

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

USAFMPC (AFPMSC)
RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS 78148

8 May 1970

Dear Air Force Next of Kin

Since our last newsletter, 150 letters have been received by the families of 107 Air Force prisoners of war in North Vietnam. Many of the letters were carried back to this country by Reverend Richard R. Fernandez, who is connected with Cora Weiss' Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam; others were forwarded direct from North Vietnam to Cora Weiss who, in turn, mailed them to the concerned next of kin; and still others were received by the families direct from Hanoi through international mail channels. Of our known prisoners of war, there were 44 first-time writers and, as a result of the receipt of this mail, 12 status changes from missing in action to captured were made. Although this amount of mail is still below that required by the Geneva Convention, it does constitute an improvement over the past. It is anticipated that additional letters from captured personnel will be forthcoming.

You may be aware that Mrs. Raymond Schrupp, wife of a US Army officer being held captive in South Vietnam, was recently in Paris to obtain a letter which the Viet Cong had stated was written by Major Schrupp. The letter was handwritten, and Mrs. Schrupp was able to identify the writing as that of her husband. The Army informed us that the text of the letter was the same propaganda material the Viet Cong has previously used. A number of next of kin have visited Paris, but this is the first instance we know of where the Viet Cong have given an appointment to a family member of someone missing in action or captured in South Vietnam. They no doubt saw Mrs. Schrupp because they had publicly acknowledged that they had a letter from her husband.

During Mrs. Schrupp's visit, a spokesman for the Viet Cong stated that families may forward mail to prisoners of war through the Red Cross of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam at the following address:

Croix Rouge de Liberation du Sud Vietnam
Ambassade de la Republique du Sud Vietnam
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This is the first time the Viet Cong have mentioned this address, and we feel it might be worthwhile to try it although no assurance is given that the address will be productive.

In this connection, we were also furnished the addresses of certain embassies of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam which are listed below. Families of personnel who are missing in action or captured in South Vietnam may want to try the addresses in an attempt to forward mail or obtain information.

we will furnish you an additional one. However, please bear in mind that we receive only a very limited number of these cards, and they are tightly controlled. We also suggest that packages be mailed as early as possible to avoid any last-minute problems.

Area contact representatives were designated to serve as points of contact among the next of kin. They should not speak to representatives of the news media concerning another Air Force missing in action or captured member or his family. This is a personal matter and must be decided upon by each next of kin in light of his or her own personal convictions.

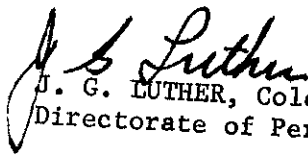
Air Force Brigadier General Daniel ("Chappie") James, Jr. was sworn in at the Pentagon on 31 March 1970 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs). At the ceremony Secretary Laird remarked that:

..."Chappie will be assigned additional duties and responsibilities here in the Department of Defense and these will be related to the plight of our prisoners of war. Some of these men were flying comrades of General James in Vietnam. Chappie will bring to this assignment a special knowledge and a compassion as we pursue relentlessly our efforts to inform the American public and the world how the government of Hanoi is refusing to abide by the humanitarian provisions of the Geneva Convention."

Red Cross societies in other countries have recently informed the American National Red Cross of their desire to assist in gaining compliance by the detaining forces with the provisions of the Geneva Convention as they relate to missing in action personnel and prisoners of war. In view of these expressions of support, the American National Red Cross suggests that any of you who have relatives residing in other countries request that they contact the Red Cross society in their country, asking them to initiate a direct inquiry to the Red Cross in Hanoi for information concerning the missing in action or captured member. These requests will not be in place of the normal inquiries made through the International Committee of the Red Cross which will continue; however, it is felt they may serve to emphasize to the detaining forces that their evasions regarding application of the Geneva Convention are of great concern in countries throughout the world.

We are inclosing several items concerning missing in action/prisoner of war matters that we know will be of interest to you.

Sincerely


J. G. LUTHER, Colonel, USAF
Directorate of Personnel Services

- 4 Atch
1. Itinerary of Army Personnel
 2. Congressional Record
 3. H.A.S.C. No. 91-49 (Hearing)
 4. Pamphlet, Viet-Nam Information

Notes

ITINERARY OF ARMY PERSONNEL

- 11 May - Washington DC, 2:00 p.m., Post Theater, Ft McNair
- 12 May - Boston, Massachusetts, 2:00 p.m., Building P-672 (Chapel Center),
Ft Devens
- 13 May - New York, New York, 2:00 p.m., Post Theater, Ft Hamilton
- 14 May - Columbus, Ohio, 2:00 p.m., Building 84, Ft Hayes
- 16 May - Mount Clemens, Michigan, 2:00 p.m., Service Club, Selfridge AFB
- 17 May - Chicago, Illinois, 2:00 p.m., Post Theater, Ft Sheridan
- 19 May - Ft Leavenworth, Kansas, 2:00 p.m., Marshall Auditorium, Bell
Hall, Ft Leavenworth
- 20 May - Killeen, Texas, 2:00 p.m., Building 38N (Conference Room), Ft Hood
- 22 May - El Paso, Texas, 2:00 p.m., Building 2, Hinman Hall, Room 118,
Ft Bliss
- 23 May - Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2:30 p.m., Building 1430 (Conference
Room), Ft Carson
- 24 May - Portland, Oregon, 2:00 p.m., Portland National Guard Armory No 1,
Portland Air Base
- 26 May - San Francisco, California, 2:00 p.m., Building 603, Presidio of
San Francisco
- 27 May - San Diego, California, 2:00 p.m., Officers Club, Miramar Naval Air
Station
- 29 May - Columbus, Georgia, 2:00 p.m., Room 642, Building No 4, Infantry Hall,
Ft Benning
- 30 May - Fayetteville, North Carolina, 3:00 p.m., Auditorium of the John F.
Kennedy Special Warfare Center, Ft Bragg

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