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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//

TO RUEACNP/BUPERS WASHINGTON DC//PERS-663P//

INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//

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SECTION 01 OF 03

DIA PASS TO OD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//

MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//

AMPN/SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0691 (PATTERSON)//

REF/A/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK/150921ZFEB91//

cy to Mr. Bell

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REF/B/JTF-FA DET ONE/280703ZJAN92//

REF/C/JTF-FA DET ONE/220747ZJUN92//

RMKS/1. REF A IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 CONDUCTED ON 5 AND 6 DECEMBER 1990. REF B IS THE REPORT OF INTERVIEW OF ADDITIONAL WITNESSES ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691 AND THE ATTEMPT TO REACH THE GRAVE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. REF C IS THE REPORT OF EXCAVATION/REINVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691 CONDUCTED FROM 2 TO 16 MAY 1992. THIS REPORT IS BASED ON CRS OBSERVATIONS AND FIELD ANALYSIS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS: ON 2 AND 3 APRIL 1993, A JOINT U.S./SRV TEAM RETURNED TO THE EXCAVATION SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691-1-01. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THE REPORTED INCIDENT SITE LOCATED ABOVE DONG DANH HAMLET, THUONG TIEN VILLAGE, KIM BOI DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE, IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE CASE. THE TEAM LOCATED NO ADDITIONAL EYEWITNESSES OR RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THE SITE PREVIOUSLY EXCAVATED AS REPORTED IN REF C. A JOINT REVIEW OF THIS CASE AND DISCUSSION WITH VILLAGE OFFICIALS INDICATES THAT PREVIOUS JOINT TEAMS HAVE EXHAUSTED THE LIST OF KNOWN EYEWITNESSES. AFTER

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RE-SURVEYING THE SITE EXCAVATED DURING MAY 1992, U.S. AND VIETNAMESE TEAM MEMBERS RECOMMENDED NO FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AT THIS SITE IN THUONG TIEN VILLAGE, KIM BOI DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION/SURVEY:

A. ON 2 APR 93, A JOINT US/VIETNAM INVESTIGATIVE ELEMENT FORMED IN HANOI TO RETURN TO THE SITE OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 0691. THIS WAS THE THIRD JOINT TEAM TASKED WITH THIS CASE. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FLANAGAN, DETACHMENT 2 CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHAM CONG KHOI (PHAMJ COONG KHOI), MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE VIETNAM OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONS (VNOSMP).

B. THE TEAM TRAVELED FROM HANOI CAPITAL REGION TO HOA BINH PROVINCE TOWN (WJ3701). THE TEAM STOPPED AT HOA BINH PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE TO INFORM PROVINCE OFFICIALS THAT THE JOINT TEAM WOULD BE TRAVELING TO KIM BOI DISTRICT ON SHORT NOTICE IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THE CASE 0691 SITE AS NEEDED. AT THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE BUILDING, THE TEAM WAS JOINED BY PROVINCE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

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REPRESENTATIVE MAJOR BUI VAN PHUC (BUIF VAWN PHUCS), AND PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE MR. NGUYEN VAN TRUNG (NGUYEENX VAWN TRUNG).

C. THE JOINT TEAM PROCEEDED TO KIM BOI DISTRICT TOWN (WH5684), HOA BINH PROVINCE. AT KIM BOI TOWN, THE TEAM WAS JOINED BY DISTRICT PUBLIC SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE MR. BUI VAN NOI (BUIF VAWN NOOIJ). CRS INFORMED MR. NOI THAT TWO ACTIONS WERE ESSENTIAL TO CLARIFYING THIS CASE. FIRST, CRS SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CERTAIN TERRAIN FEATURES DESCRIBED BY AVIATORS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. MR. NOI WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THIS POINT BUT OFFERED NO OBJECTIONS. SECOND, CRS SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THE CRASH SITE OF THE AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN THIS CASE. MR. NOI RESPONDED THAT THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION HAD NOT CRASHED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF KIM BOI DISTRICT. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL, PROVINCE, AND DISTRICT LEVEL TEAM MEMBERS WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS, THE UNITED STATES SIDE HAD INTERVIEWED FIFTEEN WITNESSES, HAD VIEWED CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT WHICH DOCUMENTED THE DEATH OF ONE AMERICAN AVIATOR AND THE CAPTURE OF A SECOND AVIATOR FROM THE SAME

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INCIDENT, AND THAT THEY HAD NO EXPECTATIONS FOR ANY NEW EYEWITNESSES OR EVIDENCE ON THIS CASE. CRS THEN REQUESTED TO TRAVEL TO THE AREA OF THE EXCAVATION SITE IN THUONG TIEN VILLAGE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. THE JOINT TEAM THEN PLANNED THE TRIP TO THE EXCAVATION SITE. AT 1100 HOURS ON 2 APR 93, DISTRICT OFFICIALS SAID THAT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE IN THE DAY TO BEGIN THE TREK TO THE EXCAVATION SITE. DISTRICT OFFICIALS ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SIX HOURS TO WALK FROM THE POINT WHERE THE TEAM'S FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLES WOULD HAVE TO BE PARKED TO REACH THE SITE. THE TEAM AGREED TO DEPART AT FIRST LIGHT ON 3 APR 93.

D. AT APPROXIMATELY 0600 HOURS ON 3 APR 93, THE TEAM DEPARTED KIM BOI TOWN FOR THUONG TIEN VILLAGE (VIC WH4985), WHERE THE TEAM WAS JOINED BY THE THUONG TIEN VILLAGE CHAIRMAN, MR. DINH QUANG HOP (DINH QUANG HOWPJ); VILLAGE TEAM CHIEF, MR. BUI VAN THANH (BUIF VAWN THANH); AND THE VILLAGE VICE CHAIRMAN, MR. DINH THANH THAP (DINH THANH THAAPJ). AT 0720 HOURS THE TEAM REACHED A LOCATION (VIC WH475839) ON THE PROMINENT TRAIL NEAR LANG VAY HAMLET WHERE THE TRAIL WAS NO LONGER WIDE ENOUGH FOR FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES. LED BY THE VILLAGE CHAIRMAN, MR HOP, THE TEAM DEPARTED ON FOOT FROM THE LOCATION WHERE THE VEHICLES WERE PARKED AND TRAVERSED IN A

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GENERALLY EAST-TO-WEST DIRECTION OVER A COMBINATION OF HAMLET TRAILS, STREAMS, AND FOREST SCAVENGING TRACKS. AT 0930 HOURS, THE TEAM ARRIVED AT A LOCATION (VIC WH442832) ABOVE DONG DANH HAMLET (VIC WH447829) WHICH OVERLOOKS THE VALLEY RUNNING FROM OUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST AND PROVIDES A GOOD VISTA F THE VALLEY. AT THIS TIME IN THE MORNING, HEAVY FOG AND HAZE OBSCURED THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VALLEY AND NO DISCERNIBLE LANDMARKS WERE VISIBLE. MR. HOP INFORMED CRS THAT THIS POINT HAD SERVED AS THE LANDING ZONE FOR THE EXCAVATION TEAM HELICOPTER. MR. HOP AT THIS TIME SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THE FOG AND HAZE MIGHT LIFT ENOUGH FOR PHOTOGRAPHS BY MID-AFTERNOON. FREQUENTLY DURING THE TREK, THE TEAM ENCOUNTERED SMALL GROUPS OF LOCAL INHABITANTS ON THE TRAIL ENGAGED IN HARVESTING TREES, BAMBOO AND OTHER FOREST PLANTS. WHILE CRS DID NOT STOP TO TALK WITH ANY OF THE SMALL GROUPS AT LENGTH, SEVERAL OF THE PASSERSBY INDICATED THAT THEY KNEW OF THE LOCATION WHERE THE AMERICAN PILOT HAD BEEN KILLED DURING THE WAR.

E. FROM THE LANDING ZONE THE TEAM FOLLOWED A RIDGE LINE AND A STREAM BED UP TO A POINT WHICH MR. HOP ANNOUNCED WAS THE EXCAVATION SITE. THE TEAM ARRIVED AT THE SITE AT 1030 HOURS AS THE HAZE WAS

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