

## MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

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The remains of three Americans have been identified from the war in Southeast Asia and are being returned to their families for burial in the United States.

They are identified as Maj. Charles F. Morley of Warrensburg, Mo. and Capt. Thomas C. Daffron of Pinckneyville, Ill., both of the U.S. Air Force. A third Air Force officer, once missing in action from North Vietnam, was also identified but at the request of his family his name will not be released.

On Feb. 18, 1970 Morley and Daffron were flying a night strike mission over Khammouan Province, Laos, when their F-4C Phantom was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The crew of the other aircraft in the flight reported seeing a large fireball erupt approximately one mile east of the target area. There were no responses to the search and rescue radio calls and no emergency beeper signals were detected. Four days of additional search and rescue operations met with negative results.

In May of 1993 a joint U.S./Laos team, led by the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, interviewed several villagers in Khammouan Province who provided details about a nearby aircraft crash. Following the interview, the team was led to the crash site where they found wreckage and pilot-related items consistent with an F-4 crash.

In July and August of 1995 a second joint team excavated the crash site surveyed in 1993. The team recovered human remains and crew-related items. A third joint team completed the excavation in October of 1995 recovering additional human remains and crew-related items.

Anthropological analysis of the remains and other evidence by the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii confirmed the identification of these servicemen. With the accounting of these three, there are now 2,057 Americans unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. Since the release of American POWs in 1973, the remains of 526 MIAs from Southeast Asia have been accounted-for and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

The U.S. government welcomes and appreciates the cooperation of the governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that resulted in the accounting of these servicemen. We hope that such cooperation will bring increased results in the future. Achieving the fullest possible accounting for these Americans is of the highest national priority.