

INFORMATION PAPER

VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

PURPOSE. Provide information on the background and accomplishments of the JTF-FA Oral History Program.

BACKGROUND

a. During the 5-6 April 93 SRV-U.S. Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting, JTF-FA passed the SRV a request to interview 22 persons who possess useful information on unaccounted-for Americans. The first interviews began in May 1993, which established the Oral History Program (OHP).

b. To expand the OHP, JTF-FA and DIA prepared a joint list of key persons and groups who may possess information on unaccounted-for Americans. The list consisted of 83 individuals or groups whom we sought to interview.

c. On 16 May 93, Senator Kerry presented the list of 83 SRV Acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Tran Quang Co. The SRV agreed to support this expansion of the Oral History Program.

3. DISCUSSION

a. To date, the JTF-FA OHP team has conducted 74 interviews, including 14 general officers or civilian equivalents. These interviews account for 46 of the 83 individuals or groups. The OHP team has received outstanding support from its Vietnamese counterparts and most interviewees proved very cooperative.

b. The 74 interviews provided two general categories of information: (1) General information relating to Vietnamese policies and procedures for handling U.S. POW's; (2) Specific information relating directly to cases of unaccounted-for Americans. The OHP program has gathered information relating to 41 separate cases, including 21 unresolved cases. Seven of these are priority cases.

c. The Vietnamese have reported that many of the remaining individuals on the list of 83 have died or cannot be found. JTF-FA submitted a follow-on request to interview any remaining individuals who can be located.

d. On 2 Mar 94, the OHP team began conducting interviews in support of the Priority Case Investigation Team (PCIT).

4. RECOMMENDATION. None; provided for information only.

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