



INT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER  
NAS BARBERS POINT, HAWAII 96862

CDD  
1700  
10 September 1987

To: Headquarters, Air Force Military Personnel Center/DPMCB,  
(ATTN: CAPT Pangman)

Subj: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
NAME REFNO 1950-0-01

Ref: (a) HQAFMPC/DPMCB MSG 041355Z SEP 87  
(b) JCRC Refugee Reports T87-025 and T87-025A

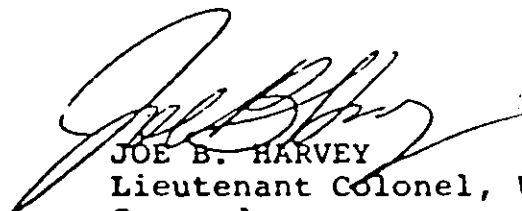
1. Reference (a) requested an explanation on what methods and information were used to associate referenced (b) reports to Colonel NAME. Additionally, reference (a) requested an explanation of the process used to correlate a refugee report to a specific incident.
2. Our JCRC Liaison Office interviewed a refugee (ref b) who alleged he had seen the photograph of a dead American pilot posted on a wall of the "Truong Son District Worker's Club" located in Ban (Village) Nong Hie, grid coordinates (GC) VG0847. Sources in the area of the incident told the refugee that the pilot's aircraft had been shot down by local militia. The refugee said the pilot parachuted from the aircraft and broke his leg when he landed, approximately two kilometers north of the village. Allegedly, the pilot was killed while resisting capture and was buried near where he was killed. JCRC files indicate there were five losses within ten kilometers of Ban Nong Hie. A review of the case files revealed that the circumstances of loss of three of these incidents might correlate to the Source's account. We requested that our Liaison Office reinterview the Source to refine the information previously provided and identify the type of aircraft and date of loss. During the reinterview, the Source stated he had been told the aircraft was a jet and that he recalled being told the incident occurred during the "Fighting to Redeem Honor" period of 1971-1972. Further analysis of the three incidents determined that only Colonel NAME's loss was correlative with the reported information. His incident occurred in 1972, he was flying a jet, and the location was accurate in that the alleged crash site was on NAME's stated reconnaissance heading. The first of the other two incidents, which initially suggested a possible correlation, involved the 1967 crash of a propellor driven aircraft in the vicinity of grid coordinates VG0947. This was the only incident of the three under consideration, for which the JCRC has a confirmed crash site location. While this location is very near that reported by the Source, the discrepancy in aircraft type and incident dates -- 1967 vice 1971-72 -- caused us to rule out a correlation. Additionally, this aircraft was observed from when it entered a nearly vertical dive at 13,000 feet until it crashed. The pilot did not exit the aircraft. This obviously does not correlate with the Source's information that the pilot was killed

resisting capture. The other incident involved the 1967 loss of one person, in a jet aircraft which was performing a reconnaissance of route 7 within ten kilometers of Ban Nong Hie. A returned POW claimed to have seen a propaganda film depicting a grave, a badly burned flight helmet and the identification card of the individual involved in this incident. This information, which indicates that the pilot died in the crash of his aircraft, does not correlate with the Source's information. Additionally, the date of loss -- 1967 vice 1971-72 -- does not correlate.

3. Subsequent to our correlation of this report to Colonel NAME 's incident, we received a letter from the DIA in which they presented their analysis and findings concerning this case. Their analysis of the information provided in the refugee report indicates that it "most likely" correlates to the 1967 crash of the propellor-driven aircraft. Their research also indicates that the "Fighting to Redeem Honor" period was an ethnic uprising which actually occurred from 1965 - 1968 rather than the 1971 - 1972 time frame that the Source reported. The Source's association of the date of the incident was a prime factor in our deduction of a probable correlation to Colonel NAME . Although the DIA finding certainly mitigates strongly against a probable correlation to Colonel NAME , we believe there are enough similarities in both cases when compared to the information provided to warrant further investigation. To this end, we have instructed our interviewers in Bangkok to obtain additional information from other sources who resided in the area to try to establish an accurate sequence of events and eliminate any hearsay information or embellishment of the report. The fact remains that there were two incidents in the area reported. In one incident, the individual most probably died in the crash of his aircraft. In Colonel NAME 's case the circumstances of his loss are unknown.

4. The following information concerning our refugee report evaluation procedures is provided in response to your ref (a) request. In evaluating refugee reports we assume that the Source is providing an essentially truthful account. We continue on that basis unless established facts clearly indicate falsehood. Based on his account, we classify the information as hearsay, a first hand, eyewitness account, or a combination of hearsay and first hand information. Our analysis begins by establishing, as accurately as possible, the location of the incident reported by the Source. All losses in JCRC files, both resolved and unresolved, which occurred in the general area reported are examined to determine which potentially could relate to the Source's account. The area examined is generally circular and may vary from a radius as small as five kilometers to a radius as large as 25 kilometers. The factors which determine the size of the circular search are the density of losses in the area and the accuracy and precision of the location reported. Based on obvious discriminators, the initial examination can normally reduce the number of cases to a select few. For example, if a Source reported the crash of an aircraft in a general area, that information would not relate to a soldier who became missing as a result of a ground action. The cases remaining

after the initial examination are compared against all of the elements of information provided. These include the date and location of the incident, the type aircraft or other vehicle involved, the circumstances of loss, and the number and subsequent activities of the individuals involved in the incident. Additionally, any subsequent information and previously correlated refugee reports are also considered. When a Source has provided promising information, but the essential elements of information which would make a correlation possible are not present, we ask our Bangkok office for additional information and a reinterview of the Source may be accomplished. If the information obtained during the reinterview clearly distinguishes one case from all the others under consideration, a "probable correlation" is made. If the information points to a correlation, but is less than conclusive, a "possible correlation" is made to one or all of the candidate cases. These JCRC tentative analytical positions are assigned one of two terms which provide an indication of the certainty of our analytical position. They are a "probable" correlation or a "possible" correlation. A "probable correlation" reflects the higher likelihood that a Source's information is correlative to the circumstances of a specific incident. A "possible correlation" designation indicates that the information provided by a source may relate to one or more incidents. All JCRC correlations are based on an objective comparison of a Source's information with all data in our files.



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