

DIA EVALUATION OF PW/MIA INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY VIETNAMESE REFUGEE
SOURCE

SUMMARY: Mr. related in interview that he saw the shutdown and capture of a U.S. airman near Minh Duc village in the summer of 1972.

DETAILS: reports that he observed the shutdown and capture of a U.S. airman in the Minh Duc area, Thuy Nguyen District, Haiphong Municipality in the summer of 1972. The aircraft, flying to the rear of a flight of two, was hit by a surface-to-air missile (SAM) as it flew towards the ocean. The tail broke off the aircraft and one airman ejected. He was captured by militia from a nearby village. He was held for about two hours at the Minh Duc village headquarters. A command car from Thuy Nguyen District Headquarters arrived and took the airman towards Thuy Nguyen. Mr. believed the pilot's name may have been "Jon." He described the pilot as male Caucasian, 1.7 to 1.8 meters tall, slightly heavy build, not injured, and wearing a pilot's uniform. He heard from others the man may have been a Major or Lt. Colonel.

ANALYSIS: A computer-aided search of all incidents of aircraft loss within a circular area of radius of 30 kilometers from the reported down point reveals only one incident in 1972 that is compatible with the source's report.

On 24 May 1972, LT Carroll R. Beeler, USN was flying a MIGCAP mission in a flight of two about 20 kilometers southeast of Kep Airfield. As he was about to egress the area, his aircraft was struck by a SAM. Unable to control his aircraft, he ejected and landed in a rice paddy along his route. He was apprehended by armed people who had fired at him while he was still in the air. His shrapnel wounds were briefly treated in the village, then he was taken to a larger village where he remained for about two hours in a hut he took to be a church. The wounds were slight enough that he was able to walk about the villages. He was subsequently taken on to Hoa Lo prison in Hanoi. LT Beeler was released during Operation Homecoming in March 1973.

No incident of an airman with a name or part of a name similar to Jon or John is compatible with the other details of Mr. report.

EVALUATION: The source's report is correlated to the shutdown and capture of LT Carroll R. Beeler, USN. A copy of this report will be kept in the DIA data base for future reference.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 18 February 1987.

PRIORITY

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P 082122Z JUN 87 PSN 667464P33

FM USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

TO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//JASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

INFO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC//

CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI

JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

JCS WASHINGTON DC//JCJCS-PW-MIA/J5//

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI//DAAG PED H//

COMNAVMILPERSCOM WASHINGTON DC//N6400//

BT

//N03460//

SECTION 01 JF 02

SUBJ: PROPOSED TALKING POINTS FOR NEXT POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING

NSC FOR MR. CHILDRESS

A. SECDEF WASHINGTON DC 222317Z DEC 86

O. CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI 131900Z JAN 87

C. COMNAVMILPERSCOM WASHINGTON DC 182131Z MAR 87 (VJTAG)

D. CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI 212100Z MAY 87

1. REF A APPROVED THE AGENDA AND REF B DETAILED THE TALKING POINTS FOR THE NEXT POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING. SINCE THEN, SEVERAL ISSUES HAVE SURFACED WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE AS ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING. THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE SUBJECTS AND THE PROPOSED TALKING POINTS.

A. CRAIG CASE: IN NOVEMBER 1986, THE SRV REPATRIATED THE REMAINS OF COMMANDER PHILIP CRAIG. HIS REMAINS HAVE BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED. PER REF O, HIS NEXT OF KIN REQUESTED THAT JCRC ASK THE SRV FOR MORE DETAILS CONCERNING COMMANDER CRAIG'S RECOVERY. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINT IS PROPOSED: WHEN THE REMAINS OF COMMANDER PHILIP CRAIG WERE REPATRIATED LAST NOVEMBER, THE "PROCESS VERBAL" LISTED ONLY HIS NAME. HIS FAMILY HAS REQUESTED ANY DETAILS YOU CAN PROVIDE CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS RECOVERY. IN PARTICULAR, THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE PROVINCE WHERE HIS REMAINS WERE FOUND AND THE DATE OF THE RECOVERY EFFORT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN PROVIDE.

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B. TUCKER CASE: WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT DURING THE RECENT CHILDRESS DELEGATION VISIT, MRS. GRIFFITHS PASSED A LETTER FROM THE FAMILY OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EDWIN B. TUCKER WHICH ASKED FOR THE RESOLUTION OF HIS CASE. IN ORDER TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS ACTION, PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINT: DURING THE AUGUST 1984 TECHNICAL MEETING, WE DISCUSSED THE CASE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EDWIN B. TUCKER WHOSE F4C AIRCRAFT CRASHED ON 24 APRIL 1967. OTHER PILOTS IN HIS FLIGHT SAW HIM PARACHUTE FROM HIS AIRCRAFT, APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER SOUTHEAST OF A RAILROAD YARD IN HOA GAY CITY. NO RADIO CONTACT WITH COMMANDER TUCKER WAS ESTABLISHED. WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS ACCOUNTS WHICH STATE AN AMERICAN PILOT WAS CAPTURED NEAR HOA GAY CITY AND WAS TAKEN TO HOA GAY HOSPITAL WHERE HE SUBSEQUENTLY DIED OF HIS WOUNDS. THE ACCOUNTS FURTHER STATE THAT AFTER HIS DEATH HIS SKELETON WAS PREPARED AND USED AS A TEACHING AID IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF QUANG BINH PROVINCE IN HOA GAY CITY. THESE REPORTS WERE PROVIDED BY PERSONS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH EITHER THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OR THE HOSPITAL, AND WERE RECEIVED OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS. THE ACCOUNTS ARE CONSISTENT AS TO DETAILS AND DO NOT HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF STORIES MERELY CONCOCTED TO DISCREDIT YOUR GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE THE SKELETAL REMAINS REFERRED TO ARE THOSE OF COMMANDER TUCKER. DURING THE RECENT VISIT BY THE CHILDRESS DELEGATION, MRS. GRIFFITHS PASSED A LETTER FROM COMMANDER TUCKER'S FAMILY WHICH REQUESTED RESOLUTION OF HIS CASE. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION AT THIS TIME OR ANY MESSAGE WE CAN RELAY TO COMMANDER TUCKER'S FAMILY.

C. DO SON CRASH SITE: IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR EFFORTS LAST DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TO SET DATES FOR THE NEXT TECHNICAL MEETING, JCRC HAD REQUESTED THAT THE TECHNICAL TEAM BE PERMITTED TO SURVEY THE DO SON CRASH SITE SOUTH OF HAIPHONG DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE REQUEST TO VISIT THAT SITE BE REVIEWED IN THE NEXT TECHNICAL MEETING AND SUGGEST WE TRY TO ARRANGE FOR A TRIP TO BE CONDUCTED DURING THE FOLLOWING MEETING. PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS: IN AUGUST 1984, WE DISCUSSED CASE 1828 WHICH INVOLVED THE CRASH OF AN F105G FIGHTER AND THE LOSS OF TWO CREW MEMBERS, CAPTAIN ALLEN P. MATEJA AND CAPTAIN ORVIN C. JONES, JUVIOR. IN SEPTEMBER 1985, ^{Source} PRESENTED A WRITTEN AND AURAL ACCOUNT ABOUT THE CRASH SITE SOUTH OF HAIPHONG NEAR DO SON, WHICH YOU CORRELATED TO CASE 1828. IN THE FEBRUARY AND OCTOBER 1986 MEETINGS, WE REQUESTED TO VISIT THE SITE. WE ARE STILL INTERESTED IN A JOINT INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO ^{Source} REPORT, THE AIRCRAFT HAD CRASHED INTO A SANDBAR, SIX KILOMETERS FROM QUAN MAC HAMLET. IT HAS SINCE SUNK INTO THE SANDBAR. WE PROPOSE TO VISIT THIS SITE DURING THE NEXT TECHNICAL MEETING. WE WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW LOCAL WITNESSES AND ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE USING METAL DETECTORS. IF TIME PERMITS FOLLOWING THIS INVESTIGATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN

OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE HAIPHONG MUSEUM AND THE HAIPHONG EXHIBITION HALL WHERE WE UNDERSTAND THAT EXHIBITS RELATING TO THE WAR AND U.S. LOSSES ARE DISPLAYED.

D. REMAINS IDENTIFIED: POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION HAS NOW BEEN MADE ON THREE REMAINS REPATRIATED IN APRIL 1986 REPATRIATION AND TWO REMAINS RETURNED IN NOVEMBER 1986. WE WILL CHANGE THE PRESENT TALKING POINTS CONCERNING DAVID M. CHRISTIAN, THOMAS F. CASE AND HENRY S. MCWHORTER TO REFLECT THEIR STATUS AS POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING NEW TALKING POINTS CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATIONS OF PHILIP C. CRAIG AND RICHARD C. PERRY: TWO OF THE THREE REMAINS REPATRIATED ON 26 NOVEMBER 1986 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. THE REMAINS IN BOX 1 WERE RECEIVED AS PHILIP CHARLES CRAIG, AND THEY ARE THOSE OF COMMANDER PHILIP CHARLES CRAIG, CASE NO. 0751. COMMANDER CRAIG WAS LOST 4 JULY 1967 IN THAI BINH PROVINCE. THE REMAINS IN BOX 3 WERE RECEIVED AS RICHARD C. PERRY, AND THEY ARE THOSE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RICHARD C. PERRY, CASE NO. 0822. COMMANDER PERRY WAS LOST 31 AUGUST 1967 OFF THE COAST OF THAI BINH PROVINCE.

E. POWERS CASE: CILHI HAS IDENTIFIED THREE TEETH BELONGING TO CAPTAIN TRENT R. POWERS WHICH WERE COMINGLED WITH TWO OTHER AMERICAN REMAINS RETURNED DURING THE PAST TWO REPATRIATIONS. REF C RECOMMENDED PRESENTATION OF THIS CASE TO THE SRV. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINT IS PROPOSED: I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE REMAINS OF CAPTAIN TRENT R. POWERS, CASE NO. 0179. AS I TOLD YOU DURING OUR FEBRUARY 1986 MEETING, A TOOTH WAS SEGREGATED FROM THE PRINCIPAL REMAINS RECEIVED IN BOX 2 DURING THE 4 DECEMBER 1985 REPATRIATION. THE PRINCIPAL REMAINS IN BOX 2 WERE IDENTIFIED AS COLONEL ROBERT W. HAGERMAN, CASE NO. 0892. THIS SEGREGATED TOOTH WAS IDENTIFIED BY X-RAY COMPARISON AS BELONGING TO CAPTAIN POWERS. THE LOSS LOCATION OF COLONEL HAGERMAN IS APPROXIMATELY 19 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST FROM THE LOCATION WHERE CAPTAIN POWERS WAS LAST SEEN WAVING FROM HIS DEPLOYED PARACHUTE ON 31 OCTOBER 1965. ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1985, YOU TURNED OVER THE REMAINS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARTHUR L. WARREN, CASE NO. 0541. TWO TEETH WERE SEGREGATED FROM HIS REMAINS, AND THEY TOO WERE IDENTIFIED BY X-RAY COMPARISON AS BELONGING TO CAPTAIN POWERS. THE LOSS LOCATION OF COLONEL WARREN IS APPROXIMATELY 168 KILOMETERS WEST NORTHWEST FROM THE LAST BT

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