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Wartime Diary Lists Downed U.S. Planes<

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) U.S. experts searching for the fate of Americans missing from the Vietnam War received an unexpected boost from the owner of a war diary, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

A Vietnamese man last week gave investigators at the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi a diary listing many U.S. aircraft shot down during the war near Haiphong, the main port of the former North Vietnam.

"He just walked in off the street," said Air Force Maj. Randall Garrett, the unit's operations officer. "We get walk-ins regularly people coming in and giving us information."

The diary belonged to the man's late father, a former official in Quang Ninh province. Experts were analyzing the information, which appeared to record details of warplanes lost from 1964-67.

President Clinton has said the Vietnamese must do more to help solve the cases of the 1,618 Americans unaccounted for in Vietnam before the two countries can establish full diplomatic

relations. U.S. officials have praised Vietnam for its cooperation in recovering physical remains of missing men.

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