

**May 22, 2002**  
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Repatriation Ceremony

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII** - Remains believed to be those of four American servicemen missing or unaccounted for from the war in Southeast Asia will begin the journey home to American soil this week; three from Vietnam and one from Laos. An all-service honor guard will commemorate their arrival on May 29 in a ceremony at 9 a.m. outside the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing base operations building at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Following the Hickam ceremony, the remains will be taken to the Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI), where the forensic identification process will begin.

Military and civilian members who recovered the remains during recent search and recovery missions include personnel from Joint Task Force - Full Accounting (JTF-FA), CILHI, the Joint Field Operating Base Hawaii (Stony Beach) and technical representatives from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The missions are part of an on-going effort to provide the fullest possible accounting for American servicemen still missing or unaccounted-for as a result of the Vietnam War.

Since 1973, approximately 726 American service members formerly listed as missing or unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia have been identified, and many others are currently in the identification process. There are currently 1,914 Americans still unaccounted-for in Southeast Asia - 1,444 in Vietnam, 404 in Laos, 58 in Cambodia, and eight in China.

**For media access to Hickam:**

- Call Hickam Media Relations at (808) 449-6367 before 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 28
- Media escorts will depart from the Hickam front gate at 8:15 a.m., Wednesday, May 29
- JTF-FA mission information contact is Captain Gina Jackson (808) 477-5301
- CILHI mission information contact is Staff Sergeant Sebastian Harris (808) 448-0583 x 506
- Full Accounting mission info log onto [www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm](http://www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm) or [www.cilhi.army.mil](http://www.cilhi.army.mil)