

Research and Analysis Southeast Asia



Washington, D.C. – 23 June, 2007



Research and Analysis Southeast Asia



- 863 accounted for since 1973
- 1,783 remain unaccounted-for





Research & Analysis “Mining for Answers”



History of Analytical Challenges



- Homecoming <1964-1973>
- Refugee Reports <1978-1980S>
- Envoy Turnovers <1975-1999>
- Field Investigations <1988-2007>
- Archival Research <1992-2007>



Where do we get our information?



Research & Analysis



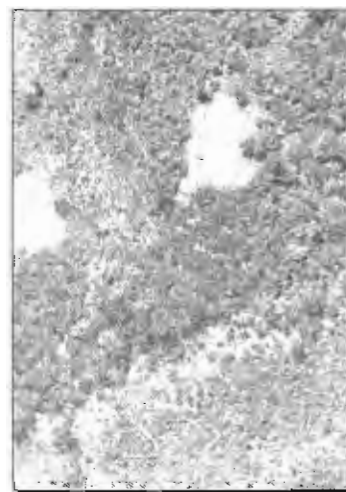
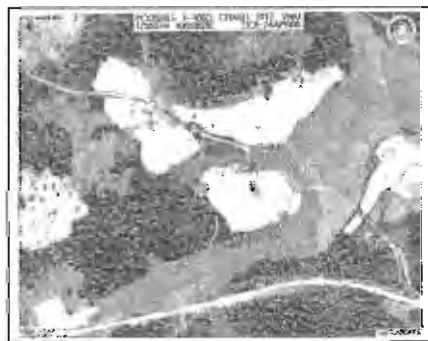
GAPS & CHALLENGES
Investigation



Refugee Source Interviews



Intelligence Sources





NVN POW Camps “Skid Row” & “Tic-Tac-Toe”



Live Sighting Stories “POWS?”



Yachtsmen



Treasure Hunter



Live Sighting Stories "POWS?"



Alleged Drug
Traffickers



Buddhist Monk



Live Sighting Stories "POWS?"



Addict



Tourist



Actor



Live Sighting Stories “POWS?”



Look-a-Like



Researcher



Live Sightings



- Nearly 2,000 firsthand reports
 - 7 of 10 are known events
 - 45 correlate to pre-1975 unaccounted for men

- 117 on site live sighting investigations
- 19 still under analysis







Research **Analysis**



GAPS & CHALLENGES

Investigation



Last Known Alive

- Cases that illustrate the live prisoner question
- Proximity to enemy forces
- Fate Determination by General Officers





Case Example



- 16 US personnel manned a RADAR site in Laos
- Overrun by North Vietnamese
- Evacuated US personnel, 11 unable to get out; known or presumed KIA



Research & Investigation Efforts



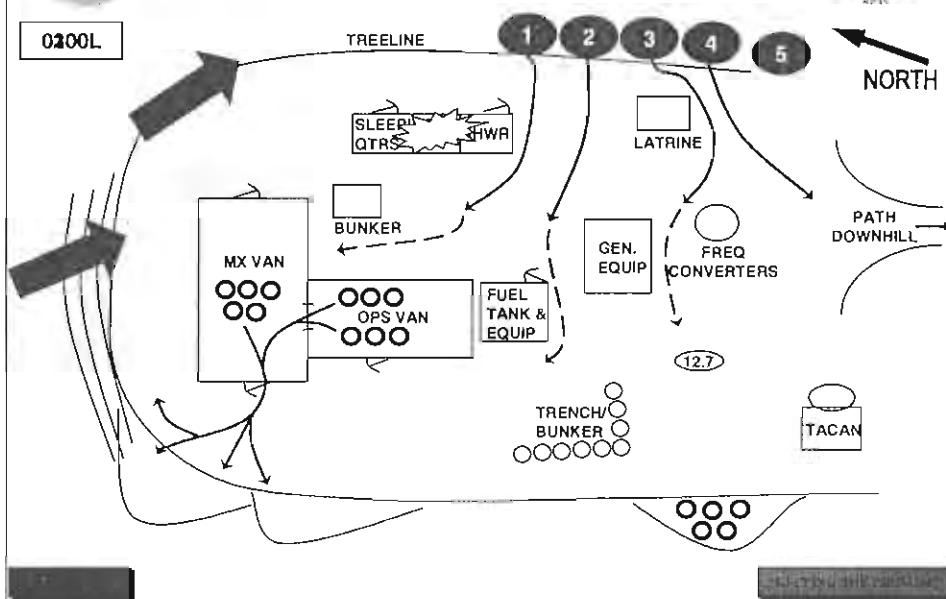
- 13 Joint / Unilateral investigations conducted
- 6 interviews of 4 US survivors
- Numerous interviews of 11 Vietnamese participants / witnesses to the battle
 - Reviewed 100+ volumes of Vietnamese films/photos
- Reviewed U.S. researcher analysis
- Reviewed 500+ Vietnamese publications
- Conducted intricate analysis sequencing loss incident

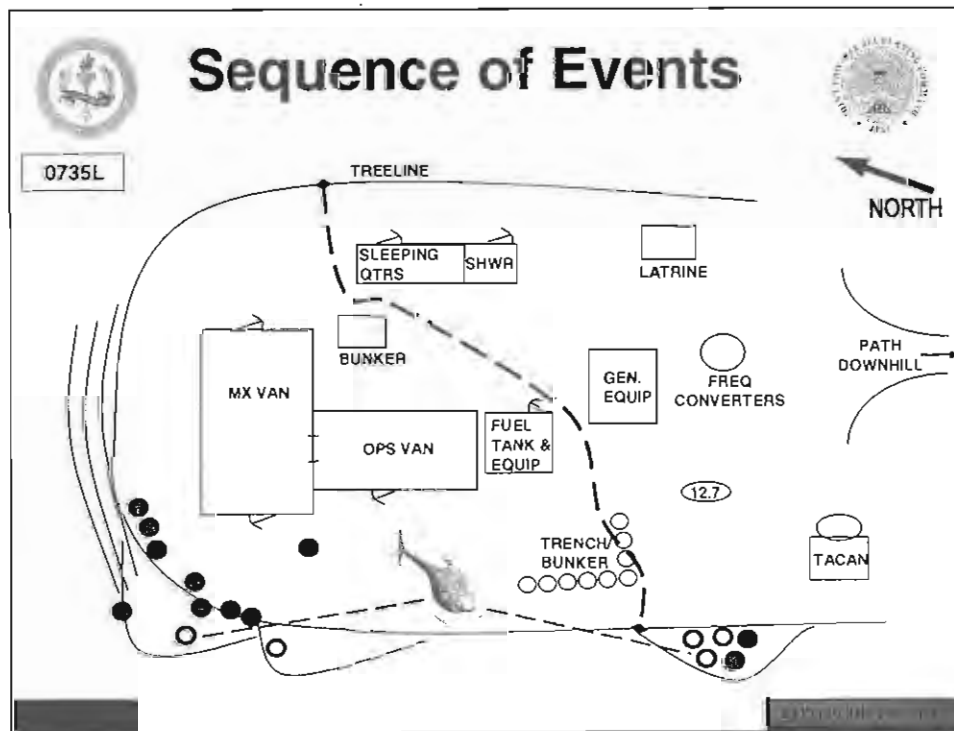
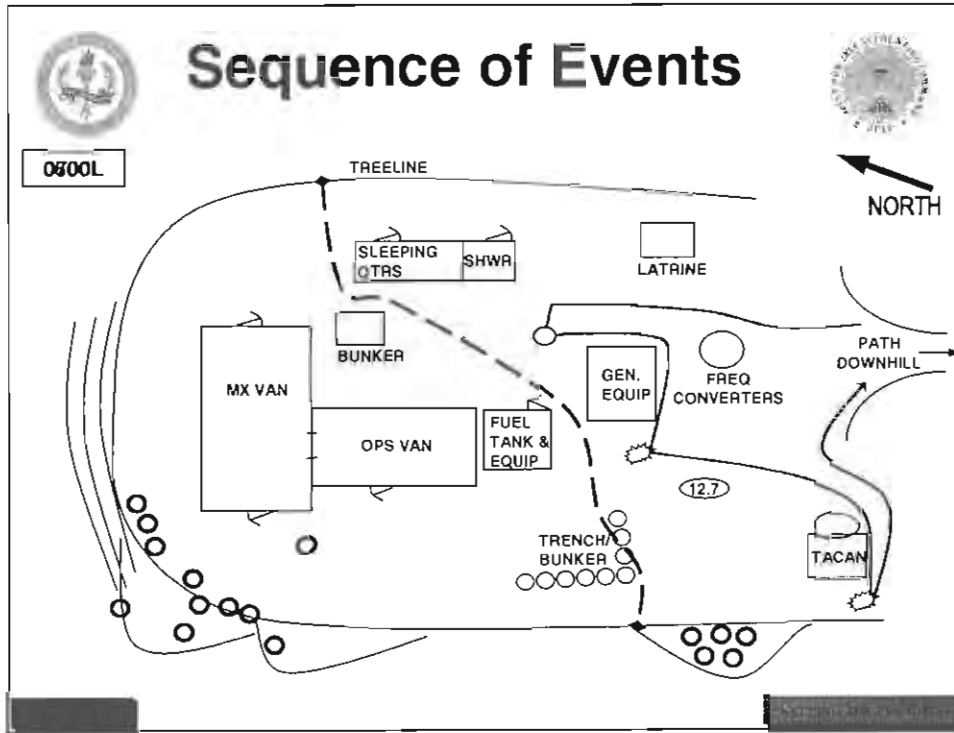


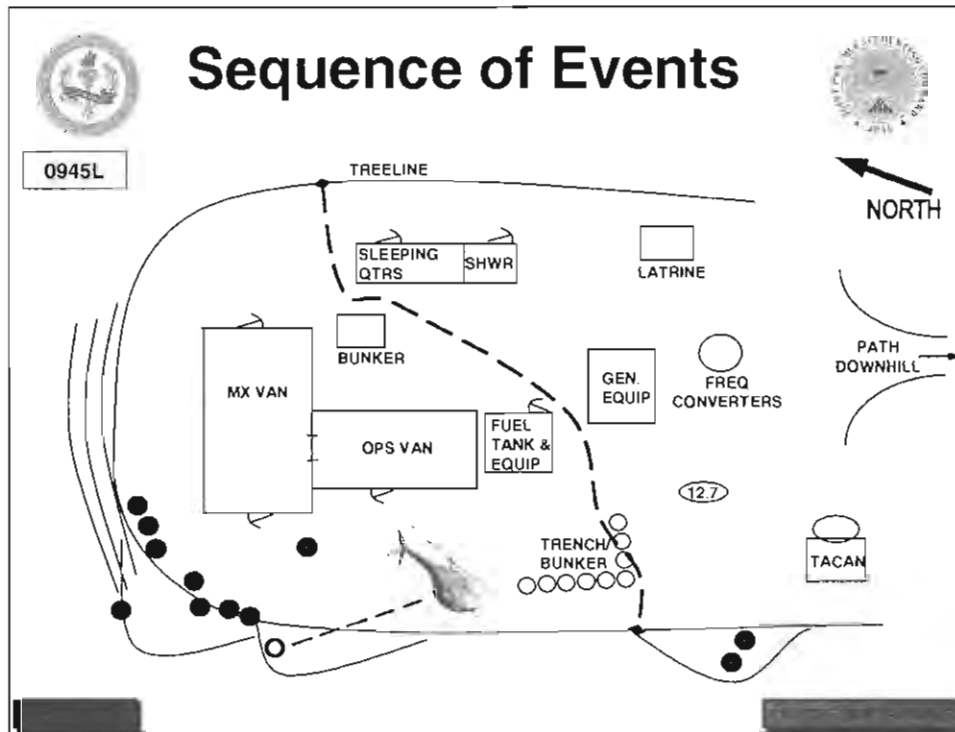
Terrain Challenges



Sequence of Events







- ## Findings
- 4 US survivors initially reported all 11 missing as KIA
 - 11 firsthand Vietnamese witnesses independently report no POWs and up to 11 bodies sighted
 - 500+ Vietnamese publications reviewed, no mention of POWs from this battle
 - Vietnamese report bodies disposed of off cliff
 - Recovery efforts find survival gear, clothing, and partial remains from western cliff face



Last Known Alive



<u>Country</u>	<u>Original #</u>	<u>Current #</u>	<u>Fate Determined</u>	<u>Remains Returned</u>
• Vietnam	196	31	115	50
• Laos	81	34	31	16
• Cambodia	19	15	1	3



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Archival Research



Archival Research Initiative June 04-Feb 07



- Researchers in PAVN classified library:
- Reviewed 58,700 classified documents
- Provided 10 individual new documents/extracts
 - 2 of these previously requested
 - Info on a Last Known Alive Case
 - Info on capture of two American prisoners
 - 9 reports on unresolved cases, six pilots
 - New sketch map of lost pilot's burial site



Archival Research Initiative June 04-Feb 07



Vietnamese Researcher found additional documents – declined to release

- a. Documents on POW handling; “previously provided” or “policy”
- b. Central documents on units in Laos; “of no value”
- c. Documents on unresolved cases; “not actionable”
- d. Information on 3 specific cases; “not actionable”
- e. Information on pilots killed in NVN; “not useful”
- f. Suggested pursuing information on witnesses



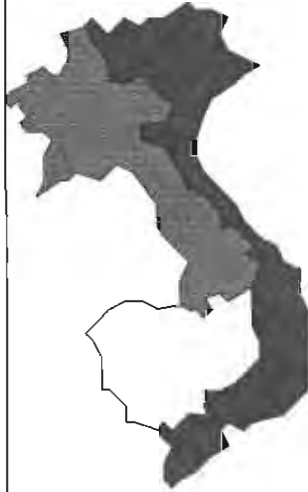
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Research & Analysis SEA Case Analysis



- Apply analytic tools to finding the unaccounted for man
- Analyze each of the 1,783 missing American losses
- Provide JPAC team with field leads
- Assess/re-assess until the answer is found

Research
Analysis
Investigation

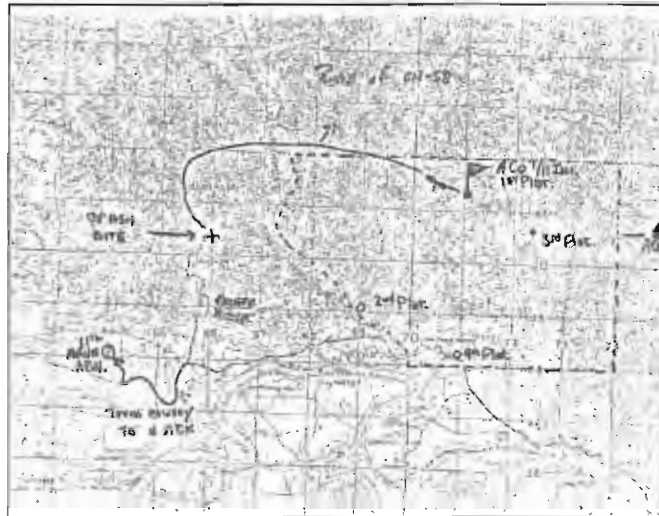


Field Investigation

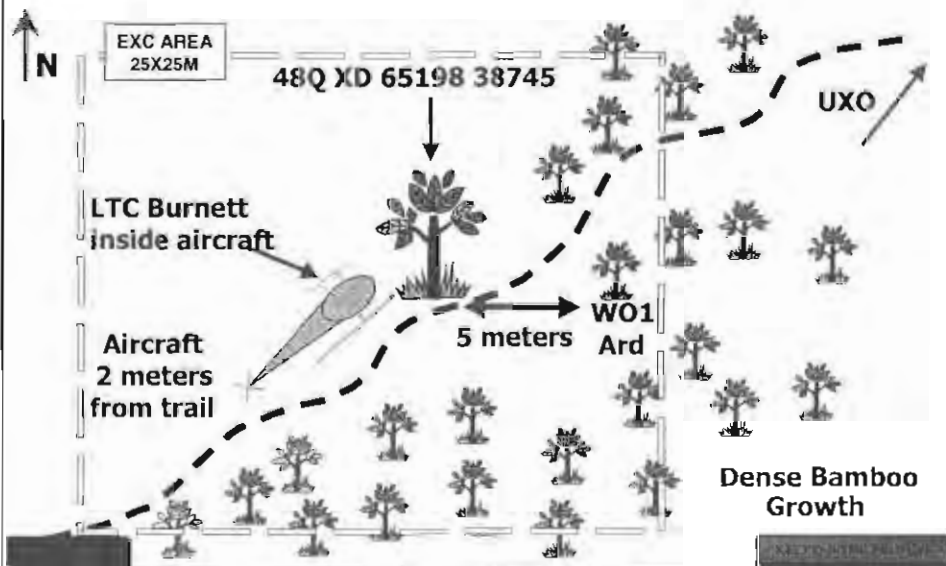




Sketch by US Survivor



Excavation Site





Witness Interviews



Coordination





Case Summary



- Key analysis vehicle & communication tool
- Dated record of all leads, investigative reports & other relevant info
- Continuously updated
- Further Pursuit, Deferred, No Further Pursuit



Field Investigations







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Investigation



Future Goals

- Archival information in Vietnam on cases in Laos and Cambodia (for witnesses)
- Leads on compelling Last Known Alive Cases
- Leads outside the central Vietnam weather panhandle
- Analysis to assist in recovery & ID of cases in Laos and Vietnam



JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND

Robert T. Richeson, MBA, USAF, MSgt, (Ret)

Director of Intelligence

UNTIL THEY ARE HOME



JPAC J2 RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

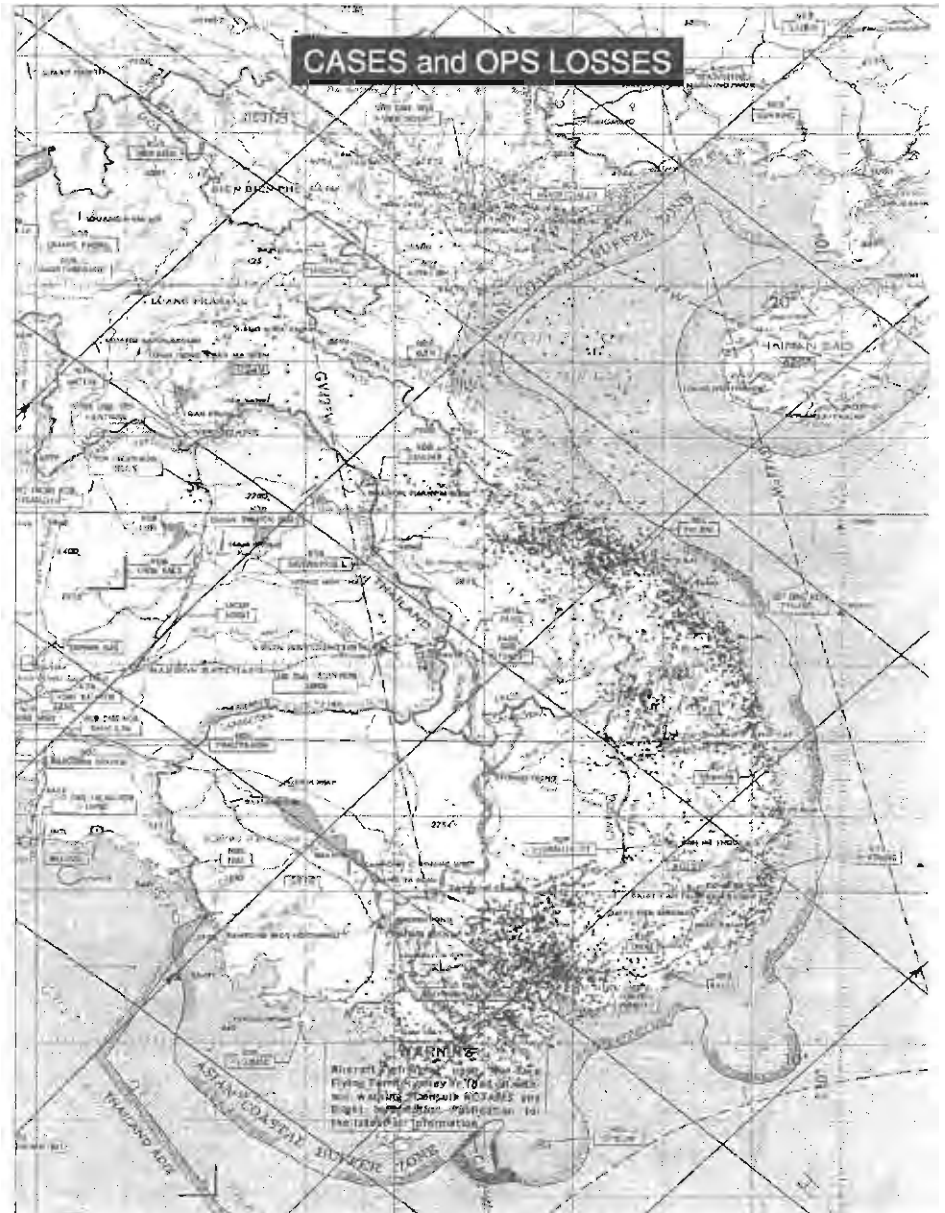


- Introduction
- The Challenge (Analysts' Perspective)
- Requirements Breakdown
- Where We're At
- Where We Want to Go/How We Hope to Get There

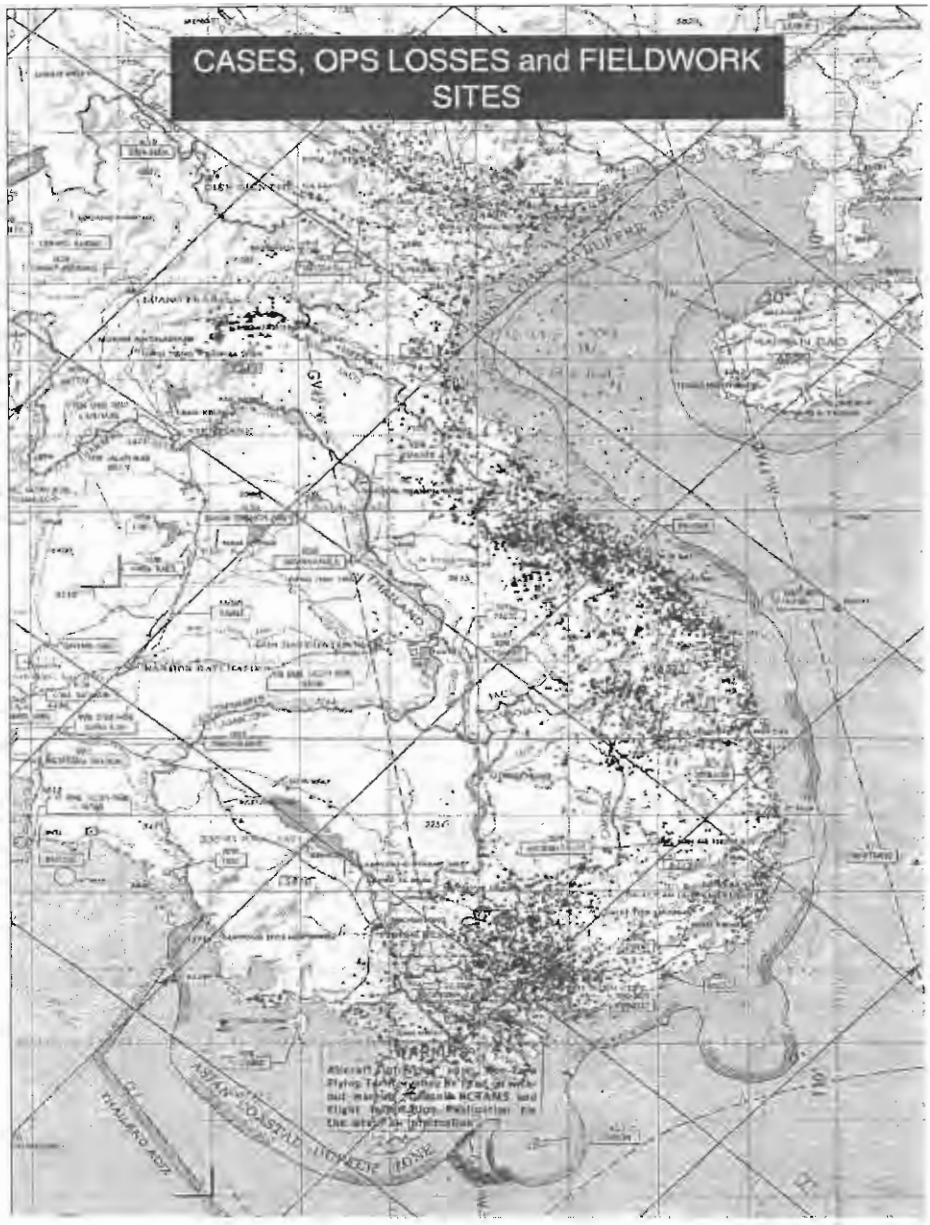
SEA CASES



CASES and OPS LOSSES



CASES, OPS LOSSES and FIELDWORK SITES



UNCORRELATED





Requirements Breakdown



	CB	CH	LA	VN	Total
Advance Work	3		4	85	92
Joint Interview	5		15	61	81
Joint Survey	4	2	30	140	176
JPAC CIL	1		8	32	41
US Research	11	1	34	138	184
Totals	24 (.04)	3 (.01)	91 (.16)	456 (.79)	574



Where We're At



- 1783 Unaccounted For
- Aging Witnesses
- Acidic Soils
- Aging/Retiring Experts
- SEA Linguist Scarcity/Vacancies

Top to Bottom Review of J2 Processes and Internal/External Relationships



Where We Want to Go/ How We Hope to Get There



- Improve Investigation Techniques/Results
 - FBI, SS, NCIS
- Year-round Investigation Capability in SRV
- Leverage Emerging Technologies (GIS)
- Archival/Language-based Research
- Equity
- Provide stand-alone analytical summary for each case

Maximize SEA Accounting over next 5 yrs

