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R 090812Z DEC 92
FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
TO RUEACNP/BUPERS WASHINGTON DC//PERS-663P//
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
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RUEHBI/CJTfFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
RUMIFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTf-FA DET THREE//
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BT
UNCLAS //N03460//
DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//
MSGID/RR/CDR JTF-FA//
AMPN/SUBJ: ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO
1546//

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REF A/RMG/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE/180744ZJUN92//
RMKS/1. REF A IS DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY OF REFNO 1546. ON
8 JUN 92, A JOINT US/LAO TEAM CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF A SUSPECTED AV
AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT GRID COORDINATES XD14538366, NEAR BAN
VANGMOITHOUM VILLAGE, VILABOULI DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE,
LAOS.
2. THE TEAM PHOTOGRAPHED/RECOVERED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AT THE
CRASH SITE.
- TWIN BARREL 20MM GUN, EACH BARREL
- LANDING GEAR PIECE, NUMBER: 21-340070-0/53274771-67
- A ROCKET/BOMB WING PYLON MOUNT. NO VISIBLE NUMBERS
- LANDING GEAR SHOCK ABSORBER PIECE, SERIAL NO 369, SPEC NO.
MIL-S-6552, ORDER NO. NOW G (OR 6)4-0363F, DESIGN NO. 215-34301-4
- A PIECE OF GREEN CLOTH MATERIAL WITH SNAP ASSEMBLY AND A METAL
PART ATTACHED.
3. A NEARBY VILLAGER PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ARTIFACTS TO THE TEAM:
- A BURNED AND TORN FLIGHT SUIT, MISSING THE LEFT ARM SLEEVE
AND A SMALL PIECE OF PILOT G-SUIT.
4. JTF-FA ANALYSIS INDICATES THE FOLLOWING:
A. THE FLIGHT SUIT IS THE TYPE WORN BY NAVY AND MARINE AVIATORS

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DURING THE VIETNAM ERA. THE NEAR COMPLETE FLIGHT SUIT MISSING THE
LEFT ARM SHOWED HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE LEFT NECK AREA, THE UPPER LEFT
SIDE AND THE LOWER RIGHT LEG. THE THERMAL HEAT MARKINGS CANNOT BE
IDENTIFIED.
B. THE SMALL PIECE OF PILOT G-SUIT IS OF THE TYPE WORN BY NAVY AND
MARINE AVIATORS ASSIGNED TO FIGHTER TYPE AIRCRAFT.
C. THE GREEN CLOTH MATERIAL IS THE FRONT FLAP COVER OF A LIFE
PRESERVER USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NAVY AND MARINE FLIGHT
EQUIPMENT. THIS LIFE PRESERVER IS A HORSE COLLAR TYPE, WORN OVER
THE NECK AND AROUND THE SHOULDERS OF THE AVIATOR.
D. THE DATA PLATE FROM THE LANDING GEAR SHOCK ABSORBER IS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE RIGHT MAIN LANDING GEAR OF AN A-7 A OR B MODEL
AIRCRAFT.
E. THE 20MM GUN WAS INCORPORATED ON NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT INCLUDING
THE A-7.
F. THE REMAINING ARTIFACTS CANNOT BE CORRELATED.
5. JTF-FA ANALYST COMMENTS: THE RECOVERED ARTIFACTS ARE
CONSISTENT WITH A NAVY A-7 A OR B MODEL AIRCRAFT. THE DAMAGE
PATTERN TO THE NEAR COMPLETE FLIGHT SUIT INDICATES AN UNSUCCESSFUL
EJECTION. JTF-FA RECORDS INDICATE THE REFNO 1546 CRASH SITE

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LOCATION IS 800 METERS FROM THE CRASH SITE SURVEYED. ADDITIONALLY, ONLY TWO OTHER A-7 MODEL AIRCRAFT CRASHED WITHIN 30 KILOMETERS OF THIS SITE AND BOTH WERE RESOLVED AT THE TIME OF LOSS. THE LOCATION OF THE SITE AND THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE RECOVERED INDICATE THE CRASH SITE IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE REFNO 1546 INCIDENT.

6. FOR BUPERS/PERS 663P: THIS INFORMATION MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NEXT OF KIN OF MICHAEL G. HOFF, REFNO 1546. A COPY OF REF A WAS PREVIOUSLY FORWARDED FOR RELEASE TO THE NEXT OF KIN ON JIF-FA LTR 348 DATED 16 OCT 92.

7. EVAL/UMW//

BT

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