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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

**SUBJECT:** Alleged Sighting of a U.S. Marine Working as a Generator Repairman for the People's Army of Vietnam in Hoang Lien Son Province

**TEXT:** 1. In December 1976, March 1978, and on one occasion between these two dates, several former Army of the Republic of (South) Vietnam (ARVN) officers from a reeducation camp in Hoang Lien Son Province, Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), encountered an alleged U.S. Missing-in-Action (MIA) military man who was working with a movie projection team of an unidentified People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) regiment of Group 776. The American, a Caucasian, had to carry a small generator for the team and repair it when it broke down. The MIA was born circa 1953. He was approximately 1.80 meters tall, skinny, with brown eyes and brown hair. He claimed to be a U.S. Marine who was captured in Loc Ninh, Song Be Province, in 1972. **Comment:** Loc Ninh fell to Vietnamese Communist forces in Spring 1972. At that time, no U.S. Marines were located near that area. Group 776 cannot be identified; the numerical designation would be more common for a PAVN regiment. After the Chinese invasion of this area in 1979, a considerable change in PAVN units occurred there.) The man's name was (fnu) ((Nelson)), but he also had a Vietnamese name. **Comment:** Because the meeting occurred a long time ago, and he spoke in a hurry, the MIA's Vietnamese name could not be recalled and the name Nelson might be incorrect.)

2. Troops from the PAVN movie projection team claimed that Nelson volunteered to remain behind when other U.S. prisoners were released. They said Nelson lived in a hut in the middle of some Communist cadres' huts, apparently under constant surveillance. Area residents said that Nelson, once escaped into the woods, hiding for three days until the village guerrilla force caught him. He was severely beaten. The PAVN troops, however, said he was beaten because he was caught going to the village to sleep with a girl.

3. The reeducation camp which held the former ARVN officers was Camp 14 (renamed Camp 12 in 1976 and Camp 9 in 1978) of Inter-Camp (Lien Trai) 1. It was administered by Group 776 along with other inter-camps nearby. To reach Camp 14 from Yen Bai Town, one had to cross the Au Lau Ferry on the Red River, and then follow the road which led to Nghia Lo to the southwest for two to three kilometers. One then had to turn left onto a trail and continue walking one and one-half hours to a narrow valley between granite hills. Nelson's hut was located at the entrance to the valley in a unit of Group 776. Other reeducation inter-camps were situated

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along the valley. Beyond the camps was a village of ethnic Vietnamese who were moved to this location to work in the Van Bang New Economic Zone (NEZ). Lang Van Hamlet, which was inhabited by ethnic Tho (Tay), was located beyond the NEZ. Lang Van was an old Communist base. Reportedly, the reeducation camps held U.S. prisoners-of-war before 1976, at which time they were moved out and high-ranking APVN officers were moved in.

4. [REDACTED] Comment: This information was obtained from the debriefing of [REDACTED]

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