

(13) ORIGIN JCHC2 INFO AMB DCM2 SA3 POL DAO DATT/TLO GHON

VZCZCCKI \*  
 RP RUHQBPA RUHQHQA RUEKJCS  
 LE RUEHAK #5400/01 361  
 ZNY SSSSS

271140Z DEC 86

FM JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

TO RUHQBPA / CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI PRIORITY

INFO RUHQHQA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36//

RUEKJCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW//

RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC//J3/PW-MIA//

RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUEALWV / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/MR CHILDRESS//

BT

[REDACTED] OF 02 LIAISON BANGKOK 55400

[REDACTED] DEC 86.

SUBJECT: JCRC CPT 186-3156 THREE U.S. ADVISORS  
 CAPTURED IN BA XUYEN (S)

## 1. (C) SOURCE/ADMIN DATA

NAME: THACH CUONG

DPOB: 7 JULY 1938, DAI TAM (V), MY XUYEN (D).

BA XUYEN (P).

FORMER POSITION: MSGT, REGIONAL FORCES, SN38/103667

PRESENT LOCATION: VALR SITE 2, THAILAND

IL DATA: NOT ISSUED

DOI: 1987

MAP USED: SHEETS 6127, 6126, SERIES L607

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 12 DEC 86.

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: MR G E BELL, GS-13, DOD

OTHER: SOURCE ARRIVED THAILAND 18 MAR 86.

SUMMARY: SOURCE, A 48 YOA MALE VM (ETHNIC  
 CHMER FROM) REFUGEE, PROVIDED HEARSAY INFORMATION  
 CONCERNING THE CAPTURE OF THREE U.S. ADVISORS AND FIRST-  
 HAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GRAVES OF TWO OF THE  
 ADVISORS LOCATED NEAR TAM SOC POST (WR9156) AND DAU  
 GIANG HAMLET (XR3251). END SUMMARY.

INFORMATION: SOURCE STATED THAT SOMETIME  
 DURING 1967, WHILE ASSIGNED TO THE REGIONAL FORCES IN  
 BA XUYEN PROVINCE, HE HEARD ABOUT THE CAPTURE OF THREE  
 U.S. ADVISORS. SOURCE STATED THAT HIS UNIT, THE 356TH  
 REGIONAL FORCES COMPANY, WAS ASSIGNED TO THE TAM SOC  
 POST (WR9156), LOCATED NEXT TO TAM SOC HAMLET, MY PHUOC  
 VILLAGE, MY TU DISTRICT, BA XUYEN PROVINCE. SOURCE  
 RECALLED THAT THREE U.S. MILITARY ADVISORS WERE ASSIGNED  
 TO THE SAME POST. THE FIRST ADVISOR WAS A CAUCASIAN  
 CPT, APPROX 42 YOA, WHO WAS AN INFANTRY OFFICER. THE  
 SECOND ADVISOR WAS A BLACK MSGT, APPROX 40 YOA, AND A  
 MEMBER OF THE SIGNAL BRANCH. THE THIRD ADVISOR WAS A  
 BLACK SFC WHO WAS A MEDIC.

(S/NF) SOURCE STATED THAT HIS UNIT WAS ORDERED ON  
 OPERATIONS ON LONG PHU ISLAND IN THE HAU GIANG RIVER.

AT THAT TIME THE DEFINSE OF TAM SOC POST WAS GIVEN TO  
 A POPULAR FORGES PLATOON (NO DESIGNATION RECALLED).  
 WHILE ON OPERATIONS ON LONG PHU ISLAND, SOURCE'S COM-  
 MANDER, ILT TRAN VAN PHUOC, RECEIVED AN ORDER TO MOVE  
 THE 356TH COMPANY BACK TO TAM SOC BECAUSE IT WAS UNDER  
 ATTACK BY THE VC. SOURCE'S UNIT RETURNED TO TAM SOC  
 THE FOLLOWING MORNING AND WERE ABLE TO RE-ENTER THE  
 POST AT APPROX 0900 HRS. SOURCE HEARD FROM SURVIVORS  
 THAT THE POST HAD BEEN OVERRUN EARLY THE SAME MORNING  
 BY VC FORCES OF MY TU (D) AND THAT THE THREE AMERICANS  
 WERE CAPTURED AT 0130 HRS WHEN THEY EXPENDED ALL OF  
 THEIR AMMUNITION. SOURCE HEARD THAT FOUR POPULAR  
 FORCES MEN WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL WERE WOUNDED.  
 SOURCE HEARD THAT PRIOR TO THE CAPTURE OF THE CAMP,  
 THE DEFENDERS HAD KILLED EIGHT VC AND WOUNDED SEVERAL  
 OTHERS.

5. SOURCE HEARD FROM THE SURVIVORS THAT THE  
 THREE AMERICANS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE VC, ALONG A SMALL  
 CANAL RUNNING SOUTHWEST OF TAM SOC POST. SOURCE HEARD  
 THAT WHEN THE GROUP REACHED A POINT APPROX 800 METERS  
 FROM TAM SOC POST, THE BLACK MSGT (SECOND ADVISOR)  
 SPOTTED A U.S. HELICOPTER FLYING OVERHEAD AND ATTEMPTED  
 TO ESCAPE FROM THE VC. SOURCE HEARD THAT THE MSGT WAS  
 KILLED AND THAT THE VC CONTINUED ON WITH THE TWO RE-  
 MAINING AMERICANS TO THE SOUTHEAST. SOURCE'S UNIT  
 WENT TO THE AREA AND FOUND THE BODY OF THE MSGT ON THE  
 GROUND NEAR THE CANAL BANK. SOURCE THEN ORDERED FOUR  
 OF HIS MEN TO BURY THE BODY IN A SHALLOW GRAVE APPROX  
 TWO METERS FROM THE CANAL BANK. SOURCE RECALLED THAT  
 THE GRAVE WAS LOCATED NEXT TO TWO "CHAN BAO" AKA "TRAM  
 BAC" TREES. SOURCE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY IDENTIFICATION  
 MEDIA OR PERSONAL EFFECTS AND SPECULATED THAT ANY SUCH  
 ITEMS HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED BY THE VC PRIOR TO WHEN  
 HE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

6. SOURCE'S UNIT THEN RECEIVED WORD FROM THEIR  
 C.O., ILT PHUOC, THAT THEY WOULD BE REWARDED WITH ONE  
 MILLION PIASTERS IF THEY WERE ABLE TO LOCATE THE TWO  
 LIVE AMERICAN PRISONERS. SOURCE'S UNIT TRACKED THE VC  
 FORCES TO LICH HOI THUONG (E) OF BA XUYEN (P). IN THE  
 LICH HOI THUONG AREA SOURCE HEARD FROM LOCALS THAT THE  
 TWO AMERICANS HAD BEEN MOVED TO MO O HAMLET (XR2943).  
 SOURCE WENT TO MO O (H) AND HEARD THAT THE U.S. CPT HAD  
 BT

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 BY AUTHORITY OF JCS 271945Z JUL 92  
 ON 11 MAY 1993

VZCZCBK0927  
RR RUEHBK  
DE RUHQSGG #8659 0520634  
ZNY SSSSS  
R 191810Z FEB 87

21-FEB-87 TOR: 07:20  
CN: 26878  
CHRG: JCRC  
DIST: JCRC

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FM CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI  
TO RUEHBK/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH  
RUEAHOF/CDRMILPERCEN ALEX VA//DAAG/PES//  
INFO RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J36//  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//  
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHINGTON DC//J5/OCJCS-PW-MIA//  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW//

BT  
S

SUBJ: [REDACTED] (U)

NSC FOR MR. CHILDRESS

A. JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH 271140Z DEC 86

1. (C) ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THACH CUONG, SOURCE OF REF A (T86-515), REVEALS A PROBABLE CORRELATION TO REFNO 1414-1-01 AND 02.

2. (U) REFNO 1414: ON 24 MARCH 1969, FIRST LIEUTENANT RICHARD L.

BOWERS AND STAFF SERGEANT GERASIMO ARROYO-BAEZ WERE CAPTURED WHEN THEIR OUTPOST NEAR TAM SOC VILLAGE, GRID COORDINATES WR 908569, HAU

PAGE 02 RUHQSGG8659 [REDACTED]  
GIANG (FORMERLY BA XUIEN) PROVINCE, VIETNAM WAS OVERRUN. SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT 1LT BOWERS WAS KILLED AFTER ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE AND WAS BURIED NEAR MY HOA HAMLET, GRID COORDINATES WR 898615. SSG ARROYO-BAEZ DIED IN CAPTIVITY AND HIS REMAINS WERE REPATRIATED ON 20 MARCH 1985. 1LT BOWERS IS CARRIED IN THE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

3. [REDACTED] SOURCE'S HEARSAY ACCOUNT WHICH CLAIMED THE 1967 RAID ON

THE TAM SOC OUTPOST, THE RESULTANT CAPTURE OF US POWS, AND THE SUBSEQUENT EXECUTION OF ONE PRISONER CLEARLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 1414. THE DIFFERENCES IN NUMBERS, RANKS AND RACES OF PERSONNEL CAPTURED ARE LIKELY DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND THE HEARSAY NATURE OF THE REPORT. THE "FIRST ADVISOR" AND THE ACTIONS OF THE "BLACK MASTER SERGEANT" CORRELATE TO 1LT BOWERS. THE "BLACK SFC MEDIC" PROBABLY REFERS TO SSG ARROYO-BAEZ WHO WAS A DARK-COMPLECTED MEDIC. SOURCE'S ALLEGED SEARCH FOR THE LIVE POWS IN THE XR GRID SQUARE AND THE REPORTED GRAVE SITE NEAR DAU GIANG HAMLET, GRID COORDINATES XR 320520 DO NOT CORRELATE TO THE HISTORICAL FACTS CONCERNING 1LT BOWERS' DEATH AND BURIAL, SSG ARROYO-BAEZ'S CAPTIVITY AND DEATH, OR OTHER DATA IN JCRC FILES.

4. (U) A SANITIZED COPY OF REF A FOR RELEASE TO NOK BY AFMPC WILL

PAGE 03 RUEQSGG8659 [REDACTED]  
BE FORWARDED VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

5. (U) THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION AND NOT A FINAL EVALUATION. EVAL - DWA

DECL: OADR  
ET  
#8659

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BY AUTHORITY OF JCS 271945Z JUL 82  
ON 11 MAY 1993

[REDACTED] CDR JCRC BARBER 191810Z FEB 87



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER  
LIAISON OFFICE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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FROM: JCRC-LNB

27 December 1986

SUBJECT: VM Refugee Thach Cuong

TO: Commander, JCRC

1. Please refer to our message, JCRC BKK 271140Z DEC 86, JCRC Report [REDACTED]
2. Enclosed is the hand-drawn memory sketch provided by subject refugee.

PAUL D. MATHER  
Lt Col, USAF  
JCRC Liaison Officer

Atch:  
as

Cy to:  
DIA/VO-PW

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BY AUTHORITY OF JCS 271945Z JUL 92  
ON MAY 1993

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Ba Xuyen  
Prov Hg  
(Soc Trang)

BẮC  
ĐÔNG  
TÂY  
NAM

Rice fields

Song Cau Don River

Gravel Road

Song Tam Soc River

TỈNH BÀ XUYEN

ĐƠN TÂM SỐC

YÃ MỸ PHƯỚC

QUÂN MỸ TỬ

MÔ MÃ

CÁU

SÔNG

QUỐC LỘ

ĐỒNG RUỘNG

RỪNG

NHÀ

CHUA

(My Phuoc Hamlet)

(Tam Soc village)

(Tam Soc Post)  
My Thu Subsector

(Grave of  
US. MSG)

(Ricefields)

(My Tu)

