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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
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BT
UNCLAS //N03460//
MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
AMPN/SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, DINH KHOI SY//
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AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW-SENATOR KERRY, ENTRY
NUMBER 31 OF 83//

PW-MIA
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RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 28 JUNE 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED LTC DINH KHOI SY, A 50 YEAR OLD HANOI RESIDENT. LTC SY IS CURRENTLY A MILITARY HISTORIAN FOR THE HISTORY COMPILATION UNIT IN HANOI. LTC SY IS A FORMER RESEARCHER WHO HELPED COMPILE "THE HISTORY OF THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE, VOLUME III." THE TEAM MET AT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY COOPERATION, VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, HANOI, TO INTERVIEW LTC SY, LISTED IN REFERENCE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) IN VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF TSGT RONALD D. WARD, JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM COORDINATOR; AND PO2 JOHN HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST. LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. TRINH QUOC KHANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. LTC SY HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT TEAM BEFORE.
2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, DINH KHOI SY, PROVIDED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SUMMARIZED HIS PART IN WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE, VOLUME III, AS WELL AS EXPLAINING THAT RESEARCH EFFORTS FOR THE BOOK WERE DIRECTED TOWARD VIETNAMESE VICTORIES IN BATTLE AND THE

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UNITS WHO TOOK PART IN THE ATTLES, NOT AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. LT SY CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PERSONNEL, IVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.
3. DETAILS.
A. AFTER FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, LTC LE KY EXPLAINED THE JOINT TEAM'S MISSION AND TSGT WARD BEGAN THE INTERVIEW WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO KEY QUESTIONS:
(1) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (PW) CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM? LTC SY REPLIED HE HAD NOT.
(2) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN "STAY-BEHINDS" IN VIETNAM? LTC SY REPLIED HE HAD NOT.
B. HAVING ANSWERED THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS, LTC SY SAID THROUGHOUT THE WAR HE WAS AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY SPECIALIST IN NORTH VIETNAM. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD SERVED AS AN AIR

SEA

DEFENSE SQUAD LEADER, PLATOON COMMANDER, AND COMPANY COMMANDER BETWEEN 1964 AND 1977. ANOTHER FUNCTION OF AIR DEFENSE UNITS DURING THIS PERIOD WAS RECORDING VIETNAMESE MILITARY HISTORY. SINCE LTC SY WAS INVOLVED IN THIS ENDEAVOR, HE WAS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WRITING OF THE HISTORY OF THE AIR AND AIR

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DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS IN 1977.

C. LTC SY EXPLAINED THAT DURING THE WAR HIS UNIT DID SHOOT DOWN WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT, BUT NEVER IMMEDIATELY KNEW THE PILOT'S FATE. WHEN THEY READ OF A CAPTURED PILOT OR DOWNED AIRCRAFT IN THE NEWSPAPER, THEY TRIED TO ASSOCIATE THE INCIDENT TO A BATTLE IN WHICH THEY WERE INVOLVED, AS WELL AS DETERMINE WHICH OF THE GUNNERS MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOT DOWN. HIS UNIT'S MISSION, HE SAID, WAS STRICTLY AIR DEFENSE, NOT CAPTURING PRISONERS. HE CONTINUED, SAYING THAT IT WAS THE LOCAL MILITIA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LOCATE AND CAPTURE DOWNED PILOTS. LTC SY SAID HE CANNOT RECALL EVER SEEING AN AMERICAN PW OR EVER HEARING OF ANY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCE REGARDING AN AMERICAN PW.

D. WHILE GATHERING INFORMATION FOR THE BOOK, LTC SY EXPLAINED, HE USED FOUR SOURCES: THE PEOPLE'S ARMY NEWSPAPER (QUAAN DOOIJ NHAAN ZAA), THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER (NHAAN ZAA), INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS, AND TRANSLATED VERSIONS OF AMERICAN DOCUMENTS AND BOOKS. IN ADDITION, HE READ MEMOIRS BY FORMER PRESIDENTS NIXON, JOHNSON, AND FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AS WELL AS DECLASSIFIED AMERICAN DOCUMENTS (NFI)

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WERE USED AS RESEARCH ITEMS, BUT ONLY TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO U.S. PERCEPTIONS OF VIETNAMESE WARTIME STRATEGIES. THE PHOTOGRAPHS USED IN THE BOOK, HE SAID, WERE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED OR TAKEN FROM THE VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY.

E. LTC SY INFORMED THE JOINT TEAM THAT HE IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY HISTORY COMPILATION UNIT IN HANOI, WHICH HAS BEGUN WRITING A FOURTH VOLUME TO THE HISTORY OF THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIR SERIES.

F. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR LTC SY, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THIS INTERVIEW.

4. CORRELATIONS TOE EXISTING POW/MIA CASES. NONE.
5. POTENTIAL LEADS. NONE.
6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT NO RECORDS, NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES, OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL EVIDENT ASSOCIATED WITH UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.
7. COMMENTS.

A. LTC SY WAS COOPERATIVE THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW. HE DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUSPECT THAT VIETNAM IS STILL HOLDING PRISONERS FORM THE WAR AGAINST AMERICA, SINCE, HE CLAIMED,

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VIETNAMESE TRADITION IS TO REPATRIATE ALL PW'S FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF A WAR.

B. THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM CONFERRED ON THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED DURING THIS INTERVIEW. TEAM MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE NEED TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SUBJECT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR LTC SY ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM'S FUTURE WORK.

C. REQUEST HE VNOSMP MAKE LTC SY AVAILABLE FOR RE-INTERVIEW IF NECESSARY.//

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