

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

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII -- A team of 43 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists are scheduled to deploy to Laos tonight with hopes of recovering remains that may lead to the identification of American servicemen listed as missing in action from the war in Southeast Asia.

On Tuesday (June 8), 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 Lao Democratic People's Republic to begin joint remains recovery operations within the southeastern province of Savannakhet. The team is comprised of 23 U.S. Army, eight Air Force, four Navy, four Marines, and four Department of Defense civilians. There are two primary excavation sites with seven alternate locations.

Since 1973, the remains of 522 American service members, formerly listed as missing and unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. Of the 2,061 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 444 are in Laos. This will be the 43rd Joint Field Activity conducted in Laos, and the 100th 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.