

JOINT MESSAGEFORM			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL			
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI M	SINGLE
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION	PRIORITY IMMEDIATE		
INFO	PRIORITY IMMEDIATE DTG		
FROM: DA		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	
TO: CINCUSARPAC		DISTRIBUTION: <i>SIA</i> <i>REC'D</i> <i>JCS</i>	
INFO: CGUSARV LONG BINH VIETNAM		ACSI	
COMUSMACV		CINFO	
CGUSCONARC		TAG	
CA USMACTHAI		TJAG	
From BOSPER HAINES		TPMG	
CONFIDENTIAL		OCLL	
		OPO	
		TSG	
Subj: Processing of Returned PW			
1. We have just been informed that Reference the announced intention of NLF to release,			
subject to conditions, U. S. PW MSG Johnson, MSG Pitzer, and			
SGT Jackson, are being released by the NLF, to the <i>within the next few hours</i>			
Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. State is requesting <i>the Australians to move them</i>			
2. The guidance provided below is for planning purposes			
2. USARJ307THAI should assume control of <i>and will govern processing after subjects return to Army control.</i>			
subject personnel in Bangkok as			
Adjustment of these procedures to the place and circumstances			
expeditiously as possible though coordination			
of release will be made as necessary. Nothing herein will be			
with the US Embassy and MACTHAI and return them			
continued to preclude appropriate action to secure release.			
3. In event of release subject personnel will be returned			
to CONUS direct via medical channels at earliest time consistent			
with medical condition. Not more than two intelligence debrief-			
ing personnel may accompany each individual in medical evacu-			
ation channels. Personnel will be reported to ASMRO for			
DATE	TIME	MONTH	YEAR
		Nov	1967
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES		
1	2		
D R A F T E R	TYPED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE	SIGNATURE
	JAMES A. FIFE LTC, GS Chief, Security and Discipline Branch	54450	
			TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL		REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS	

SUMMARY SHEET

(DA Memo 340-15)

TO				FOR		FROM	
DCSOPS		CORC		1	APPROVAL	AGENCY	TELEPHONE
DCSPER		ACSFOR			SIGNATURE	ODCSPER	54450
DCSLOG		ACSI	1		COORDINATION	CONTACT OFFICER	
COA		TAG				LTC Fife	
CRD		CLL					

FILE REFERENCE	SUBJECT	DATE
DCSPER-P&S	Post-Release Processing of Returned US PW	7 NOV 67

IMPLICATIONS (Implications checked are involved in this action, are discussed below or in a separate inclosure, and have been considered in final recommendation.)

CONTROL PROGRAM
 MANPOWER
 SECURITY
 CONGRESSIONAL
 BUDGET
 PUBLIC RELATIONS
 MORALE
 LEGAL
 NONE

PURPOSE

To obtain approval of CofSA for post-release processing of US Army PW who may be released in the near future.

DISCUSSION

1. Liberation radio Vietnam has indicated intention to release, subject to conditions, three US PW, MSG Johnson, MSG Pitzer and SGT Jackson. The announcement of release indicates the PW's have "repented" and release is tied to protests opposing the war.

2. There are contradictory requirements in any such release. It is a proper and legitimate requirement to obtain the best and earliest intelligence obtainable from the PW, and a requirement to determine their conduct while in captivity in interest of discipline. At odds with this is a requirement to return the PW to their families with least delay consistent with the welfare of the individual.

3. The previous processing of PFC Crafts and SGT Womack is assumed to provide a precedent for processing in this case.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Govern processing in accordance with the best intelligence exploitation.
2. Return subjects to CONUS at the earliest possible moment disregarding intelligence requirement.
3. Return to CONUS through medical evacuation channels providing the best access for intelligence debriefing consistent with medical treatment and earliest return.

CONCLUSIONS

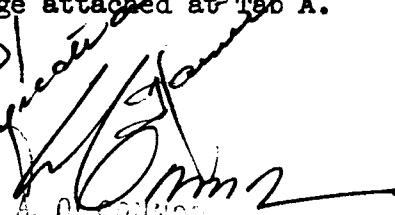
Alternative three provides for immediate return and the most adequate intelligence debriefing consistent with early reunion with NOK. Immediate return and early reunion are assumed to be settled DA policy as a result of the Crafts and Womack case.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval and immediate dispatch of message attached at Tab A.

COORDINATION

- TSG LTC FISHER 61737 PHONE
- ACSI
- CINFO COL POST 54462 PHONE
- TPMG COL MELLOH 62326 PHONE

Approved for release
no objection

 A. C. CONNON
 Lieutenant General, GS
 Deputy Chief of Staff
 for Personnel

CONFIDENTIAL

CS 383.6 (Nov 67)

CONF
511-02
VIETNAM

Box 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

227-01(1)

AR 600-15
PAST RELEASE PROC.

9 NOV 1967

ADDENDUM TO SUMMARY SHEET

DCSPER-P&S

SUBJECT: Post-release Processing of U. S. PW

TO: CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY

CONSIDERATION OF NONCONCURRENCE

1. ACSI nonconcurrency (TAB B) is based on belief that intelligence needs require debriefing for an unstated period before return to CONUS. Granting that intelligence debriefing is of great importance, it is nevertheless my belief that the issue is essentially a choice between mutually contradictory interests.

2. As stated by ACSI, intelligence needs will best be met by a debriefing period out of country. Arrayed against this is a long agonizing separation from family, home, and country which must be prolonged still further to meet ACSI desires. The justification to the PW, family, and press must be the intelligence need, which will not be persuasive. Clear necessity is lacking. Debriefing may take place concurrently with medical processing, during the evacuation process, and continue in CONUS by individuals with area knowledge. The returnees will be relatively isolated and well controlled in medical channels and medical treatment is virtually sure to be needed. Medical channels provide the means and excellent justification to control press and other extraneous contacts, and justify restricting the free movement of the individuals. In my view the similar processing of Crafts and Womack quickly back to CONUS was attended by no difficulty of consequence to ACSI and resulted in a most satisfactory military and public affairs posture. The procedure visualized here provides, even more readily, for satisfaction of intelligence needs and for assuring the best interests of the men and the Army. The USARPAC Regulation 600-15 was not considered controlling when a similar difference of opinion between DCSPER and ACSI was resolved regarding Crafts and Womack.

3. Recognizing also that the circumstances of release are unknown, it will be far better for the Army to assume jurisdiction, and to control processing and movement, for medical reasons than for any other. This will be especially so if the place of first contact is in neutral territory and if the wives are required to meet the men as a condition of release. Exercise of any other control will appear as arrest.

4. ACSI and I personally have tried to resolve the nonconcurrency and have been unable to agree on a mutually satisfactory solution.

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CS 383.6 (7 Nov 67)

DCSPER-P&S

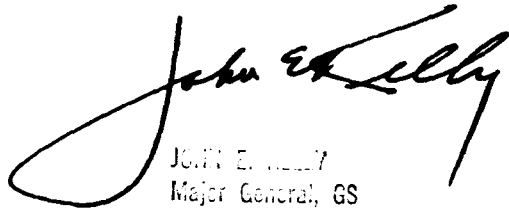
SUBJECT: Post-release Processing of U.S. PW

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

I adhere to the original recommendation.

FINAL COORDINATION

None required

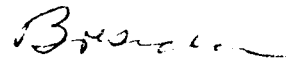


JOHN E. KELLY
Major General, GS
Assistant Deputy Chief
of Staff for Personnel

Recommended message
withdrawn by COS and
sent to Staff Comm for
dispatch

As Changed
APPROVED - ACTING C/S US ARMY,

10 NOV 1967



RICHARD A. BRESNAHAN
Lieutenant Colonel, GS
Assistant Secretary of
the General Staff

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY MAJ Kennedy/57471/fd
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

ACSI-DSCO

8 NOV 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Post-Release Processing of Returned US PW (U)

1. (C) This Office nonconcurrs in your Summary Sheet action concerning processing of US Army prisoners of war (PW), who may be released, for the following reasons:

a. USARPAC Regulation 600-15 provides for the processing of returned, exchanged, or captured US Army personnel, to include specific guidance for the evacuation and intelligence/counterintelligence debriefing of detainees prior to their return to CONUS. The following factors favor debriefings under the provisions of the USARPAC regulation:

- (1) Events upon which the subjects will be questioned are still fresh in their minds and they will be able to furnish more detailed information.
- (2) The debriefers are familiar with the area and events and are better qualified to evaluate information furnished by the subjects.
- (3) Debriefings can be conducted without undue interference or pressure from the press and members of the families.
- (4) Information gained may concern the PW still held; be of immediate tactical value requiring expeditious dissemination; or sensitive information which may have been revealed by the returnee to his captors while under their control.
- (5) The need to expeditiously determine the returnees' conduct while in captivity. The results of these debriefings will be the basis for future personnel and security actions concerning the subjects.
- (6) Of significance in the instant case of Pitzer, Johnson, and Jackson, is the original Liberation Radio, Vietnam, report that "these three prisoners of war sincerely repented the crimes they committed against the South

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULES

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIR 5200.10-PCES NOT APPLY

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ACSI-DSCO

8 NOV 1967

SUBJECT: Post-Release Processing of Returned US PW (U)

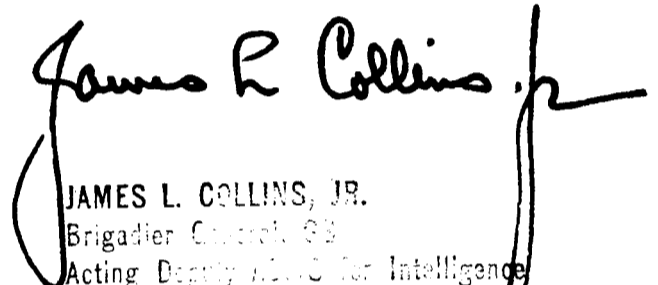
Vietnamese people." If, in fact, the three did repent, the factors in 1a(4) and (5) become of paramount importance and instant value.

b. Intelligence interests can best be served by Army counter-intelligence units and personnel who are sufficiently knowledgeable of the area of detention of returnees and have ready access to files and records to facilitate expeditious exploitation of information garnered during the debriefing process.

c. If the subjects are returned to CONUS, members of their families and others undoubtedly will resist their being detained for any period of time. If they are permitted to take leave, which probably would be the case, the advantages indicated above would be diluted.

d. While the debriefings of PFC Crafts and SGT Womack were handled in an extremely orderly manner, this Office is of the impression that the processing could have been more expeditiously controlled and directed under the provisions of the USARPAC regulation.

2. (C) In view of the above, it is recommended that MSG Pitzer, MSG Johnson, and SGT Jackson be processed in accordance with the above mentioned regulation and debriefed as expeditiously as possible.


JAMES L. COLLINS, JR.
Brigadier General, GS
Acting Deputy AD-DC for Intelligence

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