

PW-MIA
JTF

VZCZCBTO513
RR RUEHBT
DE RUHQSGG #0763 2290002
ZNR UUUUU
R 170002Z AUG 93 ZYB
FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA/DPMO-RA/DPMO-RD//
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J5-JOD//
RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//
RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
BT
INCLAS //N03460//
SECTION 01 OF 02
MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J221//
SUBJ/LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW, ENTRY NUMBER 24 OF 82//
REF/A/FAX/DET 2/12AUG93//
RMS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 10 AUGUST 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED RETIRED SENIOR

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG0763 UNCLAS
COLONEL (SRCOL) VU VAN HO, AN APPROXIMATELY 65 YOA TAM DIEP
DISTRICT SEAT, NINH BINH PROVINCE RESIDENT. SRCOL HO IS A FORMER
4TH REGIMENT (REGT), PAVN MILITARY REGION TRI THIEN HUE (MR-TTH),
POLITICAL OFFICER. THE TEAM MET AT THE TAM DIEP DISTRICT
PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS TO INTERVIEW SRCOL HO, LISTED IN
REFERENCE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S.
PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) IN VIETNAM. THE U.S.
CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF; TSGT RONALD D. WARD, JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR; AND PO2 JAMES L. MINIHAN, JTF-FA
ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT
CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. NGUYEN VAN
HANG LOI, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.
SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, SRCOL VU VAN HO, PROVIDED INFORMATION
CONCERNING 4TH REGT, PAVN MR-TTH, ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO U.S.
PRISONERS OF WAR (PW). HE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF PW CAMPS IN
MR-TTH OR ELSEWHERE, EXPLAINING THAT HIS UNIT'S POLICY WAS TO
TRANSFER PW'S FROM THE FIELD TO REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS (HQ) AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER CAPTURE. HE TOLD OF A 1969 INCIDENT IN
WHICH A 4TH REGT ELEMENT CAPTURED A U.S. HELICOPTER PILOT IN PHU
LOC DISTRICT, NINH BINH PROVINCE. AFTER THE PILOT DIED OF WOUNDS

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG0763 UNCLAS
RECEIVED DURING A U.S. BOMBING/ARTILLERY ATTACK, THE SOURCE
WITNESSED HIS BURIAL ON A MOUNTAIN SLOPE IN NORTHERN PHU LOC
DISTRICT. HE PROVIDED A HAND DRAWN MAP DEPICTING THE ALLEGED

UNCLASSIFIED

BURIAL LOCATION. THIS INFORMATION PROBABLY RELATES TO PRIORITY
CASE 1402, AN UNRESOLVED CASE. THE SOURCE PROVIDED EXTREMELY
LIMITED INFORMATION CONCERNING ANOTHER INCIDENT IN WHICH TWO U.S.
PRISONERS DIED IN A U.S. BOMBING ATTACK WHILE TRAVELING TO
REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS. SRCOL HO CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S.
PERSONNEL, LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE
1973.

3. DETAILS. AFTER INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS FROM THE JOINT TEAM
AND LOCAL VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, THE SOURCE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:

A. SRCOL HO BEGAN HIS MILITARY CAREER AS AN ENLISTED SOLDIER
AND LATER A PAVN CADRE, SERVING WITH THE 4TH REGT, MR-TTH, IN
1969 AND 1970. AFTER THIS PERIOD, HE TRANSFERRED TO THE PAVN 6TH
REGT. HE RETIRED FROM THE MILITARY IN 1990.

B. PAVN 4TH REGT POLICY CONCERNING U.S. PRISONERS CAPTURED
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, ACCORDING TO SRCOL HO, WAS TO TRANSPORT THEM
TO REGIMENTAL HQ IN THE REAR AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER

PAGE 04 RUHQSGG0763 UNCLAS
CAPTURE. BEFORE MOVING PRISONERS FROM THE CAPTURING UNIT'S
OPERATING AREA TO THE REAR, UNIT PERSONNEL, WHEN POSSIBLE,
CONDUCTED AN INITIAL INTERROGATION TO EXTRACT BASIC INFORMATION
SUCH AS THE PRISONER'S NAME, RANK, AND UNIT. THE CAPTURING
ELEMENT THEN REPORTED THIS INFORMATION, ALONG WITH THE NUMBER OF
PRISONERS CAPTURED, TO REGIMENTAL HQ VIA RADIO. FOLLOWING A MORE
THOROUGH INTERROGATION AT REGIMENTAL HQ, THE PAVN ESCORTED
PRISONERS TO TURN OVER POINTS (NFI) FOR TRANSPORT TO DETENTION
CENTERS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING CONCERNING WHY U.S. PW'S
WERE NOT DETAINED IN MR-TTH FOR LONG PERIODS BUT QUICKLY
TRANSFERRED TO THE NORTH FOR INCARCERATION, SRCOL HO OPINED THAT,
DUE TO HARSH BATTLE CONDITIONS, THE PAVN COULD NOT ENSURE PW
SAFETY IN THE REGION.

C. SRCOL HO CLAIMED NOT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE STRATEGIC
ROUTE SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTING PW'S OR THE LOCATION OR NATURE OF
REGIMENTAL OR ANY OTHER PW DETENTION FACILITIES. THE DISTANCE
FROM THE FORWARD BATTLE AREA TO THE REAR HQ AREA PRECLUDED HIM
FROM KNOWING DETAILS CONCERNING THE REAR AREA AND UPPER ECHELON
PW SYSTEM. REGIMENTAL FIELD ELEMENTS, SUCH AS SRCOL HO'S
MAINTAINED NO RECORDS ON PW'S.

PAGE 05 RUHQSGG0763 UNCLAS

D. THE SOURCE COULD PROVIDE NO INFORMATION ON PW CAMPS IN
LAOS, INCLUDING THE LANG TAO CAMP, OR PAVN RELATIONS WITH THE
PATHET LAO.

E. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AN UNRECALLED DAY IN AUG 69,
ACCORDING TO SRCOL HO, HE DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED WHEN HIS 4TH REGT
ELEMENT CAPTURED A DOWNED U.S. HELICOPTER PILOT IN NORTHERN PHU
LOC DISTRICT. THE PRISONER WAS A CAUCASIAN OFFICER, OVER SIX
FEET TALL, HEAVY, HAD LIGHT COLORED SHORT HAIR, AND WORE A GRAY
UNIFORM WITH A PLASTIC BADGE OR TAG ON THE LEFT BREAST PORTION OF
THE UNIFORM. SRCOL HO SAID HIS UNIT DETERMINED THE PILOT WAS AN

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICER BY THE MARKINGS ON THE PLASTIC TAG. THE PRISONER HAD A BULLET WOUND ON HIS RIGHT ARM AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE. DUE TO THE LACK OF AN ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBER, THE PAVN ELEMENT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERROGATE THE PRISONER.

F. THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AFTER REPORTING THE CAPTURE TO THE 4TH REGT HQ VIA RADIO, SRCOL HO'S ELEMENT PREPARED THE PRISONER FOR TRANSPORT TO THE REAR AREA. PREPARATIONS INCLUDED COMPILING A PRISONER FILE CONTAINING HIS IDENTIFYING DATA (NFI) FOR REGIMENTAL H.Q. BEFORE SETTING OUT, HOWEVER, A U.S. ARTILLERY AND BOMBING ATTACK KILLED THE U.S. PRISONER AND THREE PAVN

PAGE 06 RUHQSGG0763 UNCLAS

ELEMENT MEMBERS. THE PAVN ELEMENT REPORTED THE PRISONER'S DEATH TO HQ, WRAPPED HIM IN A CLOTH HAMMOCK AND BURIED HIM IN HIS COTHS AND SHOES IN A ONE METER DEEP GRAVE MARKED ONLY BY A MOUND OF PACKED SOIL.

G. THE BURIAL LOCATION, ACCORDING TO SRCOL HO, WAS IN NORTHERN PHU LOC DISTRICT IN THE 4TH REGT'S AREA AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. THE UNIT AT THAT TIME OPERATED GENERALLY BETWEEN THREE U.S. FIRE BASES: PHU GIA (PHUS GIA, VIC 49Q AU 013 842), PHUOC TUONG (PHWOC TONGJ, VIC 48Q ZD 119 015), AND MUI NHE (MUIX NHES, UNLOCATED). THE GRAVE SITE WAS SOUTH OF ROUTE 1 ON A SLOPE CALLED RANG CUA (RAWNG CWA, UNLOCATED), NEAR A STREAM WITH A WATERFALL, 5 OR 6 KILOMETERS FROM THUY CAM (THUYR CAM) SETTLEMENT (48Q ZC 152 982). SRCOL HO PRODUCED A HAND DRAWN MAP OF THE BURIAL AREA, COMPLETE WITH PLACE NAMES AND GENERAL CONTOUR LINES. HE INDICATED THE BURIAL LOCATION WAS NEAR THE FOOT OF THE SLOPE, AT LESS THAN 200 METERS ELEVATION.

H. SRCOL HO'S UNIT OPERATED IN THE GENERAL GRAVE SITE AREA THROUGHOUT 1970 AND 1971, BUT HE NEVER RETURNED TO THE SITE, NOR DID HE KNOW OF ANYONE ELSE WHO DID. HE BELIEVED HE COULD LOCATE

//

BT

#0763

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

VZCZCBTO534

RR RUEHBT

DE RUHQSGG #0764 2290002

ZNR UUUUU

R 170002Z AUG 93 2YB

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

TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA/DPMO-RA/DPMO-RD//

INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

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

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//

RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//

RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC

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

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

RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

BT

UNCLAS //N03460//

FINAL SECTION OF 02

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J221//

SUBJ/LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW, ENTRY NUMBER 24 OF 83//

RMKS/

THE BURIAL LOCATION AGAIN, HOWEVER, AND OFFERED TO DO SO IF REQUIRED.

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG0764 UNCLAS

I. THE SOURCE PROVIDED LIMITED SECOND HAND INFORMATION ON ANOTHER INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON AN UNRECALLED DAY IN NOV 67. AFTER A BATTLE WITH THE U.S. 1ST COMPANY (NFI), THE 4TH BATTALION, PAVN REGT, CAPTURED TWO U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL. WHILE TRANSPORTING THE PRISONERS TO THE REAR AREA, A U.S. BOMBING ATTACK KILLED THE ENTIRE TRANSPORT GROUP, INCLUDING BOTH U.S. AND VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL. THE BOMBING DECIMATED ALL PERSONNEL IN THE GROUP AND THE PAVN WERE ABLE TO LOCATE NO REMAINS WHATSOEVER. SRCOL HO WAS UNSURE OF THE EXACT INCIDENT LOCATION, ONLY THAT IT WAS IN NORTHERN PHU LOC DISTRICT NEAR A BRIDGE.

J. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTIONING, SRCOL HO CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PERSONNEL, LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES. SRCOL HO'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE U.S. HELICOPTER PILOT PROBABLY CORRELATES TO CASE 1042, AN UNRESOLVED PRIORITY CASE, BASED ON YEAR, MISSION PROVINCE AND DISTRICT, DUTY POSITION, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS.

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. SRCOL HO BELIEVED HE COULD AGAIN LOCATE THE U.S. PILOT'S BURIAL SITE, AND OFFERED TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE, IF

PAGE 03 RUHQSGG0764 UNCLAS

REQUIRED.

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: SOURCE PROVIDED A HAND DRAWN MAP TO THE ALLEGED BURIAL LOCATION OF A U.S. HELICOPTER PILOT.

UNCLASSIFIED