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MIA Search Team Deploys to Laos on 02-2L Mission

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII - A Joint Field Activity consisting of four recovery teams and one investigation team will deploy Feb. 4 from Hawaii with hopes of recovering remains leading to the identification of Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia. The teams consist of 50, mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists from Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii.

On arrival team members will be joined by technical representatives from the Lao People's Democratic Republic to begin remains recovery operations in three Lao provinces.

Since 1973, the remains of 640 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted-for in Southeast Asia, have been identified and returned to their families. There are currently 1,945 Americans still unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, 411 in Laos.

The recovery teams consist of members from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps as well as Department of Defense civilians.