

JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND



ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS LOST DURING PAST U.S. CONFLICTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Public Affairs Office

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~ NEWS ADVISORY ~

POW/MIA TEAMS SEARCH FOR UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS WORLDWIDE

Specialized JPAC teams search in Papua New Guinea, Vietnam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (August 10, 2012) – Specialized investigative and archaeological recovery teams from the [U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command \(JPAC\)](#) are deployed to Papua New Guinea and Vietnam searching for Americans who remain unaccounted-for from World War II and the Vietnam War.

More than 110 archaeological recovery and investigation team members will search several ground loss and aircraft crash sites looking for evidence of approximately 104 Americans who remain unaccounted-for. Eight recovery teams are excavating aircraft and ground sites searching for 14 missing individuals, while three investigation teams are searching for clues on 45 unsolved cases and more than 90 Americans.

12-3PP (Papua New Guinea). Two recovery teams are excavating separate aircraft crash sites in the Central and Morobe provinces searching for evidence for two individuals lost during World War II. Additionally, an investigation team will conduct research for 18 cases and involving more than 35 individuals in seven provinces. The teams will be in country for approximately 40 days.

12-4VM (Vietnam). Six recovery teams are excavating four separate aircraft crash sites and two ground losses in the Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue, and Quang Nam provinces. The teams are searching for evidence of 12 Americans unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

Additionally, two investigation teams are in the Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Ngai, Tay Ninh, and Dac Lac provinces, as well as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang, searching for clues by canvassing local villages for information, researching archives and interviewing witnesses in order to investigate more than 25 cases involving approximately 55 individuals.

The approximately 30-day undertaking marks the 108th Joint Field Activity in Vietnam.

Recovery teams search for human remains, life support items and other material evidence (personal and military issued items) that may lead to an identification. Investigation teams authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research and gather information throughout various locations to determine whether or not there will be a return visit for excavation at a later date.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employing more than 450 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

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"