

NEWS RELEASE
JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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SERVICE MEMBER REMAINS RETURN FROM VIETNAM

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII -- Remains believed to be those of three U.S. servicemen, unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, will be repatriated in a ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base at 9 a.m., Friday, Nov. 6.

The remains were recovered in Vietnam in August and September by Vietnamese and U.S. military personnel assigned to Joint Task Force-Full Accounting at Camp Smith and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base. The remains recovery operation followed extensive investigative work to locate aircraft crash and ground battle sites. After the repatriation ceremony, the remains will go to the Central Identification Lab for forensic identification analysis.

Since 1973, the remains of 505 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted-for, have been recovered, identified and returned to their families. Yet, there are currently 2,078 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 1,549 in Vietnam.

Seeking the fullest accounting of American service members is one of the highest national priorities for the United States. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting was established in 1992 to expand U.S. Government efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans who did not return from the war in Southeast Asia. Currently, there is a 101-person team in Vietnam investigating 52 aircraft and ground loss cases, with as many as 10 sites being excavated during the 30-day operation.

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(NOTE: Media representatives who wish to cover the repatriation ceremony should contact Master Sergeant Gene LaDoucer at Hickam's Public Affairs Office at 449-2490. Additional media questions regarding the mission of JTF-FA should be addressed to Lt. Col. Franklin Childress at 477-5301 or Maj. Joe Davis at 477-5401.)