



JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND DETACHMENT ONE

JPAC FS-4

"Until They Are Home"



The mission of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts.

Detachment One is one of three JPAC forward operating locations in Southeast Asia. The mission of Det. One is to provide administrative and logistical functions in support of all JPAC operations and conduct command and control operations in Thailand, Cambodia, India and Burma.

At least three times per year, during a 30 to 45-day Joint Field Activity, Det. One provides command and control for approximately 300 U.S. and host nation personnel to conduct recovery and investigative missions in the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of India. While the other two Detachments are mainly oriented within their respective countries, Det. One provides command and control in other areas of Southeast and South Asia, while providing logistical and operational support to its sister elements.

Det. One is permanently manned by two officers, three Department of the Navy civilians, and two noncommissioned officers. Four foreign service nationals work at Det. One in support staff roles.

The following is a synopsis of the process JPAC follows to locate, recover, and ultimately identify Americans.

ANALYSIS & INVESTIGATION

RESEARCH

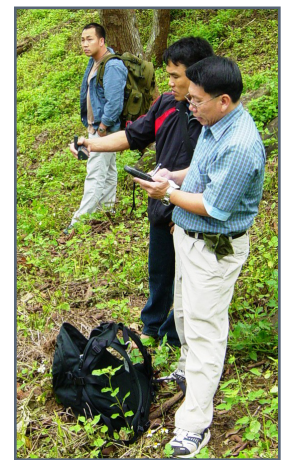
The search for unaccounted-for Americans starts with in-depth research by JPAC historians and analysts. These experts gather information from records, archives, interviews and other sources.

Researchers gather information from many sources and create a "loss incident case file" for each unaccounted-for individual. This file includes historical background, military medical and personnel records, unit histories, official correspondence, maps, photographs, and other evidence. This groundwork lays the foundation to locate possible

sites where American MIAs may be located. At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active case files under investigation.

INVESTIGATION

After evidence and information is gathered, JPAC sends out an investigative team to these potential sites. Each team consists of four to nine people including a team leader, analyst, linguist, and medic. In some instances, an anthropologist, explosive ordnance disposal technician, forensic photographer, and life support technician augment the team. These teams survey potential recovery sites so that recovery teams have the most up-to-date information about a case prior to deployment. They also search for new leads that may result in future recoveries. Most importantly, investigative teams help determine if and when JPAC should send a recovery team to excavate a site.



In addition to conducting research to support ongoing field activities, the research & intelligence section also provides historical analysis to help with the identification of remains.

RECOVERY OPERATIONS

EXCAVATION

Once the decision has been made to excavate a site, a recovery team is organized. JPAC has 18 recovery teams consisting of 10 to 14 people including a team leader, forensic anthropologist, team sergeant, linguist, medic, life support technician, forensic photographer, communications technician, explosive ordnance disposal technician, and mortuary affairs specialists. Standard recovery missions last 35 to 60 days depending on the location, terrain, and recovery methods.

Recovery teams use standard field archeology methods in the excavation as directed by the on-site anthropologist at each site. Recovery teams have to be in top physi-

cal condition to reach excavation sites, which often are in very remote places. Teams routinely have to walk through dense jungles, hike mountains and glaciers, and rappel down cliffs. Each team travels with up to 10,000 pounds in survival and excavation equipment.

Recovery sites can be as small as a few meters for individual burials to areas exceeding the size of a football field for aircraft crashes. At the beginning of a recovery, the anthropologist sections the site into grids with stakes



and string. Then, each section is excavated one at a time. To help with what can be a massive soil removal effort, JPAC may hire anywhere from a few to over 100 local workers.

Once the recovery effort is completed, the team returns to Hawaii. All remains and artifacts found during the recovery operation are then transported from a U.S. military plane to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory.

ARRIVAL CEREMONY

In honor of the sacrifice made by those individuals whose remains were recovered during a recovery mission, JPAC holds an arrival ceremony with a joint service honor guard and senior officers from each service. Veterans, community members and local active-duty military often attend the ceremonies to pay their respects as the remains are transported from a U.S. military plane to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory.

IDENTIFICATION

Upon arrival at the laboratory, all remains and artifacts recovered from a site are signed over to the custody of the CIL and stored in a secure area. In the laboratory, anthropologists are responsible for the skeletal analysis of human remains and the analysis of material evidence such as military uniforms, personal affects, and identification tags.

Depending on the amount and condition of recovered remains, the CIL scientists first produce a biological profile from recovered skeletal remains that includes sex, race, age

at death, and height of the individual. Anthropologists may also analyze trauma caused at or near the time of death and pathological conditions of bone such as arthritis or previous healed breaks.

CLOSURE

While the CIL identifies about two Americans a week on average, the recovery and identification process may take years to complete. Approximately 74 POW/MIAs are identified, on average, per year. Once a case is completed, the identified American is transferred to the appropriate service mortuary affairs office. Military members from these offices then notify families personally of the identification.

DETACHEMENT ONE HISTORY

- In 1973, after the Vietnam War, the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) was established in Thailand, focusing on the Americans still missing in Southeast Asia.
- In 1992, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) was established to focus on achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing as a result of the Vietnam War.
- On Oct. 1, 2003, JPAC was formed from the merger of the 30-year-old U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CIL-HI) and the 11-year-old JTF-FA.

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