



POST-CAPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY OF
CAPTAIN DAVID L. HRDLICKA, USAF

EXHIBIT 1

000001

80 DEC 65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

14699-123

COUNTRY

LAOS

TDCS DB-315/0-216-65

DATE OF
R.O.

APRIL - JUNE 1965

DISTR 28 DECEMBER 1965

SUBJECT

PATHEP LAO [REDACTED] SUBSEQUENT ACCOUNT OF HIS
WITNESSING THE INTERROGATION OF A DOWNED AMERICAN
PILOT

B

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

LAOS, VIENTIANE (24 AND 28 DECEMBER 1965)

REF

IN 22129

SOURCE
AND
APPRAISAL

[REDACTED]

A

1. [REDACTED] PATHEP LAO (FL) [REDACTED]

A

WHO WAS STATIONED IN HOUA PHAN (SAM NEUA) PROVINCE UNTIL JUNE 1965
CLAIMED DAVID L. HRDLICKA SPENT THE FIRST NIGHT OF HIS CAPTIVITY AT
A PL HEADQUARTERS IN THE VICINITY OF BAN BAN (VH 1000), 10 KILOMETERS
(KM) EAST OF SAM NEUA, AT APPROXIMATELY VH 195559. THE NEXT DAY,
BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO CAVES WHERE PRISONERS WERE HELD, HRDLICKA
WAS INTERROGATED IN FRONT OF A PL SCHOOL IN THE VICINITY OF VH

D

195548 THAT WAS IN SESSION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] (TDCS DB-315/0-216-65)
GAVE THE PRELIMINARY [REDACTED] ON HRDLICKA AND CHARLES

[REDACTED]

STAFF: DA ARMY/ACM NAVY AIR JCS SIOCE NSA NIC RETIRED [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 2

20/66

22129

315/0216 PAGE 6

I

SHELTON'S CAPTURE AND INTERNMENT. [REDACTED] LATER [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED A PHOTOGRAPH OF HRDLICKA AS ONE OF THE TWO PILOTS UNDER ARREST IN THE NUONG NGA (VH 1559) AREA. [REDACTED] CS-311/01444-55, PARAGRAPH 4, REPORTED A PL SCHOOL AT PHOU KHE, ONE KM FROM XIENG SU (VH 1953). THE LOCATION OF THIS SCHOOL REPORTED BY [REDACTED] IS APPROXIMATELY TWO KM NORTH OF XIENG SU. THE TWO SCHOOLS ARE PROBABLY IDENTICAL.)

2. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] INVITED HIM TO GO TO THE SCHOOL AND [REDACTED] WAS PRESENT FOR THIS INTERROGATION OF HRDLICKA. (FIELD COMMENT: [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INTERROGATED HRDLICKA IN ENGLISH MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WERE OF A POLITICAL/PROPAGANDA NATURE AND HRDLICKA ANSWERED ONLY THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT POLITICS. QUESTIONING LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR.

3. [REDACTED] SAW SHELTON ON TWO OR THREE OCCASIONS BY LOOKING IN HIS CAVE. [REDACTED] TDCSDB-315/04026-65 REPORTED THE CAVES WHERE PRISONERS WERE HELD AT APPROXIMATELY 833 METERS NORTHWEST OF BAN NA KAY TAY (VH 1955), 18 KM SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA. ANOTHER PL [REDACTED]

I

22129

TDC08-315/04216- PAGE 3
123 65

ON 25 DECEMBER REPORTED THAT THE ENEMY HAD A COMMAND POST IN A CAVE AT VH 1915556, 553 METERS NORTH OF BAN NA KAY TEU AND THAT AMERICAN PILOTS WERE HELD IN REAR OF A CAVE NEAR THIS COMMAND POST, ON AMS 1:53, 633 SCALE MAPS THERE IS LESS THAN ONE KM DIFFERENCE IN THE LOCATION OF THE CAVES, WHERE PRISONERS WERE HELD, SO IT IS PROBABLY THAT BOTH ARE IDENTICAL. THE COMMAND POST IS PROBABLY IDENTICAL TO PL HEADQUARTERS MENTIONED IN PARA ONE ABOVE.)

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC USMACV-SAIGON 2ND AIR DIVISION-SAIGON [REDACTED] E

END OF MESSAGE

National Alliance of Families
Minnesota Chapter
Barb Sworski 612-378-1947

FBI 55

ONLY ADD 54 (U.S. FLIER'S LETTER TO SOUPHANOUVONG)

X.X X THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

(TEXT) WHEN I PILOTED A PLANE ON A BOMBING MISSION, I WAS UNABLE TO SEE THE CONTRADICTIONS IN THE REALITIES. THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION LIED TO ME, SAYING THAT I WAS SENT TO BOMB THE COMMUNICATION LINES FROM NORTHERN TO SOUTHERN LAOS. THIS PROVES THAT THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS HAVE DELIBERATELY INVADDED LAOS BY FORCE. I SEE THAT THE LAOTIAN PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY BY THE LAOTIANS THEMSELVES WITHOUT U.S. INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION, AND THAT THIS SETTLEMENT MUST BE BASED STRICTLY ON THE ARTICLES OF THE 1952 GENEVA AGREEMENTS ON LAOS. IN THE 1962 GENEVA AGREEMENTS, IT WAS MENTIONED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO SEND OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS TO LAOS AND THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THAI TERRITORY AS A MILITARY BASE FOR AGGRESSION IN LAOS. HOWEVER, THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ATTACKED THE LIBERATED AREAS OF THE PATRIOTIC FORCES. NOW AS (I) WRITE THIS LETTER TO YOUR HIGHNESS REQUESTING MY RELEASE, FLYING ABOVE ME THERE ARE U.S. JETS COMING TO BOMB.

THE LETTER ENDED WITH THESE WORDS: YOUR HIGHNESS, IF YOU SEND BE BACK TO REJOIN MY SMALL FAMILY, I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR GOOD WILL. MY SMALL FAMILY WILL OPEN ITS DOOR TO WELCOME YOUR HIGHNESS AND PEOPLE WITH SINCERITY AND AT ANY TIME. ONCE AGAIN, I BEG YOUR HIGHNESS TO PARDON ME AND TO RELEASE ME SO THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO REJOIN MY CHILDREN AND MY FAMILY. I WILL GUIDE MY COMRADES IN THE STRUGGLE TO VOICE PROTESTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS CRUELLY, SAVAGELY, AND INHUMANLY INVADING LAOS.

WITH MY SINCERE WISHES.

SIGNED: CAPT. DAVID L. HRDLICKA OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES
IN THAILAND.

(ENDALL)

24 MAY 1960Z

EXHIBIT 3

000005

RUMSBJ/2 ADIV DIPS
RUECH/BUPERS
RUECW/ONI WASH DC
RUWTFJA/USAF MIL PERS CTR
RUECLM/CODE DNA
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

4 +

unclas abva wa bbc

S 260815 copy to liaison

5-01C

radio pathet lao (clandestine) in lao to laos 0415 gmt 26 july 1966--s

(text) here is a report about a voice recording made by captain

david ~~louis~~ hrdlicka, ~~a~~ a u.s. ~~aggressor~~ ~~pilot~~ pilot,

whose plane was shot down and who was captured on eighteen 18

may nineteen sixtyfive 1965. he asks his highness prince

a souphanouvong to free him.

(recording in american-accented english follows--ed.) prince
souphanouvong, president of the neo lao hak xat and vice premier of the
laotian national coalition government:

most honorable prince souphanouvong: this letter (few words
indistinct) laotian citizens the rare privilege of writing to you.

for a year now i have had a chance to think about my crimes against

the laotians, and they don't draw a very pretty picture in my mind.

on may eighteenth 18th nineteen sixtyfive 1965 i took off from

RPT TA KHLI
~~ta khli~~ ta khli | airbase in thailand and was shot down by the ~~laotian~~

laotian people's liberation army of the neo lao hak xat for bombing

the liberated zone controlled by the neo lao hak xat. as

i bombed i was under the mistaken impression that i was cutting

off the flow of men and supplies to south vietnam. however, →

EXHIBIT 4

→ now i can see the south vietnam national liberation front for liberation ~~front~~ is really with the people of south vietnam fighting for their liberation and free dom, as ¹⁵ the neo lao hak xat. (end of english-language voice ~~recording~~ recording. translation in lao follows--ed.)

he said: i request his highness prince souphanouvong, president of the central committee of the neo lao hak xat and vice ~~premier~~ premier of the tripartite national coalition government, to understand that ^I ~~i~~ have had ~~enough~~ time to think carefully and to realize my criminal actions against your ~~people~~ people.

on eighteen 18 may nineteen sixtyfive 1965 i left the ta khli airbase, thailand, and afterward my plane was shot down by the laotian people's liberation ^M armed forces of the neo lao hak xat as i was bombing a certain area in the regions controlled by the neo lao hak xat. as i was bombing, i ~~did not think about~~ mistakenly thought

~~that i was doing~~ that i was doing it to cut off the flow of arms supplies and ~~troops~~ troops to south vietnam. however, i ^A have now recognized that the liberation front of south vietnam is really the people of vietnam,

who are waging a struggle to liberate their nation and to win freedom. the liberation front of south vietnam is like the neo lao hak xat.

now i have understood and have become familiar with everything about the neo lao hak xat ~~and its fight~~ of your highness ^{IN} its fight

→ to preserve ^{the} peace, neutrality, sover^{EI}ignty, independence, unity,
and territorial integrity of laos. the neo lao hak xat has tried
to safeguard the geneva accords of nineteen sixtytwo 1962 on laos;
whereas, the united states and thailand, which signed the nineteen
sixtytwo 1962 ~~in~~ geneva accords on laos, are trampling upon these
accords. formations of u.s. jets from their airbases in thailand,
have unleashed attacks on the free areas of laos, ~~which~~

as i sit here ~~requesting you to free me, u.s. planes~~ ^{FLY}
~~overhead to bomb the free areas of~~ ^{LAOS} day and night.

throughout history military aggressors have never been able to
conquer gerrillas. our nation will have to realize this, for this
has ~~shown~~ that your country is fighting a battle for its
independence. the laotian problem must be resolved by your people
be means of negotiations between the two parties concerned.

for the past year i have always met with good
treatment from your people. your nurses have taken care of me
and have saved my life. they have given me medicine and special
foods. when i was a child i wanted to be a ~~pilot~~ pilot, and when
i grew up i became a pilot. now i regret ^R that i used my strength to
wage an aggressive and destructive war. what makes me very sad is
that i am very far from my dear wife and my three little children.
i have always hoped to return to my family and live with my wife
and my children. surely i will ^{be ABLE} ~~be able~~ to tell ^{MY WIFE} ~~the~~ the story

→ of a famous man named "prince ~~saikhanoung~~ ^{souphanouvong,}" who forgave me
so much.

i beg your highness to be still more kind and to free
me, so that i can rejoin my wife and children. ~~Even~~ if i have
committed criminal actions against the laotian people of your
~~highness~~ highness, i ask you once more to pardon me and free me,
so that i may go back to my children, ^N my ~~wife~~ ^{WIFE,} and my family.
i oppose and protest the aggressive war policy of the u.s. government
in indochina, especially on the territory of your ~~our~~ country. 26041!

English portion
transcribed 26 July
by Robert H. Baker

Prisoner of War

CAPTURE OF US PILOT HRDLICKA — Quan Doi Nhan Dan, 22 July-66, page 4

[Full] Captain David Louis Hrdlicka, American pilot, Serial No DATA, is one of the men captured by the Lao People's Liberation Army after his jet plane was shot down by the Lao People's Army on 18 May 1965.

He said: "after being shot down by the guns of the Lao People's Liberation Army I was immediately captured and ever since then I have received very humane treatment." Before my capture I could not understand that the warfare of the people of Laos was for the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, and unification of Laos. But now I clearly understand why the soldiers of the Lao People's Liberation Army are so enthusiastic in fighting for their cause."

He denounced the US authorities in these words: "it is because of the aggressive policy of the US Government that my plane was shot down and my back was injured, and I am very homesick for my three children and my dear wife. My heart is sick and miserable because I am forlorn and lonely when I think of them. But this matter is making my heart angry and displeased, because I have to be detained in prison here while the people concealing their war policy sit at home safe with their families. [omission indicated in Vietnamese text]. Together with the people of the world I beg permission to raise my voice of protest against the policy which the Johnson administration is daily carrying out through Air Force attacks against Lao territory."

Finally he expressed his thanks to the people of Laos and asked for forgiveness for having taken part in the US war of aggression in Laos.

Hrdlicka, D.L.

EXHIBIT 5

ATTACHMENT # 1

HOT!

6

CLASSIFIED WORK SHEET

R 290845Z AUG 84
FM
TO
INFO

SUBJECT: THAI HUMINT REPORT OF AMERICAN POW CAMP IN LAOS
ON 28 AUGUST PASSED TO

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REPORTED TO
ELEMENT FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE. THIS INFORMATION IS PASSED
ON FOR YOUR INFORMATION. HARDCOPY OF THE THAI REPORT AND THE MAP
WILL BE FORWARDED VIA FAST POUCH. ENGLISH TEXT OF THE THAI
REPORT FOLLOWS:

~~SUBJECT: AMERICAN POW CAMP IN SARAVAN PROVINCE (H. LAOS)~~

~~DATE: 21 AUG 84~~

TO:
FM:

1. THE RECEIVED AN UNCONFIRMED
REPORT THAT THERE IS A CAMP FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE
AREA OF THE HEUP VALLEY, BAN KADON VILLAGE, NAM HIANG SUB-
DISTRICT, MYANG LAMAM DISTRICT, SARAVAN PROVINCE. A SUMMARY OF
THE IMPORTANT FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (BRIEF MAP IS ATTACHED)

1.1 NUMBER OF PERSONS IN CUSTODY: 23 AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

1.2 LOCATION: THE CAMP IS IN THE AREA OF THE FOOT OF A MOUNTAIN,
SURROUNDED BY TRENCH WITH WATER FROM THE NAM PHUANG. THE
CAMP IS SURROUNDED BY THREE BARBED-WIRE FENCES. THE INNER-
MOST BARBED-WIRE FENCE IS CONNECTED TO THE TWO SLEEPING-
QUARTERS OF THE POW'S. THE SITE IS COMPOSED OF:

1.2.1 TWO POW SLEEPING QUARTERS (INSIDE THE FENCES)

1.2.2 ONE KITCHEN BUILDING (OUTSIDE THE FENCES)

1.2.3 CAMP FOR ETHNIC KHA LAO SOLDIERS (GUARDS) COMPRISING THREE
BUILDINGS.

1.3 GUARD FORCE: THERE ARE ABOUT 30 FULLY ARMED ETHNIC KHA LAO
SOLDIERS AS GUARDS. FROM TIME TO TIME, 10-20 VIETNAMESE
SOLDIERS COME AND INSPECT THE CAMP ABOUT ONCE A MONTH.

~~1.4 COMMUNICATIONS: THERE IS A RADIO TRANSMITTER IN CONTACT WITH
THE MILITARY STATION IN MONTANE. IT HAS AN ANTENNA ABOUT 5000
FEET HIGH.~~

2. THE AFTER CONSIDERATION, IS
OF THE OPINION THAT THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE
ANTI-SABOTAGE UNIT AND FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE ALSO.

3. THIS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

((SIGNED

AND SEEN BY
BEFORE IT WAS PASSED

4)

#27

EXHIBIT 6

000011

6

A ROUGH SKETCH MAP SHOWS THE CAMP TO BE FOUR HOURS WALK SOUTH FROM N KADOM (LOCATED AT 1519N 10655E YB1195) ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE NAM PHUANG RIVER. IT SHOWS A SMALL CAMP BOUNDED ON THE LEFT BY THE NAM PHUANG RIVER AND ON THE OTHER THREE SIDES BY A MOAT. THERE IS ONE BARBED-WIRE FENCE BETWEEN THE CAMP AND THE WATER, ONE ALONG THE MIDDLE OF THE MOAT AND ONE BETWEEN THE MOAT AND THE GUARDS. ACCORDING TO THE MAP THERE IS ONLY ONE FENCE AND THE RIVER TO THE WEST. ENTRANCE IS OVER A WOODEN BRIDGE ON THE EASTERN SIDE.

DECL: OADR
#0591

NNNN

This work sheet contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 793, 794 and 795, the transmission or the revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

P. R. 022201Z DEC 80

ATTACHMENT
2

FMT
TO
INFO

SUBJECT: REQUEST YOU PLACE ON TOP PRIORITY IMMEDIATELY
1. UNTIL 05 DECEMBER 80, OR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
2. HAVE INFORMATION THAT TRANSFER OF 20 AMERICAN AND 16
LAO POW/MIAs FROM OUDOM SAI PROVINCE TO VIENTIANE TO TAKE PLACE.
SEVA 2 DEC 10

M/R: (U) THIS
CONCUR:

PER REQUEST OF

22

58

P 042113Z DEC 79

FM
TO
INFO

ATTACHMENT
3

POSSIBLE U.S. POWS IN LAOS

WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE SOURCE OF THE INFO CONTAINED IN REF REQUEST, IF POSSIBLE, THAT YOU OBTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL INFO REGARDING THE MENTIONED U.S. POWS FROM THE WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY INFO WHICH WOULD AID IN IDENTIFYING THE POWS, I.E. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS, PLACE(S)/CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE, CONDITION OF HEALTH, ETC. AS YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE, INTEREST IN U.S. POWS REMAINS EXTREMELY HIGH. PLEASE ADVISE.

REVW 4 DEC 79

CONCUR:

#14

P. 301804Z AUG 84

FM
TO
INFO

[Handwritten signature]

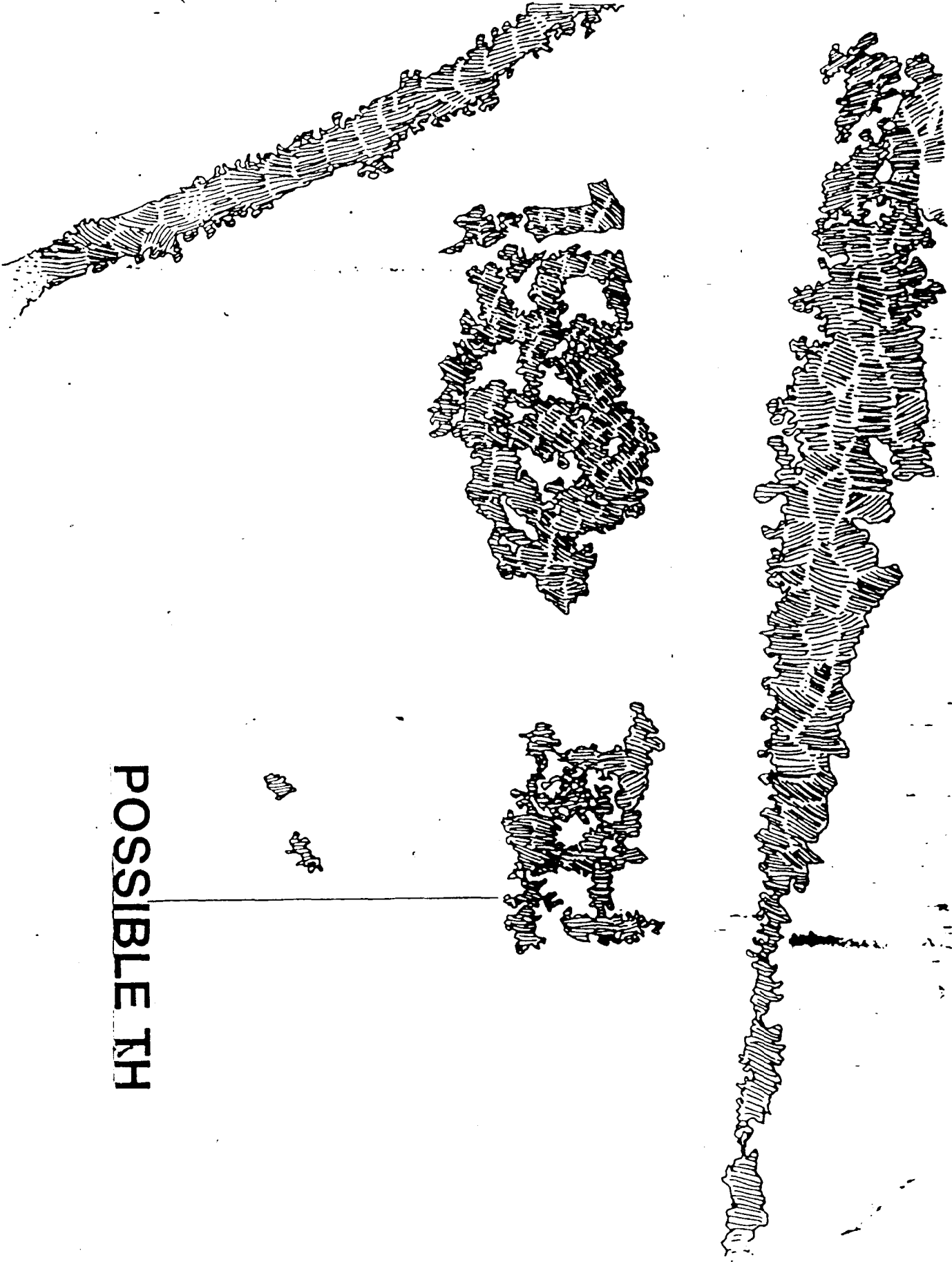
SUBJ: THAI HUMINT REPORT OF AMERICAN POW CAMP IN LAOS

- REF: 1. APPRECIATE INFO CONTAINED IN REF. REQUEST YOU CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ANY FURTHER INFO AVAILABLE TO THEM, E.G., RELIABILITY OF SOURCE, IDENTITY OF SOURCE, EXACT LOCATION (COORDINATES), DATE OF INFO, ETC.
2. FROM THE INFO PROVIDED, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND AN AREA ON OUR MAPS SOUTH OF BAN KADON THAT COULD BE AT THE BASE OF A MOUNTAIN WITH A MOAT FED BY THE NAM PHUANG RIVER. WE DID FIND A MUONG LAMAN (NOT LAMAM) AT XC8205 (1525N 10642E) AND A NAM HIANG AT YB0293 (1518N 10553E). WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND A HUP VALLEY BUT DID FIND A HOUEI PHOUANG RIVER IN THE AREA OF YC4310 (1527N 10733E) WHICH IS WELL EAST OF BAN KADON. HOWEVER, JUST NORTH OF BAN KADON ARE TWO SAN KANDON'S AT YC1340 (1544N 10700E) AND YC1443 (1545N 10301E) WITH PHOU KOUNGKING MOUNTAIN TO THE SOUTH AT YC3312 (1528N 10710E). PHOU KOUNGKING IS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF HOUEI PHOUANG RIVER. DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, ANYONE COULD WALK FROM EITHER BAN KADON TO THIS AREA IN FOUR HOURS. QUERY IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY BETTER LUCK IN FINDING THE AREA.
3. ALSO, PLEASE INSURE THAT ARE ALERTED TO THIS INFO AND HAVE THEM

4. PLEASE ADVISE OF ADDITIONAL INFO IF/WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
DECL: OADR

#28

9



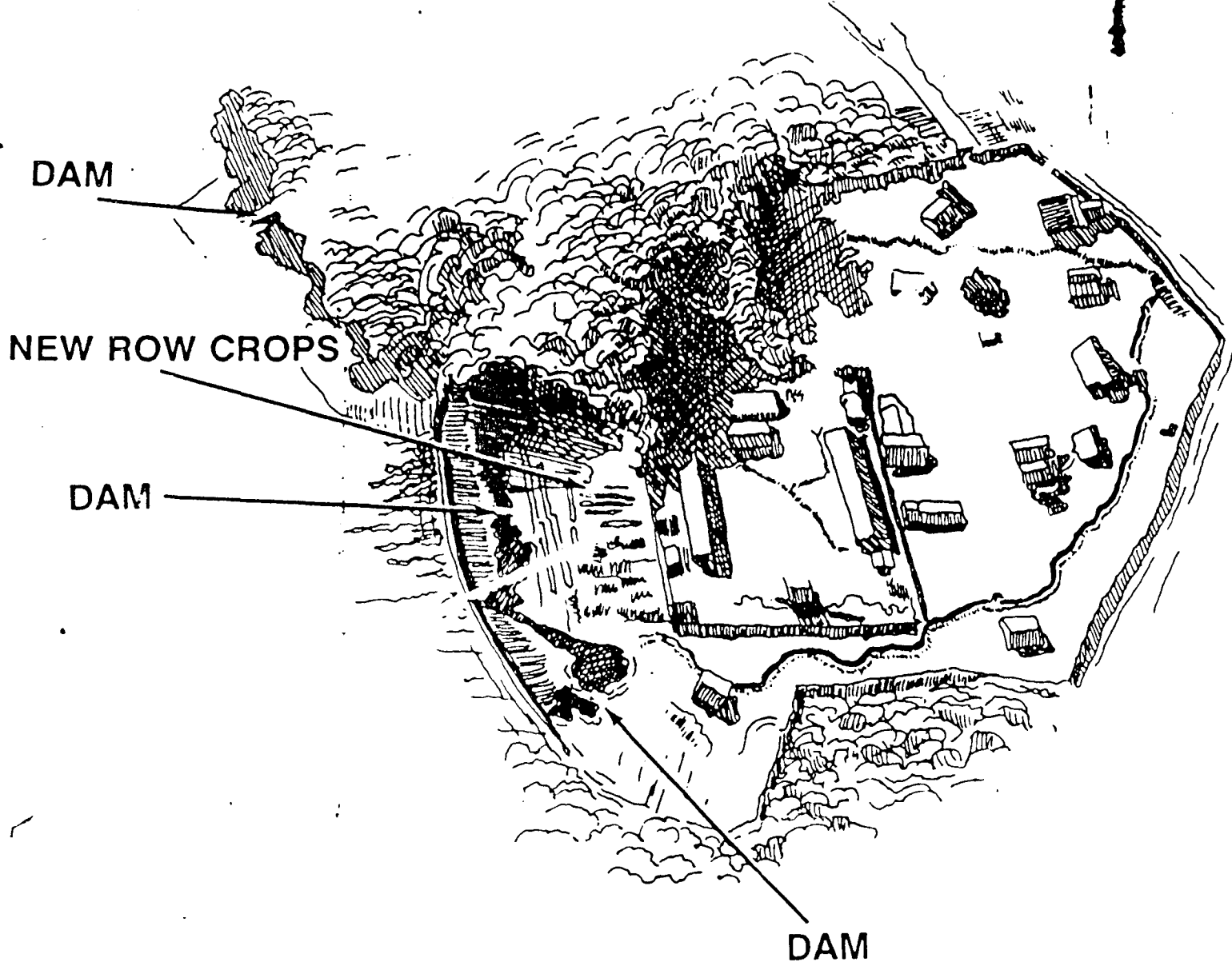
POSSIBLE TH

NORTHERN LAOS NEAR SAM NEUA
JANUARY 1988

"USA" CLEARLY VISIBLE



DETENTION CAMP EAST OF THANKHEK, LAOS DECEMBER 1980



Case 1:04-cv-00814-RCL Document 261-2 Filed 10/22/16 Page 18 of 25
USCA Case #22-5235 Document #2096657 Filed 05/28/2024 Page 18 of 78

000018

UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY
VICINITY OF BAN HOUAY
JAN 88



D0014

INFO: J5-2 NMCC-1 SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-9 DIA-15

14316

CSA-1 CNO-10 CSAF-1 CMC-2 CJCS-1 DJS-3 J1-1

J3-8 GC-1 ASD/PA-1 FILE-1 (64) RLI/AS

CALL 53337 FOR NMCC/MC SERVICE

07-80

CONFIDENTIAL

517 06 05Z

Action

EA

Info

SS

GPM

SP

SC

SAH

L

H

IO

P

USIA

NSC

INR

CIA

NSA

DOD

SCA

SCS

RSR

NNNNVZCZCFHA825VZCZCGVB590
RR RUEHC RUMJFS
DE RUFHGV 3687 1362015
ZNY CCCCC
R 1809Z MAY 67
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO RUF(/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3687

1967 MAY 16 PM 4 46

ICRC REP LAOS (DR. BAER) HAS INFORMED ICRC GENEVA THAT ON MAY 5 PATHET LAO CONTROL REPORTED CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS, NAMELY: MR. ERNEST CARRIE BRACE AND USAF CAPTAIN DAVID L. HRDLICKA.

GP-3. TUBBY

NOTE: COPIES SENT TO SS/O.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR . . . REVIEWED by Hess Date 7/26/91

| | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY | FOL, EO or PA exemptions | TS authority to: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXISE | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY in PART | | <input type="checkbox"/> OADR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DENY | <input type="checkbox"/> DELETE | <input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as | <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not responsive info. | | |

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT 7

**FRAUD AND MISMANAGEMENT IN THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,
PERJURY BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE, AND FAILURE TO
FOLLOW REGULATIONS.**

(1) FALSE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS: VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 107, UCMJ;
SECTION 907 TITLE 10, U.S.C. [FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR VIOLATIONS UNDER
TITLE 18, U.S.C.]

(2) WILLFUL DERELICTION OF DUTY: VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 92, UCMJ;
SECTION 892 TITLE 10, U.S.C. [FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR VIOLATIONS UNDER
TITLE 18, U.S.C.]

(3) NEGLIGENT DERELICTION OF DUTY: VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 92, UCMJ;
SECTION 892 TITLE 10, U.S.C. [FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR VIOLATIONS UNDER
TITLE 18, U.S.C.]

(4) ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT: VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 78, UCMJ;
SECTION 878 TITLE 10, U.S.C. [FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR VIOLATIONS UNDER
TITLE 18, U.S.C.]

(5) CONSPIRACY TO MAKE FALSE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS: VIOLATION OF
ARTICLE 81, UCMJ; SECTION 881 TITLE 10, U.S.C. [FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR
VIOLATIONS UNDER TITLE 18, U.S.C.]

(6) CONSPIRACY TO BE WILLFULLY DERELICT IN PERFORMANCE OF
DUTIES: VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 81, UCMJ; SECTION 881 TITLE 10, U.S.C.
[FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR VIOLATIONS UNDER TITLE 18 U.S.C.]

(7) CONSPIRACY TO BE ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT: VIOLATION OF
ARTICLE 81, UCMJ; SECTION 881 TITLE 10, U.S.C. [FOR CIVILIANS SIMILAR
VIOLATIONS UNDER TITLE 18, U.S.C.]

EXHIBIT 8

| | TO | ACTION | SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade) | | TO | ACTION | SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade) |
|---|--------|--------|------------------------------------|----|----|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | AF/DP | Appr | <i>Killpack m/6 21 Oct</i> | 6 | | | |
| 2 | SAF/GC | Coord | <i>P. B. Horni 11/11/77</i> | 7 | | | |
| 3 | SAF/MI | Coord | <i>Carl Sandberg 10 Nov 77</i> | 8 | | | |
| 4 | SAF/US | Coord | <i>L. J. Ladd 11/11/77</i> | 9 | | | |
| 5 | SAF/OS | Appr | <i>J. R. Stinson</i> | 10 | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE Colonel Gratch | SYMBOL AFMPC/ DPMC | PHONE RAFB 2909 | TYPIST'S INIT. hcm | SUSPENSE DATE |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|

SUBJECT Proposed Change of Status of
 Lieutenant Colonel David L. Hrdlicka, 476-28-0663FR **DATE** 10 OCT 1977

SUMMARY

1. Reference is made to the memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 17 August 1973, subject: Change of Status of Servicemen Who Did Not Return From Southeast Asia, requesting that the Service Secretaries make each proposed status change a matter for their personal attention, and the desire of the Secretary of the Air Force to personally review each case.

2. Review hearing procedures established to satisfy the requirements of the order of the three-judge federal court (McDonald v. McLucas, D.C.N.Y. 1974, 371 F. Supp. 831, affirmed 95 S. Ct. 297, 419 U.S. 987, 42 L. Ed. 2d 261) to allow the next of kin due process have been complied with.

3. The attached memorandum constitutes a proposed change of status from captured to killed in action and is forwarded for review by the Secretary prior to any announcement. No other personnel involved in this incident.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That the Secretary indicate his concurrence opposite his office symbol and return to HQ USAF/DP.

H. L. Emanuel
 H. L. Emanuel
 Brigadier General, USAF
 Dep Asst DCS/Pers for Mil Pers

1 Atch
 AFMPC/DPMC Memo, 18 Oct 77,
 w/2 Atch

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE MILITARY PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS 78148



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DPMC

18 OCT 1977

SUBJECT: Status Review in the Case of Lieutenant Colonel
David L. Hrdlicka, 476-28-0663FR

TO: HQ USAF/DPM

1. Preface: A status review in the above case was held in accordance with Section 555, Title 37, United States Code, by the undersigned at the Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In determining whether the captured status should reasonably be continued or terminated by a finding of death, reconsideration was given to the facts and circumstances as warranted by the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, 27 January 1973, the general repatriation of prisoners of war, the cessation of United States involvement in hostilities in Southeast Asia, and the lapse of time without information.

2. Discussion: The review and reconsideration of all the facts and circumstances (summarized and attached hereto) resulted in a determination that it is not possible to conclusively establish the member's ultimate fate. However, the likelihood that he is still alive may no longer reasonably be considered since he has not been repatriated, sufficient time has elapsed during which it is believed some word would have been received if he had survived, and he cannot otherwise be accounted for. Accordingly, with respect to the above and in the absence of any information to support a presumption of his continued survival, it is concluded that he may now no longer reasonably be presumed to be alive.

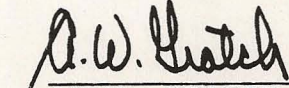


3. Recommendation:

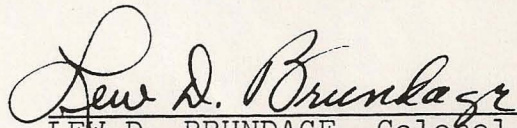
a. It is recommended that, pursuant to the authority contained in Section 555, Title 37, United States Code, an administrative determination be made that Lieutenant Colonel David L. Hrdlicka, 476-28-0663FR, was killed in action. It is further recommended that the casualty report issued as a result of this action include a statement that the determination was made following a subsequent review of all available information and, as provided by and for the purpose of the law, the date death is presumed to have occurred is the date the Secretary's designee approves this recommendation. Death is held to have occurred while in a pay, flying pay, and duty status.


b. Lieutenant Colonel Hrdlicka was selected for promotion to the grade of colonel. It is recommended that he be promoted posthumously under the provisions of Section 1521, Title 10, United States Code.

4. Pursuant to authority delegated to you by the Secretary of the Air Force under the provisions of Chapter 10, Title 37, United States Code, request your review and approval.


A. W. GRATCH, Colonel, USAF
Asst for Casualty Matters

2 Atch
1. Summary of Facts
and Circumstances
2. Disclosure of
Decision Form


LEW D. BRUNDAGE, Colonel, USAF
Staff Judge Advocate

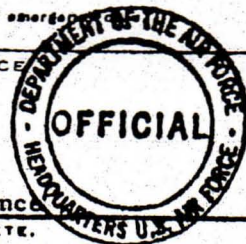

RICHARD D. HANSEN, Colonel, USAF, MC
Surgeon

008

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| REPORT OF CASUALTY | | 1. REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE 1140 - Final | | 2. DATE PREPARED 23 Nov 77 | |
| 3. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Social Security Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization), (MOS/ NJC) HRDLICKA, David Louis, 476-28-0663FR, Colonel*, Regular, USAF - 563 Tac Ftr Sq, McConnell AFB KS TDY TO: APO San Francisco 96273 AFSC: 1115E | | | | | |
| 4. CASUALTY STATUS a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE b. COMMENCED TOUR DATE: TDY from CONUS | | | | | |
| c. STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KIA <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING IN ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTURED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ | | | | | |
| d. DATE: ** _____ e. PLACE: Laos (Specify) | | | | | |
| f. CAUSE & CIRCUMSTANCES: Pilot (F-105 Aircraft) | | | | | |
| 5. a. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 30 Dec 31 - Stewartville MN | | b. RACE Caucasian | c. SEX Male | d. RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE Roman Catholic | |
| 6. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME 30 Oct 56 - Littleton CO - Littleton CO | | | | | |
| 7a. PAY GRADE O-5 | | b. BASIC PAY | c. INCENTIVE/ADDITIONAL PAY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | d. CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER | |
| 8. DUTY STATUS: Active - On Duty SGLI: Public Law 93-289 Applies. No certificate on file \$20,000 Deduction in amount of \$3.40 verified by AFAFC. | | | | | |
| 9. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship) DATE OF RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA FORM: 17 May 65 | | | | | |
| Mrs Carol A. Hrdlicka | | Rt 2, Box 236A, Derby KS 67037 | | wife (3) | |
| Denise M. Hrdlicka | | same | | dau | |
| Damian M. Hrdlicka | | same | | son | |
| Mr Theodore J. Hrdlicka | | 6486 Crocker Street Littleton CO 80120 | | father | |
| Mrs Maxine F. Hrdlicka | | same | | mother | |
| 10. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | | 11. REPORTING COMMAND AGENCY AND BRANCH OF SERVICE AND TITLE NOT LISTED Section 555, Title 37, USC Applies | | | |
| 12. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO A0306574: 25118 | | | | | |
| 13. REMARKS * Under the provisions of Section 1521, Title 10, USC, subject officer was posthumously promoted to the grade of Colonel, effective 21 Nov 77, by Department of the Air Force Special Order AB-3383, dated 22 Nov 77. This promotion is subject to the provisions of Section 1523, which states that no increased pay or gratuities may be derived from such action. ** Under the provisions of Section 555, Title 37, USC, and upon direction and delegation by the Secretary of the Air Force, the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel for Military Personnel finds this individual to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action on 18 May 65. Sufficient evidence was received on 24 May 65 to warrant placing him in a captured status. He was continued in this status until 21 Nov 77, the date death is presumed to have occurred for the purpose of termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts, and payment of death gratuities as stated in Section 555, Title 37, USC. FY 78 Fund Cite: 578350) 328 5781.0* S503725 (off) | | | | | |
| NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE USED TO FACILITATE THE CASHING OF BONDS, THE PAYMENT OF COMMERCIAL INSURANCE, OR IN THE SETTLEMENT OF ANY OTHER CLAIM IN WHICH PROOF OF DEATH IS REQUIRED. | | | | | |
| FOOTNOTES: 1. Adult next of kin. 2. Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child—as designated on record of emergency data. 3. Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances—as designated on record of emergency data. | | | | | |
| 14. DISTRIBUTION NOT USED | | 15. BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE DEAN M. MURPHY, Lt Colonel, USAF Ch, Casualty Rptg & Survivor Assistance | | | |

POW
 STATUS OF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS CHANGED FROM
~~MIA~~ TO KIA



DD FORM 1300, FEB 73

REPLACES DD FORM 1300, 1 MAR 60, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

EXHIBIT 10

000025

USGA Case #22-5235 Document# 205687 PRISONERS Filed: 05/28/2014 Page 8 of 8

DIA CONFIRMS KNOWLEDGE OF LOCATION OF AMERICAN PRISONERS. I was somewhat shocked to receive a copy of Ann Griffiths' reply to a request release live sighting reports received by DIA after 1 August, 1979. The shock is not from the denial of DIA, but from the content of the letter. It was forwarded to the Board members and Regional Coordinators after the League newsletter was printed. It is not marked confidential and I feel it is of great importance to you; therefore, I submit it to you in its entirety. The underlining is mine.



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

APR 14 1982

9 APR 1982

60
4/16/82

U-1,113/RTS-1B

Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director
National League of Families of American
Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Griffiths:

This is in response to your letter of 22 March 1982, in which you appeal DIA's decision not to release live sighting reports of U.S. personnel in Southeast Asia received after 1 August 1979.

It is the policy of this Agency that all live sighting reports of U.S. personnel in Southeast Asia received after 1 August 1979 are properly classified in their entirety and are exempt from release under provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (1), Freedom of Information Act.

Release of the information in the form you requested would enable the Vietnamese and Lao Governments to equate this released information to that which may exist. Obviously, these governments know the location of any American prisoners they might hold. By comparing this information to the released documents, even though they may be sanitized, would confirm to them the fact that we know the location of these prisoners and show the extent and capability of our collection efforts. Thus release of the information in the form you requested would be counterproductive to our intelligence efforts in this vital area. Your appeal for release of these documents is therefore denied.

Sincerely,

E. A. BURKHALTER, JR.
Rear Admiral, USN
Acting Director

EXHIBIT 11



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-



27 FEB 1990

U-0218/PW-MIA

TO: Headquarters,
Air Force Military Personnel Center
DPMCB, ATTN: Mr. George Atkinson
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-6001

SUBJECT: Reporting in the Case of Colonel David Hrdlicka, USAF

1. Late last year an analyst in this office received a telephone call from an American citizen who described himself as a carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He said he was in frequent contact with a "Frenchman" in Bangkok who allegedly has a source (not identified) who claims that American pilot David Hrdlicka recently escaped, only to be recaptured. He also reported that Col Hrdlicka had been seen in a PW camp in the tri-border area of Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia. No further information was offered, but the postal carrier indicated he would be in further contact with the Frenchman and would keep us informed. We have not heard from him since.

2. Several weeks later we received a call from another American who said he knew someone with information on Col Hrdlicka. During the conversation the analyst determined that the Frenchman, who normally resides in the U.S., was the source.

3. Also, we have been investigating a story furnished by an American in Thailand who provided the driver's license data on Col Hrdlicka. He claimed to have obtained the information from another American who received it from a Pathet Lao soldier while travelling near Luang Prabang. We were finally able to locate and interview the second American while he was visiting in Beijing. He was cooperative and provided us with other information, but he knew nothing about Col Hrdlicka and had not met and received information from a Lao soldier as claimed by the American in Thailand. When we reinterviewed the American in Thailand and told him that his alleged source knew nothing about the information attributed to him, he then indicated that maybe he got it from someone else, then changed his mind, then changed the subject, alluding to knowledge of a group of PW hunters who are allegedly working on rescuing an unidentified American in Laos. In short, the source of the data on Col Hrdlicka is unknown, but it was not obtained in the manner described by the American in Thailand in Joint Casualty Resolution Center report T89-354.

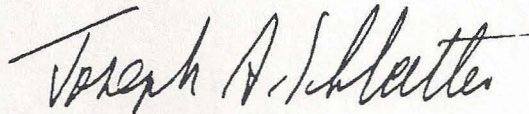
4. It is worth noting that those involved in this reporting are U.S. residents with "business interests" in Thailand. There is a reasonable possibility that these sources are connected and they may decide to expand on their story to gain attention or raise funds for a private foray. In this instance the Frenchman has a track record of involvement with U.S. "PW

EXHIBIT 13

hunters," who have repeatedly failed to find a PW or evidence to support their claims. Further, experience has shown that when names of missing men and identification data start making the rounds of the refugee camps and the so-called "Lao resistance" groups in Thailand, stories claiming the man is alive soon follow.

5. We are continuing to follow up on this reporting and will keep you advised of any new information we are able to develop.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH A. SCHLATTER
Colonel, USA
Chief, Special Office for Prisoners
of War and Missing in Action

~~SECRET~~
EXCISE

LAOS Doody
P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPO/CDR *the* Date: *5/24/66*

RECEIVED LOCAL TIME

03 03

POW's

RELEASE
 EXCISE
 DENY
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions B1 B3
PA Exemptions

DECLASSIFY
 DECLASSIFY
IN PART

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations

CLASSIFY as () S or () O OADR
DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C OADR

TS authority to

PASS TO

GEN CARROLL
GEN FITCH
GEN TAYLOR
GEN MAPLES
ADM HARLINGER
COL GILLIS
COL WYRN

NMCC CWO

24 MAY 66 09 22z

NMC393

IE RUMJFS 173A 1440635
ZNY SSSSS
OPH260620Z ZFF1 *mat66*
IN AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO RUEKDA/DOD IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/YECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1240
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 849
RUFHGV/US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY EIGHT
RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 600
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC PRIORITY 744
RUMSMA/CCMUSMACV PRIORITY
RUECV/CNO PRIORITY
RUEACS/CSAF PRIORITY
STATE GRNC

~~SECRET~~ MAY 24

2. EXPLOITATION OF U.S. PILOT

1. FBIS SAIGON MAY 23 MONITORED BROADCAST WHICH PROVIDES PASSAGES FROM LETTZR ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY DOWNED U.S. PILOT TO NLHS CHIEF SOUPHANOU. NAME USED ALMOST CERTAINLY THAT OF DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA, U.S. PILOT WHOSE F-105 SHOT DOWN SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA ON MAY 18, 1965. NAMES, DATES, AND SERIAL NUMBERS USED IN LETTER CORRESPOND VERY CLOSELY TO THOSE WE CARRY HERE FOR CAPT. HRDLICKA.

2. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE PATHET LAO HANDLING OF U.S. PRISONERS, BELIEVE WE CAN BE REASONABLY CERTAIN PUBLICATION OF LETTER CONFIRMS

~~SECRET~~

EXHIBIT 14

EXHIBIT 14

SECRET

PAGE TWO RUMJFS 173A S E C R E T

HRDLICKA ALIVE. [REDACTED] REPORTING OVER PASTYEAR HAS OFTEN REFERRED TO QUOTE TWO U.S. PILOTS UNQUOTE HELD IN CAVE SE OF SAM NEUA (SEE [REDACTED] AND PREVIOUS), THPS MAY MEAN THAT CAPT. CHARLES E. SHELTON WHO SHOT DOWN APRIL 29, 1965, IN ROUGHLY SAME AREA IS ALSO ALIVE. 81

83 WE CAN ANTICIPATE QUERIES FROMHPRESS RE HRDLICKA AND IF ASKED, WISH PROPOSE FOLLOWING LINE TO ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED: QUOTE PPILOT NAMED CAPT. DAVID LOUIS HRDLICKA HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE HIS PLANE SHOT DOWN MAY 18, 1965, WHILE ON RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER LAOS. HIS NAME HAS BEEN FURNISHED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, WHICH HAS ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS AND HIS STATUS. THE SLIGHTLY GARBLED VERSION OF CAPTAIN HRDLICKA'S NAME AND OF HIS SERIAL NUMBER BROADCAST RECENTLY BY RADIO PATHET LAO GIVE GROUNDS FOR HOPE THAT THE CAPTAIN MAY BE ALIVE AND A CAPTIVE OF THE PATHET LAO. UNQUOTE WE WILL NOT COMMENT FURTHER OTHER THAN TO SAY LETTER CLEARLY INTENDED BY PL FOR PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION. PLEASE CONFIRM SOONEST.

4. RELEASE OF LETTER AND USE OF HRDLICKA'S NAME BY PL UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO BE PEGGED ON RECENT PUBLICATION OF LAOS MILITARY AIR CASUALTIES. THIS UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF COMPLICATIONS WE CAN GET INTO BY ONE SIMPLE SLIP IN PUBLIC HANDLING OF AIR OPERATIONS AND CASUALTIES IN LAOS: IN THIS CASE, DESPATCH OF ROUTINE UNCLASSIFIED NEWS

PAGE THREE RUMJFS 173A S E C R E T

OF KIN NOTICE (SEC DEF DTG 262221Z APRIL). THIS SHOULD REMIND US OF NEED TO TIGHTEN UP ALL OUR PROCEDURES TO KEEP QUIET WAR REALLY QUIET.

GP-3. SULLIVAN

8

SECRET

KINN

SECRET

-2- 4, JULY 1, FROM VIENTIANE

AS FOR CIVILIAN PRISONERS, BAER SAID THAT HE SAW SOT PHETRASI JUN 18 AND RAISED NAMES OF BOTH DEBRUIN (AIR AMERICA) AND BRACE (BIRD & SONS). SOT DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF BRACE BUT AGREED TO MAKE INQUIRIES. ON JUN 22 HE STILL HAD NO WORD. (LATEST [REDACTED] INFO LOCATED BRACE AT TJ 3237 UNDER ESCORT PL PRESUMABLY BOUND FOR MOUNG KHOUA, TJ 4234). ON CEBRUIN HE AGAIN REPORTED THAT HE ALIVE AND WELL BUT SOT UNABLE PROVIDE ANY ADDI-

B1

PAGE THREE RUMJFS 450A S E C R E T
TIONAL DETAILS.

BAER PRESSED SOT FOR OPPORTUNITY VISIT KHANG KHAY ON BEHALF PRISONERS (AND TO ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY MEDICAL SUPPLIES) BUT WAS TOLD PRESENT WHEREABOUTS LEADING NLHX FIGURES UNKNOWN. BAER THEN REQUESTED SOT TO FIX APPOINTMENT WITH SOUPHANOUVONG OR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT FOR JUL 11, 12, OR 13 IN KHANG KHAY SINCE BAER EXPECTS LEAVE FE FOR GENEVA SHORTLY THEREAFTER. SOT AGREED MAKE AN ATTEMPT AND WILL INFORM BAER WHEN LATTER RETURNS TO VIENTIANE FROM SAIGON ON OR ABOUT JUL 7.

GP-3. SULLIVAN

SECRET



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-



27 FEB 1990

U-0218/PW-MIA

TO: Headquarters,
Air Force Military Personnel Center
DPMCB, ATTN: Mr. George Atkinson
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-6001

SUBJECT: Reporting in the Case of Colonel David Hrdlicka, USAF

1. Late last year an analyst in this office received a telephone call from an American citizen who described himself as a carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He said he was in frequent contact with a "Frenchman" in Bangkok who allegedly has a source (not identified) who claims that American pilot David Hrdlicka recently escaped, only to be recaptured. He also reported that Col Hrdlicka had been seen in a PW camp in the tri-border area of Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia. No further information was offered, but the postal carrier indicated he would be in further contact with the Frenchman and would keep us informed. We have not heard from him since.

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4. It is worth noting that those involved in this reporting are U.S. residents with "business interests" in Thailand. There is a reasonable possibility that these sources are connected and they may decide to expand on their story to gain attention or raise funds for a private foray. In this instance the Frenchman has a track record of involvement with U.S. "PW

EXHIBIT 15

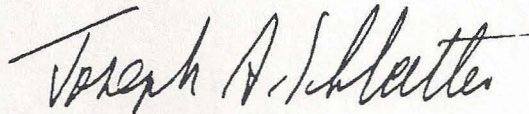
270

000035

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5. We are continuing to follow up on this reporting and will keep you advised of any new information we are able to develop.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH A. SCHLATTER
Colonel, USA
Chief, Special Office for Prisoners
of War and Missing in Action

BLOOD CHIT

In the Victorian sense, Blood means friendship, and in military terms, a Chit is a voucher. Hence, the term blood chit or "Friendship Voucher." Our aircrew members carried a blood chit on their person while flying missions during the Southeast Asian conflict. The request for assistance, in the event they were shot down, is written in English and various languages common to the area. The blood chit is credited with saving many lives.

EXHIBIT 16



BRING our "LIVE"
POW's Home from
Southeast Asia!



7-2-92
Dear Mr. Shetty:

I am enclosing two reports that I would like to have you check and get the answers to! Also I would like to know what David's code # or name is just in case it gets lost! Also would like to know who the satellite photo relates to if it isn't David? I would also like to see any reports in the last five years that could correlate to David as it seems even though I filed a FOIA I haven't received everything. I will be awaiting an answer soon.

I have ~~circled~~ circled Thanks
in red the questions Carol Aralick
I would like answers
to.



EXHIBIT 18



BRING our "LIVE"
POW's Home from
Southeast Asia!

July 27, 1992

Gentlemen:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. I am requesting all documents that have recently been declassified concerning MIA/POW's in Laos. I am specifically looking for all the documents pertaining to rescue attempts made to gain the freedom of Col. David L. Hrdlicka USAF and Col. Charles Shelton USAF. I believe the first rescue attempt may be code named "Duck Soup". I believe there were several attempts and request documents on all such missions.

As you know, the amended Act permits you to reduce or waive fees. I need these materials to protect the constitutional rights of my husband and the Department of Defense has already decided that it is appropriate to waive all charges for materials and information furnished at the request of members of the families of POW's and MIA's. Therefore, I request that you waive fees and charges with respect to this FOIPA request. In the event that you decide not to waive such fees and charges, please let me know, as quickly as you can, how much you want me to pay for the requested items.

If you determine that some portions of the requested items are exempt from disclosure under the amended Act, please furnish me with the remainder and identify the exemptions which you maintain justify the non-disclosures. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal any such decisions.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me. I will expect to receive a reply within ten (10) days.

Thank you for your attention,

Carol Hrdlicka
Rt. 1, Box 24
Conway Springs, Ks. 67031
316-450-2439

EXHIBIT 19

PAGE:0002

[REDACTED]

5USC 552 (b) (2)

FH JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACHC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RUEDADA/AFIS AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUETIAQ/MPCFTGEORGE G MEADE MD
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
RUQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEALGX/SAFE

5USC 552 (b) (2)

FH CDRUSAOPSGP FT GEORGE G MEADE MD //IAGPC-L//
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC //DAM-1B/PW-MIA//
INFO ZEN/CDRUSAOPSGP FT GEORGE G. MEADE MD //IAGPC-CH//
RUDHAAA/CDRINSCOM FT BELVOIR VA //IAOPS-H-C//
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC //DAMI-POH/DAMI-FII//
RUEHBK/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH
RUHQBPA/CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI
RUHRMPC/HQ AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX //DPHCB//

BT
CONTROLS

PASS: DIA/PW-MIA FOR J. TRAVIS
QQQQ

SECTION 01 OF 02

SERIAL: IIR [REDACTED] 5USC 552 (b) (2)

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: LAOS (LA); VIETNAM (VM).

SUBJ: 2 240 8010 90 5USC 552 (b) (2)
IIR [REDACTED] HEARSAY, RE U.S. MIA ALLEGEDLY
ALIVE IN LAOS

EXHIBIT 20

DOI: 891212.

REQS: [REDACTED] 5USC 552 (b) (2)

PAGE:0003

SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

SUSC552 (b) (1)
SUSO 552 (b) (1) (7) (C)

SUMMARY:

[REDACTED]

TEXT:

1. SYNOPSIS.

[REDACTED]

SUSC552 (b) (1)

2. BACKGROUND.

[REDACTED]

3. CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO U.S. MIA.

-----TEAR LINE-----

A. EXCERPT NAMING POSSIBLE MIA. THE FOLLOWING WAS TAKEN FROM A LETTER FROM SUBJECT 1 TO SUBJECT 2 DATED 27 JUN 1989, BANGKOK. "I AM TALKING TO COL CHAENG (BRIG GEN) PL COMMANDER OF THE 11TH REGIMENT AT KHAM KEUT, KHAM MOUNG PROVINCE. SUSPECTING OF HOLDING D. HERLICKA AND FRIENDS. THE OUTCOME OF MY CONVERSATION WILL BE RELAYED TO YOU SOON."

[Handwritten circles around "SUSPECTING OF HOLDING D. HERLICKA AND FRIENDS" and "THE OUTCOME OF MY CONVERSATION WILL BE RELAYED TO YOU SOON."]

-----TEAR LINE-----

B.

[REDACTED]

SUSC552 (b) (1)

C.

[REDACTED]

*Don't the Report
of this nature to this!*

3USC652 (b) (1)

PAGE:0004



SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S COMMENTS

1 SEARCH OF MIA RECORDS. DIA PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION COLLECTION SUPPORT DATA BASE LISTS AS MISSING IN ACTION -

| NAME | SERNO | SERVICE | DOB | DATE/PLACE OF LOSS |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|------|--------------------|
| HRDLICKA, DAVID LOUIS | 72541FR | USAF | DATA | 650518 LA |

2. RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO NEXT OF KIN. DUE TO THE POSSIBLE CORRELATION OF THE NAME PROVIDED IN THIS REPORT WITH THE EVENT RECORDED IN DIA MISSING IN ACTION RECORDS, THIS REPORT IS FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FOR POSSIBLE RELEASE OF PERTINENT INFORMATION ELEMENTS IN PARAGRAPH 3, A TO NEXT OF KIN AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

COMMENTS: THIS IS THE SECOND OF TWO REPORTS FROM SOURCE. THE FIRST WAS IIR [REDACTED] HEARSAY, RE U.S. MIA/C47 CREW ALLEGEDLY ALIVE IN LAOS. SOURCE PROVIDED THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT WILLINGLY AND WITHOUT EVASION. ANY EVALUATIONS, IN RESPONSE TO THIS IIR SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO: CDRUSAOPSGP FT GEORGE G. MEADE MD//IAGPC-L/IAGPC-CM//.

//IPSP: PG 2430//.
//COMSOBJ: 521//.

ADMIN
PROJ:

COLL: VK.
INSTR: US: NO.

ENCL: FOUR ENCL TO FOLLOW -

- HANDWRITTEN LETTER , 1 CY, 890627, 3PG , ENGLISH.
- LETTER , 1 CY, 891128, 1P , ENGLISH.
- FAX , 1 CY, 891202, 1P, , ENGLISH.
- FAX , 1 CY, 891202, 1P, , ENGLISH.

PREP: 2-10321.

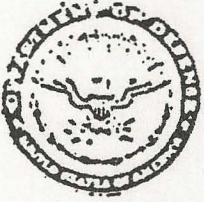
ACQ: FT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD (900426).

DISSEM: FIELD: NONE; SENT TO: DIA//RTS-2B/PW-MIA//

3USC 552 (b) (2)

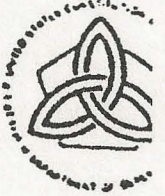
#0347

NNN:



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-



0218/PW-MIA

27 FEB 1990

TO: Headquarters,
Air Force Military Personnel Center
DPMCB, ATTN: Mr. George Atkinson
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-6001

SUBJECT: Reporting in the Case of Colonel David Hrdlicka, USAF

1. Late last year an analyst in this office received a telephone call from an American citizen who described himself as a carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He said he was in frequent contact with a "Frenchman" in Bangkok who allegedly has a source (not identified) who claims that American pilot David Hrdlicka recently escaped, only to be recaptured. He also reported that Col Hrdlicka had been seen in a PW camp in the tri-border area of Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia. No further information was offered, but the postal carrier indicated he would be in further contact with the Frenchman and would keep us informed. We have not heard from him since.

2. Several weeks later we received a call from another American who said he knew someone with information on Col Hrdlicka. During the conversation the analyst determined that the Frenchman, who normally resides in the U.S., was the source.

3. Also, we have been investigating a story furnished by an American in Thailand who provided the driver's license data on Col Hrdlicka. He claimed to have obtained the information from another American who received it from a Pathet Lao soldier while travelling near Luang Prabang. We were finally able to locate and interview the second American while he was visiting in Beijing. He was cooperative and provided us with other information, but he knew nothing about Col Hrdlicka and had not met and received information from a Lao soldier as claimed by the American in Thailand. When we reinterviewed the American in Thailand and told him that his alleged source knew nothing about the information attributed to him, he then indicated that maybe he got it from someone else, then changed his mind, then changed the subject, alluding to knowledge of a group of PW hunters who are allegedly working on rescuing an unidentified American in Laos. In short, the source of the data on Col Hrdlicka is unknown, but it was not obtained in the manner described by the American in Thailand in Joint Casualty Resolution Center report T89-354.

4. It is worth noting that those involved in this reporting are U.S. residents with "business interests" in Thailand. There is a reasonable possibility that these sources are connected and they may decide to expand on their story to gain attention or raise funds for a private foray. In this instance the Frenchman has a track record of involvement with U.S. "PW

*I want the report this analysis
was made here!*

280

000045

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

21 SEP 1992

DATE:

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: PW

1099/PW

SUBJECT: Response to FOIA Request, Case 0670-92

TO: DSP-1 (FOIA)

Ref: DSP-1 memo 2,450), 10 Aug 92 (enclosure 1).

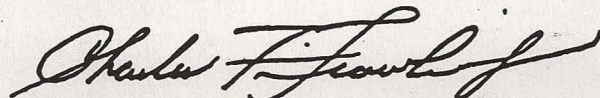
1. Reference requested that DIA (PW) conduct a file search in response to a request from Mrs. Carol Hrdlicka, wife of Colonel David Hrdlicka, USAF, missing in Laos. Mrs. Hrdlicka is requesting "all documents that have recently been declassified concerning MIA/POW's in Laos." Specifically, she is requesting "all the documents pertaining to rescue attempts made to gain the freedom of Col David L. Hrdlicka USAF and Col Charles Shelton USAF." Mrs. Hrdlicka believes the first rescue attempt was code named "Duck Soup."

2. Regarding her broad general request, please inform Mrs. Hrdlicka that all declassified documents pertaining to missing in action from the war in Southeast Asia have been placed in the public domain and will be available through the Library of Congress. In answer to her specific request, please inform Mrs. Hrdlicka that we have no records that the U.S. Government has ever mounted a rescue attempt for either Colonel Hrdlicka or Colonel Shelton. Based upon numerous inquiries due to articles in the public media, DIA undertook a records search, with the help of other government offices, to determine whether any operation by the name of "Duck Soup" ever actually occurred. The results of our inquiries revealed that, in 1949, a limited U.S. Government operation code named "Duck Soup" did occur. The nature of the operation remains classified. However, the operation was completely unconnected with the POW/MIA issue and was completely unconnected with the area of Southeast Asia.

3. A DD Form 2086 is provided as enclosure 2.

4. POC for this action is John Horn, (703) 908-2761.

2 Enclosures
1. DSP-1 memo 2,450),
10 Aug 92
2. DD Form 2086



CHARLES F. TROWBRIDGE, JR.
Deputy Chief
Special Office for Prisoners
of War and Missing in Action

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

NSC 134

6
Action
55
Info

~~SECRET~~

OO RUEHCR RUEKDA
DE RUMJFS 064A 15/0615Z
O 150600Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1872
RUEKDA/DOD WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1390
RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 923
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
RUMHQB/CINCPAC 1499
STATE ORNC
BT

004586
029
MAY 15 AM 8 29
31

~~SECRET~~ MAY 15

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356
91-288

LINDIS
EMBTEL 1865

CONTRARY PRELIMINARY REPORT (SEE REFTEL) ONLY ONE MEMBER MEO TEAM WITHDRAWN MAY 14 AND REMAINDER WILL STAY ON TO EXPLORE FEASIBILITY CONDUCTING RESCUE ATTEMPT FOR DOWNED RF-101 PILOT WHO BELIEVED BE HELD IN CAVE AT VHM 1257 UNDER GUARD OF PLATOON PL SOLDIERS. AFTER APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS, OR ABOUT MAY 24, CHOPPERS WILL RETURN TO PICK UP TEAM.

PAGE TWO RUMJFS 064A ~~SECRET~~

MEO TEAM MEMBER REPORTED THAT PILOT CAPTURED MAY 1 ON SECOND MORNING AFTER BAILING OUT. CLOUD COVER HAD INTERFERED WITH HIS ATTEMPTS ESTABLISH VISUAL CONTACT WITH SAR AND SIGNAL FLARES COMPROMISED HIS POSITION. HE WAS TAKEN ON FOOT FIRST TO XIENG SU (VH 1953) AND LATER TO NONG KOU (VH 1958). ACCORDING TO MEO, PILOT WAS TO BE INTERVIEWED BY HIGHLY-PLACED PL LEADERS IN NEAR FUTURE.

SEPTEL IN AIRA CHANNEL WILL REQUEST SAR COVER FOR MAY 24 RENDEZVOUS.

GP-3 SULLIVAN

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 3:30 AM MAY 15
PASSED WHITE HOUSE 3:45 AM MAY 15

SENT
NAKA

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O RUEPWW
E RUEHCR 1109/3333EEEEEE

1035 JUN 2 05 28

10284
O RUEPWW
E RUEHCR 1109 02/0520Z
I 020404Z ZEA
M SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO WHITE HOUSE ATTN MR BUNDY
I 020335Z ZEA ZFF-3
M AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
O RUHKA/CINCPAC IMMEDIATE 1508
INFO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1930
RUEHJS/JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV IMMEDIATE
RUHLKM/CINCPACAF IMMEDIATE
RUXPB/CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE
RUMSALA/SECOND AIR DIV IMMEDIATE
RUMALB/13TH AIR FORCE IMMEDIATE
STATE GRNC

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NIJ 91-280
By [Signature] NAKA, Date 2-11-90

✓
Bundy

BT
~~TOP SECRET~~ JUNE 2

~~TOP SECRET~~

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

.IMDIS

RE CINCPAC 310700Z

SOUVANNA HAS AUTHORIZED US EFFORT INTERCEPT AND DESTROY
DRV TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FLYING MISSIONS IN SAM NEUA REPEAT
SAM NEUA AREA. MOST OF THESE MISSIONS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN VICINITY
HUA MUONG AND CAN BE SEEN BY FRIENDLY GROUND OBSERVERS (INCLUDING
AMERICAN) FROM SITE 36 (UH 4113) AND SITE 27 (UH 5312).

IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT RULES OF ENGAGEMENT APPLY AND, THEREFORE,
THAT AIRCRAFT MUST BE INVOLVED IN SUPPLY MISSION WHEN TAKEN UNDER ATTACK.

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

NSC

46-42
Action
SS
Info

~~TOP SECRET~~

NNNNVV MJA106SPA931JFA439
PP RUEHCR RUEHJS
DE RUMJFS 119A 18/1195Z
P. R. 18.1125Z. ZEA
FM (AMBASSY VIENTIANE)
TO RUMSALA/2D AIRDIV PRIORITY CITE 181125Z
INFO RUMSALH/DEP CDR. IAB-THAI UDORN THAI
RUMKA/CINCPAC 1566
RUMSALB/KORAT AD THAI
RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC 2047
RUMTBK/AMBASSY BANGKOK 1565
RUEHJS/DOD WASHDC
RUMBAJ/DEPCHJUSMAG THAI 2462
RUMCG/DET CDR. IAB-THAI BANGKOK
RUMKX/PACAF
RUMSAMA/COMUSMACV
RUMALB/13AF CG CLARK AB PHIL
STATE GRNC
BT

16838
1965 JUN 18 AM 8 4

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~~TOP SECRET~~ JUNE 18.

JOINT EMBASSY/AIRA MESSAGE.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 1.4
NIJ 91-278
By , NARA, Date 6-2-92

DUCK SOUP.

1. WE HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT OUR AIRLIFT OPERATIONS IN NORTHEAST LAOS CANNOT BE CONFINED ONLY TO MORNING HOURS IF ADEQUATE SUPPLY TO AREA IS TO BE MAINTAINED. IF DUCK SOUP IS TO BE RESUMED, IT WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE ON BASIS THAT FRIEND AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO NORTHEAST LAOS FROM AM TO FIVE PM DAILY (LOCAL TIME). IN OTHER WORDS, DUCK SOUP OPERATIONS COULD NOT BE CONDUCTED DURING THIS PERIOD.
2. WE ARE STILL CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM OF POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF HOSTILE AIRCRAFT. IT IS POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO DISTINGUISH DRV AIRCRAFT ON PASSENGER RUN FROM AIRCRAFT ON DROP MISSION?
3. IN EVENT SATISFACTORY PROCEDURES CAN BE WORKED OUT FOR RESUMPTION DUCK SOUP UNDER CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN PARA ONE WE WOULD NEED TO BE NOTIFIED A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE ORDER ALERT FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT. IT WILL THEREFORE NOT BE FEASIBLE TO RESUME DUCK SOUP AS EARLY AS JUNE 21.

4. YOUR MESSAGE 121140Z (NOTAL) INDICATED OPERATIONAL USEFULNESS OF DUCK SOUP UNDER STUDY YOUR HQ. WILL APPRECIATE RECEIVING RESULTS THIS STUDY AS WELL AS COMMENTS ON PARAS ONE AND TWO ABOVE.

GP-3. SULLIVAN
BT *Hank* *as* *LYH* *123*

~~TOP SECRET~~

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105

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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82
Action

SS
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NNNNVV HJA470JT 375
.....ZZ RUEKCR RUEKDA
DE RUMJFS 150A 210222Z
Z O 210230Z ZEA 200-0
FM AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON
TO RUEKCR/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2051
INFO RUMJCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1015
RUMTEK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 1507
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC IMMEDIATE 1569
RUEKDA/JCS IMMEDIATE
RUMALC/1ST CAB PI IMMEDIATE
RUMSALA/2ND AIR DIV TSN
STATE GRNC
BT
SECRET JUNE 2:

18509

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec 3A

NY 91-278

By HQ NARA Date 1-28-93

L I M D I S

OUR MIGHTY MEO REPORT FROM ONE OF THEIR OUTPOSTS IN SAM NEUA THAT THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN RECAPTURING ONE OF U.S. PILOTS CAPTURED DURING PAST FEW WEEKS BY PATHET LAO AND HAVE WALKED HIM OUT TO FRIENDLY TERRITORY. WE ARE SENDING A CHOPPER TO THEIR COMMAND POST TO PICK HIM UP.

IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS HRDLCKA OR SHELDON BUT WE ASSUME IT IS ONE OR THE OTHER. WE WILL FLY HIM DIRECT TO UDORN AND PRESUME OTHER WORD WILL COME THROUGH AIR FORCE CHANNELS.

PAGE TWO RUMJFS 150A ~~SECRET~~

I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE THAT THIS RESCUE NOT REPEAT NOT BE GIVEN PUBLICITY. I HAVE ALREADY PASSED THIS WORD TO UDORN AND TRUST IT CAN BE PUNCTUATED BY INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL ECHELONS, PARTICULARLY PENTAGON PRESS SERVICES. SAME INJUNCTION SHOULD BE PASSED TO NEXT OF KIN.

THIS OFFICER IS ONLY ONE OF THREE FOR WHICH WE CURRENTLY HAVE MEO RESCUE OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS. THOSE OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS LIVES OF U.S. OFFICERS AND OUR MEO AND LAO FRIENDS, COULD BE COMPROMISED AND JEOPARDIZED BY PUBLIC HULLABALOO ABOUT THIS RESCUE.

WHEN WE HAVE MORE FACTS IN HAND, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH RE BEST METHOD HANDLING THIS MATTER WITH ICRC AND OTHER ENTITIES WHICH NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PILOT'S RECOVERY. PLEASE ADVISE ACTION TAKEN.

GP-3 SULLIVAN.

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO SS/O, 6/20/65, 11:08 p.m.

PASSED WHITEHOUSE, 6/20/65, 11:20 p.m.

CIA, 6/20/65, 11:35 p.m.

HANDLED. EXOIF PER 205

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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~~TOP SECRET~~
JNNNVV MJA463JFA914
RR RUEHCR
DE RUMJFS 453A 1821159
ZNY TTTT
R 011145Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC THREE
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TWO
RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON TWO
RUMSALA/SECOND AIR DIVISION
RUHKA/CINCPAC THREE
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
STATE GRNC
BT
~~TOP SECRET~~ JULY 01

0029

1965 JUL 1 AM 8 22

LIMDIS

REDEPTTEL 1121.

REGRET WASHINGTON UNWILLING RISK USE AIR AMERICA PILOTS IN T-2
FOR DUCK SOUP OPERATIONS. ALTERNATE PROPOSAL FOR USE LAO OR TH
PILOTS INFEASIBLE. NONE REPEAT NONE HAS ADEQUATE TECHNICAL
PROFICIENCY TO LAND AND TAKE OFF FROM SITE 98 IN T-28 TYPE AIR
MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF COMMUNICATIONS/LANGUAGE AND OTHER PROBLEM
INTERCEPT ATTEMPTS BY THAI/LAO PILOTS WOULD POSE UNACCEPTABLE
RISKS TO FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT IN GENERAL VICINITY.

GP-3 SULLIVAN
BT

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12336, Sec. 3.4
DATE 91-2-28
By *ju*, NARA, Date 6-24-93

~~TOP SECRET~~

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

Benny
NSC

~~TOP SECRET~~

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NNNNVV MJA143JFA367
RR RUEHCR RUEHJS
DE RUMJFS 521A 1870820
ZNY TTTT
R 050743Z ZFA
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO RUHKA/CINCPAC 12
INFO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC 18
RUEHJS/JCS WASHDC
RUHLKM/CINCPACAF
RUHPB/CINCPACFLT
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV
STATE GRNC
BT

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1965 JUL 6 AM 4 31

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec 1.4
NY 91-278

By *[Signature]*, NARA, Date 2-9-92

~~TOP SECRET~~ JULY 06.

REUR 032217Z.

(1) AIR ATTACHE HAS DISCUSSED DUOK SOUP WITH COLONEL MURPHY AT UDORN AND THEY BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE ALTERNATE PROPOSAL WHICH COULD ACCOMPLISH DESIRED OBJECTIVE.

(2) THIS PROPOSAL WOULD UTILIZE FAC AIRCRAFT BASED OUT OF UDORN IN MANNER WHICH WE ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED FOR T-28'S, I.E.

(A) F40'S WOULD GO ON GROUND ALERT DAILY AT 1700 HOURS LOCAL. THIS WOULD PERMIT US TO COMPLETE OUR DAILY AIR SUPPLY MISSIONS IN NORTHEAST LAOS BEFORE WE HAVE TO CLEAR THE CORRIDOR.

(B) IN ABSENCE SCRAMBLE CALL FROM FAC UNIT AT SITE 36, FAC'S WOULD LAUNCH ABOUT DUSK FOR AIR ALERT STATION IN GENERAL VICINITY SITE 36.

(C) IF ENEMY AIRCRAFT SHOW UP IN VICINITY, FAC COULD THEN CALL IN FAC'S FOR INTERCEPT ON ASSUMPTION THAT ENOUGH LIGHT WILL REMAIN TO PERMIT POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION VISUALLY BEFORE MAKING FIRING PASS.

(3) IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SEVERAL F40 AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO PERMIT THEM ACCOMPLISH SUCH A MISSION. WE ALSO ASSUME THAT A-1-H AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR THIS ROLE.

AMB SULLIVAN CONCURRED IN FOREGOING PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE.

GP-3. SWANK

Handled LIMDIS per S/S-O

~~TOP SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

(This page is UNCLASSIFIED)

The United States Air Force in Southeast Asia

The War in Northern Laos

Victor B. Anthony
Richard R. Sexton

Classified by: Multiple sources
Declassify on: OADR

Center for Air Force History
United States Air Force
Washington, D.C. 1993

(This page is UNCLASSIFIED)

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Chapter VII

See-Saw on the Plain (U)

(S) During the summer of 1965, as Vang Pao edged toward Hua Muong (Lima Site 58), Ambassador Sullivan and military authorities spent much time and effort seeking a way to halt communist aerial resupply flights into northeastern Laos. The embassy first got wind of these flights in April, when [REDACTED] reports suggested a pair of Soviet-built Il-14 aircraft might be making occasional night runs from North Vietnam, one dropping flares and the other dispensing cargo. Since the intelligence was sketchy, it was possible the flares were ground fired and the flights covert 34-Alpha (34-A) missions.¹ Even if they were enemy planes, the chances of catching one in the act seemed pretty slim; Pathet Lao territory was "nasty country" at night, demanding the best navigational equipment and pilot skills. There was also an outside chance the transports were engaged in innocent passage or had Souphanouvong or other Pathet Lao officials on board. If so, Sullivan believed Souvanna would rule out any attempt to down the aircraft. In fact, the very thought of American fighters blazing away at a transport loaded with Pathet Lao very important persons already had Sullivan "spinning his prayer wheel." Nonetheless, as part of the April 17 relaxation of Washington control over air operations, President Johnson approved the use of U.S. aircraft to intercept these flights. His decision was somewhat unusual, catching Sullivan and Souvanna by surprise, for neither had requested it. All in all, however, Sullivan welcomed the President's action.²

(S) Yankee Team photos later confirmed two North Vietnamese Il-14s parked at the Samneua airfield. The country team's consensus was that it was best to attack these planes on the ground, but Souvanna had banned air strikes on the town or airfield and leaned toward the RLAF T-28s flying the mission. He also had prohibited hitting the Il-14s at remote landing sites or in the air since they could be carrying passengers. The only avenue open was to catch the North Vietnamese flagrantly dropping supplies by parachute. For this reason, Souvanna soon reversed his preference for the T-28s (he concluded they might bungle the job) and wondered instead if the Air Force could undertake such "a refined type of intercept."³

(S) PACAF thought the mission could be conducted by Souvanna's ground rules but not until precise information on the flights was at hand. Thus, during most of May, the GCI radar sites at Nakhon Phanom and Udon monitored the Il-14s. They found that the North Vietnamese had now switched to day operations and occasionally flew as far south as the Plain of Jars. By May 23, two fixed routes (with offloading in two northeast areas) were pinpointed. Deeming the warning time for scrambling interceptors sufficient, the 2d Air Division suggested that Bango F-4Cs begin a ground alert at Udon for this mission on June 1. The air support operations center would launch the F-4Cs in flights of from four to ten, depending on the number of target aircraft airborne and the routes followed. (Enemy flights varied from one to six transports.) Positive identification was to be made prior to any attack, and all intercepts made within Laotian air

1. (S) 34-A operations were covert operations carried out north of the Demilitarized Zone.

2. (S) Msgs, SECSTATE/SECDEF to AmEmb Vientiane, 914, Apr 17, 1965, AmEmb Vientiane to SECSTATE, 1689, Apr 19, 1965; memo, Rear Adm Francis J. Blouin, USN, Dir/FE Region, ASD/ISA, to Alvin Friedman, ASD/ISA, subj: Duck Soup, Sep 7, 1965.

3. (S) Msgs, AmEmb Vientiane to SECSTATE, 1725, Apr 23, 1965, 1802, May 4, 1965.

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The War in Northern Laos

operating conditions in northern Laos. They would be given enemy aircraft identification training before deployment. Their planes, armed only with .50-caliber machineguns, would stand daily alert until five in the evening, when they would take off from Long Tieng and be in the vicinity of the most recent sightings within twenty minutes. They would then loiter to dusk before flying back to Udom. If a North Vietnamese transport was seen, the T-28s would give chase but withhold fire until the FAG team at Lima Site 36 approved. Since Souvanna had agreed to Duck Soup, Sullivan envisioned no problem in getting him to accept this modified plan but did not foresee the State Department's opposition.¹⁰

(S) Leonard Unger, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, put Sullivan on notice that State was not willing to run the risk of Americans flying T-28s in Laos, except during an emergency search and rescue mission in planes marked with U.S. insignia. He thought the use of Laotian [redacted] pilots for Duck Soup should be explored. With all the pilots trained by Water Pump, surely Sullivan could find two such individuals. Like Air America personnel, they should undergo intensive aircraft identification training before being sent to Long Tieng. To make sure the Laotian [redacted] pilots fully understood the instructions passed to them, Unger suggested stationing reliable interpreters in the Vientiane air operations center and with the forward air guide at Lima Site 36. Lastly, the former ambassador said there was no evidence of Soviet involvement in the airlift; but if their participation became evident, all intercepts were forbidden.¹¹

(S) The Joint Chiefs reminded Admiral Sharp that Duck Soup had been laid on by the "highest authority," and that he and Ambassador Sullivan should come up with a solution, preferably one not using U.S. personnel. Sharp, however, sided with Sullivan; it was better for American pilots to tackle such a sensitive undertaking than the Laotians [redacted]. If an American pilot was shot down, the admiral felt the chances of his falling into the wrong hands could be reduced by enlarging the search and rescue force during all Duck Soup operations.¹²

(S) Meanwhile, Colonel Tyrrell and General Murphy had a back-to-the-drawing-board session at Udom, trying to hammer out a plan acceptable to Washington. The air attaché and deputy commander decided to substitute Bango F-4Cs for the T-28s. The Udom jets would pull ground alert beginning at five each evening, allowing [redacted] America time to complete resupply missions in northeast Laos before having to clear the area. If the Lima Site 36 forward air controller did not call for a scramble, the F-4s would take off at dusk for an airborne alert in the general vicinity of Na Khang. If a North Vietnamese transport showed up and sufficient light remained for a positive identification before making a firing pass, the FAC would call in the F-4s. (Tyrrell and Murphy also held that the A-1Es were just as reliable for this type mission as jets.)¹³

(S) After consulting with Ambassador Sullivan on July 18, Admiral Sharp again stated that the best solution was to station two T-28s with [redacted] America pilots at Long Tieng and to follow the format sketched out by the ambassador, including the additional SAR forces. Tyrrell's and Murphy's F-4 proposal was acceptable, since it also included American personnel. Sharp thought it was time for the Joint Chiefs to convince the State Department to modify its objections to [redacted] America pilots flying intercept missions. The chiefs dropped the impasse into McNamara's lap in the hope he could talk Secretary of State Rusk into reconsidering.¹⁴

(S) Over the next month, Washington reviewed the intercept problem. On August 24, Undersecretary of State George W. Ball expressed strong reservations about these missions,

10. (S) Msg, AmEmb Vientiane to SECSTATE, 2079, Jun 25, 1965.

11. (S) Msg, SECSTATE to AmEmb Vientiane, 1121, Jun 30, 1965.

12. (S) Msgs, JCS to CINCPAC, 5168, 031650Z Jul 65, CINCPAC to AmEmb Vientiane, 032317Z Jul 65.

13. (S) Msg, AmEmb Vientiane to CINCPAC, SECSTATE, 18, Jul 6, 1965.

14. (S) Msg, CINCPAC to JCS, 180035Z Jul 65; memo, Blouin to Friedman, Sep 7, 1965.

~~SECRET~~

See-Saw on the Plain

particularly when the last sighting (from a non-American source, at that) had been on June 21. Furthermore, the Pentagon was troubled over the number of aircraft that would be tied down on alert. The State Department's stance compelled Sullivan to closely reexamine Duck Soup. Although enemy transports were spotted on July 15 (several at night), July 25 (two in the late afternoon), and on August 10 (several at night), he now deemed the flights too few to justify a full-time alert. The downturn in sightings was partially attributed to poor weather, but GCI radars showed that the North Vietnamese had gone back to flying chiefly at night. Since there were no all-weather interceptors in the theater he could call on, the ambassador sought discretionary authority to trigger Duck Soup when sightings and conditions warranted. He did not say if he would use the T-28s or F-4s but agreed to keep Washington informed. On September 2, Admiral Sharp endorsed Sullivan's position.¹⁵

(S) Three weeks passed with no action on Sullivan's request. Finally, at the urging of the JCS, McNamara approached Rusk on September 24. He was told that Sullivan would not receive this authority because the drops had fallen off and were almost entirely at night. State further pointed out that, over the past five months, neither Souvanna nor any other RLG official had raised the resupply subject with the ambassador. The matter might logically be expected to come up if the airlift was hurting the Royal Laotian Government. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This information was furnished Sullivan on the 28th, but the State Department wanted him to understand it had not closed the door to using America pilots in T-28 intercepts. If enemy aerial resupply resumed in force, the decision would be reexamined.¹⁶

(S) Sullivan realized that State was set against Duck Soup. In early October, when Maj. Gen. Ouane Rathikone, RLA Chief of Staff, reported that Il-14s were making occasional daylight drops in Luang Prabang Province from the general area of Dien Bien Phu, Sullivan did not ask for reactivation of the intercepts. Instead, he promised Ouane he would see if U.S. strikes could be cycled against Dien Bien Phu in the hope of catching some of the transports on the ground. However, when the ambassador sent the information to COMUSMACV, it was in an almost offhand manner—if Westmoreland had a few spare aircraft he did not have targets for, he might find it profitable to schedule them against the Dien Bien Phu airfield.¹⁷

(S) Duck Soup was not considered again, and an incident in South Vietnam in mid-September may have had a bearing on this, even though the incident was not mentioned in any State Department cables to Sullivan. Two F-100s made a pass so close to an ICC C-46 that the startled commission pilot nearly lost control of his plane. The ICC sent a strong protest to Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, and the 2d Air Division investigated the matter. Although the pilots were cleared, State could not understand how Air Force fighters could intercept an aircraft that had "ICC" stenciled in large letters on the wing and fuselage. If this could happen in the clear weather and broad daylight of South Vietnam, the chances for mistakes were much higher in Laos where the weather was poor and there were innumerable nonmilitary flights, including two a week between Hanoi and Vientiane. Since the intercepts were limited to the late afternoon and twilight, the odds against positive identification and for an inadvertent shootdown were far higher. The near miss in South Vietnam may well have ended any State Department endorsement of Duck Soup.

15. (S) Msgs, SECSTATE to AmEmb Vientiane, 130, Aug 24, 1965, AmEmb Vientiane to SECSTATE, 220, Aug 28, 1965, CINCPAC to JCS, 020537Z Sep 65.

16. (S) Memo, SECDEF to CJCS, subj: Enemy Resupply Activity Northern Laos Duck Soup, Sep 24, 1965; msg, SECSTATE/SECDEF to AmEmb Vientiane, 192, Sep 28, 1965.

17. (S) Msg, AmEmb Vientiane to COMUSMACV, SECSTATE, 330, Oct 4, 1965.

~~SECRET~~

The War in Northern Laos

(S) If Admiral Sharp thought that back in February he had satisfied Ambassador Sullivan's need for H-34s, he was too optimistic. In early June, Sullivan told the DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI, Col. Jack G. Cornett, USA, that the ~~USA~~ America helicopter fleet needed to be increased to twenty-six H-34s due to SAR commitments. Nevertheless, the worldwide shortage of these machines persisted, and those that could be found were costly to maintain. Even if ~~USA~~ America got the helicopters, it had to find qualified flying personnel or train the pilots from scratch. Moreover, the required expansion of the airline's Udom facilities would not be cheap. Cornett concluded that if the H-34 remained the backbone of the ~~USA~~ America fleet, the U.S. effort in Laos was in trouble.¹⁸

(S) Two USAF CH-3Cs arrived in Thailand on July 5, and Cornett proposed that the embassy authorize the use of those aircraft for SAR in northern Laos (CH-3Cs had already been approved for SAR over North Vietnam). Unlike the HH-43s, there was no need to pre-position these two machines at remote lima sites. If an aircraft was lost in Laos, Cornett envisioned the nearest H-34 or CH-3 flying to the rescue. It would most likely be a CH-3, since one would be on ground alert at Nakhon Phanom during all planned missions. By using the CH-3s, extra H-34s would not be needed for ~~USA~~ America, which could use the sixteen it had for cargo hauling, and the Udom facilities would not require expansion. All told, a lot of Laos MAP funds could be saved.¹⁹

(S) Cornett was well aware of Sullivan's reluctance to use the Air Force and his high esteem for ~~USA~~ America. He admitted that the airline pilots that had been there for some time knew the area better than their USAF counterparts, but training and orientation flights could overcome this handicap. Moreover, new ~~USA~~ America pilots were no different than USAF types; both came to Laos without local experience and both had to learn the country. Admiral Sharp at once threw his weight behind Cornett. At a July 9 meeting between embassy and deputy chief personnel, Vientiane's representatives sided with the military.²⁰

(S) Even though country team members opted for USAF SAR helicopters in Laos, Ambassador Sullivan still preferred ~~USA~~ America. He realized that sooner or later he would have to accept USAF HH-43s and/or CH-3s for SAR in this area on a "first-come, first-served basis;" but before giving in on this touchy subject, the ambassador wanted Washington's guidance. In the interim, he discussed the matter at Udom with Colonel Cornett and Lt. Gen. Paul S. Emrick, PACOM Chief of Staff. They agreed that, for the time being, the final decision would be left hanging. Sullivan also accepted an interim limit of twenty-one for the H-34s.²¹

(S) Two HH-43s and two CH-3Cs were at Nakhon Phanom, two HH-43s were at Udom, and six HH-3s were due to arrive in Thailand during September and October. As soon as the crews for the HH-3s were checked out, the HH-43s and CH-3s would be withdrawn from Thailand. Wanting to "explore all alternatives," Washington asked Sullivan to clarify if these Thai-based USAF helicopters would do SAR from bases in Thailand and land in Laos just to refuel or would they stand ground alert at various lima sites. If the latter were the case, Washington wanted to know what sites were involved, what the risks of exposure were, if it would be wiser to limit the Air Force to flying SAR only in Steel Tiger and North Vietnam, and if Souvanna had been consulted or his permission obtained for USAF rescue operations in northern Laos?²²

18. (S) Msg, DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI to CINCPAC, 070900Z Jul 65. In this message, Colonel Cornett repeated to Admiral Sharp a cable he had sent to Ambassador Sullivan.

19. (S) *Ibid.*

20. (S) *Ibid.*; msgs, CINCPAC (Adm Sharp) to AmEmb Vientiane (Amb Sullivan), 072228Z Jul 65, DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI to CINCPAC, 091205Z Jul 65.

21. (S) Msgs, AmEmb Vientiane to SECSTATE, 21, Jul 13, 1965, AmEmb Vientiane (Amb Sullivan) to CINCPAC (Adm Sharp), 130711Z Jul 65.

22. (S) Msg, SECSTATE/SECDEF to AmEmb Vientiane, 56, Jul 21, 1965.

~~SECRET~~
292

000057

ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

91 JUL 10 A 100

ROUTINE

yh

R 081842Z JUL 91 ZYB PSN 592863P33

FM CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI

TO JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

HQ AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPMCB//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//PN-MIA/J5//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

DIA WASHINGTON DC//PN-MIA//

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC//

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PN-MIA//

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI//DAPC-PED-H//

(encl-600)

MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JCRC//

AMPN/SUBJ: ANALYSIS OF LAO MILITARY MUSEUM VISIT IN VIENTIANE, LAOS//

REF/A/RMG/JCRC LNO BKK TH/071206ZMAY91//

RMKS/1. REF A REPORTED VARIOUS ARTICLES VIEWED BY A J.S. TEAM WHO VISITED THE LAO MILITARY MUSEUM IN VIENTIANE, LAOS DURING MAY 1991. THE FOLLOWING IS THE INITIAL ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF A. COMMENTS ON EACH ENTRY RELATE TO THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR IN REF A.

A. BLOOD CHIT NUMBER 224568: (PARA 2, REF A) THIS BLOOD CHIT CORRELATES WITH CAPTAIN JOSEPH S. PIRRUCCELLO, REFNO 1536. CAPTAIN PIRRUCCELLO'S AIRCRAFT CRASHED ON 8 DEC 68 AFTER IT WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES JH593727 APPROXIMATELY SIX KILOMETERS WEST OF BAN CHATHAO, HOJAPHAN PROVINCE, LAOS. CAPTAIN PIRRUCCELLO IS UNACCOUNTED FOR.

B. TAIL NUMBER 0-17746: (PARA 3, REF A) JCRC FILES INDICATE TWO AIRCRAFT LOSSES CONTAINING THE NUMBERS 17746. TAIL NUMBER 517746 RELATES TO A LAO AIR FORCE T-26, LOST ON 24 JUN 74. TAIL NUMBER 6717746 RELATES TO A UH-1 HELICOPTER LOST ON 4 DEC

68. NEITHER LOSS INVOLVED UNACCOUNTED FOR INDIVIDUALS.

C. DATA PLATE, WITH NUMBER 53-310010-11: (PARA 4, REF A) MCCONNELL DOUGLAS DETERMINED THE DATA PLATE IS FROM AN F-4 RAOOME. THE RAOOME WOULD HAVE BEEN USED ON AN AIRCRAFT WITH A SERIAL NUMBER BETWEEN 66-284 AND 69-2741. THIS SERIAL NUMBER

DLVR:CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI (1)...ORIG

RTD:000-000/COPIES-0001

592863/8835/191
CSN:RXBP0238

1 JF

:49Z 081842Z JUL 91
CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI

EXHIBIT 20



POW-MIA FACT BOOK



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OCTOBER 1992

EXHIBIT 21

ENCE OF CAPTURE OF UNRETURNED U.S. PERSONNEL

Following are examples of cases in which Americans were last seen under circumstances which clearly indicate the governments involved should have information on their fate. The capture of these cases is substantiated by evidence such as post-capture photography, intelligence reports, propaganda broadcasts, intelligence reports, etc. These are only a small sample of Americans carried as discrepancy cases, but some last known alive, which are prioritized for joint investigation in the country of loss.

ANDERSON
M Col Anderson's F-4 aircraft was downed over North Vietnam on October 6, 1972. He and his back seater were ejected and were in radio contact with rescue forces. Anderson said, "I have a good parachute, am in good shape and can see no enemy forces on the ground." Radio Hanoi reported the capture of a number of U.S. pilots that day, yet Anderson's plane was the only one lost. His back seater was immediately captured and released during "Operation Homecoming" the following year.

DEBRUIN
AN
S Captured in September 1963, DeBruin was photographed with his surviving crewmembers (all foreign nationals) and in later years was joined by other Americans. In 1966, one of the Americans and a Thai national successfully escaped from the Pathet Lao and provided information on DeBruin. The Lao Government has recently participated with U.S. officials to conduct field investigations, however, the results to date are inconclusive.

DAVID HRDLICKA
USAF
LAOS



After bailing out of his plane over Laos in May 1965, Col Hrdlicka was seen on the ground and a flight member circling above believed he saw the American being led away by his captors. Information obtained from nearby villagers and "ralliers" indicated Hrdlicka was a prisoner. His captivity was further substantiated by a photograph published in a Soviet newspaper and a May 1966 broadcast of a recording he allegedly made. Intelligence reports indicate that he died in captivity. This case has been the subject of repeated joint investigations, thus far without success.

PHILIP TERRILL
JAMES SALLEY
USA
VIETNAM



In March 1971 Viet Cong and Hanoi radio broadcasts recounting the capture of Americans appear to describe the circumstances surrounding the loss of SP5 Terrill and MSGT Salley. In addition to sighting reports of the two men, their status was confirmed by former U.S. POWs who said both men died after capture. Salley was on the Viet Cong died in captivity list, but Terrill was not. Both are still unaccounted for.





REGIONAL
INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-2400

DEC 2 1993

In reply refer to:
I-93/56130

Mrs. Carol Hrdlicka

DATA

Dear Mrs. Hrdlicka:

This is in reply to your letter of October 14, 1993, to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Security Affairs concerning allegations of misstatements and avoidance of your requests for information on the case of your husband, Colonel David Hrdlicka.

During the past several months, written responses have been prepared by the Defense POW/MIA Office in reply to each of your requests for information. These have included requests directly from you, requests through the Air Force casualty office, Freedom of Information requests, and requests referred from other agencies to me on your behalf. I have reviewed each of your requests and personally validated the information in the responses, whether they were signed by me or by others in the chain of command. Dated copies of each of these replies are placed in your husband's file for historical purposes. Each response has been as thorough as our knowledge of the known facts in his case has permitted. Apart from this, all other information in our possession that relates to Colonel Hrdlicka has been provided to you. I regret that you feel this is inadequate.

To summarize again the known facts in Colonel Hrdlicka's case: on 18 May 1965, his F-105 aircraft was hit by ground fire while over Houa Phan (formerly Sam Neua) Province, Laos. He ejected successfully and parachuted to the ground. Other flight members saw him being led away by people in the area of his landing. Intense ground fire prevented rescue aircraft from entering the area. A U.S. helicopter landed in a nearby friendly village where the inhabitants reported that he had been captured and taken away by the Pathet Lao. Several months later, a post-capture photograph of Colonel Hrdlicka appeared in the Soviet newspaper Pravda. In July 1966, the Vietnamese newspaper, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, featured a story on his capture, and a tape recording allegedly made by him was broadcast by Pathet Lao radio. Subsequent information indicates that he was held in caves in the vicinity of Ban Nakay Teu and Ban Nakay Neua, Laos. Regrettably, intelligence reporting indicates that he died in captivity in the mid-1960s, and was buried near the cave complex.

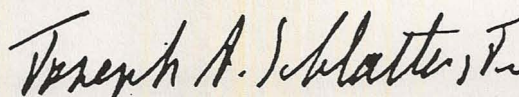
EXHIBIT 22

000062

In April 1991, a joint U.S.--Lao recovery team visited the cave area where Colonel Hrdlicka was likely held and searched the location for a grave. The area searched was based upon information provided unilaterally by the Lao Government, as well as first-hand and hearsay information provided by other Lao sources. While these investigations did not produce his remains, his case continues to be a high-priority in the ongoing efforts to account for our missing in action from the war in Southeast Asia. Colonel Hrdlicka figures prominently in our negotiations with the Lao Government.

I hope you will understand how earnestly we are seeking the answers to the fate of our missing men.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Schlatter, Jr.
Colonel, USA
Acting Deputy Director
(POW/MIA Affairs)

CC:
ASD/RSA
U.S. Air Force casualty office

JAN 17 '96 09:55AM

P.2

(illustration)

In the Jungles of Central and Southern Laos

EXHIBIT 23

299

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SHCH36

Artist V. Kochkin

Shedrov, Ivan Mikhaelovich

THE PARTISAN PATH OF LAOS: Recollections of Laotian Friends who were returning a bright future to a country of a million elephants and white awnings. M., "Young Guard", 1970.

112 s. [pages] with ill. ("Rovesnik")

Editor I. Saboea

Artistic Editor I. Korodeynikov

Technical Editor U. Boyko

Sent for typesetting 27 Jan 1970 g. [year] sent to press 22 May 1970 g. [year] L02624. Format 84x108 ¹/₃₂. Paper No 2. Pech. l. 3,5 (usl. 5,88) + 8 vkl. Uch.-izd. l. 9,7. Tirazh 60,000 ekz. [copies] Price 34 kopecks T.P. 1970 g. [year] No. 169. Order 2900.

Press of the publishing house of the TSK VLKSM [Central Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League] "Young Guard", Moscow, A-30, Sushchevskaya [street name], 21.

Washington's Air War

The dim glow of the kerosene lamp won back a small lighted space from the endless semi-darkness of the cavern. The grotto beneath the gigantic one hundred meter stone boulder serves simultaneously as a refuge and a living space. Here is one's routine in life. Quiet now, it is possible to feast one's eyes through the broad apertures upon a quaint mountain landscape. Since the start of the latest air raids, all the inhabitants are retiring by way of the gloomy rock passageway to the humid interior of the cavern, where the light and the sound of battle cannot penetrate. In the sixth year of the war hundreds of thousands of Laotians live in such conditions. However it is not what it seems. This is a special cavern. The cavern's peculiarity is the work of "cave architecture", which has sprung up quite recently in the bleak war time conditions. This is a kind of experiment. In 1968, under a decision of the TSK PFL (Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front), a special composite construction brigade was established. They are occupied, as well as conditions permit, in preparing well built, "multi-level mountain buildings." Demolition experts start the work and carpenters, joiners and painters complete it. We were already able to visit large "well-built mountain skyscrapers" - a military hospital, quarters, of the central organizations of the PFL. Our cavern was called the Hotel "Friendship". April 1969, the date of opening, was written on the walls. We, the delegation of the Union of journalists of the USSR - I. Loboda of Izvestiya, a Kievian from RATAU [Ukrainian News Agency] V. Eremko, and myself - the first permanent members of the delegation. Here in the cavern there is a restaurant, a movie theater, a living area separating one from another by curtains, and a safe bomb shelter in the depths of the cavern. But even here through the apertures of the cavern the caustic smoke of something burning penetrates, a reminder that tragedy is commonplace for these places.

A half-hour ago we heard the far off sound of aircraft engines. Without even peering into the foggy horizon, our Laotian escort Suktavong determined: "AD-6 from an aircraft carrier of the American Seventh Fleet. You need to be careful with him. He is most often used as a controller. He spots the targets and then calls the fighter-bombers." At high altitude a Naval Scout makes one sinister circle after another, he doesn't disappear from our field of vision behind the ridge, in whose depths our grotto is located. In a few seconds a fallen bomb explodes approximately 300

meters directly in front of us along side of the inhabited cavern. Thick, black streaks of fire and smoke swiftly began to crawl in various directions and then roll up into large, low, mushroom clouds over the valley. Cries for help are heard from the neighboring cavern, but anti-personnel bombs cover them up. A fatal whirlwind raged for about 20 minutes. "The Yanks" dropped 8 containers- nearly 900 thousand flying steel fragments in a small clearing with a radius of 300-400 meters. Hugging the humid rock wall of the cavern we silently observed one more bandit raid. Only after half an hour were they finally able to bring down the flames and get rid of the evidence of the raid. No one was injured in our grotto. Only the "Gazinki"[Lorries] which were hidden in the bushes were punctured by fragments.

This time the criminals left unpunished, but the people's retribution is catching up with them more frequently. I happened to have the occasion to meet with several of the pilots who were taken prisoner in northern Laos and to hear their confessions. Here is one of these meetings.

In the middle of the cavern there is a long table. On it are small porcelain cups with fragrant green tea, dishes of candy and three kerosene lamps. At the table there are about fifteen people. Several managed to take off their Brownings and Colts, hanging them on the crossbeam alongside the table. The others placed their weapons on the back of the benches.

The short Laotian is addressing those gathered:

-Comrades, friends, brothers! Allow me to open the press conference, organized by the departments of propaganda and agitation of the TSK PFL. At this conference we will discuss the new measures being taken by the USA to broaden the armed intervention in our country and will get to know an American pilot, who was shot down over Laos. I give the floor to Sisan Sisane, a member of the TSK PFL.

We do not intend to have the same sort of press conference - he says. Therefore, today I would like to briefly give a general overview of the situation.

Those who are present know about the situation that has developed in Laos over the past several years. Since the first days of peace and afterwards, the days of war, we witnessed for ourselves the rapidly developing events. More than once, fate has taken us with several of the correspondents who are sitting here, on the front lines of Laos. More than once we have been bombed and shared the last bowl of rice in the gray dismal caves. Almost all have come here from the regions near the front, going tens and even hundreds of kilometers on broken and eroded roads.

In a few minutes we will hear from an American pilot shot down in this region. His name is Dehvid Luis Khrdlika.

He is a Captain in the United States Air Force. He flew from the American base in Takli in neighboring Thailand. He was the lead aircraft in a group of three jet-powered F-105 fighter bombers. Having bombed a marked objective, right here in the province of Sam-Nea, Khrdlicka was shot down by an anti-aircraft battery while en route home. This was the fourth and final combat mission for the American Captain. "I admit, -the voice of the pilot was heard in the entire cavern, - that I took part in the aggression against the peaceful Laotian people, who are carrying on a just struggle. While a prisoner I was given modern medical treatment. I have been well treated. I ask for forgiveness..." The son of a Czech immigrant who abandoned his native land in the search of good fortune, became a mercenary and war criminal.

The article on Deivid Luis Khrdlicka and his prison mates was published in Pravda along with a photograph. Several months later I received a letter from California. Mrs. Dzheymy Dzsh. Ehvans wrote, that on the advice from friends, she found Pravda where the article was written. In the newspaper photograph she saw a man who looked much like her husband. He too was a military pilot who bombed Laos and did not return from one of his missions. She asked for help to clear up the fate of her husband. Is he alive or dead? "Maybe, - inquired Mrs. Ehvans, - you confused the photograph. If this is not him, maybe you met my husband. Maybe some European was detained several years in the dark caves?"

Representatives from the Pathet-Lao reported to me that they don't know anything about Mr. Ehvans. Possibly he died in the crash. I am now writing my response to Alameda, California. I am reporting that I don't know anything about her husband, I am telling her about Washington's "secret war" against Laos.

The widows of America should know with what their husbands were and are involved in Laos, you know they are hiding the truth...

In January 1966 the Pentagon confirmed for the first time a report that two American military planes had been shot down by anti-aircraft fire over Laos. However, it was stressed that they were allegedly "completing a reconnaissance mission." In May of the same year, an official representative of the Pentagon reported that in the past two years eleven military servicemen were killed and about twenty were missing in action in Laos. In August a newer, more precise definition was given: "Since May of 1964, when American aviation started reconnaissance flights over Laotian territory, thirty American military servicemen have died." Only in the summer of 1967 did several Pentagon Generals make a partial admission that the United States Air

Force has been conducting one-man, self-defense raids in Laotian territory since May of 1964.

In the spring of 1969 some very curious documents fell into my hands - The list of 97 American pilots missing in action in Laos. The list gives the first name, last name, military rank, and even the date of their last flight. Although the document was stamped with the seal of the International Red Cross, from entirely reliable sources one could ascertain that the real authors of the document were the special services of the Pentagon. The list opens with Lieutenant Dzh. Adam, "missing" 22 May 1968, and Colonel Armstrong, "missing" 9 Nov 1967. Although the list was somewhat "obsolete" (it was created in the fall of 1968) and far from complete, it is possible to get a clear picture of the escalation of the war. In 1965 the number of "missings" was thirteen, in 1968 more than 30. However, in the summer of 1969 American diplomats in Vientiane were already unofficially talking about more the 200 American pilots, who were "missing in action" during missions over the Liberated regions.

On 17 May 1969 warring Laos celebrated the fifth anniversary since the beginning of armed resistance against the American aggressors. Towards the evening of that day a representative of the Commander in Chief's Headquarters arrived at our place in the cave "hotel" and gave the latest battle report: 1127 American airplanes and helicopters were shot down over the Liberated region.

Representatives of the Main Staff reported that many American pilots were unable to eject from their airplanes. If the Pentagon receives confirmation of their deaths, then the dead are automatically included in the total number of losses in Vietnam. Moreover, in the mountainous, hard to reach, sparsely populated regions of Laos special U.S. helicopter rescue detachments are successful in "fishing out" the majority of the pilots who survived. The rest of those who remain captive in the gray caves are awaiting the end of the war and the decision on their fate.

But they will have to answer for the robbery. At the end of 1968 a commission was formed in the Liberated regions to expose the crime of the American imperialists. Here are some facts it collected. In 1966, United States air forces conducted 20 thousand combat sorties over the Liberated regions, in 1967 more than 29 thousand. In the first half of 1969 by data of American writers, the number quadrupled in comparison to 1967.

The results of this illegal war are monstrous. Nearly all of the cities and large population centers in the Liberated territory are destroyed. Hundreds of thousands were forced to relocate to the jungles and caverns.

However, the Pentagon was obviously not pleased with the events. American military specialists calculated, that for 1968 alone, the war had cost the round sum of - one billion dollars, and 83 percent of the equipment did not result in losses inflicted on the enemy. The United States Air Force Command's excuse cited data on the sharp increase of power and effectiveness of anti-aircraft activity of the patriotic armed forces. All of this is secret. The monstrous facts of the "secret war" are used in the development of new adventurous plans.

In the sixth year of the war, the Pentagon is forced to acknowledge their helplessness. The strategy of "undermining the economy" as well as the numerous attempts to expand the large offensive operations of the right wing crack troops against the patriots collapsed.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-2400

06 AUG 1993

In reply refer to:
I-93/54309

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADQUARTERS, AIR FORCE MILITARY PERSONNEL CENTER
(ATTENTION: MR. GEORGE ATKINSON)

SUBJECT: Request for Analysis of Information Correlated to
Colonel David Hrdlicka

Reference: Phonecon btwn Mrs. Carol Hrdlicka (PNOK of Col
David Hrdlicka) and LTC Jim Caswell of 24 Jun 93.

During referenced telephone conversation, Mrs. Hrdlicka raised three questions/concerns, and requested an impartial review of available information. In particular, Mrs. Hrdlicka would like the following addressed:

1. Col Hrdlicka's assessed date of death.
2. Evidence of Col Hrdlicka's survival in the former Soviet Union.
3. Basis for statement in October 1992 edition of the POW-MIA Factbook regarding Col Hrdlicka's death while in captivity.

Since Col Hrdlicka's loss incident on 18 May 1965, this office has received a large volume of reporting from a number of sources which suggests that he survived the downing of his F-105 aircraft, was apprehended, and held captive by Pathet Lao forces near Vieng Xai, Houa Phan Province, Laos. On 24 May 1965, Pathet Lao officials released a statement acknowledging the capture of Col Hrdlicka; a photograph of Col Hrdlicka under armed escort appeared in the 22 July 1965 edition of a Vietnamese magazine. In 1966, Pathet Lao Radio broadcast portions of a letter allegedly written by Col Hrdlicka to Prince Souphanouvong. On 18 May 1967, Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit, Secretary General of the Lao Patriotic Front, confirmed Col Hrdlicka's capture in a telegram to Canadian Minister of External Affairs. Two reports suggest that an unidentified American pilot was transported from the Vieng Xai area of Laos to Vietnam. One of these reports (TDCS-314/04249-66 of 29 March 1966) which was previously believed to be associated with Col Hrdlicka can no longer be correlated to him because Col Hrdlicka was known to be alive in the Vieng Xai area well after the source claimed he was transported to Vietnam. The second report does not provide a date of information, but it had to be prior to 5 January 1969, the date of the report. This report states that two American pilots (one elderly and one young) were moved to Hanoi because they were considered incorrigible. Available information suggests Col Hrdlicka was not considered incorrigible. It should also be noted that no Americans held in the Vieng Xai area were ever seen by American POWs who returned from Vietnam. In late 1989, this office

EXHIBIT 24

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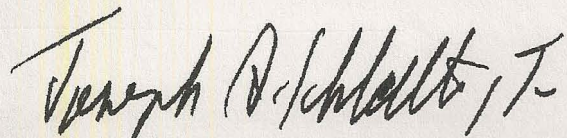
obtained hearsay information regarding an alleged escape attempt by Col Hrdlicka, and his subsequent recapture and movement to one of two areas, Vinh Province, Vietnam or the tri-border area between Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Follow-up collection activity determined that a well-known fabricator/self-proclaimed resistance leader was behind this reporting. During a subsequent interview, this individual admitted that he did not believe the information reported.

This office has received several reports which suggest that American pilots being held in the Vieng Xai area died in captivity. Two reports, TDCS-314/04155-68 of 12 March 1968, and JCRC LIAISON message 160230Z April 1991, respectively identified the deceased pilot as Davis/Davit or David and David K. Causes of alleged death range from stomach disorders to malaria, fever, and gunshot wounds. Dates of alleged death range from July 1965 to 1968; the 1968 date was provided by a Lao official during a 1982 League of Families trip to Vieng Xai. This Lao official's reporting, however, is questionable as he alleges that both Shelton and Hrdlicka died of natural causes in 1968, and that their graves both sustained direct hits by American bombs. Additionally, the individual who reportedly buried the two pilots (and should be able to identify the grave site) was allegedly killed during the war. It should be noted that this office has identified and spoken to two firsthand witnesses and several hearsay witnesses to the alleged burial of an American pilot during the 1965-1968 time frame. The witness interviewed in the above referenced JCRC message claims to have personally cared for "David K" for approximately eight months and was with the prisoner when he died during the rainy season of 1967, "around October". The information provided by these sources has been pursued but no further details have been developed. Efforts are still being made to interview an individual in Vientiane Province who claims to know where an American pilot was buried near Vieng Xai. Several of the reports of death once correlated to Col Hrdlicka are now known not to correlate to him because they contain dates of death prior to his last known alive date. This confusion regarding date and cause of death is most likely due to the fact that at least one other American, Col Shelton, was known to have been captured and held in the caves of Vieng Xai at approximately the same time as Col Hrdlicka. Other alleged Americans were also reported to have been held in the Vieng Xai area as well, but this office has not been able to identify any other specific individuals. Concerning cause of death, while it is not certain (all but one of the reports of Col Hrdlicka's death are hearsay), it is believed that Col Hrdlicka died in 1968 from malaria, some unidentified fever, or dietary complications exacerbated by the lack of food and medicine in the area. This conclusion is based on three factors: First, from available reporting, we do not believe Col Hrdlicka was incorrigible, reducing the likelihood of his being shot. Second, live sightings of American pilots being held in the caves of Vieng Xai are virtually non-existent after 1967. And finally, the Vieng Xai area was subjected to an extensive bombing campaign in 1968

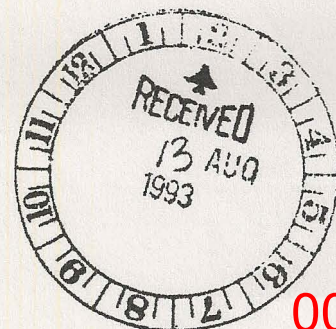
which severely reduced food and medical supplies. It should also be noted that Mr. Vongvichit, the Lao official who acknowledged Col Hrdlicka's captivity in May of 1967, stated on 10 May 1973 that the Pathet Lao were holding no additional U.S. POWs. Mr. Vongvichit also agreed to gather information regarding Col Hrdlicka's fate and respond to American authorities at a later date. This office has no record of Mr. Vongvichit providing the requested information. U.S. representatives have taken every opportunity throughout the years to obtain additional data relative the status of Col Hrdlicka, and Mr. Vongvichit has been included on the list of Lao officials to be interviewed as part of an oral history project currently being developed (the Lao Government has not yet approved). As an aside, it should be noted that Mr. Vongvichit's statement regarding no additional Americans in captivity was made three days after American citizen Emmet Kay's Pilatus Porter was shot down over northern Laos. Mr. Kay was returned to U.S. custody on 18 September 1974. On 21 November 1977, Col Hrdlicka's status was administratively changed from detained to killed in action.

With regard to a possible Soviet/Russian connection, this office has received no evidence/reporting of Col Hrdlicka being transported out of Southeast Asia. The first suggestion of a Russian connection occurred in 1993 when Mrs. Hrdlicka announced her intent to question Major General Aleksander Kandaurov, Director of the Center for Public Information of the Ministry of Security. During a follow-up interview with the General, Task Force Russia interviewers were told that he had never seen Col Hrdlicka's name on any list, and is not sure how Mrs. Hrdlicka got the impression that he had. General Kandaurov's best guess is that he told Mrs. Hrdlicka that the Joint Commission was most likely aware of her husband's case and that his name was on a list, probably the list of unaccounted for Americans which was provided to the Russian side of the Joint Commission last year.

Mrs. Hrdlicka's concerns regarding statements made in the 92 edition of the POW-MIA Factbook will be addressed during next revision of the Factbook.



Joseph A. Schlatter, Jr.
Colonel, USA
Acting Deputy Director
POW/MIA Office



VV MSA99LA218TV QLA733EVU FGA460
RR RUMSBJ
DE RUM BDFG 5 0900750

POSSIBLE
POW'S

0084-1-01

Wood

D1...

R: (010730Z) Mar 66
FM (USAIRA) VIENTIANE LAOS
TO RUMSBJ/2AD TSN RVN
RUMFUAJ/CTF 77
INFO RUHLHQ/C INCPAC
RUHLKM/C INCPACAF
RUHLHL/C INCRACFLT
BT

MC-4-1-1377

AIRA 00603 MAR 66.

1. A NORTH VIETNAMESE CORPORAL WAS CAPTURED ON 19 FEB 66-5, 9, & (-, & (VH 0480) AND HAS SUPPLIED FOLLOWING ANALYST CORRELATES
INFORMATION TO DATA REGARDING DOWNED AMERICAN PILOTS: SN 591731
A. ON AN UNSPECIFIED DAY BETWEEN 10 AND 16 JAN 66 LOST 18 MAY 1965
ASSISTED IN A SEARCH FOR DOWNED AMERICAN PLANE. PLANE RAINY SEASON IN
WAS FOUND ON THIRD DAY, BUT DATE PILOT FOUND NOT KNOWN. area from 9 May
PLACE FOUND VIC VH149559. THE FUSALAGE BORE DESIGNA7 to Oct 65 would
not be inspected
until the dry season

PAGE 2 RUM BDFG 5
1967) AND SAW ONE AMERICAN PILOT PLACED ABOARD A VE7
HICLE AND MOVED TOWARD ROUTE 55. PILOT WAS TIED AROUND
HIS CHEST. HE WAS TALL, LIGHT COMPLEXIONED, HAD BROWN
HAIR, WEARING A YELLOW "PILOT TYPE" UNIFORM AND CRASH
HELMET. APPEARED UNINJURED. PRISONER LEARNED FROM
FELLOW SOLDIERS THIS THE PILOT SENT TO NORTH VIETNAM.
PW HEARD FROM HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS THERE WERE 26
AMERICAN PILOTS IN HANOI.

will

2. EMB REQUESTS INFORMATION ON ANY DOWNED US A/C
IN THIS AREA OF LAOS BETWEEN 10 AND 16 JAN 1966.

TTCI

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JCRC
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594-73

EXHIBIT 25

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000074

FORM 3006 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

DIA

07

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY
IN 15550

PAGE 1 OF 2 P/

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|---------|---------|-----|------|------|------|----------|------|-----|-----|-------|
| STATE/INR | DIA | NMCC/MC | (SECDEF | JCS | ARMY | NAVY | AIR) | CIA/NMCC | NIC | NSA | SDO | ONE |
| D/NPIC | | D/IAS | | | | | | OER | FBIS | DCS | IRS | AID U |

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, Sec. 793 and 794, and the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by those laws.

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212132Z

CITE TDCS -314/08455-68

Content UNCLASSIFIED

058375

DIST 21 MAY 1968

per
date 8 NOV 1975

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: EARLY JANUARY 1968

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA DISPLAY OF FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS IN

HOUA PHAN PROVINCE

ACQ:

SOURCE:

1. DURING THE PATHET LAO MEO NEW YEAR CELEBRATION OF 1966, WHICH FELL BETWEEN 28 DECEMBER 1966 AND 3 JANUARY 1967, FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS WERE DISPLAYED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES IN BAN HANG LONG (VH 1262). DURING THE HALF HOUR THAT THE PILOTS WERE ON DISPLAY, A PATHET LAO PROPAGANDIST EXPLAINED TO THE VILLAGERS

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EXHIBIT 26

000075

FORM 3007
1-68

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

IN 15550

TDCS-314/08455-68

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

(classification)

(dissem controls)

THAT THE PILOTS WOULD NOT BE KILLED, BUT WOULD BE HELD FOR PRISONER EXCHANGE AFTER THE START OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PILOTS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND VILLAGERS SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED GOOD TREATMENT; THEY WERE GETTING MILK AND OTHER FOODS TO WHICH THEY WERE ACCUSTOMED. THE PROPAGANDIST TOLD THE VILLAGERS THE PILOTS' NAMES, BUT SAI VANG HEU COULD NOT REMEMBER THEM.

2. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC
 PACFLT ARPAC PACAF
 REPORT CLASS

| OFFENSE INFORMATION REPORT EVALUATION | | | | INSTRUCTIONS: <i>to be completed by Typewriter or Ball Point Pen</i> | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|-----|--|-------|-----|
| CUSTOMER NUMBER B 390 | IR NUMBER TDCS-314/04155-68 | COLLECTION PROJECT NUMBER | IR DATE | | | | | |
| | | | YEAR | MONTH | DAY | YEAR | MONTH | DAY |
| | | | 6 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| TO: | ICR NUMBER/OTHER REFERENCE | SOURCE NUMBER | DATE RECD BY DISSEMINATION ACTIVITY | | | | | |
| | | | YEAR | MONTH | DAY | YEAR | MONTH | DAY |
| THRU: | SII CODE(S) | TARGET COUNTRY (IES) LA | DATE RECEIVED BY EVALUATOR | | | | | |
| | | | YEAR | MONTH | DAY | YEAR | MONTH | DAY |
| REASON FOR EVALUATION | | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> SELECTED BY COL MGR | IR ORIGINATOR | | | | | |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> ICR | | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST | CIA | | | | | |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> COLLECTOR'S REQUEST | | 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANALYST INITIATIVE | | | | | | |
| A. IR RESPONDED TO | | | B. RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION | | | C. VALUE OF INFORMATION | | |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> DIRM Part Three | | | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed by other sources | | | 1. <input type="checkbox"/> High (<i>Unique, Timely, and of Major Significance</i>) | | |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> CIR | | | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantially true | | | 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate (<i>Contributory and Useful</i>) | | |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICR - If checked, ICR was satisfied | | | 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cannot be judged | | | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Low (<i>Marginal</i>) | | |
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Completely | | | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Doubtful | | | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> None (<i>Of no use</i>) | | |
| b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially (<i>If b or c checked, include Guidance in Remarks Section</i>) | | | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> False | | | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Cannot be judged (<i>Analyst has no basis for value judgement</i>) | | |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all | | | | | | | | |
| 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | | | | | | | | |
| D. USABILITY OF INFORMATION | | | | | | | | |
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used or planned for use in product | | | 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporated in Data Base | | | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Not used (<i>All responses require explanation in Remarks section</i>) | | |
| a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic Intelligence | | | a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Useful | | | a. <input type="checkbox"/> Unreliable | | |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Current Intelligence | | | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Background/Confirmatory | | | b. <input type="checkbox"/> Too Fragmentary | | |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Estimative Intelligence | | | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulus for Intelligence Guidance or Requirement | | | c. <input type="checkbox"/> Duplication | | |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | | | | | d. <input type="checkbox"/> Not Pertinent to Needs | | |
| NAME OF PRODUCT: | | | | | | | | |
| REMARKS (<i>Number and Classify each Paragraph</i>) ** RE-EVALUATION ** | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Source stated that a USAF plane was shot down near Ban Na Kay in early June 1966 and that the pilot was captured and imprisoned in one of the caves. According to the source, who claimed he gave the pilot anti-malaria and other injections on about ten occasions, the pilot had blue or green eyes and thinning dark brown hair. The source was told that the pilot's name was Davis, Davit, or David and that he had three sons. Source further stated the pilot and one of his guards were killed when a relief guard fired in their direction.</p> <p>Additionally, source stated he heard that a USAF pilot, shot down in late 1965 in the Ban Na Kay area, had been captured by the Pathet Lao and died of malaria in 1966.</p> <p>The pilots referred to probably correlate to Charles E. Shelton and David L. Hrdlicka (both USAF unaccounted-for PWs). Although the incident dates source provided are in error, the Ban Na Kay shot down area correlates to both Shelton, downed on 29 April 1965, and Hrdlicka, downed on 18 May 1965. In other reports which have described two U.S. pilots and have been correlated to these individuals, it has been difficult to positively ascertain which of the PWs was Shelton and which was Hrdlicka. This difficulty is caused by the fact that the incident, descriptions, and confinement of these two individuals were quite similar. There have been other reports that one pilot was shot and another died of malaria</p> | | | | | | | | |
| EVALUATOR'S RELEASE and DISCLOSURE GUIDANCE | | | | | | | | |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph(s) _____ above are releasable to the government of _____ | | | | | | | | |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation is Not Releasable | | | | | | | | |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Releasable Evaluation Not Requested | | | | | | | | |
| EVALUATOR'S ORGANIZATION DIR-4H | | | NAME OF EVALUATOR <i>Penny Gardner</i> PENNY GARDNER | | | DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS | | |
| DATE EVALUATED | | | SIGNATURE OF APPROVING AUTHORITY | | | | | |
| YEAR | MONTH | DAY | <i>for</i> CDR CHARLES F. TROWBRIDGE, JR. | | | | | |
| 75 | 09 | 12 | | | | | | |

UNCLASSIFIED

CONTINUATION OF EVALUATION OF TDCS-314/04155-68

while in captivity. However, if these reports are true, it cannot be positively determined exactly which individual was shot and which died of malaria. Furthermore, sources reporting on these individuals may have provided confused and/or erroneous information.

In TDCS-314/04155-68 neither, of the incident dates (early June 1966 and late 1965) equates to either Hrdlicka or Shelton. However, as previously mentioned, the Ban Na Kay incident location is accurate for both individuals. Source stated that the first PW had blue or green eyes, thinning dark brown hair and was named Davis, Davit or David. This description could refer to David Hrdlicka who does have brown hair and blue eyes. (Shelton has brown hair and brown eyes). However, the information that this pilot had three sons correlates exactly to the number of sons Shelton has, whereas Hrdlicka has only two sons.

Although a positive differentiation between the two pilots cannot be made, the report is of value for casualty resolution consideration inasmuch as it indicated both individuals died in captivity.

A copy of this report and evaluation will be placed in the files of Shelton and Hrdlicka.

UNCLASSIFIED



CAROL HRDLICKA
RT 1, BOX 24
CONWAY SPRINGS, KS.67031
(316) 456-2439 PH
(316) 456-2702 FAX

SEPTEMBER 19, 1994

HONORABLE SHEILA E. WIDNALL
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
THE PENTAGON, ROOM 4E871
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330-1670

DEAR SECRETARY WIDNALL:

IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT WITH THE SHELTON FAMILY GROWING WEARY OF THE FIGHT TO GET COL. SHELTON RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILY, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A HEARING TO HAVE MY HUSBAND, COL. DAVID L. HRDLICKA, TAKE COL. SHELTON'S PLACE AS THE LAST KNOWN "POW".

IN 1977 WHEN THEY HAD THE HEARING ON COL. DAVID L. HRDLICKA'S CASE THEY ASKED ME IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION---AT THAT TIME I HAD NO ACCESS TO INFORMATION. AS THE YEARS HAVE PASSED I NOW HAVE MANY REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS THAT I HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AND MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST THAT COL. DAVID L. HRDLICKA BE REINSTATED AS A "POW".

IN DAVID'S CASE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT HE DIED ALTHOUGH THE D.I.A. HAS MADE STATEMENTS, THEY HAVE A 1966 REPORT THAT "INDICATES" DAVID DIED IN CAPTIVITY. THEY HAVE NEVER SHOWN ME ANY REPORT, ALTHOUGH, I HAVE REQUESTED A MEETING TO BE SHOWN THE REPORT. MY REQUEST FOR A MEETING HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. I NOW HAVE A DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS THAT IN JUNE OF 1973 DAVID WAS CONSIDERED A "POW" NOT "KIA" AS THE D.I. A. CLAIMS.

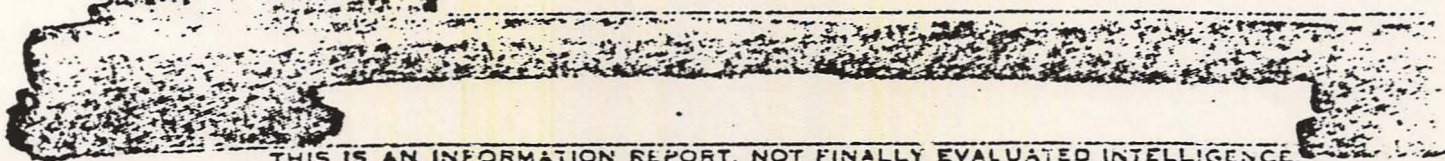
REGARDS,

EXHIBIT 28

314

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA SDD ONE
OER FBIS DCS IFS AID L



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CITE TDCS 314/08450-68

DIST 21 MAY 1968

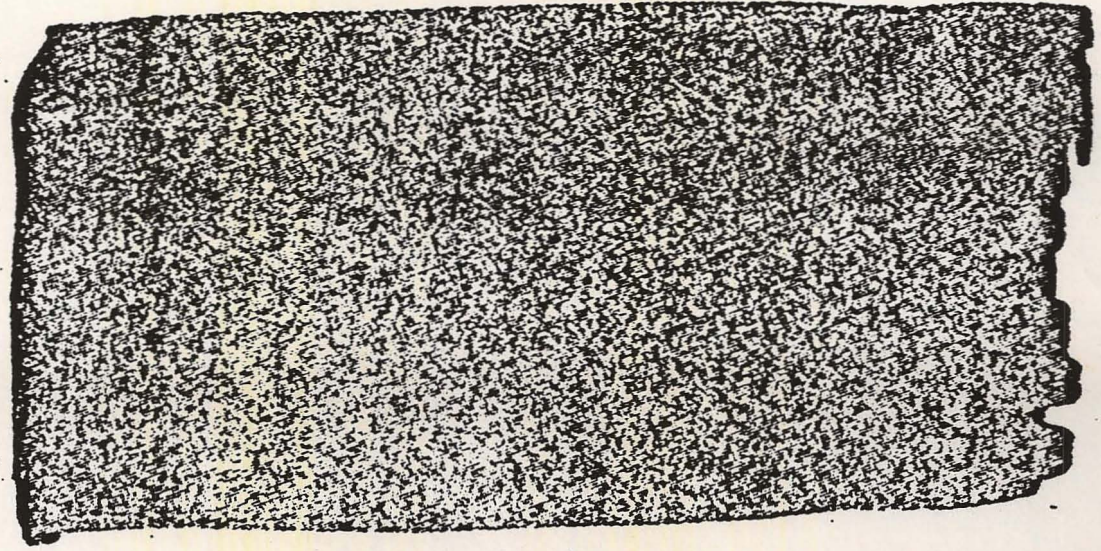
COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 1 APRIL 1968

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PILOTS IMPRISONED IN A CAVE IN
HOUA PHAN PROVINCE

ACQ

SOURCE:



ON 1 APRIL 1968

L-1

SOME AMERICAN PILOTS WERE IMPRISONED
IN A CAVE AT VH 196557 BETWEEN BAN NAKAY NEUA (VH 1957)
AND BAN NAKAY TEU (VH 1955) IN HOUA PHAN PROVINCE. THE CAVE WAS
ABOUT 500 METERS FROM A WELL-TRAVELED ROAD THAT RAN BETWEEN THE



#58

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 26 OCT 1978

EXHIBIT 29

2

315

000080

[REDACTED]

(classification) (dissem controls)

TWO VILLAGES. THE CAVE WAS AT THE END OF A TRAIL THAT SEPARATED FROM THE ROAD AND WOUND PAST A TEN-FOOT WATERFALL THAT HAD A POOL OF POTABLE WATER AT ITS BASE. IT WAS 30 TO 40 FEET ABOVE THE ROAD THAT RAN BETWEEN THE VILLAGES. THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL KAISON SISAVAT, THE PATHET LAO COMMANDER FOR HOUA PHAN PROVINCE, WAS ABOUT ONE KILOMETER NORTH OF THE CAVE.

2. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAMCV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]