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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
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INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/DCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//
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UNCLAS //N03460//
DIA PASS TO POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//
MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA//
AMPN/SUBJ: SRV ORAL HISTORY - REPORT OF WARTIME INCIDENT IN BINH DINH PROVINCE//
REF/A/RMG/CJTF-FA DET ONE/270508ZAPR93//

FILE

CY TO Mr. Bell

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RMKS/1. REF A PROVIDED HEARSAY INFORMATION RELATED BY TWO RESIDENTS OF HO CHI MINH CITY, WHICH PROBABLY CORRELATES WITH REFNO 0240.
2. THE SOURCES REPORTED THAT A MAN CALLED "NGOAN," A RESIDENT OF THUONG HOA VILLAGE, NINH BINH PROVINCE, TOLD THEM OF A FIRE FIGHT INVOLVING U.S. FORCES WHICH OCCURRED NEAR THE "CAU SAP" BRIDGE, IN THE AN LAO VALLEY OF BINH DINH PROVINCE IN SEPTEMBER 1967. ACCORDING TO "NGOAN," THREE AMERICANS WERE KILLED IN THE FIRE FIGHT. THE BODIES OF TWO OF THE AMERICANS WERE ALLEGEDLY PUT INTO A HOLE WHICH SERVED AS "NGOAN'S" FIGHTING POSITION. "NGOAN" REPORTEDLY SAID PAVN FORCES WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE THE BODY OF THE THIRD AMERICAN.
3. REFNO 0242: ON 28 JANUARY 1966, SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CECIL J. HODGSON, STAFF SERGEANT FRANK N. BADOLATI AND STAFF SERGEANT RONALD T. TERRY AND THREE OTHER SOLDIERS WERE ON A RECONNAISSANCE PATROL IN THE AN LAO VALLEY OF SOUTHERN VIETNAM. THE PATROL ENCOUNTERED A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES BS715170, APPROXIMATELY EIGHT KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF AN LAO, BINH DINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM. THREE OF THE PATROL MEMBERS SUCCESSFULLY EVADED AND WERE RESCUED. ONE OF THE SURVIVORS REPORTED THAT SERGEANT

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BADOLATI WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED DURING THE INITIAL EXCHANGE OF FIRE AND WAS LATER LEFT BEHIND BY OTHER PATROL MEMBERS AS THEY WERE EVADING. ANOTHER SURVIVOR REPORTED THAT SERGEANT TERRY WAS WOUNDED DURING A SUBSEQUENT FIRE FIGHT. DURING THE SECOND ENGAGEMENT, SERGEANT HODGSON DISAPPEARED AND WAS NOT SEEN AGAIN. SERGEANT HODGSON AND SERGEANT TERRY WERE LAST SEEN IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES BS719172. SERGEANT FIRST CLASS HODGSON, SERGEANT BADOLATI AND SERGEANT TERRY ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR.
4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE REPORTED DATE OF OCCURRENCE, THE HEARSAY INFORMATION CORRELATES WELL WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 0242. JTF-FA FILES INDICATE REFNO 0242 IS THE ONLY GROUND LOSS INCIDENT, INVOLVING UNACCOUNTED FOR INDIVIDUALS, WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN TEN KILOMETERS OF HUNG NHON VILLAGE (BS7115).
5. FOR CDRPERSCOM: FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION. SANITIZED COPIES OF REF A WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY.
6. EVAL-KLE//
BT
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