10-26-2000

Detailed Report of Investigation of Case 1329

San Dewayne Francisco

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

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/sdfrancisco_documents/97

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.
NARRATIVE MESSAGE

PRIORITY

P 262016Z OCT 00

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3//

TO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/ACS/BCTLIV//
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:ISA/DPMO//
CIA WASHINGTON DC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG/CI//
DIA WASHINGTON DC//CC//
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//JS//
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J32//

OB H HICKAM AFB HI//CH//
CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
AMEMBASSY HANOI//CJTFFA DET TWO//
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//
CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
SAFE WASHINGTON DC
CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//

UnCLAS //N03460//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTF-FA/-/OCT//

SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1329//

REF/A/RMG/CJTF-FA, HONOLULU HI/261900ZOCT00//
REF/B/RMG/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH/230946ZAUG89//
REF/C/RMG/CJTF-FA, HONOLULU HI/101112ZMAR93//
REF/D/RMG/CJTF-FA, HONOLULU HI/270922JUN95//
REF/E/DOC/1:50,000 SCALE MAP SHEET//

RMKS/1. REFERENCES.

A. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 62ND JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY
(JFA) CONDUCTED IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) FROM 28 AUGUST
B. REF B IS THE 7TH JFA DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE
1329 CONDUCTED IN THE SRV FROM 31 JULY THROUGH 19 AUGUST 1989.
C. REF C IS THE ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION OBTAINED
FROM THE CENTRAL ARMY MUSEUM IN HANOI CONCERNING REPNO 1329.
D. REF D IS THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM REPORT OF MR. NGUYEN HUU NGOI.
E. MAP DATA: NAME: BAN KARAI; SHEET: 6243 IV; SERIES: L7014;
F. COMMENTS IN THIS REPORT ARE BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS AND ARE NOT
ENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.
2. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION.
   A. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: CASE 1329 INVOLVES THE 25 NOVEMBER 1968 LOSS OF AN F-4D AIRCRAFT WHILE ON A RECONNAISSANCE-ESCORT MISSION, RESULTING IN TWO UNACCOUNTED-FOR INDIVIDUALS.
   B. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION: ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2000, INVESTIGATION ELEMENT ONE (IE1) INVESTIGATED CASE 1329 IN RAO BUT HAMLET, THUONG TRACH VILLAGE, BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, SRV. IE1 INTERVIEWED ONE WITNESS WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION POSSIBLY CORRELATING TO CASE 1329. IE1 CONDUCTED A SURFACE AREA SEARCH OF THE CRASH SITE AREA WHICH PRODUCED SMALL PIECES OF UNIDENTIFIABLE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. IE1 ALSO SEARCHED IN THE VICINITY OF KILOMETER MARKER 54 ON ROUTE 20, BUT FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF A BURIAL SITE.
   C. REMAINS/PERSOAL EFFECTS: IE1 DID NOT RECOVER OR RECEIVE ANY REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WHILE INVESTIGATING CASE 1329.
   D. RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION.
   A. PURPOSE:
      (1) CONFIRM AND SURVEY CRASH SITE VICINITY 48Q XE 270 185 TO CONFIRM ANY UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) THREAT WITHIN THE CRASH SITE AND ADJACENT AREAS (ACCOMPLISHED; SEE PARA 3.F., BELOW).
      (2) RE-INTERVIEW MR. DINH NGHEO AND MR. DINH CHOT (ACCOMPLISHED; SEE PARA 3.E., BELOW).
      (3) IDENTIFY LOCATION OF KILOMETER MARKER 54 DURING THE WAR IN VICINITY OF 48Q XE 279 157 (ACCOMPLISHED; SEE PARA 3.G., BELOW).
   B. ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2000, THE JOINT U.S./SRV INVESTIGATION TEAM ARRIVED IN DONG HOI CITY, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, TO INVESTIGATE THREE CASES.
   C. TEAM COMPOSITION:
      (1) U.S. CONTINGENT:
      TEAM LEADER
      ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER
      ANALYST/LINGUIST
      ANALYST/LINGUIST
      ANALYST
      ANALYST/LINGUIST
      ANALYST
      LIFE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN
      EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL SPECIALIST
      (2) VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT:
      TEAM LEADER
      SPECIALIST
      SPECIALIST
      SPECIALIST
      SPECIALIST
      SPECIALIST
      SPECIALIST
      TEAM LEADER
      TEAM MEMBER
      TEAM MEMBER

/07034/ /300 2 AMA 0052 301/07:56Z
CSN:DRI1329 301/08:06Z
VSEP00 /
NGUYEN DUC THAI (NGUYENX DWCS THAIS) TEAM MEMBER
DANG VAN GIAN (DAWNJ VAWN GIANR) TEAM MEMBER
(4) BO TRACH (BOOS TRACHJ) DISTRICT OFFICIALS:
PHAN VAN HIEN (PHAN VAWN HIEENS) TEAM LEADER
PHAN MINH HOAN (PHAN MINH HOANF) TEAM MEMBER
TRAN MANH NGOC (TRAAANF MANHJ NGOCJ) TEAM MEMBER
(5) CA ROONG (CAF ROONGF) BORDER DEFENSE POST OFFICIALS:
LE VAN SON (LEE VAWN SOWN) GUARD
TRUONG NGOC DAP (TRWONG NGOCJ DAPS) GUARD
NGUYEN VAN LUONG (NGUYEENX VAWN LWONG) GUARD
TRAN XUAN QUY (TRAANF XUAAN QUYS) GUARD
(6) THUONG TRACH (THWONGJ TRACHJ) VILLAGE OFFICIALS:
QUOCH TAM (QUOCHS TAAM) TEAM LEADER
DINH HOP (DINH HOWPJ) TEAM MEMBER

D. ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2000, THE JOINT TEAM MET WITH THE QUANG BINH
PROVINCE TEAM TO DISCUSS THE INVESTIGATION PLAN. THE PROVINCE TEAM LEADER
INFORMED IEI THAT ONE OF THE WITNESSES IN THE LEAD, MR. DINH NHOT (DINH
NHOOTS), IS DECEASED. THEY ALSO STATED THAT THE NAME OF MR. DINH CHOT (DINH
CHOTTS) IS ACTUALLY DINH NHOT (DINH NHOOTS). ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2000, A
VIETNAMESE BOMB DISPOSAL TEAM SWEPT THE SITE WITH METAL DETECTORS AND
MARKED POSSIBLE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO).

E. ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2000, IEI FLEW BY HELICOPTER FOR 30 MINUTES TO A
LANDING ZONE (LZ) LOCATED AT GRID COORDINATES 48Q XE 276 178, THEN WALKED
30 MINUTES TO THE ALLEGED CRASH SITE LOCATED AT GRID COORDINATES 48Q XE
9 1821. AT THE SITE, IEI INTERVIEWED ONE WITNESS AND OBTAINED THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) WITNESS NAME: DINH NHOT (DINH NHOOTS).
(2) AGE: 55 YOA.
(3) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: RAO BUT (RAOS BUTJ)
HAMLET, THUONG TRACH (THWONGJ TRACHJ) VILLAGE, BO TRACH (BOOS TRACHJ)
DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE; 20 YEARS.
(4) CURRENT OCCUPATION: WOODCUTTER.
(5) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: UNDETERMINED AREA IN MOUNTAINS
IN THE VICINITY OF RAO BUT VILLAGE.
(6) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: LOCAL MILITIA.
(7) BACKGROUND: A JOINT TEAM HAD PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED MR. NHOT
DURING THE 7TH JFA (REF B).
(8) STATEMENT:

(A) ON AN UNRECALLED DATE DURING THE WAR, MR. NHOT SAW A BURNING
AIRCRAFT CRASH INTO THE HILLS NEAR WHERE HE WAS STATIONED. HE DID NOT KNOW
WHY THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED BUT ASSUMED IT WAS SHOT DOWN. APPROXIMATELY ONE
MONTH AFTER THE INCIDENT, MR. NHOT FIRST VISITED THE SITE, AND HE HAS
RETURNED NUMEROUS TIMES. HE SAW A LARGE TAIL SECTION, LARGE PIECES OF
WRECKAGE, AND A NUMBER (NFI) OF CLUSTER BOMB UNITS (CBUS). HE TOOK ALUMINUM
FROM THE SITE, BUT HE NO LONGER HAS IT. HE DID NOT KNOW THE TYPE OF
AIRCRAFT. HE IDENTIFIED A PICTURE OF THE CRASH FROM AN ARCHIVED PICTURE OF
A VIETNAMESE MAN STANDING NEXT TO THE TAIL SECTION OF A CRASHED AIRCRAFT
(REF C) AS BEING IDENTICAL TO WHAT HE SAW ON HIS INITIAL VISIT.

(B) MR. NHOT SAW AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF GREEN PARACHUTE
Eerial scattered throughout the site. HE ALSO SAW A WRISTWATCH LOCATED

/07034/ /300 3 AMA 0052 301/07:56Z
CSN:DRI1329 301/08:07Z
VSEP00 /
APPROXIMATELY ONE METER FROM WHERE HE BELIEVES THE COCKPIT AREA MAY HAVE BEEN. HE LEFT THE WATCH AT THE SITE. HE HAS NEVER SEEN ANY REMAINS AT THE SITE AND HAS NEVER HEARD OF ANY REMAINS AT THE SITE. HE DID NOT KNOW THE DISPOSITION OF THE PILOTS.

(C) MR. NHOT KNEW OF ONLY ONE OTHER CRASH SITE AND HAD ALREADY LED A JOINT TEAM TO THIS SITE DURING THE 7TH JFA (REF B).

(D) MR. NHOT DID NOT KNOW OF ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS, PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS, OTHER AIRCRAFT CRASH SITES, AMERICAN GRAVE SITES, OR AMERICANS WHO REMAINED IN VIETNAM AFTER 1975.

F. FOLLOWING THE INTERVIEW IE1 SPLIT INTO TWO SUB-ELEMENTS. SUB-ELEMENT ONE CONDUCTED A SURFACE AREA SEARCH OF THE CRASH SITE, FINDING SMALL PIECES OF UNIDENTIFIABLE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE.


4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE.
   A. MATERIAL EVIDENCE RETAINED BY JTF-PA: NONE.
   B. MATERIAL EVIDENCE PHOTOGRAPHED AND LEFT IN PLACE: NONE.
   C. REMAINS: NONE.

5. SITE SURVEY RESULTS. ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2000, IE1 SURVEYED ONE CRASH SITE POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1329.
   A. AREA DATA:
      (1) PROVINCE: QUANG BINH.
      (2) DISTRICT: BO TRACH.
      (3) VILLAGE/TOWN/CITY: RAO BUT HAMLET, THUONG TRACH VILLAGE.
(4) VICINITY GRID COORDINATES: 48Q XE 2729 1821, DETERMINED USING A GARMIN III PLUS GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) RECEIVER, TRACKING FOUR SATELLITES, USING DATUM XXX, CUSTOM WGS-84, PLUS 355 PLUS 048 PLUS 290, MAPPING DATUM.

B. MAP DATA:
   (1) MAP NAME: BAN KARAI.
   (2) MAP SHEET: 6243 IV.
   (3) MAP SERIES: L7014.
   (4) MAP EDITION: 5-USARPAC, 1971.

C. SITE ACCESSIBILITY: 30-MINUTE HELICOPTER FLIGHT FROM DONG HOI TOWN, QUANG Binh PROVINCE, FOLLOWED BY A 30-MINUTE WALK TO THE CRASH SITE.

D. SITE DESCRIPTION:
   (1) TYPE OF SITE: CRASH SITE.
   (2) DIMENSIONS: 20 BY 30 METERS.
   (3) SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:
      (A) DISTANCE TO NEAREST ROAD: TWO KILOMETERS.
      (B) NEAREST POPULATED AREA:
         ((1)) NAME: RAO BUT HAMLET.
         ((2)) DISTANCE FROM SITE: 300 METERS.
         ((3)) ESTIMATED AVAILABLE LABORERS: 100.
      (C) SITE SENSITIVITY: NONE.
      (D) MAJOR TERRAIN FEATURES: AN APPROXIMATELY TWO-METER-WIDE STREAM RUNS THROUGH THE SITE FROM THE EAST SIDE TO THE SOUTH SIDE.

E. LANDING ZONE (LZ) RECOMMENDATION: 48Q XE 275 178.

F. BASE CAMP RECOMMENDATION: 48Q XE 269 180.

G. REMAINS FOUND AT SITE: NONE.

H. ESTIMATED EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS:
   (1) NUMBER OF DAYS: 30.
   (2) NUMBER OF WORKERS: 30-50.
   (3) SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: WATER PUMPS AND SANDBAGS. A RECOVERY TEAM MAY HAVE TO DIVERT OR DAM THE STREAM EITHER FOR WET-SCREENING OR MERELY TO RE-RUOTE THE STREAM.

I. WATER SOURCE:
   (1) DISTANCE FROM SITE: AN APPROXIMATELY TWO-METER-WIDE STREAM RUNS THROUGH THE SITE.
   (2) WET SCREENING SUPPORTABLE: YES.

J. TERRAIN AND WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS:
   (1) EFFECT OF WEATHER: THE STREAM MAY FLOOD DURING THE MONSOON SEASON.
   (2) SLOPE: 10 PERCENT.
   (3) VEGETATION: ELEPHANT GRASS WITH SOME SMALL HARDWOOD TREES AND BAMBOO.
   (4) SOIL: SANDY CLAY.

K. SAFETY:
   (1) EOD HAZARD: THE AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTEDLY CARRYING CLUSTER BOMB MUNITIONS.
   (2) TERRAIN: STEPS AND HANDRAILS ARE NEEDED TO SAFELY TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL FROM THE LZ TO THE CRASH SITE.
   (3) WILDLIFE: BEES AND LEECHES.
6. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES. NONE.

7. ANALYST COMMENTS.
   A. WITNESS STATEMENT: CREDIBLE AND RELIABLE. ALTHOUGH MR. NHOT WAS
      UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY SOLID DATES, HE DID NOT HESITATE TO POINT OUT AREAS AT
      THE SITE WHERE HE HAD SEEN PARACHUTE MATERIAL AND A WATCH. HE ALSO VERY
      OBVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED AN ARCHIVED PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CRASH SITE (REF C) THAT
      HAD BEEN PHOTOCOPIED AT THE CENTRAL ARMY MUSEUM, HANOI.
   B. CORRELATION: THE CRASH SITE CORRELATES WITH CASE 1329 BASED ON
      LOCATION. THE TWO CRATERS FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF 48Q XE 278 155
      CORRELATE TO THE ROCKET STRIKES THAT REPORTEDLY (REF D) KILLED ONE OF THE
      PILOTS. THERE WERE NO MOUNDS AT THE LOCATION, ONLY CRATERS.
   C. LIFE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN COMMENTS: AT THE CRASH SITE THERE WERE
      NUMEROUS SMALL PIECES OF UNIDENTIFIABLE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. IE1 FOUND NO
      LIFE SUPPORT OR PERSONAL EFFECTS. THE WRECKAGE CANNOT BE CORRELATED TO
      ANY TYPE OF AIRCRAFT OR CASE.
   D. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL SPECIALIST COMMENTS: IE1 DISCOVERED
      ONE NON-EXPLOSIVE PIECE OF AN AIM-9 MISSILE WARHEAD. IE1 FOUND NO ORDNANCE
      TO INDICATE THE AIRCRAFT WAS CARRYING ANY SUU-30 DISPENSERS OR BLU-26
      SUB-MUNITIONS, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

8. TEAM LEADER COMMENTS.
   A. THIS CASE SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED ON TWO SEPARATE DAYS. ONE DAY
      TO INVESTIGATE THE BURIAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRASH SITE. A SECOND DAY
      INVESTIGATE THE BURIAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE KILOMETER MARKER.
   B. HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION/SUPPORT: DURING THIS INVESTIGATION,
      THE U.S. CONTINGENT RECEIVED GOOD SUPPORT FROM ALL LEVELS OF THE
      VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

9. RECOMMENDATION. CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE.

10. DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S COMMENTS. NONE.

/07034/  /300  6  AMA 0052  301/07:56Z
CSN: DRI1329  301/08:07Z
VSEP00 /