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VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN HANOI FOR THE TYPES OF SUMMARY DOCUMENTS NOTED ABOVE. AS RESEARCH SPECIALISTS AND OTHER INVESTIGATORS WORK IN OTHER AREAS OF VIETNAM, THEY SHOULD ALSO HAVE AS THEIR FIRST PRIORITY, A FORTHRIGHT PESSING FOR ACCESS TO THESE SUMMARY DOCUMENTS.

C. PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS IN EITHER OF THESE AREAS, HOWEVER, ARE CURRENTLY UNCLEAR. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE UNPERSUASIVELY ASSERTED THAT THE RECORDS WE ARE SEEKING FROM THE GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. THE U.S. ALREADY HOLDS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS UNTRUE.

D. MOREOVER, GETTING ACCESS TO THE LIMITED NUMBER OF SUMMARY DOCUMENTS ACQUIRED TO DATE HAS REQUIRED EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS. FOR INSTANCE, IT TOOK OVER SIX MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND REQUESTS BEFORE THE VIETNAMESE PROVIDED THE 84-PAGE RECORD OF U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNINGS IN MILITARY REGION 4. IT TOOK TWO TRIPS TO VIETNAM BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW-MIA, SENATOR JOHN KERRY, TO GET THE REST OF THE SUMMARY DOCUMENTS WE HAVE ACQUIRED.

E. THE U.S. HAS MADE REAL PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING ACCESS TO MUSEUM-TYPE DATA ON A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CASES, ALTHOUGH IT

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IS APPARENT AS WELL, THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED THESE DOCUMENTS TO WHICHEVER AMERICAN SOLICITORS OFFER THE BEST PAYOFF IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET. UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE SUCH EXCEPTIONS AS THE MORRISON PHOTO, THE INFORMATION THUS ACQUIRED HAS GENERALLY CONTRIBUTED MORE TOWARD DOCUMENTING VIETNAMESE KNOWLEDGEABILITY OF SPECIFIC CASES THAN TO RESOLVING THE CASES THEMSELVES.

F. ACQUISITION OF THE RELEVANT GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE RECORDS AND THE VARIOUS SUMMARY LISTS PRODUCED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ANSWERS MUCH MORE RAPIDLY ON LARGE NUMBERS OF CASES. WE NEED TO ACQUIRE THESE DOCUMENTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE; ARCHIVISTS AND OTHERS ARE INVITED TO SUGGEST WAYS TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS REAL TIME.

3. THE CONCLUSIONS UNDERLYING THE FOLLOWING OUTLINE ARE BASED BOTH ON OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING OF VIETNAMESE RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING CHANNELS, AS WELL AS ON INSIGHTS GAINED FROM EXPLOITATION OF THE RECORDS COLLECTED BY THE JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING, PROVIDED TO SENATOR KERRY, OR ACQUIRED BY OTHER MEANS. THIS OUTLINE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED EXHAUSTIVE OR FINAL, NOR DOES IT ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF VIETNAMESE COOPERATION IN ALLOWING ACCESS TO SPECIFIC RECORDS OR

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REPOSITORIES. (NOTE: IN THE INTERESTS OF BREVITY, THE B-2 AND B-3 FRONTS AND GROUP 559 ARE TREATED AS MILITARY-REGION LEVEL ELEMENTS UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.)

4. RECORDS OF THE GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE SHOULD COVER LOSSES IN ALL AREAS OF INDOCHINA, ALTHOUGH COVERAGE WILL BE MOST EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED CONCERNING LOSSES IN NORTHERN VIETNAM, FOLLOWED BY PAVN -CONTROLLED LAOS AND THEN SOUTHERN VIETNAM AND PAVN-CONTROLLED CAMBODIA. WE SHOULD FOCUS ON ACQUISITION OF THREE GENERAL TYPES OF RECORDS.

A. FILES ON U.S. POWS MAINTAINED BY THE NOW DEFUNCT ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT. THESE RECORDS WILL:

(1) CONFIRM WHO WAS AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WAS NOT CAPTURED AND MADE A POW. THESE RECORDS WILL ESTABLISH WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE POWS WHO ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED-FOR AND, IF THEY DIED, WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR REMAINS.

(2) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS LOST IN THE SAME INCIDENT WITH A POW. FOR INSTANCE, PRIORITY DISCREPANCY CASE 0213 (MIMS) IS CURRENTLY STYMIED BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS NO INFORMATION THAT CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THE CRASH SITE LOCATION. THIS INFORMATION IS DOUBTLESS AVAILABLE IN FILES MAINTAINED BY THE ENEMY PROSELYTING

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DEPARTMENT ON CAPT JEFFREY, WHO WAS CAPTURED IN THE SAME INCIDENT AND RETURNED DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THESE FILES DO NOT IDENTIFY CAPT JEFFREY'S CAPTURE LOCATION, NOT TO MENTION THE FATE OF HIS FELLOW CREW MEMBER, 1ST LT MIMS.

B. RECORDS ON U.S. CASUALTIES AND RECORDS OF OFFICIAL ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE AND RECOVER U.S. REMAINS, INCLUDING A "MASTER ACCESSION LIST" OF REMAINS BROUGHT TO CENTRAL STORAGE. THESE RECORDS WERE CREATED AND MAINTAINED BY THE ENEMY PROSELYTING DEPARTMENT AND BY GROUP 875 (1972-74) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY JUSTICE (CA. 1974-79), WHICH WORKED WITH PROVINCE AND MILITARY REGION COMMANDS

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TO DEVELOP LISTS OF RECOVERABLE AND NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS OF AMERICANS. THE U.S. HAS SEVERAL COPIES OF LISTS PREPARED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF NORTH VIETNAM, INCLUDING MILITARY REGION 4 GRAVES LISTS; LISTS FOR BURIALS IN QUANG BINH, QUANG NINH, HOA BINH, AND HAI DUONG PROVINCES; AND A LIST OF REMAINS THAT WERE "TORN APART" (TAN XAC) IN LANG SON PROVINCE. RECORDS SUCH AS THESE WILL:

(1) CONFIRM WHICH REMAINS WERE LOCATED AND COLLECTED AND THE DISPOSITION AND CONDITION OF THOSE REMAINS. INFORMATION IS OF POTENTIAL UTILITY TO THE LIVE PRISONER ISSUE, FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING, AND CILHI EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY REPATRIATED REMAINS. SOME OF THESE RECORDS NOTE THE CONDITION OF REMAINS, RANGING FROM ENTIRE BODIES TO INCOMPLETE REMAINS (EXACT PORTIONS SPECIFIED).

(2) ESTABLISH WHICH REMAINS COULD NOT BE OR WERE NOT LOCATED OR COLLECTED AND SUGGEST SOME REASONS WHY.

(3) CONFIRM LOSS LOCATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS LOST IN THE SAME INCIDENT FROM WHICH THE REMAINS OF ANOTHER CREW MEMBER HAVE BEEN RETURNED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S. CANNOT CURRENTLY LOCATE THE DOWN SITE OF CASE 2044 (GREENLEAF); RECORDS ON THE RECOVERY OF THE OTHER CREW MEMBER'S REMAINS--WHICH HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED--WILL CONTAIN SUCH INFORMATION. (NOTE: THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN

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REQUESTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BUT THE VIETNAMESE HAVE YET TO PROVIDE IT.) IN SOME CASES, THESE RECORDS MAY ALSO CONFIRM THE FATE OF OTHERS IN THE INCIDENT WHO ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AND/OR PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE CONDITION OF THEIR REMAINS.

C. DIRECTIVES FROM THE CENTRAL LEVEL MANDATING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER PROCEDURES REGARDING U.S. POWS, CASUALTIES, GRAVES, AND REMAINS. ALTHOUGH THESE DIRECTIVES WILL PROBABLY NOT THEMSELVES CONTAIN CASE-RELATED DATA, THEY WILL SUPPORT FURTHER COLLECTION BY CLARIFYING WHAT WAS REQUIRED AND HOW IT WAS TO BE REPORTED OR ACCOMPLISHED.

5. SUMMARY RECORDS COMPILED BY MILITARY COMMANDS, OR POSSIBLY BY POLITICO-MILITARY ELEMENTS IN THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION. THESE CONSIST OF MULTIPLE, DUPLICATIVE, AND CORROBORATING REGISTERS OR STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS THAT DOCUMENT FOUR GENERAL TYPES OF INFORMATION ABOUT U.S. LOSSES. TOGETHER, THESE SUMMARY RECORDS SHOULD PROVIDE A WEB OF INTERLOCKING DATA THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH THE EXTENT OF VIETNAMESE KNOWLEDGEABILITY ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ACROSS BROAD GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. EXPLOITED COLLECTIVELY, THESE RECORDS WILL PROVIDE A PIVOTAL SHORTCUT IN THE PROCESS OF PROVIDING ANSWERS TO THE

NECESSARILY THE MOST DETAILED VIETNAMESE RECORDS AVAILABLE ON ALL INCIDENTS, EACH OF THESE DOCUMENTS CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND INCIDENTS, INCLUDING LOSS LOCATION, FATE, THE CONDITION AND DISPOSITION OF REMAINS, AND THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF WARTIME AND POSTWAR EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND COLLECT REMAINS.

A. FOUR MAJOR TYPES OF RECORDS WILL BE CRITICAL BOTH TO THE LIVE PRISONER AND FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING MISSION. NOTE: INDIVIDUAL RECORDS WILL VARY, SOME CONTAINING INFORMATION ONLY OF ONE TYPE, SOME COMBINING INFORMATION OF TWO OR MORE TYPES.

(1) LISTS OF AIRCRAFT SHOOTDOWNS: OVERLAPPING SUMMARY RECORDS COMPILED BY GEOGRAPHIC COMMANDS AND MILITARY UNITS. FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE EXAMPLES PREPARED AT MILITARY REGION 4, BY HA BAC PROVINCE, AND BY THE 350TH AIR DEFENSE DIVISION.

(2) LISTS OF U.S. PERSONNEL CAPTURED.

(3) LISTS OF U.S. CASUALTIES, THE CONDITION OF THEIR REMAINS, AND THEIR BURIAL SITES.

(4) LISTS OF U.S. PERSONNEL WHOSE REMAINS WERE "TORN APART" OR WHOSE GRAVES WERE REPORTED TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES AS

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HAVING BEEN LOST.

B. THESE RECORDS WERE COMPILED BY VARIOUS ECHELONS AND UNITS, PRINCIPALLY MILITARY REGION AND PROVINCE (AND, LESS FREQUENTLY OR ACCURATELY, DISTRICT) COMMANDS. OTHER IMPORTANT COMPILERS OF SHOOTDOWN RECORDS INCLUDE THE AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND SPECIFIC AIR DEFENSE UNITS.

C. THIS TYPE OF REPORTING WAS REQUIRED AND COMPILED THROUGHOUT ALL OF NORTHERN VIETNAM. BECAUSE ALL UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS LOST IN THIS AREA WERE LOST IN AIR INCIDENTS, THE COMBINATION OF SHOOTDOWN AND OTHER RECORDS SHOULD ESTABLISH WHICH INCIDENTS WERE KNOWN TO THE VIETNAMESE AND WHICH WERE NOT. BESIDES PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC LOSSES, THESE RECORDS WILL HELP THE U.S. IDENTIFY WITH CONFIDENCE THOSE "OFF-THE-SCOPE" OR OVER-WATER LOSSES IN NORTH VIETNAM FOR WHICH WE WILL NEVER FIND ANSWERS.

D. THE SAME REQUIREMENTS WERE LEVIED ON ECHELONS AND UNITS OPERATING IN PAVN-CONTROLLED LAOS. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. HAS YET TO ACQUIRE RECORDS FROM THIS AREA THAT SUMMARIZE DATA RELEVANT TO THE POW-MIA ISSUE, WE HAVE ACQUIRED DOCUMENTS THAT CONFIRM EXTENSIVE WARTIME AND POSTWAR COMPILATION OF STATISTICAL DATA RELATING TO

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OTHER MILITARY MATTERS IN PAVN-CONTROLLED LAOS. THE RANGE AND DETAIL OF THESE STATISTICAL SUMMARIES PROVIDE CLEAR PROOF THAT PAVN UNITS IN LAOS WERE SUBJECT TO AND COMPLIED WITH THE SAME TYPES OF DETAILED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED FOR NORTHERN VIETNAM. COLLECTORS THEREFORE SHOULD ASSUME THAT GROUP 559, AS WELL AS PAVN AIR DEFENSE ELEMENTS AND PROBABLY BINH TRAM-LEVEL ECHELONS, EACH COMPILED SOME OR ALL OF THE SAME FOUR GENERAL TYPES OF RECORDS MENTIONED ABOVE.

E. THE U.S. HAS NOT YET ACQUIRED ENOUGH EXAMPLES OF RECORD-KEEPING ON U.S. LOSSES IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM AND PAVN-CONTROLLED CAMBODIA TO REACH THE SAME LEVEL OF CERTAINTY REGARDING WHAT SUMMARY RECORDS EXIST FOR THOSE AREAS AND WHAT THOSE RECORDS CAN BE EXPECTED

TO COVER. IN GENERAL WE SHOULD EXPECT TO FIND THAT SIMILAR TYPES OF REPORTS EXIST, BUT THAT THEY COVER A MUCH SMALLER PROPORTION OF LOSSES, VARY MORE WIDELY IN ACCURACY AND EXTENT, AND EXIST FOR ONLY SOME GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS.

(1) AIRCRAFT SHOOTDOWN RECORDS: SOME RECORDS, OF VARYING QUALITY, WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY COMPILED BY THE VARIOUS MILITARY REGIONS AND BY SPECIFIC PAVN AIR DEFENSE UNITS. MOST RECENTLY, INVESTIGATORS IN THE 21ST ITERATION ACTIVELY SOUGHT AND WERE ABLE TO ACQUIRE SHOOTDOWN RECORDS--ALBEIT INFORMAL, INCOMPLETE, AND

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FRAGMENTARY--FOR DISTRICTS IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RECORDS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A FORTHCOMING MESSAGE.

(2) LISTS OF U.S. PERSONNEL CAPTURED: RECORDS WILL CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN COMPILED AT THE MILITARY REGION-LEVELS WHICH MAINTAINED POW CAMPS AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSIGHT OF ALL U.S. CAPTIVES AND POWS WITHIN THEIR AREA OF OPERATION.

(3) LISTS OF U.S. CASUALTIES AND GRAVES: MILITARY REGIONS AND OTHER MAJOR ELEMENTS IN THE SOUTH AND IN CAMBODIA WERE TASKED WITH THE SAME REQUIREMENTS TO DOCUMENT U.S. CASUALTIES AND GRAVE SITES DURING WARTIME AS WERE VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES IN

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THE NORTH AND IN

LAOS. COMPLIANCE, HOWEVER, WAS MITIGATED SIGNIFICANTLY BY BATTLEFIELD CONDITIONS, THE MIX OF REGULAR AND IRREGULAR FORCES, SHIFTING CONTROL OF TERRITORY, AND NUMEROUS OTHER FACTORS. MILITARY REGIONS IN THIS AREA WERE ALSO TASKED WITH PREPARING: SUMMARY REPORTS ON U.S. GRAVE SITES (AT LEAST AS EARLY AS 1972, FOR INSTANCE, IN MILITARY REGION 5). THE DIED-IN-CAPTIVITY LIST PRESENTED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE SUCH SUMMARY DOCUMENT. THE MILITARY REGIONS WERE ALSO TASKED WITH DOCUMENTING THE POSTWAR RECOVERY OF U.S. REMAINS. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND THE EXTENT OF LOSSES COVERED, HOWEVER, HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED.

(4) LISTS OF U.S. PERSONNEL WHOSE REMAINS WERE "TORN APART" OR WHOSE GRAVES WERE REPORTED TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES AS HAVING BEEN LOST. THIS INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPILED AT LEAST AT MILITARY REGION-LEVEL IN RESPONSE TO THE TASKINGS CAVEATS REGARDING COMPLIANCE AND EXTENT OF COVERAGE APPLY.

6. THERE ARE MANY OTHER TYPES VIETNAMESE RECORDS AVAILABLE AND, IN THE IDEAL, ALL DESERVE LONG-TERM EXPLOITATION BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN INFORMATION ON MISSING AND KILLED AMERICANS. IN PRACTICAL TERMS,

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HOWEVER, THESE TYPES OF RECORDS WILL PREDICTABLY PRODUCE FEWER RESULTS THAN THE TWO TYPES OF RECORDS MENTIONED ABOVE. BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE NUMEROUS AND MORE WIDELY DISPERSED, THEIR ACQUISITION AND EXPLOITATION WILL INEVITABLY TAKE FAR LONGER. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS A SHORT LIST OF SOME OF THESE TYPES OF RECORDS AND A SUMMARY OF THEIR RELATIVE POTENTIAL FOR CASE RESOLUTION.

A. CENTRAL AND REGIONAL-LEVEL MUSEUMS (INCLUDING AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, BIN DOAN 12 (MILITARY GROUP 12, I.E. GROUP 559) TRADITION HOUSE; ARMED FORCES, ETC.): COVERAGE UNPREDICTABLE AND SPOTTY; INFORMATION FREQUENTLY OF LIMITED OR NO VALUE FOR CASE RESOLUTION; DATA SCATTERED ALL OVER VIETNAM; REQUIRES TIME, AND LABOR-INTENSIVE COLLECTION EFFORT.

B. RECORDS OF OTHER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

COVERAGE LIMITED; QUALITY OF INFORMATION UNKNOWN; MOST INFORMATION SHOULD BE DUPLICATED IN GENERAL POLITICAL DIRECTORATE FILES.

C. RECORDS OF OTHER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ELEMENTS, SPECIFICALLY THE FILES OF THE PEOPLES ARMY NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE AND THE PEOPLES ARMY MOTION PICTURE DEPARTMENT (COPY FILMS GOING TO VIETNAM

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DOCUMENTARY FILM ARCHIVES): COVERAGE UNPREDICTABLE AND SPOTTY; PRODUCERS FREQUENTLY INTERESTED MORE IN PROPAGANDA VALUE RATHER THAN ACCURACY; INFORMATION FREQUENTLY OF LITTLE OR NO VALUE IN CASE RESOLUTION.

D. UNIT DIARIES AND OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTS: COVERAGE LIMITED; ACCURACY VARIES; POTENTIALLY CONTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION ON SELECTED INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS.

E. LOCAL TRADITION HOUSES AND VILLAGE HISTORIES: COVERAGE LIMITED; PRODUCERS FREQUENTLY INTERESTED MORE IN PROPAGANDA VALUE RATHER THAN ACCURACY; INFORMATION SCATTERED ALL OVER VIETNAM.

F. PAVN HISTORIES: COVERAGE LIMITED AND SPOTTY; FOCUS IS GENERALLY ON BROAD THEMES RATHER THAN COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUAL U.S. LOSSES; CONTAIN ORDER-OF-BATTLE DATA OF POTENTIAL USE FOR FURTHER ARCHIVAL INVESTIGATION.

G. ORAL HISTORIES: SELECTED PERSONNEL SHOULD HAVE VERY USEFUL INFORMATION ON AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF CASES; THESE PERSONS ARE WIDELY DISPERSED; MANY WILL BE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE; SOME WILL HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE U.S.

H. VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY: COVERAGE LIMITED; FOCUS ON PROPAGANDA VALUE.

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7. POC IS MELINDA COOKE, 703-908-2778 (SECURE) AND 703-908-2763 (SECURE FAX).

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