

Ann -

Here are some notes regarding the case, FYI. Please call me with questions. I got an appointment at 11:15. Thanks again. - Colleen

*I gave to  
Colleen to  
AD #10 C  
today - she  
was ill. 06 3/15*

December 2, 1972, flying an A7-D. No report of shootdown, radio contact, etc... Basically heard nothing for fourteen years.

Refugee reporting began in 1986 timeframe. Received photo of his dog tag DIA believed authentic. Half a dozen dog tag reports and a live sighting report in 1993.

In 1993, JTFFA investigated a crash site they believed, due to approximate location and a villager's account, might be her father's.

Before and particularly since, her family has closely monitored the case. Series of meetings with JCRC, CILHI, DOD/DIA, DPMO, JTFFA officials.

JTFFA assessment was that crashsite was heavily scavenged, helmet had no identifiable markings and therefore was not photographed, exact burial site could not be determined but because it was generally determined to be on a slope, all biological remains would probably have been washed away. USG felt this was sufficient investigation and placed the case in pending with no recommendation for follow up investigation.

Colleen found many gaps in the investigation process, sent more than 50 follow up questions which led JTFFA to visit the site again to reinterview the witness and photographed helmet.

The witness led them to a burial site in May of 1994 which had obviously been disturbed. It was clear that the witness knew more. The investigation team excavated the burial site and recovered 6 bones - found green leaves in the soil, obvious tampering.

Bill Bell did initial review and offered suggestions on leads. Colleen followed up and JTFFA did more due diligence in another visit.

She travelled to Vietnam as another step in the process to account for her father. She visited village, met witness, visited crash and burial sites.

Recovered 3 bags wreckage, helmet with name Shine.

Now, JTFFA plans to excavate crash site during 35th JFA. May reexcavate burial site.

The implications of this case's on the overall issue are serious. If this many errors have happened on a closely monitored case, what is happening on others? We have long known of the problems with field operations, but are receiving many examples.

Burden of accountability on the families, still. You have to know the exact right question to get a useful answer. USG willing to roll through, visit each case. Families want accountability.