

U U N C L A S S I F I E D U

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INFORMATION ON A PLANE CRASH IN SOUTHERN SON LA PROVINCE. ALLEGEDLY A CREWMAN WAS CAPTURED AND EVENTUALLY TAKEN TO HANOI. THIS INFORMATION CORRELATES TO CASE 0981. THE WITNESS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE DISCOVERY OF A CRASH SITE IN JUL 77. THE SITE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SCAVENGED AND THERE ARE MAJOR TRAILS THAT LEAD TO THE LOCATION FROM MANY OF THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES. THE WITNESS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS INCIDENT. IE1 WAS ABLE TO CONDUCT SITE SURVEYS FOR THE WITNESS LOCATION AND THE U.S. RECORD SITE. THE SEARCHES YIELDED NO EVIDENCE OF AN AIRCRAFT CRASH, BURIAL SITE, REMAINS, OR PERSONAL EFFECTS. RECOMMEND THIS CASE BE PLACED IN THE PENDING CATEGORY.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

A. ON 28 FEB 94, IE1 ARRIVED IN HANOI TO BEGIN THE 28TH JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. MEMBERS OF THE JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM WERE AS FOLLOWS:

CPT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (TEAM LEADER)
SFC [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER)
SGT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (ANALYST/LINGUIST)
SGT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (ANALYST/LINGUIST)
SGT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (ANALYST/LINGUIST)
SSG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (SEARCH AND RECOVERY

SPECIALIST)

SGT [REDACTED] (SEARCH AND RECOVERY)

SPECIALIST)

SFC [REDACTED] (TEAM MEDIC)
SSG [REDACTED] (EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE)

DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN)

VNOSMP TEAM MEMBERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

MR. PHAM TRUONG GIANG (PHAM TRUONG GIANG).

MFA (TEAM LEADER)

MR. PHAN VAN NGOC (PHAN VAWN NGOCJ), MOD
MR. PHAN DINH LOC (PHAN DINHF LOOCJ), MOI
MR. PHAM VAN KHAI (PHAMJ VAWN KHAIS), MOD
MS. NGUYEN THI KIM VINH (NGUYEENE THIJ KIM

VINH), MOI

SON LA PROVINCE TASK TEAM MEMBERS:

MR. NGUYEN VAN THO (NGUYEENX VANN THOJ) (TEAR)

LEADER)

MR. TRAN TIEN (TRANH TIENH)

3. ON 3 MAR 94, IET MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE SON LA PEOPLES COMMITTEE AND MR. LE VAN NGUONG (LE VANN NGUOONG), DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SON LA PROVINCE. HE EXPLAINED TO THE JOINT TEAM THE PROVINCE WOULD ENSURE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS WERE CREATED FOR THE INVESTIGATIONS AND THAT ADVANCE PREPARATIONS WENT WELL. THE PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MIA AFFAIRS WAS MR.

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(1) MR. DINH WAS WORKING IN THE FIELDS ONE AFTERNOON ON AN UNRECALLED DATE WHEN HE WAS INFORMED BY VILLAGERS FROM XUAN NHA THAT AN AIRCRAFT HAD CRASHED ON A NEARBY MOUNTAIN IN THANH HOA PROVINCE (AT THE HOA BINH - THANH HOA PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY). WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE, MILITIA FORCES HAD CAPTURED A RED-HAIRED CAUCASIAN MALE, APPROXIMATELY 1.6 METERS TALL. HE DID NOT HAVE ANY VISIBLE WOUNDS. THE MILITIA TOLD HIM THAT THEY ALSO FOUND A PARACHUTE AND GEAR. THE ITEMS WERE GIVEN TO DISTRICT AUTHORITIES. MR. DINH HAD NO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR DISPOSITION. THE PRISONER STAYED AT TA LAO HAMLET (XUAN NHA VILLAGE) THAT NIGHT. THE NEXT MORNING, HE WAS MOVED TO MOC CHAU DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND EVENTUALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN HANOI. MR. DINH COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRISONER.

(2) MR. DINH EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE MANY WELL USED TRAILS THAT LEAD TO THE CRASH SITE AND THE CRASH SITE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SCAVENGED BY THE LOCAL VILLAGERS IN THE AREA. MR. DINH STATED THE WRECKAGE WAS DISCOVERED IN JUL 77 BY NUMEROUS VILLAGERS. THE WRECKAGE WAS LOCATED NEAR A JUNGLE STREAM IN SOUTHERN SON LA PROVINCE. BURNED AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WAS STREWN OVER A 200 METER AREA AND A LARGE PORTION OF THE WRECKAGE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY. THE LOCATION IS ABOUT 25 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF XUAN NHA VILLAGE. HE HAS BEEN TO THE SITE MANY TIMES AND WITH LARGE TEAMS TO SCAVENGE THE SCRAP METAL. HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER KNOWLEDGE ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE

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UNITED WITH CASE 0981. THE GENERAL LOCATION, THE
OF AN AIRMAN, AND THE REMAINS FOUND AT THE
SITE MATCH U.S. DATA ON THIS CASE (SEE PARAGRAPH
REPORTS FROM THE SURVIVING CREWMAN AS WELL AS
PILOTS IN THE AREA SUGGEST THE UNACCOUNTED FOR
INDIVIDUAL DID NOT SUCCESSFULLY EJECT FROM THE
CRAFT. FURTHERMORE, U.S. RECORDS INDICATE CASE 0981
THE ONLY AIRCRAFT CRASH WITHIN 15 KILOMETERS OF THE
ASSOCIATED SITE.

THE LOCATION IS NEAR A JUNGLE TOP AN ELEVATION
STEEP MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN. A MOUNTAIN CRATER WAS OBSERVED AT THE SITE. THE SITE HAS
BEEN SCAVENGED AND ONLY SMALL REMAINS OF THE
WITHOUT MARKINGS REMAIN. RECOMMEND TO BE PLACED
IN THE PENDING CATEGORY.

SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST. RECOMMEND
FIRMISH SEARCH AND RECOVERY ON SITE. A
STREAM IN DENSE JUNGLE. EQUIPMENT OR REMAINS
CASE BE PUT IN THE PENDING CATEGORY.

11. TEAM CHIEF. A. AGREE WITH THE
INFORMATION PROVIDED. CASE 0981. THE
ACCESSIBILITY OF THE SITE IS
CONTINUALLY BEING MONITORED. THE
ZONE AVAILABLE FOR THE CRASH SITE AND THE
TERRAIN.

B. THE
PERSONAL EFFECTS OF THE
THE CASE. CRASH SITE. FOR THE
FOR THE CRASH SITE.

C. THE
GUIDANCE FOR THE
EXTREMELY HELPFUL
OF THIS CASE.

D. RECOMMEND
CATEGORY.

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