

KATHRYN SEREX

DEC 27 1993

Jennifer Serex

December 17, 1993

The Honorable Les Aspin  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon, RM. 3E880  
Washington, D.C. 2301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request your assistance as a follow-up to a request made by Senator Bob Smith on October 1, 1993. This request is regarding the satellite photography and related intelligence information pertaining to my father, Henry Muir Serex (Col. USAF, missing-in-action from Vietnam since 4/2/72).

My family's Air Force casualty officer, Mr. George Atkinson, has informed us that clearance has been obtained for me, my mother, Barbara Serex Lundeen, and my sister, Jennifer Serex Helwig, to view the satellite photograph. We appreciate the effort that has been undertaken thus far. The photography in question is understood to be of the vicinity of Dong Mang prison in Dong Vai, Vietnam from June 1992. We understand that qualified and professional government representatives have claimed to see my father's name, his authenticator code, and possibly a social security number written in a field. We also understand that the Senate Committee's final report in January 1993 claims that the photograph is an anomaly produced by computer enhancement and was dismissed as credible evidence.

I first became aware of this new information in August, 1993. Since then I have spoken to, among others, Mr. Robert Dussault of the JSSA, Mr. George Atkinson, USAF, John Horn of Ed Ross' office, National League of Families of POW/MIA's director Ann Mills Griffiths, and Senator Smith. I have reviewed my father's records and the final report of the Senate Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. I have seen transcripts of Mr. Dussault's testimony which was not included in the final report, and transcripts of the Larry King Live Show which first aired my father's name, thus informing me of the controversy. I have also viewed Dateline NBC's coverage of Col. Larry Burroughs' discussion on a related code found in the same area at the same time. I have read AIM (Accuracy in Media) reports on this incident, and have heard all of the conflicting

views. Not only do people whom have not seen the photo have conflicting views on it's accuracy and proof of my father's survival, but also the people who have seen it. The common bond is that all of the above support my family's effort to see the photo in an attempt to resolve the ambiguity.

Mr. Atkinson has assured me that the efforts undertaken to secure permission for us to see the satellite photograph are in the spirit of resolving our uncertainty and satisfying our need to read the photograph under the same conditions which caused the ambiguous conclusions. We have made arrangements through Mr. Atkinson to see the photograph in Washington, D.C., on January 10, 1994. As per his advice, I am including requests and requirements that we, the family, will need at this point to understand what we are seeing, and why the controversy exists.

Since my father's plane, BAT-21, was shot down in 1972, there has been very little information which would indicate survival of any crewmember other than Col. Hambleton, the navigator who was recovered. When I reviewed records, however, in 1985, 1986 and 1987, I came across very "cryptic" and highly sanitized pages which alluded to three orange parachutes and a search-in-progress for another crewmember. My inquiries were met with remarks such as, "After this many years, things can get misfiled...or lost." These remarks have not satisfied my longing to learn the fate of my father, nor has it provided any relief to the grief that continues over his loss. No proof of his death, or his survival has ever been made. I understand that there are excavation crews in the vicinity of BAT-21 at this time. No final reports, or any bones have been recovered to this date.

After discussions with my family and George Atkinson, we have concluded that the following requests are vital to a thorough understanding of the controversy that this satellite photo represents.

1. The following persons are requested during our viewing: Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Dussault, Col. Burroughs, Senator Bob Smith, and CIA analyst Carol Lucas or any of the other six analysts who assessed the photograph at the time of the Senate Committee's meetings. Mister Dussault, Col. Burroughs and Senator Smith are aware of our request and have expressed their support and willingness to be present.

2. We will require the photograph negative, a film positive, and the best print available to be shown to us in 3-D, on a light table, with all of the computer enhancement that was done at its previous assessment. We also wish to see the print shown to Mr. Dussault which is circled where he saw "SEREX", "TA88" and the nine or ten digit number above...

3. We request to have all persons and equipment available to us during our brief visit to Washington, D.C., the week of January 10, 1994. We are relying on the generosity of family, friends, employers, and strangers to enable us to be there at that time. We have given the notice of our travel to Mr. Atkinson, et. al., per his request, and will accept no excuses based upon negligence or procrastination.

4. We wish to have all the facts presented to us. There are two very different opinions being presented as to the significance of this intelligence photograph, and it will be only appropriate to allow us, the family, to ask the questions and hear all sides with the photograph in front of us.

5. We request that information in the future be immediately presented directly to us, and not via our local cable access to CNN, or any other third party source. We are aware that by law, this is a standard that the government is required to meet.

In closing, I cannot express the impact that this new information has had on my family. If there is a remote possibility that my father survived, then no information should be dismissed until the time when it can be proven beyond any doubt otherwise. That day has not passed. I sincerely appreciate the efforts that you and your esteemed staff have undertaken to help the Serex family, and we will continue to appreciate all of your and Admiral Inman's help in the future. I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Serex

KS/tj

cc: President Bill Clinton  
cc: Admiral Bobby Ray Inman  
cc: Senator Bob Smith  
cc: Mr. George Atkinson  
cc: Mr. Robert Dussault  
cc: Col. Larry Burroughs  
cc: Mr. Ed Ross  
cc: Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths  
cc: The Serex Family