



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Progress in Vietnam as of May 1, 2006

Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Total</u>
Original Missing	1,981	572	83	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	<u>601</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>841¹</u>
Remaining Missing	1,380	364	54	7	1,805

Of the remaining 1,380 Americans still unaccounted for in the country of Vietnam, 611 are in a “no further pursuit” status, meaning that as a result of rigorous investigation we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains.

Repatriating and Identifying Remains

- The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command normally conducts four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) per year in Vietnam.
- Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days per JFA.
- American remains are transferred to the Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for positive identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 84th JFA began February 14, 2006 and continued through March 18, 2006. Recovery teams excavated sites in Quang Nam, Gia Lai, and Ca Mau Provinces. One recovery team extended through April 17, 2006.
- The 85th JFA began April 17, 2006 and will continue through May 19, 2006. Recovery teams are excavating sites in Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Binh, and Thanh Hoa Provinces.

Resolving “Last Known Alive” Cases

- Of the original 196 individuals “Last Known Alive” in Vietnam (those who might have survived their loss incidents, but did not return), DoD has determined the fate of 162, with 34 still unresolved.
- Of the 162 whose fate has been determined, the remains of 48 have been located and identified.
- Cambodia, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts met in Hanoi in November 2004 to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Cambodia – Vietnam border. A meeting with Laos, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Laos – Vietnam border took place in Vientiane in April 2005.

Research and Investigations

- U.S. officials met with senior Vietnamese officials in June 2004 to follow-up on proposals made during previous visits. Among the outcomes of the visit were agreements to gain access to capital area archives and the return of U.S. personnel to the Central Highlands. An archival research program in Vietnam’s Ministry of National Defense will begin in early May and U.S. investigative teams returned to Gia Lai Province in the Central Highlands during the 82nd JFA (July-August 2005); a recovery effort was conducted in Gia Lai Province during the 84th JFA.
- The third meeting between representatives of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and the United States to foster open dialogue in seeking solutions to account for missing Americans took place in Laos in August 2005. The first meeting of the four countries was held in Bangkok in October 2003. The second meeting took place in Cambodia in July 2004.
- Beyond the several hundred interviews conducted during JFAs, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have conducted nearly 300 oral history interviews of Vietnamese government and military officials, including General Vo Nguyen Giap.
- Since Vietnamese troops occupied portions of Cambodia and Laos during the War, we’ve asked them to cooperate in investigations there. Approximately 70 Vietnamese witnesses have participated in operations in Laos and Cambodia; most of them have participated more than once.

¹This number now includes the 63 Americans who were returned and/or identified from 1973 – 1975.