

NEWS RELEASE  
JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
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MIA SEARCH TEAM DEPLOYS TO LAOS

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII - A team totaling 43 mostly Hawaii-based military and civilian specialists leave for Laos Monday evening with hopes of obtaining information and recovering remains of American servicemen listed as unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia.

On Friday, 29 September, members from Joint Task Force-Full Accounting at Camp Smith and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Lab at Hickam Air Force Base will join technical representatives from the Lao People's Democratic Republic to begin joint investigations and remains recovery operations. Three primary sites in two provinces are scheduled to be excavated with eight sites on stand-by, and 29 cases in three provinces will be investigated.

There were 2,583 missing and unaccounted-for Americans at the end of the war in Southeast Asia in 1975. Since then, the remains of 590 servicemen have been recovered, identified and returned to their families. Of the 1,993 Americans currently unaccounted-for from the war, 421 are in Laos.

This will be the 50th Joint Field Activity conducted in Laos since Joint Task Force-Full Accounting was formed in January 1992 at Camp Smith. The 43 team members are comprised of 19 U.S. Army, 12 Navy, six Air Force, three Marines, and three Department of Defense civilians.