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## Repatriation Ceremony for Seven U.S. Servicemen Killed in Helicopter Crash Scheduled for Friday

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii** - The remains of seven U.S. servicemen who died in a helicopter crash Saturday (Southeast Asia time) in Vietnam will be honored at an arrival ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base Friday at 1:30 p.m. (Hawaii Standard time).

Prior to the remains being returned from Vietnam, a repatriation ceremony will be held at the Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, Vietnam, to honor the U.S. victims of the accident. At the repatriation ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Pete Peterson and the Commander of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, Brigadier General Harry B. Axson, Jr., will honor the Americans killed. The flag-draped transfer cases will then be placed aboard a U.S. C-17 by an honor guard consisting of personnel from all four U.S. military services for the trip back to the United States.

Following the repatriation ceremony, BG Axson and the U.S. contingent will escort the remains back to the United States. An all-service honor guard will commemorate their arrival in Hawaii in an arrival ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base on Friday.

Following the Hickam ceremony, the remains will be taken to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii (CILHI) for final identification and preparation of the remains to be turned over to family members for burial.

The seven U.S. servicemen and nine Vietnamese were onboard a Vietnamese helicopter when it crashed in Vietnam Saturday (Apr. 7 Southeast Asia time). The helicopter crashed in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, approximately 250 miles south of Hanoi while conducting operations in preparation for the 65<sup>th</sup> Joint Field Activity. Joint Field Activities are month-long operations held four times a year in Vietnam in the effort to recover and return the remains of American servicemen still unaccounted-for as a result of the Vietnam War. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

More information about the accident is available on the [www.pacom.mil](http://www.pacom.mil) website. Information about the U.S. Government's worldwide full-accounting mission can be found on the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Office website at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo).