

October 5, 1994

BG Charles R. Viale, USA
Commander, JTF-FA
Box 64044
Camp H.M. Smith, HI 96861-4044

Dear General Viale,

In light of the information we have received on my father's case (Refno 1950) which indicates a high potential for achieving an accounting, and in consideration of immediate family concerns, I plan to travel to Vietnam, and possibly Laos, from January 9-30, 1995. As my goal will be emotional rather than investigative, I would sincerely appreciate your assistance in the following areas as their status will impact my success. Given JTF-FA's and my own schedule, these efforts are particularly time-sensitive.

- 1). Currently, CILHI is in possession of remains tentatively associated with my father. I am requesting via Air Force Casualty that these remains be tested for DNA correlation as soon as possible. I have also requested via Air Force Casualty that any non human material recovered from the crash site be provided to the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) in Texas as soon as possible for their analysis and assessment. Any assistance in expediting this process would be helpful.
- 2). I recently received confirmation that JTF-FA will attempt to locate and interview members of the Vietnamese workers union who reportedly witnessed the burial of the pilot associated with the referenced crash. Your assistance in ensuring this effort is scheduled during the next SRV JFA would be very helpful. I have also requested the Vietnamese Order of Battle for the area and time of loss.
- 3). In order to confirm that the referenced aircraft is in fact my fathers, information is needed to supplement the circle search provided me by DPMO this March. The information on which this search was based has changed several times since my father's date of loss, naturally creating some skepticism regarding its validity. JTF-FA has provided photos of two plane parts and some related reference numbers; however, complete information, to the extent it is available, on each piece of aircraft located or recovered, i.e., serial numbers and what they mean in terms of being definitely an A7-D or definitely my father's A7-D or definitely a jet engine, but not discernable as a specific aircraft, would be helpful. For example, a recent JTF-FA field report referenced the aircraft's wing hitting a mountain side; however, there was no indication whether aerial reconnaissance or on-the-ground investigation resulted in evidence that the plane part was in fact my fathers, nor on what basis that determination was made if indeed it was. Perhaps the LSEL could be helpful in this regard; there should be specific manufacturer and maintenance records for my father's aircraft which could be consulted to confirm that we have indeed located the correct crash site.

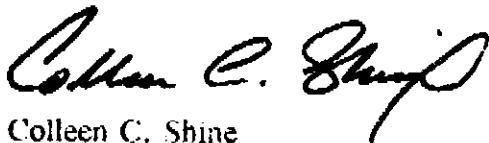
- 4). JTF-FA has the names of two Lao citizens, one civilian and one active duty, who reportedly have information on and/or my father's remains. During the upcoming technical talks with Laos, I request that JTF-FA request interviews with the two Lao sources during the next JFA. If the Lao government agrees to have Lao witnesses interviewed on a case on which Vietnamese knowledgeability is assumed, but in which there are indications that while the crash occurred in Vietnam, remains or other information may have been transported across the border into Laos, it would be a noteworthy demonstration of trilateral cooperation on POW/MIA.
- 5). We received a live sighting report on my father in October 1993 and are interested in knowing what follow up has been done and whether there will be further investigation of this report, to include re-interviewing the witness.

I appreciate your time and assistance on these issues, as does my entire family, and will look forward to your earliest possible response.

On a lighter note, I was recently notified that the presentation of an annual Air Force fighter pilot award in my father's name will be held at either Hickam AFB, Hawaii or Elmendorf AFB, Alaska in November or early December. If it is held in Hawaii, I will plan to visit CILHI and would appreciate the chance to meet with you personally, your schedule permitting. Otherwise, I will plan to visit Hawaii en route to Vietnam in January.

Thanks again for your help.

Best Regards,



Colleen C. Shine

cc: Defense POW/MIA Office
The National League of POW/MIA Families
Air Force Casualty