

OR THE FATE OF THE PILOT/AIRCREW. DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS THE TEAM WAS UNABLE TO SURVEY THIS CRASH SITE. LAO COOPERATION WAS EXCELLENT DURING THIS INVESTIGATION. RECOMMEND THE CRASH SITE NEAR BAN PASIEO BE SURVEYED END SUMMARY.

2. JOINT TEAM MEMBERS:

- A. U.S.:

LTC JOHN M. KENDALL, MISSION COMMANDER
MR. WILLIAM R. GADOURY, JR; TEAM LEADER
GYSGT DONALD A. DAY, ANALYST
SSGT THOMAS M. CHASE, ANALYST
MR. DAVID M. ROSENAU, LKA INVESTIGATOR
SSG WILLIAM M. ELLERMAN, MA TECHNICIAN
SSG JOHN SIEGFRIED, MA TECHNICIAN
SSG BRET A. DUNKELBARGER, EOD
CPT MICHAEL R. VOORHIES, MEDIC

- B. LAO:

LT KHAMKHONG INTHILATH, MND
LT THONGVANH SENGVONGCHIT, MND

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

- A. ON 23-24 MAY, 1993, THE JOINT TEAM INVESTIGATED/SURVEYED CASE 0323. MR. BOUNXOU (BOUALAPHA DISTRICT OFFICIAL) ACCOMPANIED THE TEAM. THE VILLAGES OF BAN KADAT, BAN LAKO, BAN SOUB PHE, AND BAN PHOU A DOUK WERE DETERMINED TO BE ABANDONED. THE TEAM FIRST FLEW TO BAN PASIEO (XD192968). A SURVEY OF THE VILLAGE REVEALED NO AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. SOUANG (VILLAGE CHIEF) AND MR. BIN (VILLAGE ELDER). MR. BIN COULD ONLY RECALL ONE LOSS INCIDENT IN THE AREA. A JET AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED IN THE NAM KOK RIVER 20 METERS SOUTH OF THE HOUAY TALI STREAM JUNCTION (XD183920). HE SAID THAT THE NOSE OF THE AIRCRAFT HAD BURIED ITSELF IN THE RIVER BANK WITH PIECES SCATTERED THERE AND IN THE RIVER. MR. BIN COULD NOT RECALL THE COLOR AND DID NOT KNOW THE DATE OF INCIDENT BECAUSE HE HAD NOT SEEN IT. WHEN ASKED IF HE COULD LEAD TEAM TO SITE, HE DECLINED STATING THAT HIS EYES WERE NOT AS GOOD AS THEY USED TO BE, AND HE COULD PROBABLY NOT FIND IT. MR. BIN HAD NEVER SEEN ANY AMERICANS PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE INVESTIGATION TEAM, HAD HEARD NO REPORTS OF AMERICANS IN THE AREA, AND HAD SEEN NO REMAINS OR GRAVE SITES. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE NO VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN THE AREA DURING THE WAR, ONLY NEO LAO HAK XAT MILITIAMEN OF THE TA-LE SUBDISTRICT. MR. SOUANG OPINED THAT THE VILLAGERS OF BAN VAT, WHICH IS CLOSER TO THE CRASH SITE PROBABLY DO NOT KNOW ABOUT IT BECAUSE ALL THE OLDER RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE HAVE SINCE MOVED TO BAN CHALET (XD1688).

- B. THE TEAM NEXT FLEW TO BAN VAT (XD204932) AND SPOKE TO SEVERAL VILLAGERS. NO AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WAS SEEN IN THE VILLAGE. MR. MI STATED THAT HE KNEW OF THE SAME CRASH SITE REPORTED IN BAN PASIEO. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN AN AREA CONTROLLED BY RESIDENTS OF BAN CHALET, AND WAS HEAVILY SCAVENGED BY BAN CHALET VILLAGERS. MR. HEUNG, A FORMER MILITIAMAN, STATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED AROUND THE PLANTING SEASON (MAY OR JUNE) OF AN UNRECALLED YEAR DURING THE WAR. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS A JET, AND IT CRASHED IN THE NAM KOK RIVER APPROX 200-300 METERS DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF HOUAY TALI STREAM. HE SAID THERE WERE NUMEROUS BANANA PLANTS ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER NEAR THE SITE. HE SAID THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH IMPACTED NOSE FIRST, HAS SINCE WASHED AWAY. HE SAID HE DID NOT OBSERVE THE CRASH. HE ALSO HAD NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT OR OTHER AMERICANS IN THE AREA. MR. HEUNG DID, HOWEVER, HEAR ABOUT THE HOUAY HET PRISON ESCAPE (CASE 0018) FROM LOCAL MILITIAMEN. HE KNEW NO DETAILS OF THE EVENT AND DID NOT OBSERVE ANY OF THE ESCAPEES.

- C. AFTER COMPLETING INTERVIEW IN BAN VAT, THE TEAM FLEW TO BAN CHALET (XD158991) AND SPOKE TO MR. VEUN (60 YEARS OLD). MR. VEUN EXPLAINED THAT NONE OF THE VILLAGES WERE IN THE AREA DURING THE WAR. HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY AIRCRAFT CRASH SITES ON PHOU LA NHIA (XE1900) (NOTE: THE TEAM WANTED TO CHECK THIS AREA GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT PILOT OF CASE 0323 MAY HAVE HAD ENOUGH ALTITUDE TO CLEAR THE RIDGELINE IN THE VICINITY OF THE RECORD COORDINATE AND IMPACTED ON NEXT RIDGE. END NOTE)

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE

5. SURVEY RESULTS: N/A

6. PERTINENT DATA OR LOCATION CHANGES: NONE

7. CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE

8. LKA INVESTIGATOR COMMENTS: VILLAGERS INTERVIEWED, FOR THE MOST PART, APPEAR TO BE REPORTING TRUTHFULLY AND RESPONSES APPEARED TO BE SPONTANEOUS. THE AIRCRAFT LOSS INCIDENT DESCRIBED BY VILLAGERS MAY RELATE TO CASE 0323, BUT A SURVEY OF THIS SITE IS UNLIKELY TO RESOLVE PILOT'S STATUS. EVEN THOUGH RESIDENTS INDICATED VIETNAMESE FORCES WERE NOT IN THE AREA THIS POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE PURSUED PRIOR TO ANY FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THE INCIDENT AREA.

9. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST COMMENTS: N/A

10. TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS: WEATHER AND TIME CONSTRAINTS PRECLUDED THE TEAM'S ABILITY TO SURVEY THE SITE REPORTED NEAR HOUAY TALI STREAM. THE NEXT SURVEY TEAM IN THE AREA SHOULD VISIT THIS SITE TO DETERMINE IF IT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0323.

11. JTF-FA/DET 3 COMMANDER RECOMMENDATIONS: RECOMMEND CASE 0323 FOR SURVEY. SALMON

BT

#1388

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