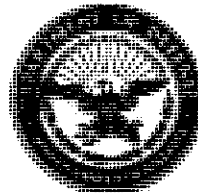


DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

USAFMPC (AFPMSC)
RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS 78148

21 October 1969

Dear Air Force Next of Kin

During the course of our recent briefing trips around the country, and in conversations with many of you, we have often been asked to establish a method which would enable wives and families of missing and captured members to contact one another. We have not been able to furnish names and addresses to those who have requested them since many next of kin desire complete anonymity and do not want their names released to anyone.

To enable each of you to make your own decision about establishing contact with others, we are initiating a new program. We have asked 23 wives of missing or captured Air Force members to act as area contact representatives for the metropolitan area and surrounding territory wherein they live. Each of these wives volunteered to act in this capacity and was selected based on a previously expressed interest in seeing such a program established.

Those wives or families desiring to establish contact should write to the representative nearest them, expressing an interest in contacting others in the same area. On receipt of such letters, contact representatives will forward names of others who have written expressing a similar desire. All names and addresses of contact representatives are included as an attachment to this newsletter. Those who have a desire to discuss or correspond concerning mutual problems may do so, while at the same time the wishes of those who want to preserve their privacy will be respected.

Designation of these contact representatives is not an attempt to establish a formal organization, nor have those who have agreed to serve in this capacity acquired any official or semiofficial status. Each has agreed to assume responsibility for administrative details and expenses, and is acting solely out of a desire to bring together and provide reassurance to those who are in a mutual, difficult situation.

We would like to acquaint you with a new code word which you will be hearing in the future, especially if you travel by space available military aircraft. From now on, all your space available travel will be identified by the code word "COIN ASSIST." When checking in for a flight, advise that you are a "COIN ASSIST" traveler. Base personnel will provide every possible courtesy and assistance and move you as expeditiously as possible, and every

effort will be made to insure that your travel is accomplished without delay, hindrance, or discomfort. To insure success of this policy, your letter requesting space available travel should identify the name of the base from which you plan to depart. If you are a foreign born wife traveling overseas, also advise of how you plan to travel to the aerial port of embarkation.

A next of kin briefing to be conducted by personnel from this office, with a filmed presentation by representatives of the Departments of State and Defense, has been scheduled for Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, at 1:00 p.m., 30 October 1969, in the Officers' Open Mess. Individual invitations will not be sent, and it will not be necessary for you to contact this office should you desire to attend this session. However, we emphasize that the briefing is only for primary and secondary adult next of kin, and any travel arrangements and expenses are the responsibility of the person attending.

There have been many inquiries relative to family members either visiting or writing the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front Delegations in Paris, and a major portion of the last newsletter was devoted to this subject. We want to report that, to the best of our knowledge, no one who has visited or written one of the delegations has thus far received a reply containing information about their missing or captured relative. We will continue to keep you posted.

No prisoner mail has been received since the letters that were carried back by the peace activists who escorted Captain Rumble, Lieutenant Frishman, and Seaman Hegdahl from Hanoi to this country in August 1969. It is our sincere wish that more mail may be received by the families in connection with the forthcoming Christmas/New Year's holidays, hopefully sooner. Also, if the North Vietnamese hold true to form, season's greetings type messages broadcast over Radio Hanoi can be anticipated from a limited number of Air Force and Navy prisoners. You will be interested to know that the State Department, Department of Defense, and the Post Office Department are presently considering the feasibility of a Christmas package program, and we will notify you as soon as more information is received.

There is an interesting and factual article pertaining to prisoners of war in the October 1969 issue of the AIR FORCE AND SPACE DIGEST magazine. Arrangements have already been made for us to be furnished sufficient copies of the article so that each of you can be provided with one. We hope to receive the copies prior to publication of the next newsletter.