

November 1, 1990

Mr. William F. Ryan

New Orleans, LA 70139

Dear Bill:

Even though Mr. Duke did not make the final cut for Election '90 I wanted to give you some follow-up on the issue you raised. Through a historian of long experience in our office I was able to contact a former Air America pilot. Most such pilots were retired or resigned Air Force types, and all were on term contracts with the CIA. Little of what they did was documented, and those missions that did generate paperwork remain classified. Such pilots most often carried supplies for friendly groups like Montagnards but also transported personnel without knowing either the identity of the passengers or the character of their missions. They also took many hitch-hikers on a "but-I-never-met-you" basis. The guy I talked to never met anyone named Duke. As if that's not vague enough, I'll have to add that I would not assign much credibility

to these pilots or former SOG operatives. They tend to become barroom braggarts with ~~the~~ passage of time. So, it appears Duke did a good job of claiming the kind of experience that could be neither verified nor refuted conclusively. For that reason there will likely be others making similar claims.

Sorry I couldn't come up with more during the campaign time frame. I enclose a photo of Captain Sam you might like to have. I took it about two months before he became a KIA.

Drop a line from time to time, and have a nice holiday season.

Semper Fi,

Charles R. Anderson

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