

U.S. Search Set for MIAs In SE Asia

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HONOLULU, March 10 (UPI) — The United States plans to set up a special agency in Thailand to conduct extensive searches for Americans still missing or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, the U.S. Pacific Command said Friday.

In a plan for a case-by-case effort to account for as many of the missing as possible, the command said the Joint Casualty Resolution Center will be established at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, with the approval of the Royal Thai government.

The Pacific Command said personnel from the JCRC, commanded by Army Brig. Gen. Robert C. Kingston, will locate and investigate crash sites or grave sites throughout Southeast Asia, as arranged through the four-party joint military commission.

The JCRC will use air search and ground search teams and a central identification laboratory with a pool of specialists to inspect crash and grave sites and recover remains, the command said.

The basic JCRC field team will consist of an officer, a radio operator, a medic, an explosives expert and an interpreter.

"It is expected that efforts in remote areas will normally include air and ground searches for crash sites," the command said. "In some cases, these locations are yet to be pinpointed and the search for the sites will be complicated by many years of jungle growth, torrential rains and floods."