

17 August 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

VIA: [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Identification of Unusual Surface
Markings Near Ban Nampo, Laos [REDACTED]

1. Analysts [REDACTED] have been searching historical [REDACTED] of several regions in Laos for the last six weeks in response to requests from the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. We have recently identified what appear to be highly unusual markings near the town of Ban Nampo, Laos. These markings resemble an arrow and the letter "P." An examination of Pacific Air Combat Operations Staff pilot escape and evasion code symbols from the late 1960s and early 1970s shows that the P, also known as the "Flying Papa," was used both as a primary and as a backup evasion signal for downed Air Force pilots. In addition, instructors from the Joint Services survival and evasion school have informed us that downed pilots are trained to use arrows to point out their direction of movement or their location. [REDACTED]

2. The markings are located on a cleared hilltop area just west of the hamlet of Ban Nampo at geocoordinates [REDACTED] in north-central Laos. Ban Nampo is 4 nautical miles north of Vang Vien, Laos. The possible arrow measures approximately 33 meters by 31 meters and points at an azimuth of [REDACTED]. The possible P lies just to the east of the arrow and measures approximately 13 meters in length. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

3. Ban Nampo is not located near any reported POW detention facilities, and a search in both directions along the azimuth indicated by the arrow failed to turn up any unusual facilities or additional symbols. However, we are continuing our own analysis of the area, and will inform you should we uncover any additional information. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] alerted Chuck Knapper of DIA [REDACTED] to enable their immediate followup. Mr. Knapper has passed the information to Warren Gray in DIA's Special Office of POW/MIA Affairs, which has chartered responsibility for following POW issues. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]