

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 9 JUNE 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 0070-0-02 (ACCNO 0911)
Name: LEWIS, JAMES WIMBERLEY

Status: (8) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Date Status assigned: 16 Apr 1982

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	00249
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	O3	Hair	BLOND	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	305-26-8284	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	#
Serial No	002211197	Height	70 in /1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	24 Jul 1928	Weight	185 lb / 83.8 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	MISSISSIPPI	Religion	OTHER	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE
UTM: 48QUG724657
Lat/Long: 193502N / 1034660E
Country: LAOS
Military Region: 2
Mission Province: XIANGKHOANG
(formerly):
Mission District: NONGHET
Mission Date: 7 Apr 1965 1110L
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Unknown location.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jun 92, Nov 89, Jul 76
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: B57B	Serial: 3880
Crash Type: Aircraft accident	Engine Type: J655
Call Sign: #	1 Serial: W615275
Year: 53	2 Serial: W615174

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 0070

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

15 July 1975

(U) ON 7 APRIL 1965 CAPT ARTHUR D. BAKER WAS THE NAVIGATOR AND CAPT JAMES W. LEWIS THE PILOT OF THE LEAD B-57B (#53-3880), IN A FLIGHT OF FOUR ON AN INTERDICTION MISSION OVER LAOS. AT ABOUT 1110 HOURS, THE FLIGHT REACHED THE TARGET, WHERE THE WEATHER WAS BROKEN TO OVERCAST. CAPT LEWIS BEGAN HIS DIVE BOMB RUN, AND AS HIS WINGMAN SAW HIM DESCEND INTO A THIN CLOUD LAYER IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES UG 724 657, HE WAS NOT SEEN NOR HEARD FROM AGAIN. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE FLIGHT STATED THAT HE HAD HEARD CAPT LEWIS CALL "OFF TARGET AND OUTBOUND".

WHEN THE AIRCRAFT FAILED TO RETURN TO BIEN HOA AB ON SCHEDULE, A COMMUNICATIONS AND RAMP CHECK WAS INITIATED, WHICH DETERMINED, BY 1400 HOURS, THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAD NOT LANDED AT ANY OTHER AIRFIELD IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) OPERATIONS BEGAN WITHIN 20 NAUTICAL MILES OF THE TARGET. THE AREA WAS SEARCHED, (BY AIR), BY U.S. AIR FORCE AND AIR AMERICA SAR FORCES FROM 7 TO 12 APRIL 1965. THESE EFFORTS FAILED TO LOCATE ANY INDICATIONS OF THE CRASH SITE OR ANY SURVIVORS. (REF 1)

(U) DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. CAPT BAKER AND CAPT LEWIS ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ===

19 September 1989

(U) A UPI ARTICLE IN TOKYO QUOTED A NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY REPORT WHICH CLAIMED THE 7 APRIL SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. B-57 NEAR PHA NIEM MOUNTAIN, LAOS. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE PL CLAIMED SHOOTING DOWN A B-57 OPERATING FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 0070. (REF 2)

(U) IN MAY 1965, A SOURCE WAS ASKED TO TAKE SEVERAL ITEMS TO THE HOME OF GENERAL SINGKAPO. TWO AMERICAN PILOTS IN FLIGHT SUITS WITH THE INSIGNIA OF RANK REMOVED WERE BEING HELD UNDER ARMED GUARD IN THE GENERALS HOUSE. THEY WERE HANDCUFFED OR LOCKED UP. HE GAVE THE TWO AMERICANS TOWELS, TOOTHBRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTE. THE PILOTS LOOK WORRIED. ONE WAS TALL AND BALDING. THE OTHER, WAS ALSO TALL, HAD A HEAVY BUILD AND A ROUND FACE. DIA EVALUATED THIS REPORT AS A PROBABLE HEARSAY ACCOUNT OR FABRICATION, BUT PLACED IT IN THE 0070 FILE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. (REF 3)

CASE: 0070

=== REFERENCES ===

15 July 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT (U), AF FORM 484, 20 APR 65. <2> UNDATED XEROX COPY OF AN UNNAMED NEWSPAPER. <3> IR (UNK) CIA 13 APRIL 1967. <4> IR (UNK) CIA 21 MAY 1968. <5> MSG (CLASS UNKNOWN) USDAO/VIENTIANE 050341Z APR 70. <6> MSG (U), USDAO/VIENTIANE 220352Z MAY 74.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

10 September 1976

(U) A NEGOTIATION FOLDER FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS PROVIDED TO THE U.S. CONSULATE, VIENTIANE IN APRIL 1976 FOR POSSIBLE USE IN CASUALTY RESOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

28 April 1988

(U) NEGOTIATION FOLDERS PERTAINING TO BOTH INDIVIDUALS WERE PASSED ON 16 JUL 76 BY THE AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF WESTERN PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

8 December 1989

(U) DURING THE 1 - 3 NOV 89 MEETING IN VIENTIANE, LAOS, USDAS LAMBERTSON PASSED A NARRATIVE ON THIS CASE TO LPDR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

17 August 1990

(U) ON 13 AUG 1990, DURING A VISIT TO LAOS, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES PASSED A CASE NARRATIVE TO LAO OFFICIALS.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

15 July 1975

(U) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: ARTHUR D. BAKER 0070-0-01, AND JAMES W. LEWIS 0070-0-02.

19 September 1989

(U) DURING THE PATHET LAO MEO NEW YEAR CELEBRATION OF 1966, WHICH FELL BETWEEN 28 DECEMBER 1966 AND 3 JANUARY 1967, FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS WERE DISPLAYED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES IN BAN HANG LONG (VH1262). DURING THE HALF HOUR THAT THE PILOTS WERE ON DISPLAY, A PATHET LAO PROPAGANDIST EXPLAINED TO THE VILLAGERS THAT THE PILOTS WOULD NOT BE KILLED, BUT WOULD BE HELD FOR PRISONER EXCHANGE AFTER THE START OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PILOTS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND VILLAGERS SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED GOOD TREATMENT; THEY WERE GETTING MILK AND OTHER FOODS TO WHICH THEY WERE ACCUSTOMED. SOURCE STATED ONE OF THE PILOTS RESEMBLED JAMES W. LEWIS, HOWEVER, THE SOURCE SAID THE PW LOOKED MUCH OLDER THAN THE MAN IN THE PHOTO. (REF 4)

(U) SOURCE REPORTED THE JAN 66 SHOOTDOWN OF AN AIRCRAFT IN A FLIGHT OF FOUR AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF UG049675. ONE OF THE CREWMEMBERS EXITED THE AIRCRAFT (NO CHUTE OR EJECTION SEAT SEEN), PLUMMETED TO THE GROUND AND WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. HE WAS TAKEN TO THE FORWARD HQ AND TURNED OVER TO PL MEDICAL PERSONNEL. THE PILOT HAD TWO GAPING WOUNDS, ONE IN THE LEFT SHOULDER AND ONE IN THE RIGHT SIDE. SHORTLY AFTER HIS EVACUATION TO THE FORWARD MEDICAL ELEMENT, THE PILOT DIED. (ABOUT 1600) THE BODY WAS BURIED IN THE VICINITY OF UG177550 NEAR THE OLD QUARTERMASTER DEPOT OF THE KONG LE FORCES. THE GRAVE WAS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD BETWEEN NONG FET (UG3163) AND KHANY KHAY AND APPROXIMATELY 20 METERS FROM THE ROAD. THE GRAVE APPEARED TO BE MARKED WITH A PILE OF ROCKS AND A WOODEN MARKER. SOURCE RECALLED THE PILOTS NAME WAS "PAKOB". HE ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE TAKEN A PHOTO OF THE PILOTS PRESUMED WIFE AND TWO SMALL GIRLS FROM THE PILOTS NOTEBOOK. (NOTE) SOURCE PROVIDED AN APRIL 65 DATE IN HIS REPORT OF ANOTHER INCIDENT. HE MAY HAVE CONFUSED THE DATES.

A MESSAGE WAS SENT REGARDING THIS INCIDENT TO PL GENERAL (DELETED FROM JCRC COPY). DIA STATED THIS REPORT MIGHT POSSIBLY CORRELATE TO REFNO 0070. (REF 5)

9 January 1990

(U) A UPI ARTICLE IN TOKYO QUOTED A NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY REPORT WHICH CLAIMED THE 7 APRIL SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. B-57 NEAR PHA NIEM MOUNTAIN, LAOS. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE PL CLAIMED SHOOTING DOWN A B-57 OPERATING FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 0070. (REF 6)

(U) SOURCE REPORTED THE MARCH OR APRIL 65 CRASH OF AN F105 NEAR BAN LAY (WN OR VN 196509). THE PILOT REPORTEDLY ESCAPED WITH THE HELP OF THE BAN KE KOU (CNA) VILLAGE CHIEF WHO WAS THEN EXECUTED BY THE PL. THIS POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 0070. (REF 6)