

STRATEGY FOR INVESTIGATIONS IN THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE. ALL AMERICAN TEAM MEMBERS, THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TEAM, AND THE THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE TASK TEAM WERE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING. VIETNAMESE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM CONFIRMED THEY POSSESSED VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS OF THE INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS.

E. ON 3 SEP 95, IE2 INTERVIEWED FOUR WITNESSES CONCERNING CASE 1184 IN A TIN HAMLET, NAM HOA DISTRICT, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE. ALL WITNESSES ARE ETHNIC TA OI.

(1) WITNESS ONE.

(A) NAME: LE ANH SANG (LEE ANH SANG).

(B) AGE: 39 YOA.

(C) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: A TIN HAMLET SINCE 1973.

(D) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: BA LE (BA LEE) HAMLET NEAR THE XE RON (XES ROON, AKA SEPON) RIVER, LAOS.

(E) CURRENT OCCUPATION: TEACHER.

(F) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: STUDENT.

(G) STATEMENT: MR. SANG STATED THAT A TIN HAMLET WAS ENTIRELY DESERTED DURING THE WAR UNTIL RESIDENTS BEGAN RETURNING IN 1973. HE RETURNED TO A TIN IN 1973 AT THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN. DURING THE WAR, HE AND HIS FAMILY RELOCATED TO BA LE HAMLET NEAR THE XE RON RIVER IN LAOS TO ESCAPE THE BOMBING. HE STATED THAT BA LE HAMLET WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY'S WALK SOUTH OF A TIN HAMLET. MR. SANG KNEW HOW TO READ A MAP, AND POINTED OUT A FOUR KILOMETER SQUARE AREA BOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES: YC 53 72, YC 55 72, YC 55 74, AND YC 53 74. MR. SANG DID NOT KNOW OF ANYONE WHO HAS HUNTED IN LAOS SINCE HE MOVED BACK TO VIETNAM IN 1973. HE ALSO HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, AMERICAN REMAINS, OR PRISONERS OF WAR.

(2) WITNESS TWO.

(A) WITNESS NAME: HO HUNG (HOOF HUWNG).

(B) AGE: 53 YOA.

(C) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: A TIN HAMLET SINCE 1985.

(D) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: NORTHERN VIETNAM.

(E) CURRENT OCCUPATION: FARMER.

(F) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: TRUCK DRIVER IN NORTHERN VIETNAM.

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1184//
RMKS/

(G) STATEMENT: MR. HUNG HAS LIVED IN A TIN HAMLET SINCE 1985. PRIOR TO THAT, HE LIVED AND WORKED IN NORTHERN VIETNAM. MR. HUNG HAS NOT HUNTED OR TRAVELED ACROSS THE BORDER TO LAOS. HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, AMERICAN

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REMAINS, OR PRISONERS OF WAR.

(3) WITNESS THREE.

(A) NAME: QUYNH HICH (QUYNHF HICHS).

(B) AGE: 60 YOA.

(C) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: A TIN HAMLET FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

(D) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: BA LE HAMLET.

(E) CURRENT OCCUPATION: FARMER.

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(F) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: FARMER.

(G) STATEMENT: MR. HICH WITNESSED A HELICOPTER AND A JET AIRCRAFT CRASH IN LAOS SOME TIME AROUND 1968 OR 1969. HE DID NOT HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE TWO INCIDENTS. MR. HICH HAS NOT CROSSED THE LAO-VIET BORDER SINCE RELOCATING TO A TIN CIRCA 1970. HE DOES NOT CURRENTLY HUNT IN LAOS NOR DOES HE KNOW OF ANYONE WHO DOES. ADDITIONALLY, HE STATED THAT A TIN WAS DESERTED DURING THE WAR DUE TO INTENSE BOMBING. HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE OR AMERICAN REMAINS.

(4) WITNESS FOUR.

(A) WITNESS NAME: QUYNH A (QUYNHF A).

(B) AGE: 63.

(C) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: A TIN HAMLET FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS.

(D) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: BA LE HAMLET.

(E) CURRENT OCCUPATION: FARMER.

(F) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: FARMER.

(G) STATEMENT: MR. A FOUND THE WRECKAGE OF TWO HELICOPTERS AND ONE JET AIRCRAFT IN THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, SOMETIME DURING THE RAINY SEASON OF 1968 NEAR BA LE HAMLET, LAOS. HE STATED THAT BOTH HELICOPTERS WERE UH-1'S AND THAT THE JET WAS POSSIBLY A TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT. THE ONLY THING REMAINING OF THE JET AIRCRAFT WAS A SECTION OF A WING. HE SAID THE WING WAS PAINTED WHITE WITH THE LETTERS "U S" PAINTED ON IT, AND A LARGE BOMB WAS STILL ATTACHED. HE DID NOT PERSONALLY WITNESS THE SHOOT DOWN OR CRASH OF ANY OF THE THREE AIRCRAFT. HE DID NOT FIND ANY REMAINS AT ANY OF THE CRASH SITES, BUT DID FIND AN ARMORED VEST AND YELLOW BOOT AT THE JET AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE. HE HAS SINCE DISCARDED THESE ITEMS. IN 1978, HE AND OTHER VILLAGERS RETURNED TO THE SITES TO COLLECT ALUMINUM. THEY COLLECTED AS MUCH AS THEY COULD TRANSPORT BACK TO A TIN HAMLET AND SOLD IT AFTER RETURNING.

THE CRASH SITES ARE IN LAOS, TWO DAYS WALK SOUTH OF A TIN HAMLET. MR. A IS WILLING TO LEAD A JOINT TEAM TO THESE THREE CRASH SITES. 4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE:

A. MATERIAL EVIDENCE RETAINED BY JTF-FA: NONE.

B. MATERIAL EVIDENCE PHOTOGRAPHED AND LEFT IN PLACE: NONE.

C. REMAINS: NONE.

5. SITE SURVEY RESULTS: N/A.

6. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.

7. AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE.

8. ANALYST COMMENTS:

A. WITNESS STATEMENTS: ALL THE WITNESSES WERE ETHNIC TA OI

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AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WITNESS ONE, NONE SPOKE VIETNAMESE. IE2 INTERVIEWED WITNESSES TWO, THREE, AND FOUR IN THEIR NATIVE DIALECT THROUGH A LOCAL OFFICIAL. ONLY WITNESS FOUR ADMITTED EVER CROSSING THE VIET-LAO BORDER SINCE THE WAR.

B. INCIDENT LOCATION SURVEY: N/A.

C. ANALYTICAL CONCLUSION:

(1) COORDINATES 48Q YC 54 73 ARE THE APPROXIMATE CENTER OF THE LOCATION WITNESS TWO GAVE FOR BA LE HAMLET. A 10 KM RADIUS SEARCH OF THE BRIGHT LIGHT DATABASE AROUND THIS POINT PROVIDED SOME POSSIBLE CORRELATIONS TO THE CRASH SITES WITNESS FOUR DESCRIBED IN LAOS.

(A) THERE ARE TWO OPERATIONAL UH-1 LOSSES APPROXIMATELY 4 AND 6 KMS EAST OF BA LE, OR ABOUT 6 KMS SOUTH-EAST OF A TIN.

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(B) THERE ARE THREE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE H-34
LOSSES WITHIN 3 KMS AROUND BA LE, AND 3 TO 7 KMS SOUTH OF A TIN.

(C) THERE IS NO RECORD OF A JET AIRCRAFT LOSS IN
THIS AREA INSIDE LAOS.

(2) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE OF THE UH-1 CRASH SITES
WITNESS FOUR DESCRIBED COULD ACTUALLY BE A CH-34. THIS COULD
CORRELATE TO CASE 1159 OR ONE OF THE THREE CH-34 OPERATIONAL
LOSSES.

9. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST COMMENTS: NONE.

10. TEAM LEADER COMMENTS:

A. WITNESS RELIABILITY: ALL THE WITNESSES PROVIDED
INFORMATION IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. NO ADVANCE PREPARATION
OR COACHING OF WITNESSES WAS EVIDENT.

B. ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS: UNTIL WE GET THESE WITNESSES
INTO LAOS AND PHYSICALLY AT THE CRASH SITES IT IS DIFFICULT TO
CORRELATE THEIR INFORMATION TO ANY PARTICULAR LOSSES. THEY HAVE
NOT KEPT ANY WRECKAGE AND WILL NOT TOUCH REMAINS. I AM SURE THE
FOURTH WITNESS KNOWS THE LOCATION OF CRASH SITES IN LAOS. WE
NEED TO GET HIM THERE.

C. HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION WAS EXCELLENT. OUR
REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS INVESTIGATION WERE MET. THE TEAM FOUND ONE
WITNESS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF CRASH SITES IN LAOS. THAT WAS OUR
ULTIMATE GOAL.

D. DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: NONE.

11. RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE.//
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----- END OF MESSAGE TEXT -----

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* DER FM: CR 10-24 *
* 2 AUG 82 *
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ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS204 MCN = 95272/06117 TOR = 952720505

OTTUZYUW RUEKJCS8184 2720500 -RUEANSS.

ZNR

W

HEADER

O P 281815Z SEP 95

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

TO: SAFE

ZEM

CONTROLS

BODY

SUBJ: (MEC) SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1761//

//NOTICE// AUTOMATED MESSAGE ERROR CORRECTION

----- ORIGINAL MESSAGE TEXT -----

CDSN = CFS204 MCN = 95272/06117 TOR = 952720505

OTTUZYUW RUEKJCS8184 2720500 -RUEANSS.

ZNR

O 290500Z SEP 95

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO RHEFOCB/OC

RUEALGX/SAFE

O P 281815Z SEP 95 ZYB

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:ISA/DPMO//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5//

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC/

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30M//

RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC

RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI//CJTFFA DET TWO//

RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH//CJTFFA DET 4//

BT

//NO3000//AMEMBASSY HANOI PASS TO CJTFFA DET TWO
SECTION 01 OF 05

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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA/-/SEP//

SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1761//

REF: A. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI, 271733Z SEP 95

B. CDR JTF-FA, HONOLULU, HI//J2//, 171912Z FEB 94

C. CJTFFA, DET ONE, BANGKOK, TH, 280516Z JUL 93

D. CJTFFA, DET ONE, BANGKOK, TH, 030904Z JUN 92

E. JCRC LIAISON, BANGKOK, TH, 130736Z AUG 91

RMKS/1. REFERENCES:

OASD DPMO	
Date Received	29 Sep 95
Watch Officer	RS
Distro	Act / Info
Director	---
Deputy Dir	---
Chief of Staff	---
Exec Asst	---
Gen Counsel	---
Pol/Plns	---
Res/Analyst	---
Jt Comm Spt	---
Ref/DOC	---
Ext Affairs	---
Resource Mgmt	---
RA-SA	---

Aston, J. S. 1761