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IMMEDIATE

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O 020445Z SEP 89

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USACILHI FT SHAFTER HI IMMEDIATE

JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA// PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6866 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J36// PRIORITY

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3331

STATE FOR EAP/VLC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: SITE SURVEYS IN LAOS, 28 AUG - 1 SEP 89

1. THE SURVEY TEAM REPORTED THE FOLLOWING SITE RESULTS UPON RETURN TO VIENTIANE FROM SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE.

2. AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE NO. 1. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUG 28, THE TEAM SURVEYED AN AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT 48XQD425406, APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS NORTH OF THE RECORDED LOCATION OF REFNO 1717 (XD425405). THE SITE WAS AT THE EDGE OF A RICE FIELD BORDERED BY BRUSH, 5-7 FEET HIGH. THE SITE WAS DEVOID OF SURFACE EVIDENCE DUE TO SCAVANGING.

A CAREFUL SEARCH OF THE 15 METER DIAMETER AREA TO A DEPTH OF 2 TO 3 INCHES YIELDED A HANDFUL OF DEBRIS WHICH WOULD SUPPORT A CRASH AT THIS LOCATION, BUT NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DETERMINE THE AIRCRAFT TYPE AT THIS TIME. THE RECOVERED MATERIAL WILL BE EVALUATED FURTHER UPON RETURN OF THE TEAM TO HQ JCRC. NO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE AREA. NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE SEEN AT THE SITE. VILLAGERS PRESENT DURING THE SEARCH DID NOT RECALL SEEING REMAINS AT THIS LOCATION.

3. AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE NO. 2.

THE MORNING OF 29 AUG, THE TEAM SURVEYED AN AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT 48QXD419413. THE SITE WAS IN A WOODED AREA SURROUNDED BY RICE FIELDS. A SMALL INTERMITTENT STREAM BED BORDERED THE SITE ON THE NORTHWEST. THE 25 METER DIAMETER SITE WAS LITTERED WITH ORDNANCE (2.75 INCH HE/MP AND 40MM HE) WHICH HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO FIRE. DUE TO SCAVANGING, EVIDENCE WAS LIMITED TO A FEW FRAGMENTS WHICH WOULD SUPPORT A CRASH AT THIS LOCATION; HOWEVER, NOT ENOUGH MATERIAL WAS AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE THE AIRCRAFT TYPE AT THE SITE. THE RECOVERED EVIDENCE WILL BE EVALUATED FURTHER UPON RETURN OF THE TEAM TO HQ JCRC. THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE WAS HIDDEN FROM VIEW BY THE 3-4 FOOT HIGH BRUSH COVERING MOST OF THE SITE. NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE SEEN AT THE SITE. VILLAGERS PRESENT DURING THE SEARCH RECALLED SEEING A REVOLVER AT THE SITE AND BELIEVED IT WAS STILL THERE.

JOINT STAFF

ACTION

INFO

(U, E, 7, 8, F)  
CJCS(7) CJCS-PW-MIA(5) SJS(1) NIDS(1)  
J4(9) J5(2) QUAL CONTROL(1) SECDEF-M(1) USDP-FILE(1)  
ASD-PA(1) USDP-EAP(3) USDP-DSAA(4) USDP-MIA(1) DR(1)  
PW-MIA(2) NMIC(1) JSI-3B(1) DC-ICCF(1) DAH-3(2)  
DIO-GPF(1) DIO-USSR(1) DE-2(1) DE-4(1) DB-2C(1)  
DB-2C2(1) DB-BC(3) DX-6C(1) DIA(1) DIO-EAP(1)  
+NATS CJS WASHINGTON DC  
+OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
+CNO WASHINGTON DC  
+CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
+DNA WASHINGTON DC  
+CMC CC WASHINGTON DC  
+COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//  
+USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL  
+NAVTECHINTCEN WASHINGTON DC  
+CDR4THPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//  
+FTD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SIIR//  
+SAFE

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4. AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE NO. 3.

THE AFTERNOON OF 29 AUG, THE TEAM SURVEYED AN AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT 48QXD 401421. THE SITE WAS LOCATED IN A SHALLOW DEPRESSION WITHIN A RICE FIELD 50 METERS SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 9. IT HAD BEEN SCAVANGED OF ALL SURFACE EVIDENCE. A SUBSURFACE SEARCH REVEALED DEBRIS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A CRASH SITE; HOWEVER, THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AT THE SITE. ON 30 AUG, THE TEAM VISITED A NEARBY VILLAGE AND WAS SHOWN AN EJECTOR RACK DATA PLATE, A GUIDANCE UNIT FOR A LASER GUIDED 500 POUND BOMB AND SOME AIRCRAFT SKIN MATERIAL PURPORTEDLY REMOVED FROM THIS SITE. THIS INFORMATION, ALONG WITH THE RECOVERED MATERIAL, WILL BE EVALUATED FURTHER UPON RETURN OF THE TEAM TO HQ JCRC. NO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE AREA. NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE SEEN AT THE SITE. LOCAL VILLAGERS DID NOT RECALL SEEING REMAINS AT THIS LOCATION, BUT DID SAY THAT THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE HAD BEEN REMOVED ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO BY A ROAD CONSTRUCTION CREW.

5. AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE NO. 4.

ON THE MORNING OF 30 AUG, THE TEAM SURVEYED AN AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT 48QXD583368, THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF REFNO 1700. THE SITE WAS IN THICK VEGETATION, 6-20 FEET HIGH AND BISECTED BY A SMALL STREAM. THE 21 METER DIAMETER SITE HAD BEEN SCAVANGED OF NEARLY ALL SURFACE EVIDENCE. ALTHOUGH ONLY SMALL FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND, THEY WERE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT A CRASH AT THIS LOCATION. THE RECOVERED EVIDENCE WILL BE EVALUATED FURTHER UPON THE RETURN OF THE TEAM TO HQ JCRC. NO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE AREA. NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE SEEN AT THIS SITE. VILLAGERS PRESENT DURING THE SEARCH RECALLED FINDING A WRIST WATCH ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREAM. THE WATCH WAS LATER SOLD. THE VILLAGERS DID NOT RECALL SEEING REMAINS AT THE SITE.

6. VISIT TO SITE OF REFNO 1683.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF 30 AUG, THE TEAM SEARCHED THE LOCATION OF RECORD OF REFNO 1683, XD410417. THE AREA HAS BEEN FARMED CONTINUALLY OVER THE PAST YEARS AND THE SUB-DISTRICT OFFICIAL ACCOMPANYING THE TEAM HAD RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE THERE. THE TEAM SEARCHED THE BRUSH ADJACENT TO THE LOCATION FOR 60-80 METERS. WHILE ABLE TO CONFIRM THE AREA HAD BEEN FARMED IN THE PAST, NO EVIDENCE OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WAS DISCOVERED.

7. AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE NO. 5.

ON THE MORNING OF 31 AUG, THE TEAM SURVEYED AN AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AT 48QXD434407. THE SITE WAS IN A BRUSH COVERED AREA. THE SITE WAS SCAVANGED OF NEARLY ALL SURFACE EVIDENCE. ALTHOUGH ENOUGH MATERIAL WAS FOUND TO SUPPORT A CRASH AT THIS LOCATION, THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED. A NON-SERIALIZED AIRCRAFT TYPE PLACARD AND A BURNED BOOT SOLE, PURPORTEDLY FROM THIS SITE, WERE PRESENTED TO THE TEAM ON 1 SEP BY LOCAL VILLAGERS. ALL RECOVERED EVIDENCE WILL BE EVALUATED FURTHER UPON RETURN OF THE TEAM TO HQ JCRC. NO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE AREA. NO REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE SEEN AT THE SITE. VILLAGERS PRESENT DURING THE SEARCH SAID THEY HAD SEEN REMAINS AT THE SITE AND HAD NOT DISTURBED THEM BECAUSE THE AREA HAD RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE.

8. VISIT TO SITE OF REFNO 1383.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF 31 AUG, THE TEAM SEARCHED THE LOCATION OF RECORD OF REFNO 1383, XD398401. THE AREA WAS THICKLY VEGETATED AND DIFFICULT TO TRAVERSE. THE TEAM SEARCHED FOR 70-100 METERS AROUND THE AREA. NO AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WAS DISCOVERED. LOCAL OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING THE TEAM INDICATED THAT LOCAL FARMERS HAD NOT SEEN WRECKAGE IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, THEY AGREED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES.

9. LAO COOPERATION, PLANNING AND SUPPORT WAS SUPERLATIVE THROUGHOUT THE SURVEY. WYCOFF BT

MCN=89245/01778

TOR=89245/0547Z

TAD=89245/0552Z

CDSN=MIA094

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KSN  
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xx Stevens, Larry J.  
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xx Moreira, R.  
xx Nelson, D.