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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
TO RUEACNP/BUPERS WASHINGTON DC//PERS-663P//
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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 AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT GRID COORDINATES XD14536366, NEAR BAN VANGMOTHOUH VILLAGE, VILABOULI DISTRICT, ~~SAMANGHAY~~

2. THE TEAM PHOTOGRAPHED/RECOVERED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AT THE CRASH SITE.

- TWIN BARREL 20MM GUN, EACH BARREL
- LANDING GEAR PIECE, NUMBER: 21-340070-0/5327471-67
- A ROCKET/BOMB WING PYLON MOUNT, NO VISIBLE NUMBERS
- LANDING GEAR SHOCK ABSORBER PIECE, SERIAL NO 369, SPEC NO. MIL-S-8552, 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 JTF-FA LTR 348 DATED 16 OCT 92.

7. EVAL/CMW//

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