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TAB. 1

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(b)(3)

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PAGE 003  
TOT: 271955Z AUG 87

TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM,

SERIAL: [REDACTED]

PASS: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM;  
NSA FOR ZKZK OD ZRL DE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA);  
STATE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR;  
DIA EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA (DIA IS AUTHORIZED  
TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION  
CENTERS IN BANGKOK AND BARBERS POINT, HAWAII, FOR  
COMMANDERS ONLY).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

DIST: 27 AUGUST 1987

EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

SUBJ: POW/MIA: SPECIAL DETACHMENT OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
DEPARTMENT C-16 TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF AMERICAN  
AIRMEN AND AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN THE NORTHERN-VIETNAMESE  
PANHANDLE BETWEEN EARLY 1964 AND LATE 1968

DOI: EARLY 1964-LATE 1968, EXCEPT AS STATED

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

SUMMARY: FROM EARLY 1964 TO LATE 1968 DEPARTMENT C-16 OF THE  
VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (BO NOI VU, BNV) SENT FIVE OFFICERS  
TO THE PANHANDLE OF NORTHERN VIETNAM--FROM THE SONG MA RIVER, THANH  
HOA PROVINCE, THROUGH XUAN SON, BINH TRI THIEN PROVINCE--TO MONITOR  
THE STATUS OF DOWNED AMERICAN AIRMEN AND AIRCRAFT. THE DETACHMENT  
COORDINATED WITH LOCAL VILLAGE AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES CHECKING  
ALL DATA AND INFORMATION ON EACH CRASH THAT RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE  
OR DEATH OF AIRMEN. THIS WAS REPORTED TO BNV DEPARTMENT C-16 BY  
RADIO. SOME 150 CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD. THE  
DETACHMENT WAS EQUIPPED WITH A STATIONERY 50-WATT RADIO, A 15-WATT  
RADIO ON A COMMAND CAR, AND VARIOUS RUDIMENTARY EQUIPMENT AND MAPS.  
ANOTHER DETACHEMENT CARRIED OUT A SIMILAR MISSION OFF THE COAST OF  
THE PANHANDLE.

TEXT: 1. FROM EARLY 1964 TO LATE 1968, A FIVE-MAN DETACHMENT FRC

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87 5945916 ASO

PAGE 005  
TOT: 271955Z AUG 87

CHECKED THEIR REPORTS AND CERTIFIED THEIR ACCURACY. WHEN THE AIRMEN WERE ALIVE, THE DETACHMENT MEMBER USUALLY ESCORTED THEM TO THE INVESTIGATION AND INTERROGATION OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL BNV SECURITY BRANCH THAT WAS AUTHORIZED TO HOLD THE PRISONERS NO LONGER THAN ONE WEEK. AFTERWARD, THE PRISONERS WERE ALL SENT TO HANOI.

4. THE DETACHMENT RADIOED A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON ALL CASES ONCE A WEEK TO BNV DEPARTMENT C-16. IT HAND CARRIED ALL WRITTEN REPORTS ON THE CASES TO THE DEPARTMENT EVERY QUARTER. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE HIGHER ECHELON SERVICES IN HANOI WAS NOT KNOWN. SOME 150 CASES WERE ALLEGEDLY REPORTED BY THE DETACHMENT FROM SPRING 1964 THROUGH LATE 1968.

5. THE DETACHMENT WAS ISSUED SETS OF MPS (SCALE 1:500,000), MATERIALS ON THE DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT, BINOCULARS, COMPASSES, VARIOUS TYPES OF RULERS AND K-54 PISTOLS. IT WAS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH A STATIONERY 50-WATT RADIO AND A 15-WATT RADIO ON A COMMAND CAR. THE MEMBERS WORE CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND CARRIED THEIR SERVICE CARDS THAT HAD THEIR SERVICE NUMBERS IN THE UPPER CORNERS, THEIR NAMES WITH THE LETTERS "C.A.N.M." IN THE CENTER AND THEIR STAMPED PICTURES IN THE LOWER LEFT CORNER.

6. THERE WAS A SIMILAR DETACHMENT TO MONITOR CRASHES AND THE CAPTURE OF AIRMEN OFF THE COAST OF THE PANHANDLE. FIRST LIEUTENANT NGUYEN THANH ((VIEN)), BORN 1942 IN HAIPHONG, WAS A MEMBER OF THIS DETACHMENT. AS OF 1983 VIEN WAS SECRETARY OF THE LAM DONG PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE.

ACQ: [REDACTED] (LATE AUGUST 1987). [REDACTED]

DISSEM: [REDACTED] NONE.

WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO WHSITRM: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM  
TO STATE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR  
TO DIA EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA  
TO NSA EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA

WARNING: REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ [REDACTED]

DECL: OADR DRV [REDACTED] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.>

ORIG/REL: [REDACTED]

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END OF MESSAGE

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