3-19-2019

Family Conference Report with Map

San Dewayne Francisco

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/sdfrancisco_documents

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/sdfrancisco_documents/95

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The San Dewayne Francisco Memorial Archives at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Documents by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@cwu.edu.
**FAMILY CONFERENCE**

### Case Summary Information:

- **Refno:** 1329  
- **Name:** FRANCISCO, SAN DEWAYNE  
- **Idate:** 1968/11/25  
- **Status:** XX  
- **Site:** 1  
- **BIO:** 01  
- **Service:** F  
- **LossRank:** 02  
- **Province:** QUANG BINH  
- **District:** BO TRACH  
- **Township:** THUONG TRACH  
- **Ctry:** VN

### Narrative:

On 25 November 1968, 1st Lt Francisco were flying an F4 in an area near the Lao border. SAR forces made voice contact with Francisco on 25 and 26 November and with 1st Lt Francisco on 25 November. SAR forces believed 1st Lt Francisco landed very close to enemy personnel and was detained shortly after the initial and inconclusive attempt to contact him. On 26 November, radio Hanoi announced the shootdown and said the pilot(s) had been captured. The same day an article in Nhan Dan also announced that the pilot(s) had been captured alive.

### U.S. Government Information:

- **WartimeLivesight:** N  
- **WartimeCrashGrave:** N  
- **DogtagRpts:** N  
- **UncorrelatedRpts:** N  
- **RemainsReportedPrior:** N  
- **SpecialReporting:** Y  
- **WartimeMediaRpts:** Y  
- **PostwarMediaRpts:** N  
- **SignifUsInfo:** Y

### Narrative:

- **SPECIAL REPORTING:** Reported that one pilot had been "picked up in Quang Binh this date. Discussed whether to transport him and another pilot captured the same day to Hanoi, raising the possibility of using an aircraft to move the pilot." (Note: the reference to the Quang Binh pilot relates to Case 1327 (Ruhling), who was transported by air.)

- **WARTIME MEDIA:** On 26 November the People's Army Newspaper carried an article congratulating the people of Quang Binh for shooting down an F4 on 25 November 1968. The article said the pilot(s) was/were captured alive. Hanoi broadcast also noted the downing, stating the pilot(s) was/were captured alive.

### U.S. Government Prior Unilateral Information:

- **VMPriorDiscCase:** Y  
- **VMPriorLKA:** PRGDIC  
- **VMPriCaseRec:** Smith625List  
- **LApriorLKA:** VesseyPhotoBook  
- **VMLABorderCases:** KerryPhotoBook  
- **CBPriorLKA:** LeMailBk  
- **SpecialRemains:** 58KnowledgeLA  
- **DRVdic:** AMGMar94List

Reviewed by DPMO  
IAW 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R  
Date: 11-Apr-2002 Initialed By: B. W.
FAMILY CONFERENCE

Joint Investigations Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Investigations</th>
<th>12.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JTF Witness</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs/Info Joint Invest</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Locations</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Narrative:
- 8/88, It 7: Team found the crashsite at XE 272185, just 200 meters west of the coordinates listed in U.S. records. There were no witnesses because local people had been evacuated during the war, and only PAVN troops, long since gone, were present. VNOSMP member Ngo Hoang said someone in Bo Trach had told him in 1988 that remains for one or two Americans were buried vicinity KM 55, Route 20, but team could find nothing about this.
- 1/91, It 13: Team was told VNOSMP had found information on this case indicating aircraft shot down by unit stationed near Cau Lang. Investigated KM 54 of Route 20, looking for alleged burial site; found nothing.
- 4-5/92, It 17: Visited Thuong Trach Village; no witnesses, no information.
- 1/94, PCIT investigation: Vietnamese said no more documentation was available. Said no individuals present at downing were in the province or available for interview. Interviews of authors of books about actions in this general area produced no information on this case.
- 5/95, Oral History Interview: Former VNA combat photographer Nguyen Huu Ngoi said he photographed the bodies of two American pilots whose aircraft had been downed by a unit of the 280th AAA Regiment. Ngoi said he learned right away when the 280th had downed an aircraft in the area of Kilometer 54, Route 20. He reached the incident site the next morning. At the scene troops and members of an assault youth group told him about the incident. Two pilots had ejected and landed two kilometers apart.

The first pilot, a 1st Lt, was captured almost immediately and had been wounded in the leg. He was being treated for his injury when a rocket from one of the SAR aircraft hit and killed him and a number of others. Buried the pilot about 15 meters to west of Route 20. Ngoi asked the soldiers to uncover the body so he could photograph it; uncovered face only, and he took picture. Body no longer intact.

The second pilot was a Lt Col. The body was approximately 2 kilometers northwest of the first in jungle so thick it had to be cut away to provide enough light for photography. Troops had found and surrounded him, but he had shot at them, and they had returned fire killing him. Ngoi saw the body lying on its back and took a couple of photographs. He did not observe the burial but assumed it took place. Ngoi speculated burial would have been on the spot since it would have been very difficult to move the body given the difficult terrain.

Ngai next went to the aircraft crashsite where he took photos of wreckage. He returned to unit headquarters and took photos of identification media that soldiers had taken from two bodies. He also took pictures of a large roll of film. He never saw the finished photos after turning them in and never returned to the Route 20 area. Nonetheless Ngoi believed he could point out the burial site and offered to help the team find graves.

Ngai identified additional possible witnesses: Mai Thanh Hai, former director of Vietnam News Agency in MR4; Lai Van Thanh aka Lam Thanh, former chief of Group 559 and vanguard cells of MR4; Nguyen Van Soan, member of Group 559 and vanguard cells; Bui Hoang Chung, former member of Quang Binh Vinh Linh cell (interviewed); Duong Duc Quang, former member of Quang Binh Vinh Linh cell.

- 10-11/95, Letters from photographer Nguyen Huu Ngoi: In two letters, Ngoi provided details of the burial locations. He explained that his medical problems prevented him from accompanying the team to the site at present. He repeated that the lieutenant was buried 15-20 meters west of Kilometer Marker 54. He said the lieutenant colonel (sic) died and was buried 20-25 meters from the aircraft on the left hand side; the crash was two kilometers from the Route 20 Kilometer 54 marker to the right from Xuan Son. He provided a sketch of the graves. His second letter placed grave on right side of aircraft.
- 11/94, Letter from Nguyen Huu Ngoi: Ngoi said he was gradually recovering and asked for a status update of this investigation. He said he would still like to help. He also said there was a marker stone at the crashsite and with patience, it could be found.

1/97, Oral History Interview: Tran Su said Mr. Lien might have information on wartime volunteer youth members who knew of U.S. burial sites.

5/97, It 46: Thanh Hoa Province task team leader reported that Mr. Ngoi's health was very poor, and he could not accompany the team to Quang Binh. If he recovered, the U.S. would be notified. The VNSOMP provided a written report to this effect.

5/97, Oral History Interview: Nguyen Cong Huan, current chief of staff of the Quang Binh Province youth association. Huan was too young to be a wartime participant in the volunteer youth. He said they did not keep regular records since they were not a regular unit. Huan suggested the following witnesses:

Vo Trong Bao (Vo Trong) Baof) Xuan Thuy Village, Le Thuy District;
Luong Thi Kim Tien (Luong Thii Kim Teens), Van Hoa Village, Tuyen Quang District;
Tran Van Xang (Traanf Vawn Xang)), Quang Trach Village, Bo Trach District;
Nguyen Thi Kim Cung (Kim Cungx), Bac Ly Ward, Dong Hoi Town;
Nguyen Thi Nay (Naayj), Quang Long Village, Quang Trach District;
Ngo Van Truyen (Ngoo Vawn Truyeen), Minh Hoa Village, Minh Hoa District;
Dau Viet Thau (Dacf Vieels Thasur), Nghia Ninh Village, Dong Hoi Town.

5/97, Oral History Interview: Dao Viet Thau was a former political officer for the 7th Company of volunteer youth. He described the organization of the volunteer youth and said that 19 companies comprised the Route 20 "construction site." Before November 1965, what became Route 20 was called the Route 16 site, encompassing Kim Thuy, Ngan Thuy, and Phu Thuy villages. In November 1965, he and the 7th company began work on the Route 20 site and stayed there until July 1967. They worked between km 17 and 54. The area was virtually unpopulated due to its remoteness and U.S. bombing. He described three downings during his tenure, two of which preceded the Case 1329 incident and one that occurred in 1972.

He named the following individuals as possible witnesses: Vo Trong Bao (Vo Trong) Baof) who served as the deputy chief of the Quang Binh youth association during July 1967 to September 1972; and Le Cong Thu (Lee Coong Thoj) former commander of the 7th volunteer youth company after Thau left and is a current resident of Dong My Ward, Dong Hoi Town; and Mr. Tho (Thoj) former commander of the 4th Quang Binh 12.7mm AAA company.

6/97, It 48 RIT: VNSOMP reported that the Vietnamese had interviewed Doan Duc Lien, but he had indicated he did not directly observe any crashsites.

5/98, It 50: While investigating another case (1816), team interviewed three former members of the volunteer youth: Nguyen Thi Nay served in the Route12/15 area, not Route 20. Team 732 aka C2, D73.
Tran Van Xang also served in the Route 12/15 area. Former commander Team 75. Said Luong Thi Kim Tien was from Team 73 and only worked a short stretch of road. Would not know anything about U.S. losses.
Nguyen Thi Kim Cung operated on Route 12A up until Feb 67, at which time moved to Ba Trai area south of Gianh Ferry. 68-72 in Quang Tri.

9/00, It 62. Joint team returned to survey the crashsite and search for the two graves. A Vietnamese team first swept the site with metal detectors and marked possible unexploded ordnance.

Dinh Nhok, previously interviewed in Iteration 7, said he observed a burning aircraft crash into the hills near where he was stationed. He did not visit the site until about one month later, and he had been there numerous times since. He never saw any remains.

The team searched the surface of the crashsite area, finding small pieces of unidentifiable wreckage. The area
FAMILY CONFERENCE

Case Releasable?

of old Route 20, which was used during wartime, was also searched. Vietnamese officials pointed out where they believed Kilometer Marker 54 had been located; it was now Kilometer Marker 51. Team found no signs of a burial, but did locate two large craters. The team thought these might have been the rocket strikes that reportedly killed one crewman. No signs of a burial site could be found nearby.

Team recommended searching again, spending one day near the road and a second near the crash site.

1/02, It 68: VNOSMP reported that Mr. Ngoi was in extremely poor health and would be unable to attend an interview or lead a team to the burial site.

Team could not fly to the site itself due to inclement weather.

Unilateral Information:

UnilInfo: Y CtryProvidedFilm: VN
CtryOfInfo: VN CtryProvidedRemains: NA
ValueofInfo: S SignifInfoUniAction: N

Narrative:
- PHOTOS: Numerous photos received on this case; most important showed intact remains. Another showed identification media for both men. Several photos were identified by the Vietnamese as showing the aircraft wreckage from this incident.

- MUSEUM: 280th Air Defense Museum had data plate with a receipt, both alleged to come from this incident. Pistol at this museum correlated to serial number. Also possible check list.

- MUSEUM: Central Army Museum in Hanoi had museum item receipt and data plate said to belong to aircraft shot down 23 November 1968 in western Quang Binh. Data plate is for F4–probably relates to Case 1327. Air Defense Museum has signal flare receipt for which identifies it with this aircraft.

2. Quang Binh list of U.S. casualties notes both men; says the bodies were buried at Kilometer 54, Route 20. 3. MR4 'Killed and Tomb Apart' roster says both remains obliterated, implying failure to recover the remains; should not be taken as a literal description.
4. 1978 central government list of remains not recovered says both men's graves were lost.

RECORDS: V95C388. Vietnamese reports on the 84 Special Remains Team Cases, provided to the U.S. on 13 May 1995. Report recommends determining unit and troops stationed in this area in 1968 and finding and interviewing retired militia members who have experience with Quang Binh and Bo Trach teams.

REPORT OF UNILATERAL INVESTIGATION, PROVIDED 24 JUNE 1996: VNOSMP noted that Mr. Ngoi had suffered a stroke and was half paralyzed. If they can organize and ensure safe passage for him, will try to get him to the site and help search for the graves. Said only military and youth assault teams were stationed in this area during the war. These units moved frequently, were replaced, or were subsequently dispersed. Many have died, and the youth assault groups have disbanded. Only with luck and time will witnesses be found.

22 OCT 96 MEETING WITH VNOSMP ON UNILATERAL REQUESTS: VNOSMP reported that in cases where they had been asked to search for veterans from the 280th Air Defense Regiment, including Case 1329, that the Vietnamese and the U.S. have attempted to locate records from this unit. VNOSMP had returned to the unit to search for more records but found nothing. VNOSMP recommended against returning to this unit but instead concentrate continued investigation in other areas.
FAMILY CONFERENCE

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY ARCHIVES: In 1999-2000, U.S. researchers reinventoried the photos of the Vietnam News Agency. They found seven photos related to this case, copies of the photos described above.

Knowledgeability Information:
- SeaCtryKnowLoss : Y
- WhichCtryKnew : VN
- MoreInfo : U

Narrative:
Vietnam has demonstrated extensive knowledge of this loss, but we have no evidence that officials recovered these men's remains.

Case Coordination Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chron</th>
<th>Re-Coordination</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A-JOINT SURVEY (XE278156 &amp; XE277173) (REAFFIRM)</td>
<td>2001/01/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A-JOINT SURVEY (REAFFIRM)</td>
<td>2000/03/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A-JOINT SURVEY CRASHSITE, RESCIND UW AND UA</td>
<td>1999/08/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PP-JTF ASSESSMENT</td>
<td>1999/03/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PP-PENDING REPORT ANALYSIS</td>
<td>1998/12/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>PP-50TH JFA</td>
<td>1998/04/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A-UNILATERAL WITNESS; UNILATERAL ARCHIVES (REAFFIRM BOTH)</td>
<td>1997/10/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A-UNILATERAL WITNESS; UNILATERAL ARCHIVES (REAFFIRMED; NGOI ASSIST WHEN RECOVERED)</td>
<td>1996/11/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>A-UNILATERAL WITNESS, UNILATERAL ARCHIVES (OB LEADS)</td>
<td>1996/02/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>A-JOINT ARCHIVES, UNILATERAL ARCHIVES, WITNESSES, REMAINS; VNA PHOTO</td>
<td>1995/04/27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future Pursuit Information:
- FurtherPursuitJust : Y
- CtryForUnilateralPursuit : NA
- PursueWho : J
- HowToUniat : NA
- CtryForJointPursuit : VN
- TypeOfUniatLeads : NA
- HowToJointPursue : JI
- KindOfUSPursuit : NA

Narrative:
**REAFFIRM JOINT INVESTIGATE:** Agree with the team's recommendation to return to the crashsite and the road and search again for the graves, devoting at least one day at each site. Determine the feasibility of excavating in and around the two craters on the road. According to Mr. Ngoi, the lieutenant was buried 15-20 meters west of Kilometer Marker 54, and the lieutenant colonel (sic) was buried 20-25 meters from the aircraft on the left hand side (?). He also said that there was a marker stone at the crashsite (presumably marking the grave) and with patience, it could be found. Of course, this stone could also have been moved by persons who recovered wreckage from the site.

**POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION IF WE CANNOT FIND THIS GRAVE:**

**JOINT WITNESSES:** Interview the following:
- Vo Trong Bao (Vox Trong Bao) who served as the deputy chief of the Quang Binh youth association during July 1967 to September 1972; Xuan Thuy Village, Le Thuy District;
- Le Cong Thu (Lee Coong Thus) who assumed command of the 7th volunteer youth company after Thau left and is a current resident of Dong My Ward, Dong Hoi Town.
- Mr. Tho (Tho) former commander of the 4th Quang Binh 12.7mm AAA company.
- Ngo Van Truyen (Ngoo Vawn Truyeen), Minh Hoa Village, Minh Hoa District;
- Mai Duy Phuc, working in the Long Dal lumber mill;

**UNILATERAL WITNESSES:** Determine unit and troops stationed in this area in 1968 and find military personnel who have experience in this area. Locate witnesses from BT14 and the 280th Air Defense Regiment.
## FAMILY CONFERENCE

### Future Pursuit Deferred Information:
- **WhyDeferPursuit**: NA
- **HowWhereOffScope**: NA
- **Narrative**: NA

### No Future Pursuit Information:
- **WhyNoFurther**: NA
- **PrevAttemptRecov**: NA
- **Narrative**: NA

---

Case Releasable? **No**