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WHO IS IN CHARGE OF LOCATING THE POWs AND MIAs?

In 1981, there was a very small office, part of DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) in the Pentagon, that received information on POWs (Prisoners-of-War), people who were captured alive but not released. Information was also coming into DIA on MIAs (Missing-in-Action), individuals who were missing and/or killed, but whose remains were never recovered. As public awareness has grown about the fact that we did not get all of the POWs back at the end of the War, and knowledge became public that Hanoi had access to remains of the missing but has not been forth coming with all that they know, the American public carried the POW/MIA problem forward, demanding that it be a high priority. In light of public awareness, the effort to account for the POWs/MIAs has grown. There are now, in 1992, hundreds of U.S. Government paid employees, working full-time, trying to find the answers to what happened to those once captured (POWs) and those who died, but were never recovered or released (MIAs).

It is quite confusing when one begins to review the question of who is in charge of locating the POWs/MIAs because there are so many different branches and groups involved. Some groups conduct overt operations and some groups conduct covert operations. Some groups have been tasked with specific responsibilities at the policy level, while others have been assigned to the hands-on task of digging in the dirt for remains. Still others have been tasked with the job of interviewing witnesses who saw men captured but not released or accounted for. Foreign policy skills, language skills, anthropological training, intelligence collection experience, and negotiation experience are the wide variety of skills called upon to seek a solution to the POW/MIA problem.

In 1981, when I first learned that we knowingly made the decision to leave behind live casualties, it came as quite a shock to find out that there was no plan in place to attempt to solve this problem. Through a systematic search of the records of the U.S. Government intelligence agencies, I identified most of the key players in the Issue and put them through an education program - a steady diet of POW/MIA facts. These key U.S. officials all received a newsletter called **THE INSIDER**, mailed each month to a select group of government officials, that was designed to educate and inform them about the Live POWs.

In 1982, when the decision makers saw that there was a problem, and realized that the only way that the problem was going to go away was to solve it, some action started.

This information service is designed to help the President's appointees understand that there are unresolved problems of Americans who were captured alive (POWs) but not released.

The road to a solution was paved with good intentions, but it was not a smooth path; in fact, it was a very, very bumpy path. Roadblocks were in place to prevent the solving of the problem. U.S. Government agencies were used to conduct multiple investigations aimed at intimidating those who held on to the notion that we left behind live prisoners. So, the U.S. Government moved on the

POW/MIA Issue very slowly as it became quite clear that the decision, made in 1973, to abandon Live POWs, was not a decision that some people in the U.S. Government wanted to reverse. One of the hidden secrets was that the Cold War was still going on between the U.S. and Vietnam, so there was no motivation to work on the POW/MIA problem. But the real threat was a challenge to the trust that the American public placed in the DIA and other intelligence agencies, who continued to deny that any Live POWs survived. The evidence did not support the U.S. Government's stated assurances.

Some agencies continued to make stated public assurances that denied any and all evidence that was contrary to their policy that no POWs were left behind.

Starting in 1981, the intelligence community findings changed and U.S. policy changed in direct response to the will of the people who demanded clarification of what happened to the Americans who were captured alive but not released. (I believe that there are still a few "bad guys" around who should be put in jail if any Live POWs are found because they did everything in their power to prevent an accounting from taking place.)

Today, December, 1992, the United States has no official diplomatic ties with Vietnam. In fact, the U.S. has blocked international loans to Vietnam from the World Bank, holds frozen Vietnamese assets and has a trade embargo imposed against Vietnam. These economic sanctions against North Vietnam were put in place on May 5, 1964, and extended against South Vietnam on April 30, 1975, when the two countries were unified under communism. The same trade embargo is in place against North Korea, Cambodia, and Cuba according to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control, 202-566-5021.

For selling to or buying from Vietnam, the trade embargo imposes penalties for violating the sanctions that range from 12 years in prison, \$500,000 in corporate fines, and \$250,000 in individual fines.

The State Department is granting some exceptions, allowing some business dealings with Vietnam as part of a normalization Road

Map published October 25, 1991, in THE NATION, Thailand's Independent Newspaper. If Vietnam helps account for POWs/MIAs, they are rewarded.

U.S. corporations are using highly-paid, well-connected lobbyist to press Washington to lift the Embargo and are calling for renewed ties with Vietnam. In the last 30 days, 4,800 war time photos were released, along with flight suits, helmets, some documents, and some ID cards. Because of this recently released information, callings by business for improved ties have gotten louder.

Let's take a hard look at this "new" evidence: Of the 4,800 photos released, only 272 photos are of Live POWs, related to 178 individuals of which 158 returned in 1973; two were not returned (18 have not been correlated to MIAs and are still under investigation). Some 63 photos show 31 dead bodies taken at crash sites, but only 23 have been "tentatively" identified. Of the 23 photos of dead GIs "tentatively" identified, Vietnam has returned only 12 remains. The question arises, "Where are the Vietnamese holding the remains of the 11 shown in the photos they released?"

The bottom line is, of the released 4,800 photos, two are photos of Live POWs and 11 are photos of remains, with no explanation of where they are. Vietnam released evidence that they had Americans they had not accounted for -- alive or dead. This "discovery" in Vietnam's archives can hardly be hailed as "cooperation" when 2,265 Americans are still missing. It does appear that some form of spin control has twisted the public image through the rhetoric some U.S. officials have used in describing these photos as a major break through in cooperation. The cooperation was, in fact, between Ted Schweitzer, a private researcher, and the Vietnamese Army historians. There was no cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnamese Governments.

Let's look at the facts related to Vietnam's motives ... First, every time Vietnam "discovers" and releases some GIs' remains, they immediately ask for improved relations and the lifting of the trade embargo. It is clearly understood by the U.S. intelligence community that Vietnam holds MIA remains for ransom. Enough eye-witnesses have defected and testified to the fact that, following the Vietnam War, Hanoi collected and warehoused MIA remains. In 1979, a Vietnamese mortician defected and said he personally processed some 452 sets of remains into storage to be used as bargaining chips in negotiations with the United States.

Second, in September 1992, Le Quang Khai, a Vietnamese scholar and diplomat at the United Nations, defected, asking for political asylum. Khai, 33, is an 11-year veteran of Vietnam's Foreign Ministry and editor of Vietnam's Foreign Affairs Journal. Khai told the FBI and the Senate Select Committee that it was common knowledge that Vietnam held back Live American POWs after the Vietnam War and it was Vietnam's policy to ignore requests and inquiries on Live American POWs. Simply put, Vietnam was lying when it maintained the position that it let all the POWs go free in 1973. Khai attended meetings in which Live POWs were discussed. Vietnam is holding Khai's children as hostages to keep him from going public with all he knows about Live POWs. This is an example of failed cooperation?

Third, today, December 1992, the DIA claims that 74 Americans were alive in Vietnam's hands in 1973, and Vietnam has failed to return their remains, offer an explanation as to what happened to them, or release them. DIA further claims that there are 108 valid live sighting reports (post- 1975) of live Americans in S.E. Asia, but Vietnam has refused to allow investigators to go to these locations. In 1986, General Eugene Tighe testified that DIA had over 5,000 reports that correlated to 34 MIAs, but Vietnam still has not accounted for all of these last known alive POWs.

These three examples, remains held for ransom, defectors

with knowledge of live prisoners, and solid intelligence reports on Live POWs, are reasons why there is still a trade embargo against Vietnam.

What follows is an explanation of the agencies and individuals who are in charge of solving the Live POW problem as of December 1, 1992.

JOINT TASK FORCE FOR FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA)

Maj. Gen. Thomas Needham	Lt. Col. Jack Donovan
808-471-8463 Fax 808-471-5870	011-84-42-54781
Joint Task Force Full Account	Fax 011-84-42-54781
JTF-FA	Hanoi Office JTF-FA
Camp H.M. Smith,	Camp H.M. Smith,
Hawaii 96861-5025	Hawaii 96861-5025

In 1991, the Defense Department opened an office in Hanoi and staffed it under Gen. Needham's command and control. The head of the Hanoi office is Lt. Col. Jack Donovan. This office has a staff of people working on the problem: Petty Officer Eric Frandsen; Navy Petty Officer James Minihan; and, Chief Warrant Officer Gary Fulton. The POW/MIA Detachment Commander in Cambodia for the Joint Task Force for Full Accounting is Maj. John R. Sovocool, United States Mission, 27 Eo, Street 240, B.P. 35 Phnom Penh, Telephone-(855) (23) 2.6288.

STONEY BEACH TEAMS

The Search Teams in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia come under the code name of "Stoney Beach Teams". These teams are reportedly headed by Robert J. Destatte who came to work at the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) in 1979. Bob Destatte is one member of DIA's POW/MIA office in Arlington, Virginia.

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (DIA)

The office in charge of collecting, correlating, and analyzing POW/MIA intelligence is the Defense Intelligence Agency, Office of POW/MIA Affairs. Director: Robert Sheetz Deputy: Charles F. Trowbridge, Jr., 3100 Clarendon Blvd., Room 910, Arlington, Va. 22201.

Chuck Trowbridge is a retired Navy man and has been working on the POW/MIA problem since 1971. Others in the office include: Bob Destatte, Senior Analyst; Col. John Cole, Chief of the Stoney Beach Project in Bangkok; Warren Gray, Chief of Current Operations; and, Gary Sydow, Chief of the Analysis Branch. (Also, Maj. Jeannie Schiff; Capt. Cynthia Chambers; and, Lt. Paul Maguire.) DIA's Chief of Staff is Dennis Clift, who serves on the Joint U.S./Russian Commission on POW/MIAs with Ambassador Malcome Toon. The director of DIA is Lt. General James R. Clapper, Jr., Defense Intelligence Agency, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301.

U.S. POLICY

The DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE maintains a policy, set in place in 1982, that has not changed in the last 10 years even though new evidence has come to light:

"Although we have thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still detained against their will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility. Actions to investigate live sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources based on the assumption that at least some Americans are still held captive. Should any report prove true, we will take appropriate action to ensure the return of those involved." (As published by the Defense Department.)

JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

The office that handles the identification of remains recovered from all wars is the Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Hawaii.

INTER-AGENCY GROUP (IAG)

A little known group of policy level people meet each month

to guide the POW/MIA Issue. This group is called the INTER-AGENCY GROUP (IAG) and is headed by Kenneth Quinn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian Affairs, State Department, 2201 C St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520. Telephone-202-647-7147. Ken's Defense Department counterpart is CARL FORD, Assistant Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon-ISA, Washington, DC 20340, 703-697-7728. Another key figure is COL. WILLIAM H. JORDAN, Principal Advisor, POW-MIA, (ISA) International Security Affairs, The Pentagon, Room 4C839, Washington, D.C. 20301, Telephone 703-697-0556.

STATE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF VIETNAM, LAOS & CAMBODIA AFFAIRS

At the State Department there is an Office of Vietnam, Laos, & Cambodia Affairs with a desk officer for each country. The office is headed by CHRISTOPHER LA FLEUR, 2201 C St. N.W., Room 5210, Washington, DC 20520, 202-647-3132, Fax-202-647-0996.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA)

The CIA has a Desk Officer who is in charge of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North Korea, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union). Although the Desk Officers for these countries are working undercover, they can be contacted by writing, CIA, Washington, DC 20505, 703-482-1100.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS OFFICE

Most people think that the DIA/Department of Defense is the only agency charged with the responsibility of locating U.S. MIAs, but if you were a civilian and were missing in Vietnam, your records would be handled by Mr. Michael Beatty, Consular Affairs Office, Asian & Pacific Division, Citizens Consular Service, Department of State, 2201 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20520, 202-647-3675.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS

The U.S. Senate wanted to get in the act of looking into the POW/MIA problem, so on August 2, 1991, the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs was created. This Committee is scheduled to terminate January 3, 1993. The following Senators make up this Committee: John F. Kerry (MA), Chairman; Bob Smith (NH), Vice Chairman; Tom Daschle (SD); Harry Reid (NV); Charles Robb (VA); Bob Kerry (NB); Herb Kohl (WI); John McCain (AZ); Hank Brown (CO); Charles Grassley (IA); Nancy Kassebaum (KS); and, Jesse Helms (NC).

The Committee has had internal problems - firing investigators who spoke publicly about: internal problems, handling of data, and investigative format.

Two senators, who have the mind-set to debunk all solid Live POW data, forced their way onto the committee after opposing its formation, and have disrupted, attacked, and intimidated witnesses. Political "ambushers" John McCain and John Kerry act as if POWs are yesterday's socks - dirty and unwanted. Both operated with a R.C.I. and have called NONE of the 108 eye-witnesses who have first-hand knowledge of Live POWs.

However, one of the Committee members, a Vietnam Veteran, can be trusted to tell the truth - Senator Bob Smith (NH), 332 Senate Dirksen Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-224-6551 Fax 202-224-7645.

US RUSSIAN COMMISSION

The Defense Department realized in May, 1992, that it could not solve the POW/MIA problem by simply working with the Vietnam Government. It became evident, after looking for the 2,265 POWs/MIAs missing from the Vietnam War, that men had been captured alive but were not released from other wars.

There are 8,100 U.S. POWs/MIAs missing from the Korean War and 78,000 U.S. POWs/MIAs missing from World War II. The Russians admitted that Josef Stalin had taken 22,416 American

prisoners from German POW camps in 1945, all of whom were not released. It was quite clear that the Russians were advisors in North Korea AND North Vietnam, and that Americans who were captured alive but not released were debriefed by Soviet advisors in all wars. There is some evidence that thousands of Americans ended up in Soviet prisons. Because of this discovery, in May, 1992, the U.S./Russian Commission was formed to locate Americans who fell into Soviet hands. The Soviet motivation for forming and supporting the joint U.S.- Russian Commission is that 318 Soviets are missing, some of whom are being held as live captives by Afghan rebels in Afghanistan. Clearly, the Soviet families want their Live POWs released and their MIAs accounted for.

On March 26-27, 1992, a preliminary meeting was held in Moscow to set up the Commission. Those involved in the meeting included: Sen. Hank Brown, CO; Rep. John Miller, WA; Rep. Pete Wilson, FL; State Department representatives - Ambassador Malcolm Toon, Chairman; Deputy Assistant Secretaries Richard Kauzlarich and Kenneth Quinn; Defense Department representatives - Alan Ptak, Deputy Assistant Secretary for POW-MIA Affairs and Dennis Clift, Chief of Staff, DIA; and the Assistant U.S. Archivist, Trudy Peterson.

The Russian Commission members are: Gen. Dmitry Volkogonov, Chairman; Vladimir Kozlev, Deputy Chairman; Yevgeniy Arshakovich Ambartsumov; Nikolay Mikhailovich Arzhannikov; Igor Nikolayevich Venkov; Yuriy Ivanovich Kalinin; Sergey Adamovich Kovalev; Anatoliy Afanasevich Krayushkin; Gennadiy Lukanovich Lezhikov; Vyacheslov Petrovich Mazyrov; Vladimir Fedorovich Mironov; and Iosip Nikolaevich Podrazhanetz.

The experts assisting the work of the Commission are: Viktor Mikhailovich Arkhipov; Viktor Nikolayevich Bondarev; Nikolai Petrovich Brilev; Vladimir Konstantinovich Vinogradov; Vladimir Ivanovich Korotayev; Tatiana Fedorovana Pavlova; Valentin Konstantinovich Parkhomenko; Vladimir Vasilievich Sokolov; and, Aleksandr Maksimovich Shubin.

Russian President Boris Yeltsen, who took over central government control of the former Soviet Union that fell apart following the August, 1991 coup attempt, became directly involved with the POW/MIA issue when he made a public statement about captured Americans who ended up in the U.S.S.R. On June 12, 1992, on a plane ride from Moscow to Washington, D.C., Mr. Yeltsen told the American press that some Americans, who were once held as prisoners, may still be alive in Russia. The Russian Embassy, 1125 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (Did Boris Yeltsen lie?)

Intelligence officers may believe that there is only a paper trail left behind in Russia on what happened to the POWs/MIAs who fell into Soviet hands, but the President of Russia clearly talked about Live Americans still on Soviet soil. It was not until November 18, 1992, that four Americans, trapped on Soviet soil after WWII, were found living in western Ukraine. (Bogdan Karishin, Emiliya Shakhrai, Margaret Krivenko and Mikhail Semko)

The private sector continues to embarrass the bureaucracy in Washington, who tries to maintain an image of ignorance about any Americans who were held as prisoners on Soviet soil. On September 11, 1992, ABC's 20/20 aired a program in which their cameramen strolled into a Russian cemetery near one of the old gulags and found the graves and supporting documents that five American POWs who were buried there. Three of the five Americans have been identified, again by private sector individuals. (Ambassador Toon has refused to meet with those who hold this information.) Three of these Americans were registered in German record books as having been held as POWs in WWII (Army Cpl. Lyle Timmerman in Stalag 3C; Sgt Ted Yates in Stalag 3C; and, Pvt. R. Larson in Stalag 3A).

Stalag 3C and 3A were German Prisoner of War camps that were overrun by the Soviet Army and these three Americans were clearly taken back to the Soviet Union, where they died.

The point-man on the formation of the Joint U.S.-Russian Commission on POW/MIAs is Alan C. Ptak, who was appointed, in September, 1991, to the newly created position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW-MIA Affairs (Office of the Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301). In a February 24, 1992, letter to the INSIDERS, Ptak stated that, "President Bush has pledged 'decisive action' to return captive Americans if proof of captivity is obtained." The problem, therefore, is when does enough evidence constitute proof? Is Yeltsen's stated public assurance, in June 1992, enough evidence to constitute proof so that decisive action should take place? (Or did Alan Ptak lie?) In response to Boris Yeltsen's stated assurances that Americans were ARE still alive on Soviet soil, President Bush appointed a former Soviet Ambassador Malcolm Toon as the Special Envoy to Russia (a former Soviet Ambassador) to look into the claims by Russia's President.

Malcolm Toon, Special Envoy to Russia, (U.S. State Department, 2201 C. St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520) went to Moscow for four days, in June, 1992, and then declared that Boris Yeltsen mis-spoke about U.S. MIAs still held in Russia. However, General Dmitri Volkogonov, the head of the Russian side of the Joint U.S.-Russian Commission on POW/MIAs (Gen. Dmitri Volkogonov, 10 Ilyinka St., Moscow, Russia 103132 Telephone-7095 206-3304) testified before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs (November 11, 1992) that "Thousands of American prisoners of war, captured by the Germans, had been transferred to the Soviet Union after World War II and that some were still living in Russia". (Did Ambassador Toon put out dis-information or mis-information?) What did President Bush (a lame duck) do when new information on live U.S. POWs still in Russia surfaced? Did he move heaven and earth to bring these former American POWs home? NO!!!! HE WENT FISHING! On November 13th, 14th and 15th, there were pictures in the newspaper showing President Bush fishing and driving a golf cart with his lovely wife Barbara and their dog. The White House, 1600 Pa. Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500. (Did President Bush lie?)

All of a sudden and out of no where, a new U.S. Government group staffed up called Task Force-Russia, operating behind the lights. Its managers are remarking that the Russian generals are lying in testimony when they claim that no Americans were moved to the Soviet Union from Korea and Vietnam. The Task Force made a deal with their Russian counterparts that they would move unilaterally on MIA information in Russia and would not spy on their country. However, the Russians are only admitting to MIA data that the Task Force brings forward as proof. Maj. Gen. Bernard Loeffke and Col. Stewart Harrington (703-693-9431-DCSPER, Task Force-Russia POW/MIA, The Pentagon, Room 2D655, Washington, DC 20310-0300) (This group also publishes a newsletter. Call them if you are interested in obtaining copies of their publication.)

On November 16, 1992, President-Elect Bill Clinton provided his opinion to a press question, "What you would do to recognize Vietnam?" He said, "With regard to the recognition of Vietnam, I think what the American people clearly would insist upon is that there must be the most extensive and good-faith possible effort to have the fullest possible accounting on the POW/MIA issue before recognition." Clinton's address, until January 19, 1993, is: Clinton-Gore '92, P.O. Box 615, Little Rock, AR 72203, 501-399-3919; Vice President-Elect Al Gore can be contacted at 393 Senate Russell Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-224-4944.

ADDRESSES OF THOSE HOLDING POWs
VIETNAM - 1663 POW/MIAs

Vietnamese Mission to the United Nations, 20 Waterside Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10010, 212-685-8001 fax 212-686-8534 Ambassador Trinh Khan Lang and First Secretary Pham Van Que.

The Vietnamese have placed the following people in charge of the POW/MIA issue: Le Van Bang, Director of American affairs at the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry; Prime Minister Vo Van Keit; Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai. In September, 1992, Le Duc Anh, a maverick general with a reputation for solving problems, became President of Vietnam under a sweeping Government reorganization; Prime Minister Vo Van Keit; Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai.

LAOS - 519 POW/MIAs

Lao Ambassador to the United Nations, 317 East 51st St., New York, N.Y. 10022. Embassy of Laos, 2222 S. St. N.W., Washington, DC 20008 202-332-6416 fax 202-332-4923. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandone & Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut. In November, 1992, new leadership took over Laos. (On November 25, 1992 Nouthak Phounsavan, known as a hard-line Communist and a friend of Vietnam, was named the leader of Laos, after the death of President Kaysone Phomvihane, official Radio Laos has said.)

CAMBODIA - 83 POW/MIAs

Cambodia Ambassador to the United Nations, 820 2nd Ave, Suite 1500, New York, N.Y. 10017 212-697-2009. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Prime Minister Hun Sen, People's Party Chairman Chea Sim.

NORTH KOREA - 8,100 POW/MIAs

The North Korean's have opened an interest section in the Chinese Embassy: North Korean Delegation, c/o Embassy of China, 2300 Conn. Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20008 telephone-202-328-2500 or contacted them at the United Nations, (Ambassador-Ho Jong) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 225 E. 86th St., New York, N.Y. 10028 Telephone 212-722-3536

SOVIET UNION

22,416 POWs/MIAs (of 78,000 from WWII)

944 POWs/MIAs (of 8,100 from Korea)

92 POWs/MIAs (of 20 Cold War planes downed)

60 to 70 POWs/MIAs (of 2,265 from Vietnam)

The Russian Embassy, 1125 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-623-7551, Boris Yeltsen & Gen. Dmitriy Volkogonov. (On page 30 of NEWSWEEK October 12, 1992, Newsweek said Ross Perot said, "Russian President Boris Yeltsin told him in a meeting that he had information about American POWs in his country. Perot said Yeltsin offered to release the men to him in exchange for helping to rebuild his tattered republic.")

Hopefully, this information and these contacts will help you understand that there are Live POWs, that the Issue is still a problem, and that those in charge need to know that the American public demands an accounting, not only for the GIs who died in war, but a clear answer to the question, "What happened to the Americans who were captured alive, but not released?"

If you contact any of the groups and/or people listed in this issue and believe you have NOT been given a "straight" answer, please contact:

The Insiders, [redacted]
Michael Van Atta, Chairman
The Insiders
P. O. [redacted]
Chatham, N.J.