FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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~ NEWS ADVISORY ~

JPAC TEAMS SEARCH TARAWA, VIETNAM AND LAOS FOR MISSING AMERICANS
Specialized teams search for missing U.S. service members from World War II, Vietnam War

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (Oct. 30, 2012) – Specialized investigative and archaeological recovery teams from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) are deployed to Vietnam, Laos and Tarawa in search of missing U.S. Service Members from World War II and the Vietnam War.

13-1KR (Tarawa). One specialized investigation team comprised of approximately seven JPAC team members is assessing different possible burial sites in Tarawa searching for evidence associated with ground losses during World War II. The teams will be in country for approximately 30 days.

13-1VM (Vietnam). Six specialized recovery teams, including two joint U.S. and Vietnamese recovery teams, are conducting recovery operations searching for nine missing Americans from the Vietnam War. The teams, consisting of approximately 80 JPAC personnel will conduct recovery missions in Thai Nguyen, Vinh Phuc, Quang Ninh, Bac Giang, Son La and Thanh Hoa provinces for about 30 days.

13-1LA (Laos). For recovery teams comprised of about 50 JPAC personnel will conduct recovery operations in Xekong and Saravan provinces in search of five missing U.S. personnel from the Vietnam War.

Recovery teams search for human remains, life support items and other material evidence (personal and military issued items) that may lead to identifications.

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"
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