

JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND



ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS LOST DURING PAST U.S. CONFLICTS

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~ NEWS RELEASE ~

POW/MIA RECOVERY & INVESTIGATION TEAMS SEARCH FOR MISSING AMERICANS

JPAC teams search for missing in action (MIA) Americans from WWII, Vietnam War

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (March 4, 2011) – Several archeological recovery teams and investigation teams from the [U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command \(JPAC\)](http://www.jpac.pacom.mil) recently deployed to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam searching for MIA's from World War II and the Vietnam War.

Recovery teams will search for human remains, life support items, and other material evidence (personal and military issued items) that may further the identification of Americans missing from past U.S. conflicts. Investigation teams will authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research, and gather information to determine whether or not there will be a return visit for excavation at a later date.

Independent State of Papua New Guinea: More than 25 JPAC team members will investigate and excavate multiple sites associated with World War II losses. An investigation team will authenticate eyewitness leads and conduct field research for seven aircraft losses in the Wewak, East Sepik, Morobe, Central and Northern provinces.

Two recovery teams will search aircraft crash sites in the Morobe province where 11 Americans may have perished. The remote sites, which are significantly elevated and exceed 3,000 meters, pose several unique challenges for the teams. A mountaineering specialist from the [U.S. Army's Northern Warfare Training Center](http://www.army.mil), Alaska, will advise the team on risk management procedures which are unique to navigating the extreme mountainous terrain and is preparing for the effects of the mountain environment on recovery operations.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: Approximately 40 JPAC team members will investigate and excavate multiple sites associated with Vietnam War losses. Two JPAC recovery teams will excavate aircraft crash sites in search of eight missing Americans at sites in the Khammouan and Savannakhet provinces. In addition to recovery operations, a JPAC team

will investigate 19 unsolved cases located throughout five provinces. The 16-member investigation team will gather information on 26 missing individuals to further qualify cases for future excavation. The approximately 30-day deployment marks the 117th Joint Field Activity in Laos.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Approximately 70 JPAC team members will investigate and excavate multiple sites associated with Vietnam War losses. Four recovery teams will search the Kon Tum, Binh Dinh, Khanh Hoa, and Tay Ninh provinces at burial and aircraft crash sites where five Americans may have perished. Two investigation teams will research 26 unsolved cases. The teams will authenticate eyewitness leads and conduct field research, searching for information on 41 missing individuals. The approximately 40-day long undertaking marks the 102nd Joint Field Activity in Vietnam.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command, JPAC is a jointly-manned organization of more than 400 military and civilian specialists which has investigated and recovered missing Americans since the 1970's. To date, close to 1,699 Americans are still listed as Missing in Action from the Vietnam War, 8,005 from the Korean War, approximately 127 from the Cold War, and 74,064 are missing from World War II.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans lost during the nation's past conflicts.

"Until They Are Home"

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