



## Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

### Progress in Vietnam as of August 1, 2012

#### Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Total</u>
Original Missing	1,971	575	90	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	<u>689</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>985<sup>1</sup></u>
Remaining Missing	1,282	317	55	7	1,661

Of the remaining 1,282 Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam, 597 are in a “no further pursuit” category. This means that as a result of rigorous investigation, we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains. On rare occasions, new leads can arise that bring a case back to a more active status.

#### Repatriating and Identifying Remains

- The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) plans to conduct four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) this fiscal year in Vietnam. Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days.
- American remains are transferred to JPAC’s Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 107<sup>th</sup> JFA began May 20 and continued through June 22, 2012. Recovery teams excavated sites in Quang Binh, Thua Thien-Hue, and Quang Nam Provinces, and off the coast of Nghe An Province.
- The 108<sup>th</sup> JFA is scheduled to begin August 5 and continue through September 7, 2012. Recovery teams are scheduled to excavate sites in Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, and Thua Thien-Hue Provinces.

#### Resolving “Last Known Alive” Cases

- Of the original 196 individuals “Last Known Alive” in Vietnam (those who survived or may have survived their loss incident and were either alive on the ground, in captivity, or in immediate proximity to capture, but did not return), DoD has confirmed the death of 174, with 22 still unresolved.
- Of the 174 whose deaths have been confirmed, the remains of 51 have been located and identified.
- Cambodia, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts met in Hanoi in November 2004 to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Cambodia – Vietnam border. A meeting with Laos, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Laos – Vietnam border took place in Vientiane in April 2005.
- U.S. and Vietnam technical experts met again in Hanoi in January to discuss Last Known Alive cases in Vietnam, as well as in areas of Cambodia and Laos controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

#### Research and Investigations

- A research effort in the Ministry of National Defense (MND) central archives continues. In May, Vietnam turned over policy, strategic, and tactical level archival documents regarding unaccounted for Americans.
- In addition to the interviews conducted during JFAs, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have conducted nearly 300 oral history interviews of Vietnamese government and military officials, including General Vo Nguyen Giap.
- Since Vietnamese troops occupied portions of Cambodia and Laos during the War, we’ve asked them to cooperate in investigations there. Ninety-three (93) Vietnamese witnesses have participated in operations in Laos (79) and Cambodia (14); most of them have participated more than once.

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<sup>1</sup>This number now includes the 63 Americans who were returned and/or identified from 1973 – 1975.