

Laos to allow MIA search

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — Laos will let American investigators visit the site where a surveillance photo showed what may have been a U.S. military rescue code dug into the ground, a U.S. senator said on Thursday.

American teams will also see previously closed areas where there have been reported sightings of people who could be MIAs, said Sen. John Kerry, the chairman of the Senate committee on missing U.S. servicemen.

He announced the agreement after returning from a day trip to Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

The U.S. satellite photo, taken in January 1988, shows the 12-foot-high letters "USA," with something underneath that could be the letter "K." The letter "K" was used as a secret emergency code by American aviators during the Vietnam War.

Some people say the letters might have been a signal from an American held prisoner since the Vietnam War. Experts agree the "USA" was man-made, but they are not sure whether the other marking was a "K," or whether it was intentionally stamped out in a rice paddy.