



SITE SURVEY FORM
BentProp Project
Overview of Eight MIA or POW Sites, Republic of Palau



01FEB13

1. Mission Designator: BentProp Project P-MAN XV Search Mission, 2013

2. TEAM: P-MAN XV: Patrick J. Scannon, MD, PhD (CA), Flip Colmer (MI), Dan O'Brien (CA), Maj. Derek Abbey (NC), Katie Rasdorf (VA), Mark Swank (VA), Reid Joyce, (PA), Maj. Warren Bruce (CA), Casey Doyle (TX), Rick Smith (WA), Bill Belcher, PhD (HI)

3. Incident Numbers (REFNO,MACR, BUNO, Incident): All located in Republic of Palau. Detailed and confidential Site Survey forms containing sensitive data (including new information concerning the Jenkins TBM-1C mentioned below) were separately delivered to JPAC and are not included herein.

a. F4U-1D Corsair Crash Site: Evidence supporting Corsair crash from VMF-122, MIA 1944, in the jungle of Aimeliik State, Republic of Palau. Previous BentProp Project references: P-MAN IX (2007) Final Report, P-MAN X (2008) Final Report, and P-MAN XII (2010) Final Report.

Volcanic clay forested jungle.

b. F4U-1D Corsair Crash Site: Evidence supporting Corsair crash from VMF-122, MIA 1945 in Ngaremlengui State (alternate spelling Ngeremlengui), Babeldaob. Previous BentProp Project references: P-MAN X (2008) Final Report and P-MAN XIV (2012) Preliminary Report.

Volcanic clay forested jungle.

c. FM-2 Wildcat Crash Site: Evidence supporting FM-2 crash from USS Marcus Island/VC21. Shot down on Babeldaob, Airai State, near what is now Palau International Airport and reported MIA 1944. Previous BentProp Project references: P-MAN VI-VIII (2004-2006) and associated progress reports.

Volcanic clay and swamp in open areas.

d. TBM-1C Avenger Crash Site (public): BuNo: 25215, VT-31, CVL-28: USS Cabot; Crew MIA 30Mar1944: **LT(jg) JENKINS, Jarrell S. 176797; AMM2 CONLEN, Thomas B. 2019594; ARM2 SUMERS, Louis J. 6474399** (ARM2 SUMERS remains possibly recovery by CILHI, 1989); in southern end of Western Lagoon off the western side of Ngeruktabel, Koror State. Previous BentProp Project references: P-MAN IV (2002) Final Report, P-MAN XIIIa (February 2011) Final Report, P-MAN XIIIb (March 2011) Final Report and P-MAN XIV (2012) Preliminary Report.

Portion of aircraft lies on coral island with majority of aircraft including fuselage in 20-30 feet of water on coral/sandy bottom near rock island.

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e. **FG-1A Corsair Crash Site:** Evidence supporting Corsair crash from VMF-121, MIA 1945, on the west side of Arumaten Point, near town of Ngermetengel, Ngaremlengui State on Babeldaob. Previous BentProp Project references: P-MAN IX (2007) Final Report, P-MAN XIIIb (March 2011) Final Report and P-MAN XIV (2012) Preliminary Report.
Mangrove jungle.

f. **One LVT(A)-4 USMC Landing Craft:** Sunk ~150 meters off of South Dock point near the southwest tip of Peleliu State. The status of the crew remains unknown but is believed to be contained within this LVT(A)-4,. Previous BentProp Project references: BentProp Project P-MAN XIIIb Summary report (2011).
At depth of 75 feet of water on coral/sand bottom with additional wreckage seen 100 feet to west of LVT(A)-4 at depths of 90 and 125 feet.

g. **POW Execution and Burial Sites:** Two locations in southeastern Ngatpang State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, ~200 meters apart, designated Area A and Area B in which a minimum of 3 U.S. POWs and 10 civilians were suspected of being executed (Area A) and buried (Area B). Previous BentProp Project references: P-MAN II-XII (2000 – 2010) Final Reports.
Volcanic clay forested jungle.

h. **TBM-1C Avenger Wing:** One Outer portion of a wing believed to be part of TBM-1C Avenger possibly reported MIA1944, USS Intrepid in mangrove along northwestern shoreline of Aimeliik State; Prior BentProp Project references: P-MAN VII and P-MANV VII.

4. Geopolitical Subdivisions: See national map below with states. Please note the extent of Koror territory. Note also that in addition to national government (through the Bureau of Arts and Culture and Office of the President) and state governments (through the respective governors), discussions with chiefs in areas of interest may be necessary to explain the proposed scope of work.

National Contacts: *(Note: Separate State contacts are in each individual report)*

Names: 1) Honorable Tommy Remengesau, Jr. (formerly Johnson Toribiong, President of Palau (see Note 1))
2) Suzanne S. Finney, PhD, Archeologist, Bureau of Arts and Culture (See Note 2)

Addresses:

1) Office of President, Republic of Palau, 96940
2) Bureau of Arts and Culture, PO Box 100, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

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Contact Information:

- 1) rop.president@palaunet.com (formerly Ngiraibelas Tmetuchl, Special Assistant to the President on Administrative Matters, PO Box 6051, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940; TEL 680-7672403/2528/2541/2532; FAX 680- 7671662/2424; ntmetuchl@palaunet.com)
- 2) BAC contact: TEL 680-4882489/3361; FAX 680-4883549; bac_arch@palaunet.com

Note 1: Palau national elections were 06NOV12 and so national and some state elected positions have changed. Addresses should remain constant. State contacts are listed in specific Site Survey Forms.

Note 2: Both the President and respective states have certain water rights and so must be each contacted. In Koror, the Paramount Chief (Ibeduul) Gibbons may also need to be consulted (he is former US Army): the Bureau of Arts and Culture can assist in making that determination. The President may also have certain land rights within individual states.

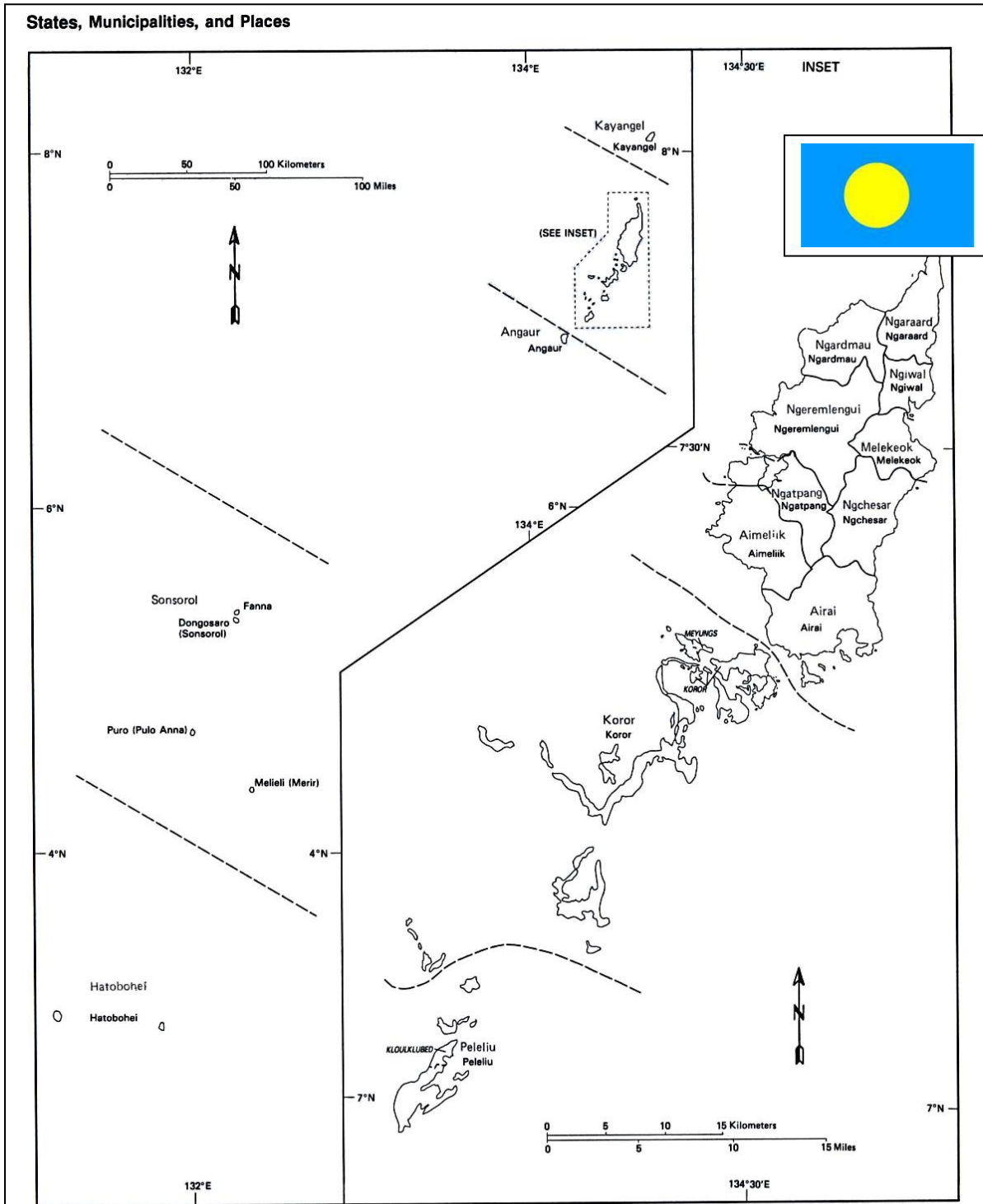
Note 3: Dr. Finney works at national level; we have had the most direct contact with her.

Specific Geopolitical Divisions by Site:

- a. Ngaremlengui State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia
- b. North of town of Ngermetengel, Ngeremlengui State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia
- c. Peleliu State, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia
- d. Ngatpang State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia.
- e. Airai State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia
- f. Western Lagoon off Ngeruktabel, waters of Koror State, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia
- g. Aimeliik State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia
- h. Aimeliik State, Babeldaob, Republic of Palau, Western Micronesia

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economics and Statistics Administration Bureau of the Census

G-4 REPUBLIC OF PALAU

* U.S. G.P.O.:1992-311-892:60607

MAPS

Figure 2 Republic of Palau with States and their Territories

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5. Site/CARIS Number (if known):

a. VMF-122 1944, USMC.: One extended debris field in volcanic clay forested jungle~ 30 minute walk from parking area (No CARIS Number known).

b. VMF-122 1945: At least two debris fields in volcanic clay jungle site ~ 2.5-3 hours northeast from Western Road by foot. (No CARIS Number known – however, this site was the subject of a JPAC site visit in 2005 led by MAJ Grover Harms and Dr. Greg Berg). One diffuse debris field in mangrove swamp, ~ 45 minutes north by foot from parking area north of Ngermetengel (No CARIS Number known).

c. FM-2 Wildcat, USN.: Three debris fields in volcanic clay open field and in an open swamp area, ~ 45 minutes by foot northwest from abandoned power plant just north of Palau International Airport (No CARIS Number known).

d. TBM-1C Avenger, USN: One debris field on ocean bottom at 35 foot depth near a rock island in Western Lagoon ~ 45 minutes by boat from Neco Marine in Malakal Harbor (No CARIS Number known).

e. VMF-121 1944, USMC: One diffuse debris field in mangrove swamp, ~ 45 minutes north by foot from parking area north of Ngermetengel (No CARIS Number known – however, this site was the subject of a brief JPAC visit in 2007 with Rich Wills).

f. : USMC LVT(A)-4: One known debris field on ocean bottom at 75 foot depth ~ 130 meters from land near South Dock off southwestern Peleliu (No CARIS Number known); possibility of two additional debris fields ~ 100 feet to west.

g. Area A POW Possible Execution Site and Area B Burial Site, USAAF: One burial site area in volcanic clay jungle near West Road (western Compact Road) (No CARIS Number known).

h. One portion of wing believed to be from a TBM-1C Avenger: Northwest Aimeliik in mangroves (no CARIS Number known)

6. Lat/Long Coordinates (WGS-84 datum): N/A

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Items 7. Through 18. are site specific are are not publicly available

16. Special Considerations:

- a. For Koror area: Dengue Fever remains a health factor with use of DEET for personal mosquito control important especially at dusk. Coral snakes and crocodiles have been seen.
- b. Sun exposure: use of barrier clothing and sunblock are important preventatives.
- c. Bottled water must be used for drinking and mouth care.
- d. November 6, 2012 was the Palauan national elections and several political positions changed as a result. Palauan Bureau of Arts and Culture can provide assistance (see above).

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