

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Date: 8 February 2007

From: (b)(6)

Subject: Request for Information, Case of LTJG David M. Christian (RefNo 0092)

BACKGROUND. On 2 June 1965, LTJG David M. Christian was the pilot of an A-4E on a mission over North Vietnam when the aircraft was hit and started to burn. Witnesses stated they thought LTJG Christian ejected, but there was no man-seat separation. An HU-16 found the wreckage, but no sign of a survivor. An article written by V. Sharapov published in Pravda on 11 October 1965 made mention of LTJG Christian's personal effects. LTJG Christian's remains were among the 21 sets repatriated by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1986.

1. On 26 January 2007, Analyst received an E-Mail note from League of Families (b)(6). In her note, (b)(6) provided details of a conversation with (b)(6) (b)(6) Route 66 in Flagstaff, Arizona (b)(6) (b)(6) and (b)(6) are apparently very interested in the Christian loss incident and used to wear a POW bracelet with his name on it. (b)(6) told (b)(6) that he once had a photo of LTJG Christian in captivity, but has lost it and wanted to obtain another. (b)(6) informed (b)(6) that she would forward his request to the Department of Defense for action.

2. Upon receipt of aforementioned E-Mail, Analyst reviewed DPMO's holdings on the Christian loss incident. Analyst found the Pravda article mentioned in background paragraph above, but no post-loss photos of LTJG Christian. Analyst also found several low-quality photos of aircraft wreckage with the digits "600?3" visible. The photos are actually photostatic copies of negatives. It is not known why these photos have been placed into LTJG Christian's file since they do not correlate to his loss incident; he was flying A-4E Bureau Number 151144. The wreckage depicted correlates to USAF Capt Vincent Connolly, RefNo 0511, whose RF-101C, Tail Number 56-0093, was shot down over North Vietnam on 4 November 1966.

3. After several unsuccessful attempts to reach (b)(6) Analyst made contact on 1 February 2007. (b)(6) appears to be a history buff with a particular interest in the Christian case. Analyst is unsure of his exact relationship with the Christian family, but apparently had some contact with them during the 70's or 80's. He made mention of Navy officials showing LTJG Christian's family a photograph of "David" helping another POW and claimed to have had a copy of the photo for a number of years, but has since lost it. (b)(6) (b)(6) asked Analyst for a copy of this photo to add to his

Christian collection. Analyst agreed to look into the matter and get back to him.

4. In an attempt to determine which photo (b)(6) was talking about, Analyst contacted Navy Casualty Office's (b)(6). He stated the Christian case was closed and they no longer maintained any records in-house. He was unable to provide any information on photos shown to the Christian family. Having made no progress, Analyst ran several queries of DPMO's Photo Storage and Retrieval System (PSRS) to see if any photos in the system had ever been correlated to LTJG Christian; none had. Analyst was, however, able to find a widely circulated photo taken during the Hanoi parade in July 1966 that showed USAF (b)(6) (RefNo 0058) supporting USAF Maj Albert Runyan (RefNo 0320). A copy of this photo was sent by E-Mail to (b)(6) via his daughter-in-law on 1 February.

5. During a follow-up call on 6 February, (b)(6) confirmed receipt of the photo and said it was the one he had seen before and misplaced. Analyst explained that the Hanoi parade was a very significant event and all participants have been positively identified; LTJG Christian was not one of the POWs. (b)(6) appears to have accepted Analyst's explanation, but expressed a desire to forward DPMO a pre-loss photo of LTJG Christian. Analyst agreed to review the material and incorporate pertinent portions into DPMO's casualty file. (b)(6) also requested Analyst provide him a copy of the Pravda article. A partial translation of the article (portion pertaining to LTJG Christian) was sent to him by E-Mail later in the day.

6. After closing the loop with (b)(6) Analyst contacted (b)(6) and (b)(6) & provided a brief summary of information gleaned and actions taken. No further action is expected.

(b)(6)

CC: Chrono, Christian (0092), Connolly (0511), (b)(6)  
Runyan (0320), ERO (PNOK).