

JTF

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Quang Tri

VZCZCB10650
 NR RUEHBT
 DE RUHQHQA #5151 3160041
 ZNR UUUUU
 R 090702Z NOV 92 ZYB
 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
 TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//
 RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC//MHP-10/INIC/INIM//
 INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC/CCS/UCS//
 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JUD//
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
 RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDU/EA/ICOG//
 BT
 UNCLAS //N03460//
 DIA PASS TO POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//
 MSGID/RHI/CDR JTF-FA//
 AMPN/SUBJ: EVALUATION OF REFUGEE INFORMATION//
 REF/A/LTR/DIA PW-MIA// UCI 92/NOIAL//
 AMPN/REF IS LETTER FROM MR. TROWBRIDGE, SUBJ: LETTER OF
 TRANSMITTAL REGARDING LOCATION OF CRASH SITE//

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RMKS/1. REF A TRANSMITTED HEARSAY INFORMATION FROM A AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO IS A CO-WORKER OF A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE (SOURCE) CURRENTLY RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, THE SOURCE, A FORMER RESIDENT OF LAI AN VILLAGE (YD246721), QUANG TRI PROVINCE, VIETNAM, ALLEGEDLY WITNESSED THE CRASH OF AN AMERICAN JET AIRCRAFT NEAR HIS VILLAGE IN JULY 1969. THE SOURCE REPORTED THE REMAINS OF THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE REMOVED FROM THE CRASH SITE AND BURIED IN HIS VILLAGE. THE SOURCE STATED THAT THE PILOT'S REMAINS WERE STILL BURIED IN THE VILLAGE WHEN HE LEFT LAI AN IN 1978.

2. JTF-FA ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF A INDICATES A POSSIBLE CORRELATION TO REFNO 1158. THIS IS NOT A FINAL EVALUATION.

3. REFNO 1158: ON 3 MAY 1968, MARINE CAPTAIN STEPHEN W. CLARK WAS THE PILOT OF A F-8E FIGHTER IN A FLIGHT OF TWO AIRCRAFT ON AN ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER SOUTHERN VIETNAM. WHILE SUPPORTING FRIENDLY GROUND FORCES IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HOSTILE FORCES, THE AIRCRAFT, SERIAL NUMBER 149173, WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE AND CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD240715, APPROXIMATELY 10 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF DONG HA CITY AND ONE

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KILOMETER SOUTHEAST OF LAI AN VILLAGE, QUANG TRI PROVINCE, VIETNAM. THE CREW OF ANOTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA OBSERVED THE CRASH, BUT SAW NO PARACHUTE AND HEARD NO ELECTRONIC BEACON. SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS WERE NOT INITIATED DUE TO THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF HOSTILE FORCES IN THE AREA. CAPTAIN CLARK IS UNACCOUNTED FOR.

4. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 1158. A SEARCH OF JTF-FA FILES INDICATES 28 RESOLVED AND UNRESOLVED LOSS INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. JET AIRCRAFT OCCURRED WITHIN 15 KILOMETERS OF LAI AN VILLAGE; HOWEVER, NONE OF THESE LOSS INCIDENTS OCCURRED WITHIN FIVE KILOMETERS OF THE VILLAGE. THE CRASH SITE ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 1158 IS LESS THAN ONE KILOMETER FROM LAI AN. THE SOURCE REPORTED THE AIRCRAFT THAT CRASHED WAS "POSSIBLY WHITE IN COLOR," SIMILAR TO THE COLOR OF CAPTAIN CLARK'S AIRCRAFT. JTF-FA CONFIRMED THAT NAVY AND MARINE AIRCRAFT FLOWN IN 1968 HAD A LIGHT GRAY AND WHITE PAINT SCHEME. AIR FORCE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FLOWN IN VIETNAM DURING THAT ERA WERE GENERALLY PAINTED IN A CAMOUFLAGE COLOR SCHEME. IN ADDITION, THE SOURCE'S ACCOUNT CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF THE

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PILOT'S REMAINS CLOSELY MATCHES INFORMATION RECEIVED DURING A 1990 FIELD INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DISCREPANCY IN THE YEAR AND MONTH OF OCCURRENCE, THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE IS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH A POSSIBLE CORRELATION WITH REFNO 1158.

5. FOR CMC/MHP-10: THIS EVALUATION MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK OF CAPTAIN CLARK. A SANITIZED COPY OF REF A WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY FOR RELEASE TO THE NOK.

6. EVAL-KLE//

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