

January 05, 2001

RELEASE NO. #01-01

MIA Search Team Deploys to Laos and Cambodia

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii - Two teams of mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military and civilian specialists leave for Laos and Cambodia with hopes of recovering remains that may lead to the identification of American servicemen listed as unaccounted-for since the Vietnam War.

Today, a total of 76 members from Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, and the Joint Field Operating Base Hawaii (Stony Beach), will join technical representatives from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia to begin joint investigations and remains recovery operations in one Lao and nine Cambodian provinces. In Laos, a joint team plans to excavate three primary sites, with eight alternate excavation locations. In Cambodia, a separate joint team will investigate 12 case leads and excavate four primary sites, with three alternate excavation locations.

Since 1973, the remains of 592 American servicemen, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. There are currently 1,991 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 420 in Laos and 65 in Cambodia.

The U.S. Lao team will consist of 43 members comprised of 23 U.S. Army, eight Air Force, three Navy, four Marines, and five Department of Defense civilians. The U.S. Cambodia team will consist of 33 members comprised of 21 U.S. Army, nine Air Force, and three Department of Defense civilians. The U.S. Lao team will consist of 43 members comprised of 23 U.S. Army, eight Air Force, three Navy, four Marines, and five Department of Defense civilians. The U.S. Cambodia team will consist of 33 members comprised of 21 U.S. Army, nine Air Force, and three Department of Defense civilians.