



Vietnam War Research, Analysis, & Operations



Mr. Matt Kristoff



Research & Analysis



- We work to help bring home those still missing from the Vietnam War
- We conduct in-depth research & analysis using many sources of information to develop field leads
 - Similar to “cold-case” detective work
- We also support you, the families, by providing information on your missing loved ones

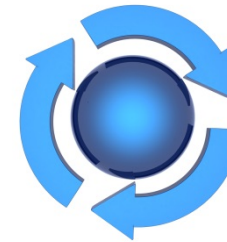
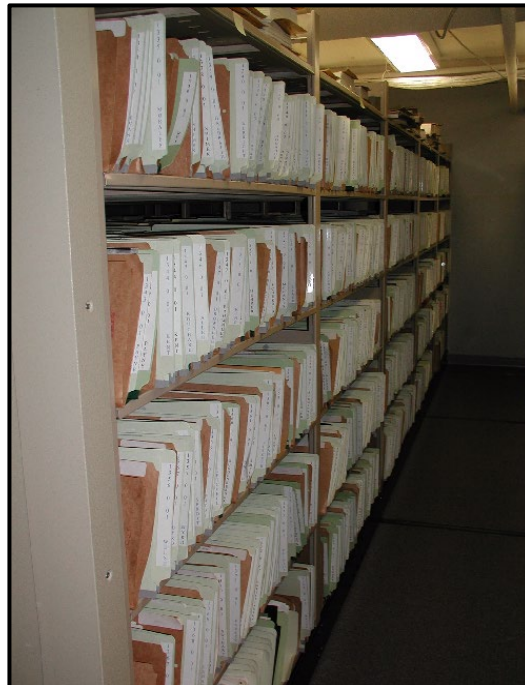




Case Work

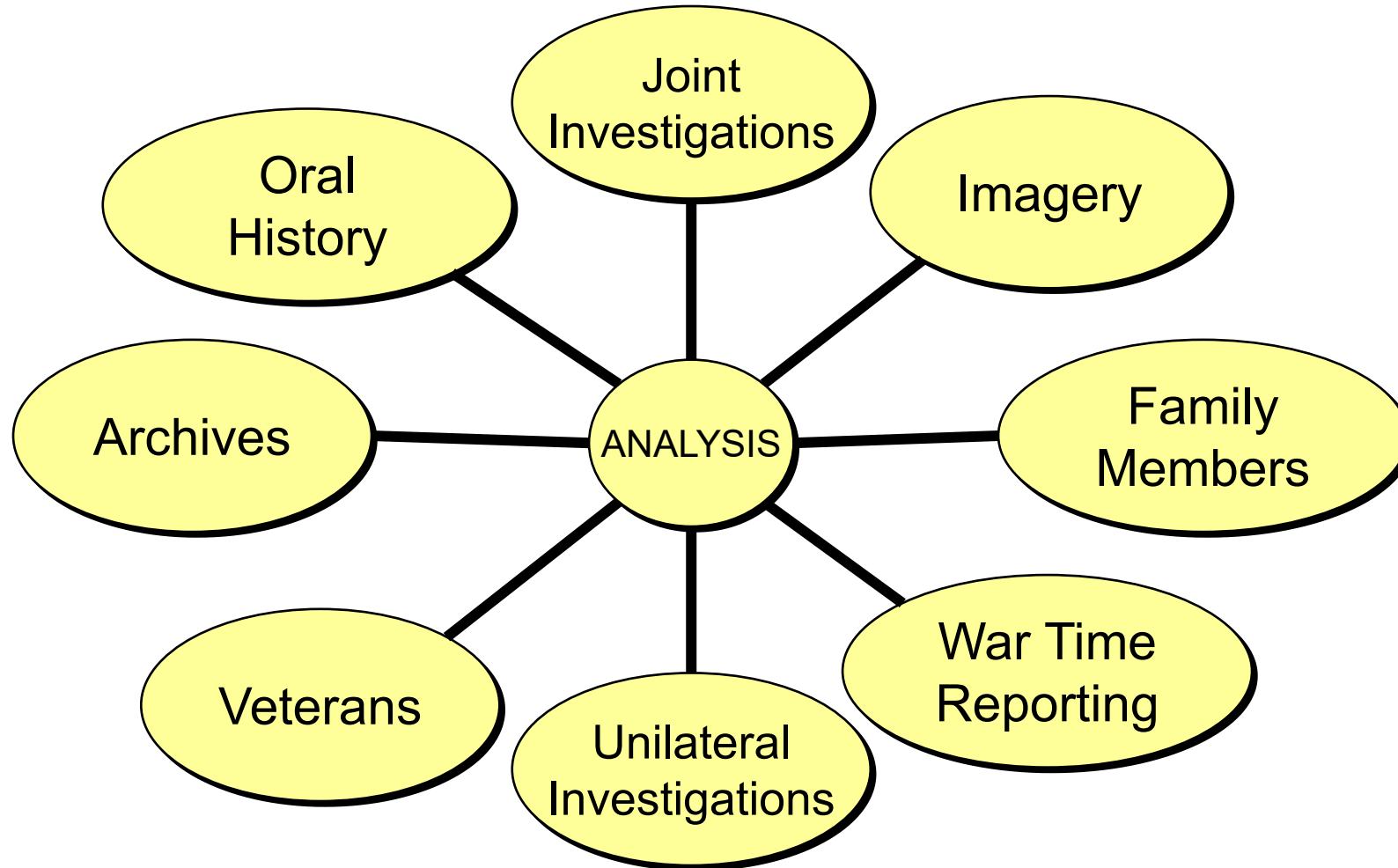


- Compile case-related info
- Identify gaps in our holdings
- Request intelligence collection
- Gather data from other sources
- Develop new leads
- Field research
- Evaluate field reports
- Cycle begins again





Information Sources





Archival Research in Southeast Asia

- Vietnam
 - Turned over thousands of wartime/post-war documents
 - Useful to help direct field teams to loss sites
 - Burial records, shoot down lists, and POW reports
 - Allowed access to conduct archival research (1992 – present)
 - Continuing turn-over of archival documents
- Laos
 - Minimum findings
 - Archival Research Teams (1994-1999)
 - Researched museums, libraries, films archives
 - Archival Initiative (2004-2007)
 - Unilateral research of Laotian archives
- Cambodia
 - Researched library/newspaper holdings
 - No findings



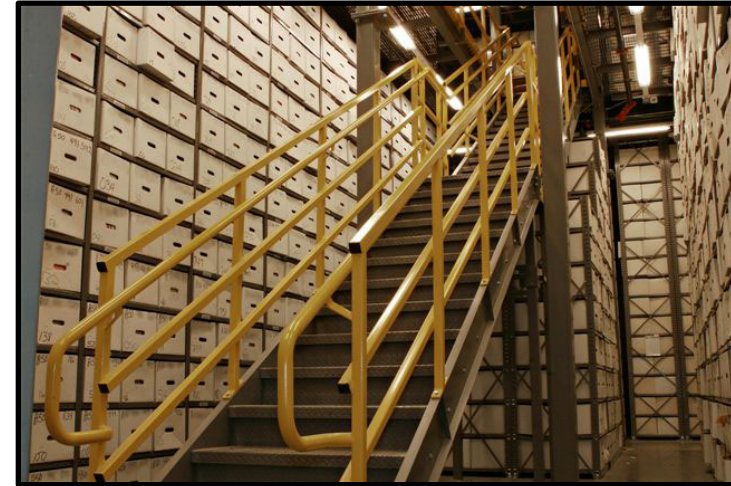
National Library of Vietnam



Archival Research in U.S.



- Surgical approach
 - Military and government archives
 - On-line sources
 - Books and magazines
 - Universities (e.g., Texas Tech)



National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO



Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, DC



National Archives at College Park, MD



Information Collection

- Human Sources (Stony Beach)
 - Interviews
 - Canvass villages
 - Research open-source docs
- Photography and Imagery:
 - National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
 - Locate wreckage sites
 - Validate source reports
 - Reveal terrain changes





Case Categorization

- **Active Pursuit:** Cases that have sufficient information to justify research, investigation, or recovery operations in the field.
 - These cases are the priority for operational planning and allocation of resources.
- **Deferred:** Cases that have no new and/or viable leads, or have restrictions to site access which make field operations impractical.
- **Non-recoverable:** Cases that have negligible potential for accounting, such as where remains were lost at sea, cremated and/or systematically destroyed.
 - Assessment based on historical research, scientific analysis, & the limits of current technology.
 - Categorizing a case as non-recoverable does not account for the individual.



Unaccounted for by Country and Category*

Vietnam:	1,246	(470 non-recoverable, 78 deferred)
Laos:	285	(11 non-recoverable, 12 deferred)
Cambodia:	48	(7 non-recoverable)
China:	7	

As of Oct 19, 2020



Family Conference Report



- Summary of all information on the case
- Used to organize data
- Record of the past activities and next step
- Communicate information to families

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As part of the 1995 comprehensive review of each case of an unaccounted for American in Southeast Asia, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office analysts created an electronic database of relevant facts. This ever-changing working tool reflects a snapshot in time summarizing data collected to date, as well as analytical opinions and recommendations. It permits analysts to review pertinent case information quickly, update each record as new information is collected, and develop investigative leads. Following is a narrative of the information contained in the electronic database on this loss.

Family Conference

Case Summary Information:		Case Releasable? YES	
Refno: 1664	BIO: 02	Lat: 165350N	Ctry: VS
Name: SHAY, DONALD EMERSON		Long: 1062000E	Province: SAVANNAKHET
Loss Rank: O3		UTM: 48QXD4200068800	District: VILABOULI
Service: USAF	Status: XX	OffscopeCase: Y	Township:
Incident Date: 1970/10/08		PriorityCase: N	
Vehicle Type: RF4C		Fate Determined: NA	

Case Summary

On 8 Oct 1970, Capt William A. Ott, pilot, and Capt Donald E. Shay Jr., navigator, were the aircrew of an RF-4C (#3331, call sign Falcon 04, serial # 68-610) on a single ship, photo reconnaissance mission over Laos. All targets were in an approximate 30-mile radius. The crew checked in with Hillsboro Control at 1442 hours and with Lion Control at 1500 hours. The crew then conducted an aerial refueling at 1512 hours. The last contact with the crew was at 1614 hours when Hillsboro Control cleared Capt Ott's aircraft to Invert Control's airspace. At that time, Capt Ott told Hillsboro Control that his mission had been successful, and he was checking out of the area. However, Invert Control reported no contact with Capt Ott at any time and no other control station established contact with the aircrew after that time. Electronic searches were initiated at 1740 hours, which was fuel depletion time. A King search and rescue (SAR) aircraft searched the general area of the intended flight path. The King search was terminated at 1930 hours due to fuel depletion. A Moonbeam (airborne command control center) aircraft continued the search throughout the night. Visual and electronic reconnaissance were conducted throughout the following day (9 Oct) by all aircraft traversing the area, but all searches were negative.

It is not known when and where the loss incident occurred, thus this summary uses the loss coordinates that appeared in the official wartime mishap report. These coordinates reflect the last radio contact with the crew, when the aircraft was about 3 km northeast of Ban Pha Bongtai, Savannakhet Province.

Unit: 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 432 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 7th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Udon Royal Thai Air Force Base (RTAFB), Thailand

US Government Information

SUMMARY: Two postwar source reports, a wartime source report, an uncorrelated report and a special report were tentatively associated with this case. Two provide information about an American pilot, who parachuted from his aircraft and was killed by enemy forces. One report indicates local villagers buried the

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Refno # 1664

GCD by LMR
on 17 JUN 16

Reviewed by DPA
NAV 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R
Date: 16 JUN 16 Initials: CW



Coordinated Next Steps



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Case Coordination Chronology:

Re-Coordination	Date
A--US RESEARCH HI EDB	5/17/2016
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE VM IT1(RE-SURVEY 1596 BURIAL SITE)(REAFFIRM); AW VM RIT (WITS FROM 14-2VM)	6/1/2015
A--IAW VM VNOSMP (WITS FROM 14-3VM); JOINT INVESTIGATE VM (RE-SURVEY 1596 BURIAL SITE)	1/20/2015
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE VM IT1	5/13/2014
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE VM RIT (14-2VM); US RESEARCH DPMO (REVIEW 14-1VM REPORT)	2/24/2014
A--US RESEARCH JPAC (IDB)	5/21/2013
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA IT1 (REAFFIRM)	12/11/2012
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA IT1 (REAFFIRM); US RESEARCH JPAC-CIL (2012 XXXX)	2/27/2012
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA IT1	6/29/2011

Further Pursuit Information

During a December 2015 investigation in Vietnam, a joint team interviewed witnesses who confirmed that the burial site located at 48Q XD 684 703 (VM-03332) is the right burial location for an individual possibly correlated to Case 1664-0-02 (Shay). DPAA will pursue approving this site for excavation.

Further Pursuit Deferred Information NONE

No Further Pursuit Information NONE

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A--US RESEARCH HI EDB	5/17/2016
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE VM IT1(RE-SURVEY 1596 BURIAL SITE)(REAFFIRM); AW VM RIT (WITS FROM 14-2VM)	6/1/2015
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A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA IT1 (REAFFIRM); US RESEARCH JPAC-CIL (2012 XXXX)	2/27/2012
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA IT1	6/29/2011
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE TRIT (IT1)	2/27/2011
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE VM IT3	7/1/2010
A--UNILATERAL VM (IAW) VNOSMP	6/29/2009
A--UNILATERAL VM RIT (IAW)	2/24/2009
A--US RESEARCH DPMO RIT (2 CO, 35TH AAA BN, BT 27)	1/29/2008
A--UNILATERAL VM (589 UNIT LEADS); USA RESEARCH (DPMO - OB LEADS)	6/6/2006
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA (REAFFIRM)	10/7/2005
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA (REAFFIRM)	5/3/2002
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA (EXPAND SEARCH AREA)	11/30/2001
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE (VILLAGES VIC. TA RU); RESCIND UNI	5/16/2001
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE; UNILATERAL VM (MC 35TH BN - DLS)	9/15/2000
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE (XD 541 606); UNILATERAL VM (REAFFIRM)	5/3/2000
A--UNILATERAL SRV (NEW LEAD SHEET)	9/4/1998
A--UNILATERAL SRV 960928	9/26/1996
A--JOINT INVESTIGATE LA (EXPAND SEARCH AREA)	3/1/1995
A--UNILATERAL ARCHIVES UNILATERAL WITNESS SRV USA FAX COORD 22 JUN	6/22/1995

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No Further Pursuit Information NONE

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Refno # 1664

- “Case Coordination Chronology” captures history of actions
- “Further Pursuit” section gives more details on next action



Case Summary Report



- Summary of all information on the case
- Used to organize data
- Communicate information to the families
- Chronological record of past activities
- Analytical Summary and intended next steps
- References provided
- Casualty Officers should receive and send to Primary Next-of-Kin



CHARLES WILLIAM BURKART
Colonel, U. S. Air Force Reserve



15 January 2019

INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED*

Name	Rank	Promotion or Posthumous Rank	Branch of Service	Date of Loss	Status	Releasable
Burkart, Charles W.	Capt	Col	USAFR	13 June 1966	Dead/BNR	No
Kerr, Everett O.	Capt	Lt Col	USAFR	13 June 1966	Dead/BNR	Yes

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS:

On 13 June 1966, Captain (Capt) Charles William Burkart Jr. (Pilot), and Capt Everett Oscar Kerr (Navigator/Bombardier), assigned to the 13th Bombardment Squadron, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, 7th Air Force (temporary duty with 405th Advance Echelon 1 (sic from DD Form 1300; 405th Tactical Fighter Wing) were aboard a flight of three B-57E aircraft (tail number: 55-4268; call sign: Opal 57) following the lead of an RB-66 Pathfinder aircraft on a night strike mission. The flight was formed in a diamond formation, and the case aircraft was last seen in formation as the group entered a severe weather system. Other aircraft in the flight saw an orange flash, but thought it was lightning. When the flight exited the weather, the case aircraft was missing. About the time the aircraft disappeared, an AC-47 gunship working in northern Savannakhet Province saw a fireball on the ground in the general direction of the flight and thought it was from an air strike. Two beeper signals were heard for one second each, but could not be confirmed as coming from the case aircraft. Search and recovery efforts in the incident area were not successful.

Subsequent to the incident and while carried in a missing-in-action status, the U.S. Air Force promoted Capt Burkart to the rank of Colonel (Col)¹ and Capt Kerr to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col).² Both are currently carried in the status of dead, body not recovered. This air loss incident was subsequently investigated under the designation Reference Number (REFNO) 0359.

INVESTIGATION/EXCAVATION OPERATIONS:

From 24 through 29 October 1994 during Joint Field Activity (JFA) 95-1LA, a joint U.S./Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) team interviewed the Village Chief in Ban (Lao word for Village) Nalouang (48Q WE 790 129), Boualapha District, Khammouan Province concerning REFNO 0359. The Village Chief only knew of one crash site near the village, and led the team to a crash crater (48Q WE 790 126; India Thailand datum). The team found small unidentifiable pieces of aircraft wreckage, and conducted an area search and survey

* The material in this report was compiled from information owned and published by the Department of Defense.

¹ DD FORM 1300 Report of Casualty, Burkart, dated 4 Apr 78.

² DD FORM 1300 Report of Casualty, Kerr, dated 3 January 1979.



Host Nation Talks

- Develop / improve operational framework
- Overcome host nation restrictions (personnel caps, site access)
- Finalize operational plan (dates, locations, number of teams, etc.)
- Express concerns





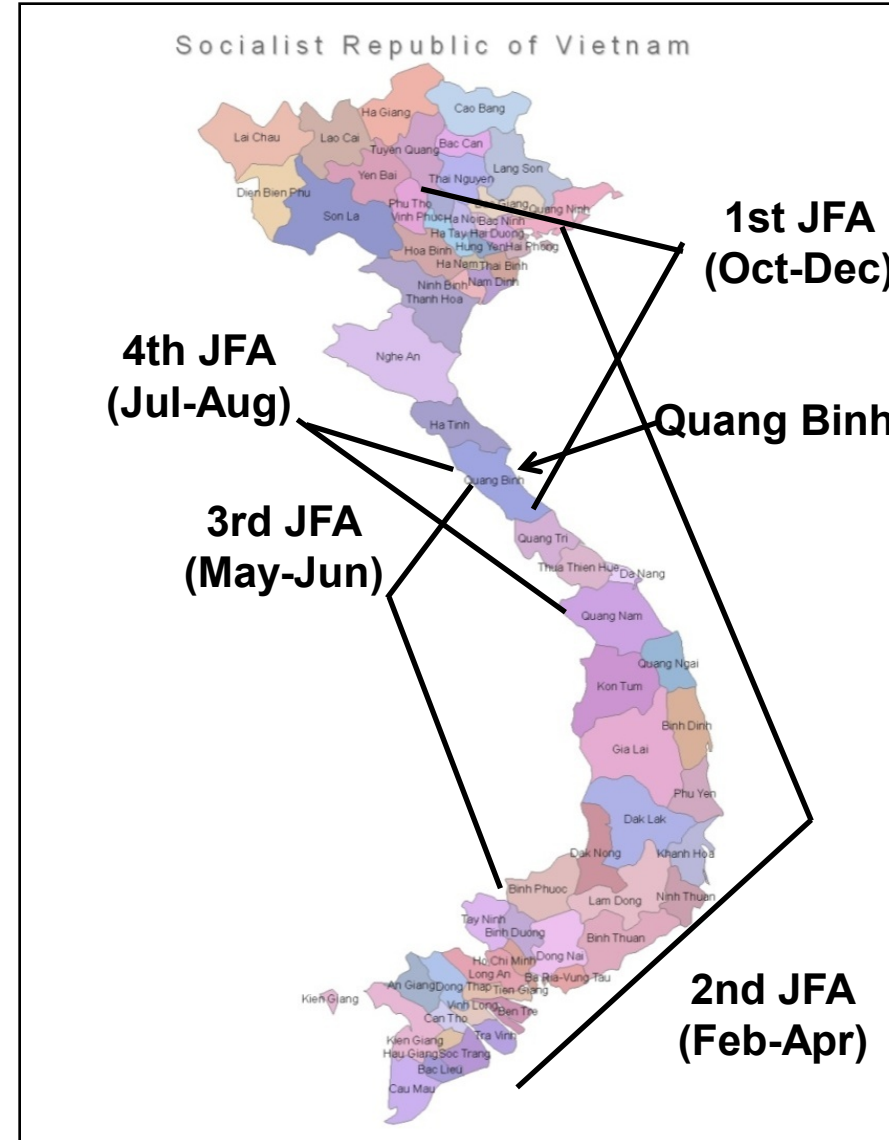
Detachments in Southeast Asia





Vietnam Operations

- 4 Joint Field Activities (JFA) in Fiscal Year 2020 (Oct 2019 to Sep 2020):
 - 10 Investigation Teams
 - 7 Land teams
 - 3 Underwater teams (2, 3 and 4VN)
 - 18 Recovery Teams
 - 7 Regular teams
 - 4 Small teams 1 per JFA
 - 4 Unilateral teams 1 per JFA
 - 3 Underwater teams (1, 2 and 3VN)
- Weather patterns drive planning
- Constraint: 2 teams per province
- 47 sites on the Master Excavation List; 16 of them are open sites. There is also one site that requires an archeological survey.
- 76% of sites are in central provinces

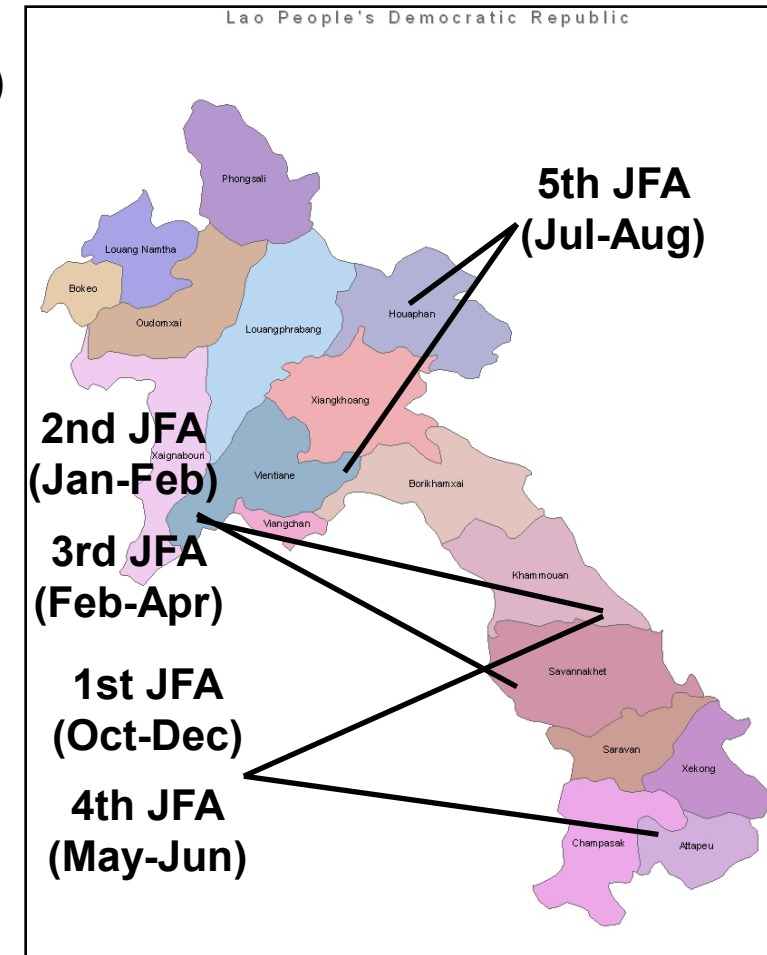




Laos Operations



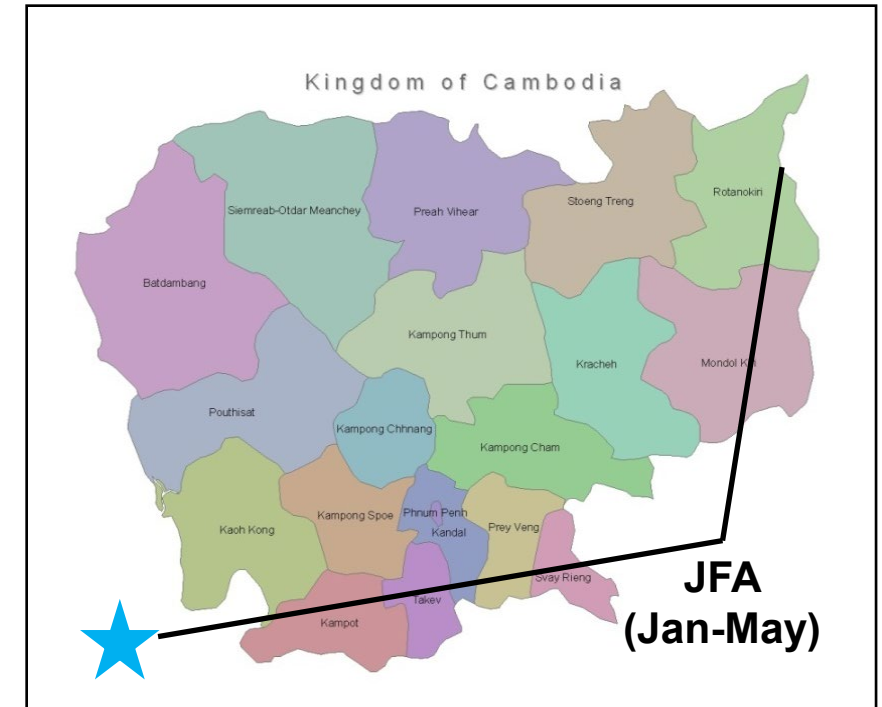
- 5 Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in FY 2020:
 - 2 Investigation Teams (JFAs 20-1LA/4LA) that includes Trilateral Investigations
 - 14 Recovery Teams
 - AS-350 helicopter support restored
 - 5th JFA in the north because of weather
- Budget and cluster patterns drive planning
- Lao agreed to 75 personnel cap, DPAA requested 85 cap on case by case basis
- Bivouac at recovery sites; 2 base camp rule
- Recovery site selection tied to base camp location
- The Lao tend to be the least flexible
- 66 sites on the Master Excavation List; 15 of them are open sites. There are also 2 sites that require an archeological survey.





Cambodia Operations

- 2 Joint Field Activities (JFA) in FY 2020:
 - 2 Recovery Teams; 1 Investigation Team
- 6 sites on the Master Excavation List with 3 Open sites and 1 pending approval
- Cambodia lifted suspension in October 2018





Investigation Operations

- Tasks:
 - Identify potential witnesses and leads
 - Locate and survey sites
 - Collect sufficient evidence to recommend site for excavation
- Types of investigation teams:
 - Research & Investigation Teams
 - Underwater Investigation Teams
 - Archaeological Survey Teams
 - Unilateral Investigation Teams





Recovery Operations

- Tasks:
 - Conduct modern scientific excavations
 - Record and/or retain all evidence (human and non-human) found at the site for laboratory analysis
 - Document the recovery, determine need for additional excavation
- Types of recovery teams:
 - Recovery Team
 - Vietnamese Recovery Team
 - Unilateral Recovery Team
 - Underwater Recovery Team





Identifications

- Multiple lines of evidence required:
 - Biological evidence analysis:
 - Biographical profile (age, race, sex, & stature)
 - Dental comparisons
 - DNA compared to Family Reference Sample (FRS)
 - Material evidence analysis:
 - Model / Type of aircraft?
 - Did the crew eject or were they onboard at time of crash?
 - Was the crash survivable?
- Result:
 - Remains identified: 5 in FY19; 2 in FY20; Service Casualty Officer notifies the Family
 - Individual is accounted for





Summary



- Research to locate information that may help bring home our missing personnel
- When possible, conduct field work to locate witnesses and loss locations
 - Requires close work between a team of analysts, field investigators, archeologists, equipment/aircraft analysts, and casualty officers
- Communicate to the families

