



# **NEWS RELEASE**



## **JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND (JPAC)**

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### **U.S TEAM IN THE COUNTRY OF INDIA SEARCHES FOR UNACCOUNTED AMERICANS FROM WORLD WAR II**

**HICKAM AFB, HAWAII** – JPAC conducted an initial site survey mission to India in November 2008. Based on that site survey we carefully planned the current mission in advance, accounting for all logistical, weather, and several operational planning factors, just as we do with all our recovery missions.

The recovery team successfully made the arduous trek to the recovery site in February and successfully initiated set-up and evaluation for a possible recovery operation.

These initial efforts on the site were productive but weather deteriorated rapidly which closed the team's recovery window. We identified a period between the winter weather system and the spring monsoon season, seeing an opportunity to wedge our mission in between both ends of that window.

Unfortunately the winter snow came later than anticipated and to ensure the team's safety we cancelled the mission hoping to reset for a mission in the future. JPAC is planning a possible return to the region for a recovery mission this fall, but weather could again be a factor in the planning process.

Based on frigid temperatures and conditions present in the remote and rugged environment, the mission stood a high chance of being impacted by extreme weather conditions. However, we made a decision to continue the operation only to encounter weather conditions inconsistent with predictions generated from credible sources and advanced technology.

Operational details and statuses from other JPAC missions worldwide play a role in how we assess and execute current JPAC operations. This is a continuous process that occurs throughout the planning year which enhances our ability in achieving the fullest accountability possible of our fallen service members of America's past conflicts.