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Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Public Affairs Office

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~ NEWS ADVISORY ~

JPAC SUSPENDS RECOVERY OPERATION IN VIETNAM

Safety for family member cited in need to pause excavation efforts

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (May 24, 2012) – The JPAC Commander communicated the order to suspend a recovery operation in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, due to increased concern about the safety and well-being of a family member of an unaccounted for Vietnam War service member, who arrived unannounced and without any prior coordination with JPAC or Vietnamese officials at the site of a mission.

Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom said, "If JPAC recovery operations somehow contributed to creating an environment that may cause significant problems for this family member, then the only responsible decision was to pause operations with the intent to alleviate any undue stress."

The recovery team is working to close and preserve the site for a future mission and will then move to an alternate site to work. Currently there are five other JPAC recovery teams and two investigation teams active in the country.

There are approximately 1,200 unaccounted for Service Members believed to be in Vietnam.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts.

"Until They Are Home"

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