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Status Review in the Case of Captain San D. Francisco

San Dewayne Francisco

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

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DPMC

SUBJECT: Status Review in the Case of Captain San D. Francisco, XXXXXXX/FV

TO: HQ USAF/DPM

1. Preface: A status review in the above case was held in accordance with Chapter 10, Title 37, United States Code, by the undersigned at the Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In determining whether the missing in action status should reasonably be continued or terminated by a determination 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 Captain San D. Francisco, XXXX XXX/FV, 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. Captain Francisco was selected for promotion to the grade of major. 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.

Bernard W. Boshowen, Col USAF
Reviewing Officer

Jack H. Tomes, Col USAF
Reviewing Officer

Joseph L. Wejroch, Jr., Col USAF
Reviewing Officer
SUMMARY OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

CAPTAIN SAN D. FRANCISCO, 535-38-5087FV

1. Colonel Joseph C. Morrison, aircraft commander, and
   Captain San D. Francisco, pilot, comprised the crew of an
   F-4D aircraft that departed Udorn Airfield, Thailand, at
   1156, 25 November 1968, to escort an RF-4C aircraft on a
   photographic reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam.
   There was almost a solid overcast with cloud bases at 3,000
   feet and tops at 5,000 feet. Visibility was about five
   miles. At about 1245, when they were approximately 28
   miles west-southwest of Dong Hoi, North Vietnam, one of the
   crew members of the escort aircraft reported it had been hit.
   The RF-4C climbed to altitude where the aircraft commander
   notified the Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center
   (ABCCC) that his escort aircraft had been shot down and they
   alerted Search and Rescue (SAR) forces. The RF-4C crewmen
   observed no ejections nor did they establish radio contact
   with the F-4D crew; however, beeper signals were heard.
   Shortly thereafter, radio contact with Colonel Morrison was
   established. He reported that he was all right. Colonel
   Morrison's location and his parachute were spotted near the
   wreckage of his burning aircraft within 700 yards of an
   enemy encampment, about 25 miles west-southwest of Dong Hoi.
   No signs of Captain Francisco were observed; however, two
   responses were received to calls placed to him. The responses
   were extremely garbled and could not be positively identified
   as having been transmitted by Captain Francisco. Heavy
   ground fire and darkness prevented an attempt to rescue
   Colonel Morrison. At first light on 26 November 1968, voice
   contact was again established with Colonel Morrison and he
   stated he was all right, but no contact was made with Captain
   Francisco. Dense cloud coverage prevented any attempt to
   rescue Colonel Morrison at the time of contact. Later, when
   the weather improved, radio contact could not be re-established
   with him. The search was terminated at 1130, 26 November 1968,
   when further efforts to contact the officers failed and the
   weather again deteriorated. On the same day, the North
   Vietnamese claimed, in radio and newspaper reports, that an
   F-4C was shot down over Quang Binh Province on 25 November
   1968, and the pilots captured. Although no names were men­
   tioned, the date, type of aircraft, and location coincide with
   the incident involving Colonel Morrison and Captain Francisco.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Section 555, Title 37, USC, Colonel Morrison and Captain Francisco were continued in a missing status at the expiration of the initial 12-month period of absence.

3. On 6 November 1970, in a letter to Mrs. Cora Weiss of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, Mr. Tran Trong Quat, a member of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People whose official standing in the North Vietnamese government has been acknowledged by the US Department of State, stated Colonel Morrison had never been captured in North Vietnam. On 10 December 1970, Captain Francisco's wife and parents received telegrams from Olaf Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, stating that Captain Francisco had never been captured by the North Vietnamese.

4. No official accounting for Captain Francisco was ever received from the North Vietnamese government or its allies, and his name never appeared in the prisoner communication channels which proved to be reliable. In addition, no further information pertaining to him has ever been obtained from any other source.