

**Report of Investigations CIL 2007-113-R, a Ground Loss Site  
Associated with JPAC Incident 235, Iwo Jima, Tokyo Prefecture,  
Japan, 17 Through 26 June 2007**



by

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**INTRODUCTION**

From 17 through 26 June 2007, during 07-01JA, a ground loss associated with JPAC Incident 235 (WWII-235) was investigated on Iwo Jima, Tokyo Prefecture, Japan. The Investigation Team (IT) surveyed the hill and surrounding areas where the loss incident was reported to have occurred. Topographic features possibly relating to the loss location were identified and recorded. Information on the former Japanese defensive positions in the area was investigated for accuracy. In addition, information was passed onto the IT regarding search and recovery missions conducted by the Association of Iwo Jima/Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

No possible human remains or material evidence was recovered during 07-01JA. However, the IT did locate two areas where possible buried tunnel entrances may be. Furthermore, the Anthropologist believes it is feasible to conduct limited mechanical excavation with the aim of uncovering any buried tunnel/bunker features within the suspected loss area. A Recovery Team (RT) or possible enhanced IT should be able to complete investigation of the suspected area within a normal JPAC deployment period.

An additional activity that should be considered would be to send a Research and Investigation Team to Iwo Jima. There are several sources of written material as well as individuals on the island that have information concerning Japanese recovery operations and knowledge of war-time Japanese defensive positions that could be useful to any future JPAC missions. Continued communications and negotiations with the Japanese authorities and concerned parties to allow and possibly assist with all these processes are recommended.

**BACKGROUND**

JPAC Incident 235 involves the 4 March 1944 ground loss of Sgt William H. Genaust, USMC. Sgt Genaust was seen at a cave entrance and is believed to have been struck down from inside the cave by machine gun fire. The cave was subsequently sealed during the fighting, presumably with Sgt Genaust's remains still inside. Sgt Genaust was not among the casualties recovered by the Search and Recovery Teams operating on the island after the battle and he remains unaccounted for (REF: J2 Investigation Lead Report for Sgt Genaust, USMC, KIA on Iwo Jima and Unaccounted For, undtd).

## RECOVERY SCENE LOCATION

Iwo Jima is part of the Ogasawara archipelago (also known as the Bonin Islands) and lies approximately 1200 km south of Tokyo, Japan (Figure 1). The island is administered as part of Tokyo Prefecture. There are no permanent residents living on Iwo Jima, but the Japanese Self-Defense Force (JSDF) operates a naval base and airfield on the island with approximately 400 JSDF members.

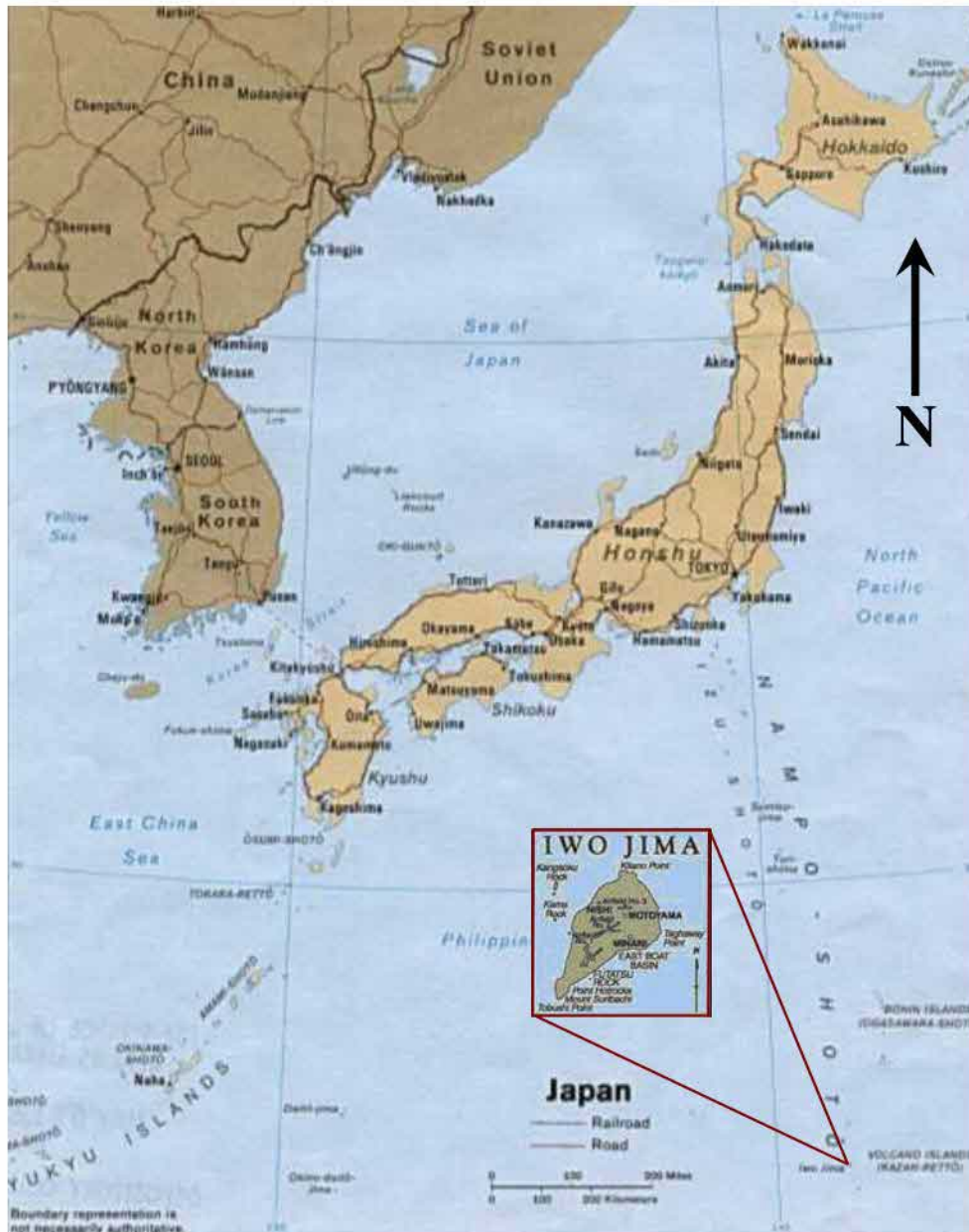


Figure 1. General location of Iwo Jima.

The investigation focused on Hill 362A and its immediate surrounding areas. Hill 362A is located approximately 1000 m due north of the western end of the Iwo Jima airfield (Figure 2). Military Grid Reference System (MGRS) grid coordinates recorded near the western side of the hill with a Garmin GPSmap 60CS Global Positioning System (GPS) using the WGS-84 datum and tracking six satellites are 54R WN 31472 41888 (+/- 10 m) with an elevation of 94 m. Map name: Title: Iwō-Jima; Sheet: Special map; Series: W811; Edition: 3-AMS (AFFE); Datum: Astronomic Station Beacon E (1945); Scale: 1:12,500.



**Figure 2. Location of Hill 362A on Iwo Jima.**

Access to Hill 362A is easiest from the east by way of an old paved road, part of an abandoned airstrip complex. A Japanese battle memorial marker (marker number 58 in Japanese) denotes the approach point to the hill used by the IT (Figure 3). The marker is located at MGRS 54R WN 31661 41733 +/- 6 m tracking 10 satellites (WGS-84). The roads and hill are accessible to any vehicle, and wide enough to allow construction machinery. Hill 362A begins a few hundred meters north of the memorial marker.



**Figure 3. Japanese battle memorial marker No. 58 denotes point of access to Hill 362A. Hill 362A is pictured right center, the IT storage shelter is left center. View north.**

### **DESCRIPTION OF INVESTIGATION SCENE**

Hill 362A (Figure 4) is a pyroclastic formation with an inclining slope from the southern side that ends at a high cliff drop off on the north side. A cliff wall on the western side increases in height from south to north with the slope until it reaches approximately 11 m high near its northern extent. A second detached pyroclastic formation, much smaller in size but just as tall, is immediately to the west of the main portion of Hill 362A, creating a narrow, high walled gorge between the two formations (Figure 5). This gorge is approximately 6 m wide at its narrowest point. Several tunnel systems have been dug into both cliff faces within the gorge. A larger ravine is present in the northwestern corner of the hill which houses at least two more tunnel

