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 15 Vietnamese provinces. Forty-seven cases involving potential aircraft and ground losses will be investigated during the 30-day operation. As many as eight sites will be excavated.

Since 1973, the remains of 506 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. Yet, there are currently 2,081 Americans still unaccounted for from the war in Southeast Asia, 1,554 in Vietnam. Seeking the fullest accounting of American service members is a high national priority for the United States, which welcomes and appreciates the cooperation and assistance of the Vietnamese in these investigative and recovery operations.

This will be the 37th Joint Field Activity conducted in Vietnam, and the 92nd 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.

Leading the American team is U.S. Army Lt. Col. Matt Martin, commander of JTF-FA's Detachment Two in Hanoi.