

JPAC ARRIVAL CEREMONY SET FOR MARCH 14, 2008



U.S. Army Sergeant Mark Landa, a member of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command honor guard team, prepares a case of remains to be transferred back to the United States during a repatriation ceremony at the Savannakhet Airport in Savannakhet, Laos, on February 13, 2008. Sergeant Landa, part of a 16-member JPAC team deployed out of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, was in Laos for 30 days attempting to recover the remains of service members lost during the Vietnam War.

An arrival ceremony will be held at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, on Friday, March 14, in honor of the remains recovered from this and other recent JPAC missions.

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, HAWAII - The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will conduct an Arrival Ceremony at 9 a.m., Friday in Hangar 35, Hickam AFB, to honor fallen U.S. military personnel whose identities remain unknown.

There will be three flag-draped transfer cases. Two of the cases are associated with the Vietnam War: one from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and one from the Kingdom of Cambodia. The remaining case is associated with a World War II loss in Palau.

Following the ceremony, the remains of these fallen service members will be transported to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory where the forensic identification process begins. Once identifications are established, the names will be announced following the notification of next-of-kin.

In order to attend the ceremony, media must RSVP before noon, March 13, in order to receive access to the base and must meet escorts at the gate no later than 8:20 a.m. on the morning of the ceremony.

Each year, JPAC identifies an average of 100 Americans so that they may be returned to their families and buried with full military honors on U.S. soil. The mission of the command is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of an estimated 88,000 men and woman who never returned home as a result of the nation's past conflicts.

"Until they are home"