



# YOU CAN HELP IDENTIFY AMERICA'S MISSING HEROES

JPAC FS-3

"Until They Are Home"



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## HOW TO HELP

You may be able to help us identify America's missing heroes. If you are a family member of an individual who is Missing in Action, we may be able to use a sample of your DNA to assist with the research and identification process. However, we do not need a sample from just any family member; JPAC can only use samples from family members who share the same mitochondrial DNA (commonly referred to as mtDNA).

## WHO CAN DONATE?

The type of DNA we use to identify individuals is inherited only from the mother.

This means that each person's mother, siblings and many other relatives share the same kind of mtDNA. This technique is useful because it means that mtDNA from relatives (sometimes quite distant ones) can be directly compared to mtDNA from unidentified remains. The downside is that children of a missing male cannot provide an mtDNA reference sample. The sex of the missing person and the donor are irrelevant.

## A POWERFUL TOOL

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command uses mtDNA because it is long-lasting, abundant, and doesn't change much from generation

to generation. While mtDNA testing does not uniquely identify an individual like a fingerprint or other kinds of DNA testing, it does help us determine if an individual is related to surviving relatives. Combined with other evidence, this is a powerful tool that JPAC uses to identify unidentified remains.

## PRIVACY ASSURED

If you donate a sample of mtDNA, rest assured that it will only be used for the purposes of assisting remains identification and will not be used for any other purpose or be released to other government agencies or public organizations.