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**Arrival Ceremony for Remains Recovered in Southeast Asia, North Korea**

**HICKAM AFB, Hawaii --** A combined arrival ceremony will be held on Hickam Air Force Base, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. for the remains of what is believed to be seven servicemen who died in the Vietnam War and 17 servicemen from the Korean War. The combined arrival ceremony will include joint honor and color guards, and joint pallbearer teams.

The remains were recovered by teams deployed to Vietnam, Laos and North Korea on missions to retrieve unaccounted for servicemen from previous wars.

What is believed to be five remains, were recovered by the 66<sup>th</sup> Joint Field Activity which had four recovery teams in the Vietnam Provinces of Long An, Ho Chi Minh, Hai Phong, and Vinh Phuc. The teams consisted of about 75 personnel of mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) and Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA). There was also an investigative team from JTF-FA in Vietnam as part of the Joint Field Activity.

In Laos, what is believed to be two remains, were recovered by two CILHI recovery teams on a monthlong deployment consisting of 26 personnel.

The two CILHI teams in North Korea recovered what is believed to be 17 remains from around the Chosin Reservoir and from areas in Unsan and Kujang counties near the Chong Chon River. The teams consisted of about 28 personnel on a 45-day deployment. This is the first time U.S. recovery teams have been allowed access to the Chosin Reservoir area where approximately 1,100 Marines and soldiers lost their lives in the Korean War. This is the largest number of remains recovered in a single joint recovery operation since U.S. teams began their work in North Korea in 1996.

Following the ceremony, the remains are transported to the CILHI where forensic anthropologists and odontologists will analyze the remains for potential identification.

Since 1973, the CILHI has identified and returned to their families, more than 1,000 American servicemen formerly listed as unaccounted for. Approximately 705 of those servicemen were from the Vietnam War, 23 were from the Korean War, 267 were from World War II and 15 were from the Cold War.

While the recovery and identification process may take years, the CILHI remains committed to scientific excellence and the fullest possible accounting of all service members killed in defense of their country.