



Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [E-news alerts](#) | [RSS](#) | [Twitter](#)

Find it: [Site Map](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Weekly Deals](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Dating](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real estate](#) | [Classified ads](#) | [Subscribe](#)

honoluluadvertiser.com

Find what you are looking for ...  Search



Tuesday, February 16, 2010

[HOME](#) [LOCAL NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [MY ADVERTISER](#) [ISLAND LIFE](#) [TGIF](#) [OPINION](#) [MULTIMEDIA](#) [BLOGS/FORUMS](#) [CLASSIFIED ADS](#) [HELP](#)

[Breaking news](#) [Blogs](#) [Traffic](#) [Weather](#) [Salute to the Fallen](#) [FYI Advertiser](#) [Special projects](#) [Obituaries](#) [Back issues](#) [Archive](#)

[Comment, blog & share photos](#)  
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)

HAWAII'S **Complete** SOURCE

## LOCAL NEWS

Posted on: Sunday, February 14, 2010

# Hawaii's Hickam AFB preparing to upgrade lab to ID war dead

[Comments \(1\)](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#) [Share](#)

By **William Cole**  
Advertiser Military Writer



Hugh Tuller is one of the forensic anthropologists trying to identify remains in a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command lab at Hickam Air Force Base.


Photos by BRUCE ASATO | The Honolulu Advertiser




Audrey Meehan superimposes a photo of a missing soldier over a recovered skull to help to identify the remains.

Construction of a new \$100 million headquarters and lab for identification of American dead from past wars is expected to begin in fiscal 2011 at Hickam Air Force Base as the nation steps up efforts to speed the recovery and return of remains to families, officials said.

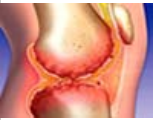
Ads by **Adblade™**




**How Old is Your Hair?**  
Lusher, fuller hair can take years off your look. Learn the top tips to get hotter, younger hair. [Learn more](#)




**Having a Credit Card Disaster?**  
The government urges Americans to pay down credit card bills. See if you qualify for debt relief. [Learn more](#)



**How to Stop Joint Pain!**  
Suffering with joint pain? Click here. Shocking joint relief discovery by Cambridge, MA researchers... [Learn more](#)



**Homeowners Fail to Refi**  
Only 85,000 homeowners have taken advantage of Obama's refinace plan. Calculate new payment. [Learn more](#)



**Mortgage APRs Hit 3.62%**  
Only 85,000 homeowners have taken advantage of Obama's refinace plan. Calculate new payment. [Learn more](#)

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

Congress recently mandated that by 2015, the U.S. military make 200 identifications a year — more than twice the annual rate now.

The 400-member Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, at Hickam has responsibility for investigating, recovering and identifying American dead from the nation's past wars.

That personnel total is expected to grow with more search/recovery missions to the field and the new identification requirement. In fiscal 2009, 69 missions were conducted and 95 identifications were made.

Defense officials also are looking at the possibility of creating a satellite forensic identification laboratory on the Mainland — where it's easier to attract anthropologists and where it could be more efficiently closer to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, a key link in the identification process.

Pressure by aging family members who have relatives still missing from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars led to Congress requiring the identification rate increase.

A total of 74,213 U.S. service members remain missing from World War II, with 19,000 deemed recoverable. There are also

127 missing from the Cold War, 8,034 from the Korean War, and 1,723 from the Vietnam War, according to the command's latest figures.

Some family organizations also would prefer having a Mainland lab for identifications.

"You know how many years we wait for an identification?" said Irene Mandra, national chair of the Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing.

"Many people from Korea and the people from World War II — they are dying, they are elderly and they want closure, and we can't get it because they don't have enough anthropologists over in Hawaii."

Mandra, 75, got involved more than 25 years ago in the issue as a result of losing her brother, Philip, a 21-year-old Marine sergeant who remains missing from the Korean War.

### LAB FACILITIES

Lab space to lay out and examine remains has been growing at JPAC. The approximately 22-table lab space at Hickam doubled with a \$680,000 addition, and tripled with the opening of a second lab in Building 220 at Pearl Harbor, renovated for \$1.2 million.

Johnie E. Webb Jr., deputy commander of JPAC, said lab space will grow from about 9,000 square feet to about 50,000 square feet with the new 136,000-square-foot headquarters and lab, expected to be completed in 2013 near Kuntz Gate at Hickam.


"It's huge," Webb said of the planned new lab space, which will have as many — if not more — tables to lay out remains as in the current facilities, he said.

Originally, the new lab was intended to consolidate under one roof JPAC functions now housed in

### More News headlines

- Audit: RightStar short \$22.6M
- North Shore wetland refuge getting seven times bigger
- Libraries cope with staff cuts, sporadic closures (2)
- Hawaii hotel industry had dismal year in '09 (25)
- Hawaii's Great Aloha Run was twice as nice for winner (2)

### Traffic alerts



Enter cell phone number to get traffic text messages:

(  )  -

Message and data rates may apply. To opt out, text STOP to 4INFO (44636). For more information, text HELP to 4INFO (44636). Contact your carrier for more details.

[Sign up for more alerts »](#)

**ADS BY PULSE 360** [Get Listed Here](#)

**Got debt? Get Debt Wise from Equifax.**  
Debt Wise is a smarter, faster way to free yourself from debt.  
[www.Equifax.com](http://www.Equifax.com)

**New Financial Aid Options for College**  
If you make less than \$45,000/year, you may qualify for a Pell Grant.  
[www.ClassesUSA.com](http://www.ClassesUSA.com)

**2009 Top 10 Work At Home**  
Top 10 Home Based Jobs. Earn Good Money Working At Home Now.  
[www.home-job-news.net](http://www.home-job-news.net)

Contextual linking provided by Topix

HonoluluAdvertiser.com welcomes comments from readers. Please be advised that comments deemed to be vulgar, racist, spam or personal attacks will be deleted. Users are blocked after repeated violations of our posting guidelines.

1

[Comments >>](#)

Read and share your thoughts on this story.

---

**National Partners:** [Apartments.com](#) [Cars.com](#) [CareerBuilder.com](#) [Homefinder.com](#) [ShopLocal.com](#) [Metromix.com](#) [eHarmony.com](#) [4info](#) [USA Weekend](#)

**Local partners:** [101 Things to Do](#) [Around Hawaii](#) [Hawaii.com](#) [HawaiiNewsNow](#) [Hawaiian105.com](#)

[Home](#) | [Local news](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [My Advertiser](#) | [Island Life](#) | [TGIF](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Blogs/Forums](#) | [Classified ads](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of service](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Contact us](#) | [About us](#) | [Work for us](#) | [Gannett Foundation](#) | [Subscribe](#)

©COPYRIGHT 2010 The Honolulu Advertiser. All rights reserved.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) , updated March 2009.