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 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//  
 TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//  
 RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEXANDRIA VA//TAPC-PED-P//  
 RUEACMG/CMC WASHINGTON DC//MHP-10/INTC/INTM//  
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH  
 INFO RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//  
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//  
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//  
 RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//  
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UNCLAS //N03460//

SECTION 01 OF 02

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CDR JTF-FA/J221//

SUBJ/ EVALUATION OF SRV ORAL HISTORY - SR COL NGUYEN CONG TRUNG//

REF/A/RMG/CJTF-FA DET ONE/281036ZAPR93//

RMKS/1. REF A DOCUMENTS AN INTERVIEW WITH SR COL NGUYEN CONG TRUNG (SOURCE), FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO AN ENEMY PROSELYTING TEAM ASSIGNED TO THE HEADQUARTERS, SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMED

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FORCES. INITIAL ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF A INDICATES PROBABLE CORRELATIONS TO REFNO 0032, 0049, 0050, 1277 AND 1480, A RESOLVED CASE.

2. IN PARA THREE OF REF A, SOURCE DESCRIBED A NOVEMBER 1963 BATTLE WHICH ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED NEAR BAU CAU VILLAGE, XT3163, TAY NINH PROVINCE. THE SOURCE CLAIMED THAT TWO AMERICAN ADVISORS AND NUMEROUS SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THE BATTLE. U.S. FORCES RECOVERED THE BODY OF ONE OF THE AMERICANS AND LOCAL VILLAGERS ALLEGEDLY BURIED THE BODY OF THE OTHER AMERICAN SOLDIER NEAR BAU BAC VILLAGE (UNLOCATED), TAY NINH PROVINCE. ANALYSIS INDICATES A POSSIBLE CORRELATION TO REFNO 0032.

A. REFNO 0032: ON 19 JUNE 1964, CAPTAIN THOMAS I. LEDBETTERZPNPD SPECIALIST FOUR JAMES L. TALLEY WERE ADVISORS TO A MONTAGNARD STRIKE FORCE ON A COMBAT PATROL IN EASTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE. THE STRIKE FORCE ENGAGED A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XT325653, APPROXIMATELY SEVENTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF TAY NINH CITY AND FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF SUOI DA VILLAGE, TAY NINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM. DURING THE ENSUING BATTLE, SPECIALIST TALLEY REQUESTED A HELICOPTER TO EVACUATE CAPTAIN LEDBETTER, WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED. THE HELICOPTER CREW

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FAILED TO LOCATE ANY SIGN OF THE TWO AMERICANS. HOSTILE ACTIVITY SUBSEQUENTLY FORCED THE STRIKE FORCE TO ABANDON THE AREA.

BETWEEN 20 AND 26 JUNE 1964, A GROUND TEAM SEARCHED THE BATTLE AREA, RECOVERING THE BODY OF ANOTHER AMERICAN ADVISOR. THE SEARCH TEAM FAILED TO LOCATE ANY SIGNS OF CAPTAIN LEDBETTER AND SPECIALIST TALLEY. CAPTAIN LEDBETTER AND SPECIALIST TALLEY ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR.

B. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MONTH AND YEAR, THE EVENTS DESCRIBED BY THE SOURCE CLOSELY MATCH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 0032. JTF-FA FILES INDICATE REFNO 0032 WAS THE ONLY GROUND LOSS INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN TEN KILOMETERS OF BAU CAU VILLAGE (XT3163) DURING 1963 OR 1964.

3. IN PARA FOUR OF REF A, THE SOURCE RECALLED A BATTLE WHICH ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED NEAR XOM SON VILLAGE (YS5571), BA RIA-VUNG TAU PROVINCE DURING NOVEMBER (1964). HE SAID THAT DURING THE BATTLE ONE AMERICAN ADVISOR TO THE 4TH ARVN MARINES WAS CAPTURED. THE CAPTURED AMERICAN HAD SUFFERED A LEG WOUND. THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT DURING THE CONTINUED FIGHTING NEAR XUAN SON VILLAGE, TWO AMERICAN ADVISORS TO THE 33RD ARVN RANGERS WERE CAPTURED. ALL THREE PRISONERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED OVER TO AN ESCORT TEAM

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FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE FROM SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN). ANALYSIS INDICATES PROBABLE CORRELATIONS TO REFNO 0049 AND REFNO 0050.  
A. REFNO 0049: ON 29 DECEMBER 1964, SERGEANT HAROLD G. BENNETT AND PRIVATE CHARLES E. CRAFTS WERE ADVISORS TO THE 33RD ARVN RANGER BATTALION DURING AN OPERATION NEAR BINH GIA VILLAGE, SOUTH VIETNAM. THE BATTALION ENGAGED A HOSTILE FORCE NEAR GRID COORDINATES YS549755, APPROXIMATELY FIVE KILOMETERS EAST OF BINH GIA VILLAGE AND THREE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF XUAN SON VILLAGE, BA RIA-VUNG TAU PROVINCE, VIETNAM. DURING THE BATTLE, NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT FORCES CAPTURED SERGEANT BENNETT AND PRIVATE CRAFTS. THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT RELEASED PRIVATE CRAFTS ON 23 FEBRUARY 1967. UPON HIS CONTROL TO MILITARY CONTROL, PRIVATE CRAFTS SAID THAT ON 28 MAY 1965, WHILE MOVING TO A NEW CAMP, GUARDS TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD KILLED SERGEANT BENNETT BECAUSE HE WAS UNABLE TO TRAVEL. PRIVATE CRAFTS ESTIMATED THEIR LOCATION TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATED YS550730, APPROXIMATELY SIX KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF BINH GIA, BA RIA-VUNG TAU PROVINCE. ON 25 JUNE 1965, A HANOI RADIO BROADCAST ANNOUNCED THAT SERGEANT BENNETT HAD BEEN EXECUTED IN REPRISAL FOR THE EXECUTION OF A COMMUNIST TERRORIST. IN JANUARY 1973, THE PROVISIONAL

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REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM RELEASED A DIED-IN-CAPTIVITY LIST WHICH INDICATED THAT SERGEANT BENNETT DIED IN JUNE 1965. SERGEANT BENNETT IS UNACCOUNTED FOR.  
B. REFNO 0050: ON 31 DECEMBER 1964, CAPTAIN DONALD G. COOK WAS AN ADVISOR TO THE 4TH ARVN MARINE BATTALION DURING A BATTLE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YS495775, NEAR BINH GIA VILLAGE, BA RIA-VUNG TAU PROVINCE, VIETNAM. ARVN MARINES REPORTED THAT CAPTAIN COOK WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG AND WAS LED AWAY BY VIET CONG FORCES. RETURNEES REPORTED THAT CAPTAIN COOK WAS HELD AT VARIOUS PRISON CAMPS LOCATED IN TAY NINH AND DONG HAI PROVINCES. ONE RETURNEE REPORTED THAT A GUARD TOLD HIM CAPTAIN COOK DIED OF MALARIA IN DECEMBER 1967 WHILE BEING MOVED BETWEEN CAMPS IN NORTHEASTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE. CAPTAIN COOK'S NAME APPEARED ON THE DIED-IN-CAPTIVITY LIST RELEASED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. THE LIST INDICATED CAPTAIN COOK DIED ON 8 DECEMBER 1967. CAPTAIN COOK IS UNACCOUNTED FOR.  
C. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE CORRELATES WELL WITH THE EVENTS CONCERNING THE BATTLE OF BINH GIA AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 0049 AND 0050. THE

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SOURCE ACCURATELY PROVIDED THE NUMBER AND RACE OF THE AMERICANS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AT BINH GIA AND CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE BATTLE. THE SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE CAPTIVES IS CONSISTENT WITH BATTLEFIELD REPORTING CONCERNING THESE TWO LOSS INCIDENTS. IN HIS POST-CAPTURE DEBRIEF, PRIVATE CRAFTS (REFNO 0049) REPORTED THAT CAPTAIN COOK (REFNO 0050) JOINED SERGEANT BENNETT (REFNO 0049) AND HIM IN A POW CAMP IN JANUARY 1965, WHICH INDICATES THE SOURCE COULD WELL HAVE MET THE THREE CAPTIVES SHORTLY AFTER THE BATTLE AS HE CLAIMED IN THE INTERVIEW.  
4. PARA FIVE OF REF A DETAILS SOURCE'S RECOLLECTION OF A 1967 BATTLE INVOLVING ELEMENTS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION WHICH OCCURRED NEAR "HILL 24". POSSIBLY LOCATED NEAR GRID COORDINATES XU773147, SONG BE PROVINCE. THE SOURCE SAID THAT DURING THE FIGHTING, HIS UNIT CAPTURED ONE AMERICAN SOLDIER. THE SOLDIER WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. ANALYSIS INDICATES A POSSIBLE CORRELATION TO REFNO 1277.  
A. REFNO 1277: ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1968, SERGEANT EARL E. SHARK WAS THE POINT MAN FOR HIS INFANTRY UNIT ON A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE  
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A. REFNO 1480: ON 12 AUGUST 1969, SPECIALIST FOUR JOHN C. SEXTON, A MEMBER OF THE 11TH AIR CAVALRY REGIMENT, WAS REPORTED MISSING WHILE ON A COMBAT OPERATION IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XT710830. VIETNAMESE FORCES CAPTURED SPECIALIST SEXTON AND RELEASED HIM IN OCTOBER 1971.

B. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE CORRELATES WELL WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 1480. THE SOURCE CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED SPECIALIST SEXTON'S UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT, THAT HE WAS A CREW MEMBER ON AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER, THAT HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE AND THAT HE WAS RELEASED IN A PRISONER SWAP. JTF-FA FILES INDICATE REFNO 1480 WAS THE ONLY GROUND LOSS INCIDENT INVOLVING AN UNACCOUNTED FOR INDIVIDUAL WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN FIFTEEN KILOMETERS OF QUANG LOI AIRFIELD (XT8190) DURING 1969 OR 1970.

6. PARA 9C OF REF A DISCUSSES SOURCE'S RECOLLECTIONS CONCERNING A VIETNAMESE ARTIST, HUYNH PHUONG DONG, WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE SOURCE'S AREA OF OPERATIONS DURING THE WAR. SOURCE INDICATED IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT MR. DONG SKETCHED PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED IN THAT AREA.

7. JTF-FA FILES CONTAIN REFERENCES (DIA SOURCES) TO SIX

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VIETNAMESE ARTISTS WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY COMMISSIONED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO RECORD THE WAR FOR POSTERITY, WHICH POSSIBLY INCLUDED MAKING SKETCHES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS. JTF-FA FILES CONTAIN NO DRAWINGS, SKETCHES OR PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR. DIA/PW-MIA MAY HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EXISTENCE OF POSSIBLE PORTRAITS OF CAPTURED AMERICANS.

A. JTF-FA FILES DO NOT CONTAIN THE PHOTOGRAPH OF A LIVE AMERICAN CAUCASIAN PRISONER CAPTURED DURING THE BATTLE OF BINH GIA IN 1964 REFERRED TO IN PARA 9C OF REF A.

B. FOR CDRPERSCOM/TAPC-PED-P AND CMC/MHP-10: THIS EVALUATION IS PROVIDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION. SANITIZED COPIES OF REF A WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY.

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