

JPAC TO HOST ARRIVAL CEREMONY FOR AMERICA'S HEROES DEC. 9

Full military honors pays tribute to unaccounted-for Americans from World War II, Vietnam War

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (Dec. 2, 2011) – The U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will host an Arrival Ceremony Friday, Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. in Hangar 35, to honor fallen U.S. personnel whose identities remain unknown.

An honor detail made up of joint military members will escort six flag-draped transfer cases from a U.S. military plane to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory for analyses.

The remains receiving full military honors represent losses associated with World War II and the Vietnam War. The first five transfer cases represent individuals unaccounted-for from World War II and were recovered from the United Kingdom, Canada, the Republic of Vanuatu, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. The final transfer case was recovered from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and represents Vietnam War losses.

Once the transfer cases arrive at JPAC's laboratory, the process of forensically identifying the individuals will begin. If and when identifications are established, the names will be announced following next-of-kin notification.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command, JPAC is a jointly-manned organization of more than 400 military and civilian specialists who research, investigate, recover and identify Americans who remain unaccounted-for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War.

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. Since 2003, JPAC has identified more than 608 Americans. The heritage of the U.S. Government accounting effort began in the 1970's, and since then approximately 1,770 Americans have been identified and returned home to their families.

Media interested in attending the ceremony must contact JPAC Public Affairs before noon Dec. 7 to receive instructions for base access. All media will be escorted.

"Until They Are Home"

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This message was sent by: JPAC, 310 Worcester Ave, Bldg 45, Hickam, HI 96853