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Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Public Affairs Office

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~ NEWS ADVISORY ~

## **POW/MIA RECOVERY TEAMS SEARCH FOR MISSING SERVICE MEMBERS**

*JPAC teams search for 61 Americans missing from World War I, Vietnam War*

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii** (March 21, 2012) – Several teams from the [U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command \(JPAC\)](#) are deployed to Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Laos searching for U.S. service members who remain unaccounted-for from World War II and the Vietnam War.

More than 120 archaeological recovery and investigation team members will search at several ground and aircraft crash sites looking for evidence of more than 60 Americans who remain unaccounted-for from these conflicts.

Nine recovery teams are excavating sites searching for 24 missing individuals, while four investigation teams are searching for clues on 26 unsolved cases and more than 37 Americans. Recovery teams search for human remains, life support items and other material evidence (personal and military issued items) that may lead to the identifications. 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.

**Papua New Guinea (12-1PP):** About 30 JPAC team members will investigate and excavate multiple sites associated with World War II losses for approximately 45 days. Two recovery teams deployed to the Morobe and Madang provinces to excavate two aircraft crash sites in search of 11 Americans. The investigation team will conduct research and interviews searching for more than seven individuals and three cases in the Oro and Madang provinces; the team will also survey potential aircraft crash sites and burials sites for future excavation operations.

**Vietnam (12-2VM):** Approximately 80 JPAC team members will investigate and excavate multiple sites for about 30 days searching for Vietnam War losses. Six recovery teams will search for 11 Americans in the Binh Dinh, Gia Lai, Dak Nong and Binh Phuoc provinces at aircraft crash sites and burial sites. Two joint U.S. and Vietnamese investigation teams will authenticate eyewitness leads and conduct field research for 18 unsolved cases in the Da Nang, Quang Nam and Thua Thien-Hue provinces. Lastly, a scientific team will conduct joint forensic review to determine racial affiliation of remains that were located as a

result of recovery operations. The approximately 30-day undertaking marks the 106th Joint Field Activity in Vietnam.

**Laos (12-3LA):** More than 15 JPAC personnel are excavating an aircraft crash site in the Savannakhet province searching for two Americans unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. Additionally, an investigation team will conduct research and interviews for five aircraft crash sites and burial sites searching for evidence of six individuals. The approximately 30-day deployment marks the 123rd joint field activity in Laos.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employed by more than 400 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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