

**Historical Report: Last Known Alive (LKA) Case 1998  
Tang Island, Kho Kong Province  
Kingdom of Cambodia**



By

(b)(6)

**Asia-Pacific Directorate  
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
590 Moffet Street, Bldg 4077  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853-5530**

**19 September 2016**

**Historical Report: LKA Case 1998  
Tang Island, Koh Kong Province  
Kingdom of Cambodia**

**Asia-Pacific Directorate  
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency  
19 September 2016**

**INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED**

Name	Social Security Number	Rank	Posthumous Rank	Branch of Service	Date of Loss	Status
HALL, Gary L.	402-88-8873	PFC	LCpl	USMC	15 May 1975	MIA
HARGROVE, Joseph N.	243-88-5570	LCpl	Cpl	USMC	15 May 1975	MIA
MARSHALL, Danny G.	234-92-8919	Pvt	PFC	USMC	15 May 1975	MIA

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND\***

On 15 May 1975, Private First Class (PFC) Gary L. HALL [Gunner], Lance Corporal (LCpl) Joseph N. HARGROVE [Assistant Gunner], and Private (Pvt) Danny G. MARSHALL [Ammunition Carrier], were a M-60 Machine Gun Team as part of a Marine Force making a helicopter-borne assault on Koh (Cambodian word for island) Tang, Cambodia (vicinity of grid coordinates [GC] 48P TS 960 400; Indian 1960 datum).<sup>1</sup> At approximately 1900 hours the order was given to pull back to the beach to set up a new defensive position. The Marines left their initial position and started back for the beach to await extraction. PFC HALL was last seen on the beach, however, Pvt MARSHALL and LCpl HARGROVE were not seen at that time. At 2200 hours, the unit determined that these three individuals were missing. Due to the hostile situation on the island, the Marines could not return to search for them.

Subsequent to the incident, and while carried in the status of missing-in-action (MIA), the U.S. Marine Corps promoted PFC HALL<sup>2</sup> LCpl HARGROVE<sup>3</sup> and Pvt MARSHALL,<sup>4</sup> to the rank of LCpl, Corporal (Cpl), and PFC respectively.

\* The historical background and investigation sections were compiled, unless otherwise noted, from information owned and published by the Department of Defense.

<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Unless otherwise stipulated, all Military Grid Reference System (MGRS) grid coordinates references in this document are the Indian 1960 Datum (ING-A).

<sup>2</sup> DD Form 1300 Report of Casualty, HALL, dated 28 JUL 1976.

<sup>3</sup> DD Form 1300 Report of Casualty, HARGROVE, dated 27 JUL 1976.

<sup>4</sup> DD Form 1300 Report of Casualty, MARSHALL, dated 26 JUL 1976.

## INVESTIGATIONS

From 6 through 14 December 1992 during Joint Field Activity (JFA) 93-2CB, a joint U.S./Kingdom of Cambodia (K.O.C.) team investigated Case 1998 on Tang Island. The team recovered possible human remains, but they were unable to obtain any information to help resolve this incident.<sup>5</sup> On 21 December 1992, the U.S. Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) received the remains and accessioned them as CILHI 219-1992. Subsequently, these remains exclusively correlated to Resolved Case 2003.<sup>6</sup>

On 10 February 1993 during JFA 93-3CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team returned to Tang Island to investigate Case 1998. Upon the team's arrival, local officials informed the team of a cave that had not been explored during the previous investigation. The Tang Island Naval Forces led the team to the cave located on the southern tip of the island (vicinity of (b)(5); (b)(6)). The team surveyed both in and around the cave with negative results. The Team Leader interviewed the local naval personnel at the site, but none of them could provide any information concerning this incident.<sup>7</sup>

From 4 through 14 November 1995 during JFA 96-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team surveyed another isolated burial site (b)(5); (b)(6) reportedly associated with Case 1998 on Tang Island. According to witness testimony remains were buried in a trash pit adjacent to an old well. The team encountered high waters while trenching and discontinued the survey. The team found two portions of possible helicopter seat belt, but did not recover any human remains or personal effects. The team recommended this site for excavation.<sup>8</sup>

From 20 to 27 April 1996 during JFA 96-3CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team interviewed two witnesses concerning Case 1998 on Tang Island. The team provided the witnesses with aerial photographs of the area, but due to the change in terrain they were unable to pinpoint the exact location of the alleged burial site. On 30 April 1996, a third witness pointed out another possible burial location. On 9 May 1996, the team traveled to the possible burial location (b)(5); (b)(6) identified by Witness Three and the two locations identified by Witness One in the vicinity of GC (b)(5); (b)(6). The team dug three test pits yielding no physical evidence, human remains, or personal effects.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Message CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 180307Z DEC 92; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation: Case 1998. (Hall, Hargrove, Marshall) Incident Location Grid 48PTS960400, Tang Island, Kampong Saom Province, Cambodia.*

<sup>6</sup> DPAA Centralized Accounting Repository and Information System (CARIS 7.1.21).

<sup>7</sup> Message CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 220705Z FEB 93; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation: Case 1998. (Hall, Hargrove, Marshall) Incident Location Grid 48PTS960400, Tang Island, Kampong Saom Province, Cambodia.*

<sup>8</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 051733Z DEC 95; Subject: *Additional Information Report* and Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 051734Z DEC 95; Subject: *Additional Information Report.*

<sup>9</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 051751Z JUN 96; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation for Case 1998.*



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From 20 April through 11 May 1996 during JFA 96-3CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team excavated the reported burial site in the vicinity of (b)(5); (b)(6) on Tang Island with negative results. The Team Anthropologist closed the site on 9 May 1996.<sup>10</sup>

From 14 to 20 September 1996, the K.O.C. POW/MIA Committee team unilaterally interviewed three witnesses concerning LKA Case 1998 in Koh Kong, Kampot and Sihanoukville Provinces. (b)(6) reportedly buried the remains of an American on the western side of Tang Island. (b)(6) reported he saw the remains of two Americans on the western side of the island and took personal effects from them, which were later lost. (b)(6) provided information regarding the alleged capture of four Americans on Tang Island and sent them to Ream on the Cambodian mainland.<sup>11</sup>

From 19 to 21 February 1997, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team re-interviewed (b)(6) concerning LKA Case 1998 on Tang Island. He pointed out areas where he allegedly saw American bodies. (b)(6) also told the team that four of the Americans had been captured and moved to the mainland. The team continued the investigation on the mainland at a coconut plantation where the captured Americans were allegedly held with negative results. He provided additional names of potential witnesses to the incident and the alleged capture and movement of the Americans.<sup>12</sup>

From 1 to 3 October 1997 the K.O.C. POW/MIA committee unilaterally interviewed three witnesses concerning LKA Case 1998 in Srok (Cambodian word for district) Tram Kak, Takeo Province with negative results. From 4 October – 24 November a joint U.S./K.O.C. team interviewed several witnesses to included (b)(6) who provided a sketch map showing an alleged burial site of two Americans on the mainland. The witnesses led the team to the reported site (vicinity of GC 48P US 557 704). The team dug a test pit and found one green button and an expended ammunition round. A second witness led the team to a possible burial site at (b)(5); (b)(6). The team recommended the site at (b)(5); (b)(6) (b)(5) for excavation.<sup>13</sup>

From 12 January through 14 February 1998 during JFA 98-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team excavated the LKA Case 1998 alleged burial site (b)(5); (b)(6) in Sihanoukville District, Kampong Som Province with negative results. The team re-interviewed (b)(6)

<sup>10</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 051800Z JUN 96; Subject: *Detailed Search and Recovery Report of Case 1998.*

<sup>11</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 040722 MAR 97; Subject: *Cambodia Unilateral Investigation of Priority Case 1998.*

<sup>12</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 011715Z APR 97; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Priority Case 1998.*

<sup>13</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 091713Z JAN 98; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Priority Case 1998 and Cases 2002, 2003 and 2038.*

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who verified the site location, but was not able to provide additional information. On 5 February 1998, the Recovery Leader closed the site.<sup>14</sup>

From 23 March through 4 April 1999 during JFA 99-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team excavated another two burial sites possibly associated with LKA Case 1998 in Kampong Som District, Koh Kong Province. The sites were designated 1998A and 1998B. The Recovery Leader/ Anthropologist closed site 1998A on 29 March 1999. The team suspended operations at 1998B on 4 April 1999 because the team needed special equipment to excavating this wet site. The team recovered possible human remains at site 1998A and site 1998B, and recovered possible material evidence at site 1998A. The Recovery Leader/Anthropologist recommended further excavation of Site 1998B.<sup>15</sup> On 12 April 1999, the CILHI received the possible human remains and assigned them accession number 1999-036. Subsequently on 29 October 2012, the Laboratory determined the remains were faunal in origin.<sup>16</sup>

On 20 and 28 January 2000, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team interviewed (b)(6) in Phnom Penh concerning LKA Case 1998. The team also interviewed (b)(6) and surveyed three possible burial sites associated with the four cases on Tang Island. Site One possibly correlated to LKA Case 1998.<sup>17</sup>

On 16 and 17 November 2000 a joint U.S./K.O.C. team investigated LKA Case 1998 in Sihanoukville, Kampong Som Province and on Tang Island. The team re-interviewed (b)(6) who provided collaborating information concerning the incident. The team resurveyed an alleged burial site, which possibly correlated to another Tang Island case and resurveyed a previously identified LKA Case 1998 alleged burial site. (b)(6) recanted a previous statement concerning the transfer of two Americans possibly associated with this incident from Tang Island and their subsequent execution on the mainland.<sup>18</sup>

On 11 and 12 January 2001 during JFA 00-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team investigated LKA Case 1998 in Phnom Penh and on Tang Island. The team re-interviewed (b)(6) who provided detailed information regarding the alleged killing and subsequent burial of a U.S. serviceman, as well as the alleged sighting of the body of a U.S. serviceman, both on Tang Island. The team went back to Tang Island and surveyed an alleged burial site possibly

<sup>14</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 231739Z MAR 98; Subject: *Detailed Report of Excavation of Case 1998.*

<sup>15</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 071815Z MAY 99; Subject: *Detailed Report of Excavation of Priority Case 1998.*

<sup>16</sup> DPAA Centralized Accounting Repository and Information System (CARIS 7.1.21).

<sup>17</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 141920Z APR 00; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Priority Case 1998.*

<sup>18</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 042018Z JAN 01; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Priority Case 1998.*



correlating to this case, as well as the site of the alleged body sighting possibly correlating to another Tang island case.<sup>19</sup>

From 11 through 28 January 2001 during JFA 01-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C team excavated a reported burial location area (Site 1998/2003F) associated with either Priority Case 1998 or Case 2003 on Tang Island with negative results. On 28 January 2001, the RL closed the site and did not recommend it for further excavation.<sup>20</sup>

From 2 December through 4 December 2001, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team excavated the location (Site 1998B) where the remains of an American servicemen were purportedly deposited in the vicinity of Sihanoukville. On 4 December 2001, the RL closed the site and recommended no further excavation.<sup>21</sup>

On 5 and 9 October 2002 during the 28th (limited) JFA 03-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team interviewed (b)(6) concerning LKA Case 1998 in Sihanoukville, Koh Kong and Takeo Provinces. They provided information correlating to LKA Case 1998.<sup>22</sup>

On 8 February 2003, during the 29th (JFA), a joint U.S./K.O.C. team re-interviewed 7 of the 11 requested witnesses (b)(6) concerning LKA Case 1998 in Sihanoukville and Tang Island. (b)(6) and (b)(6) were not on the island until several months after the battle. In September 1975, they went to replace the soldiers on the island and they came across three American bodies near a 15 X-5-meter area (b)(5); (b)(6) located near a rock outcropping adjacent to a stand of bamboo trees to the north of the island. Team members noted one other rock outcropping-bamboo grove to the west that was similar to the original site. However, witnesses felt they had located the correct site (b)(5); (b)(6) (b)(6) guided the team to a second vague location (200m radius) where a body was buried near a stream. (b)(6) was able to identify the small stream (b)(5); (b)(6) but unable to pinpoint the burial site.<sup>23</sup>

On 10 September 2006, during the 36th JFA (06 3CB), a joint U.S./K.O.C. team interviewed fourteen witnesses concerning LKA Case 1998 in Sihanoukville City. The witnesses provided information on a few possible burial and remains locations on Tang Island.

<sup>19</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 251934Z APR 01; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Priority Case 1998.*

<sup>20</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 251918Z APR 01; Subject: *Detailed Report of Excavation of Priority Case 1998 (Site 1998/2003F).*

<sup>21</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 200702Z DEC 01; Subject: *Detailed Report of Excavation of Priority Case 1998.*

<sup>22</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 071022Z NOV 02; Subject: *Detailed Report of Excavation of Priority Case 1998 Conducted during the 28th Joint Field Activity in the Kingdom of Cambodia.*

<sup>23</sup> Message CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 100922Z MAR 03; Subject: *Detailed Report of Excavation of Priority Case 1998 Conducted during the 29th Joint Field Activity.*

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On 12 September 2006, (b)(6) pointed out two areas where they saw remains on the surface on the west beach area on Tang Island. Two sites were possibly associated with this incident.<sup>24</sup>

On 9 March 2007, during the 37th JFA (07-2CB), a joint U.S./K.O.C. team re-surveyed the previously approved LKA Case 1998 excavation sites on Tang Island. The Detachment One Deputy Commander also visited the sites in order to ensure he could show an excavation team the sites if JPAC planned to recover them in fiscal year 2008. The K.O.C. POW/MIA Committee was unsuccessful in locating the three requested witnesses for this investigation.<sup>25</sup>

From 16 January through 26 February 2008 during JFA 08-2CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team excavated three alleged burial sites associated with LKA Case 1998 on Tang Island. The team recovered a wallet with no identifying information in it. On 26 February 2008, the RL closed the site areas and recommended no further excavation at these site areas. On 3 March 2008, the JPAC-CIL received the possible personal effect and assigned it accession number CIL 2008-018.<sup>26</sup>

On 1 and 13 February 2010, during JFA 10-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. underwater investigation team surveyed an approximate general area believed to be associated with a Stony Beach lead associated with LKA Case 1998 on Tang Island. This lead involved the sighting and presumed death of a U.S. military service member in a cave along the rocky shore of the promontory on the southern margin of the historical landing zone (or east beach) area, at some point following the assault by, and withdrawal of, U.S. forces. This activity was conducted over a broad area without the benefit of the firsthand presence of (b)(6). The team recommended that (b)(6) be brought out to this location and re-interviewed on site, and requested he guide a team to the precise location referenced in his previous interviews.<sup>27</sup>

From 19 January through 21 February 2014 during JFA 15-1CB, a joint U.S./K.O.C. team excavated a burial site associated with LKA Case 1998 on Tang Island. The team recovered material evidence that exclusively correlated to LCpl Gary HALL, including one of his identification ID tags and ID cards. An unknown individual(s) removed all osseous and human remains associated with this grave. On 21 February 2014 the RL closed the LKA Case 1998 burial site area (site CB-00205) and recommended no further excavation. On 23 March

<sup>24</sup> Message JPAC Annex Camp Smith HI 111924Z Jan 07; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Last Known Alive Case 1998 (CB-00024) Conducted During the 36th Joint Field Activity (06-3CB) in the Kingdom of Cambodia.*

<sup>25</sup> Message JPAC Annex Camp Smith HI 152108Z Jan 10; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of Last Known Alive Case 1998 (Sites CB-00024) Conducted During the 37th Joint Field Activity (07-2CB) in the Kingdom of Cambodia.*

<sup>26</sup> Message JPAC Annex Camp Smith HI 132339Z MAR 08; Subject: *Excavation Summary Report of Case 1998 (Sites CB-00176, CB 00140, AND CB-00196) Conducted During Joint Field Activity 08-2CB in the Kingdom of Cambodia.*

<sup>27</sup> Message JPAC Annex Camp Smith HI 301930Z MAR 12; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of LKA Case 1998 Conducted During Joint Field Activity 10-1CB (43rd JFA).*



2015, the DPAA Laboratory received the material evidence and assigned it accession number 2015-48.<sup>28</sup>

From 21 February through 18 March 2015 during JFA 15-1CB (49th JFA), the joint team excavated possible burial locations associated with Case 2038 and LKA Case 1998 on Tang Island. The areas excavated include the sandy shore line of west beach, the inland area leading east from the beach, and what are believed to be the fighting positions on the right flank of the Marines invasion beachhead. The team did not locate a grave containing the remains of a U.S. Marine or correlate any evidence Case 2038 or LKA Case 1998. Moreover, the joint team excavated the fighting positions believed to be associated with the right flank of west beach with negative results. (Note: the RL only used Site CB-00131 as the datum point for this excavation, which also included site CB-00207 that was 50 meters away.) On 18 March 2015, the RL closed those portions of Site CB-00131 that the team excavated. The RL recommended locating and interviewing new witnesses on-site regarding information about possible west beach burial location(s). The RL also recommend no further excavations until an investigation team locates these new witnesses. Lastly, the RL recommended investigating the whereabouts of possible burial(s) per information witness (b)(6) gave to the K.O.C. POW/MIA Committee Team (b)(6) during this JFA.<sup>29</sup>

On 1 October 2003, the JTF-FA and the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) merged to form the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). The team found no surface indications of burial, burial mounds, or depressions within the surveyed areas.<sup>30</sup>

On 30 January 2015, JPAC, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), and the U.S. Air Force's Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) merged to form the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Since 2009, the Defense Intelligence Agency's Stony Beach has published numerous reports concerning the unaccounted-for Americans from the Mayaguez Incident that took place in May 1975 on Tang Island. From many witnesses interviewed, four witnesses provided the most detailed information concerning the unaccounted-for Americans of the LKA Case 1998 incident. (b)(6) former Khmer Rouge (KR) soldier, was transferred to Tang Island the day after the Mayaguez Incident, and was one of the four-person party that buried the individual killed by another KR soldier while attempting to steal food from a food storage area near the eastern beach [Analyst Note: LKA Case 1998, LCpl HALL]. (b)(6) (former KR Commander 10th Company, 410th Battalion [BN]) responsible for an area to include the eastern

<sup>28</sup> Message DPAA Washington DC 152339Z APR 15; Subject: *Excavation Summary Report of LKA Case 1998 (Site CB-00205) Conducted During Joint Field Activity 15-1CB (49th JFA).*

<sup>29</sup> Message CDR JPAC Hickam AFB HI 012341Z OCT 15; Subject: *Excavation Summary Report of Case 2038 LKA Case 1998 (Sites CB-00131 and CB-00207) Conducted During Joint Field Activity 15-1CB (49th JFA).*

<sup>30</sup> Message CDR JPAC HICKAM AFB HI 042031Z JUN 12; Subject: *Detailed Report of Investigation of LKA Case 1683 (Site LA-00477) Conducted During Joint Field Activity 12-4LA (124th JFA).*



beach on Tang Island. He directly observed the bodies of two to three American bodies on the eastern beach [Analyst Note: Case 2003], and led search party, including (b)(6) former KR officer, who tracked down, killed and buried an American spotted while attempting to steal food from a KR food storage area about meters inland from the eastern beach near a water well [Analyst Note: LKA Case 1998, LCpl HALL]. A few days later, he led a patrol that spotted an American hiding among the rocks in a rocky point to the south of the eastern beach and threw two grenades at the location, but did not search it afterward [Analyst Note: possibly one of the LKA Case 1998 individuals.].<sup>31</sup>

## ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

Joint teams and Stony Beach Debriefers investigated LKA Case 1998 over 40 times and excavated several reported burial locations. One team recovered LCpl HALL's ID media and several other personal effects that belonged to him. Unfortunately, unknown persons removed his remains from his grave. The numerous witness interviews with former Khmer Rouge soldiers confirms that the other two Marines were killed and buried on Tang Island.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the historical information and results of numerous investigations and excavations; the Southeast Asia-Multi Disciplinary Team recommends fate determination of LKA Case 1998, LCpl Gary L. HALL, Cpl Joseph N. HARGROVE and PFC Danny G. MARSHALL.

(b)(6)

Senior Research Lead  
Southeast Asia Multi-Disciplinary Team,  
Asia Pacific Directorate, DPAA

<sup>31</sup> Message HOTR Washington DC 081752Z May 12; Subject: 6 024 173 12/Former Khmer Rouge Soldier Mr. Kon Khen returns to Tang Island to Search for the Well Site Where an American Soldier was Killed Following the Mayaguez Battle in May 1975; Message HOTR Washington DC 271903Z Jan 11; Subject: 6 024 0097 11 Additional Information on the Fate of American Soldiers Missing on Tang Island and Comments on Witness Em Son Provided by a Former Khmer Rouge Company Commander; Message HOTR Washington DC 092022Z Mar 11, Subject: 6 024 118 11/Location of the Well and Rocky Cover where American Soldiers were seen by Khmer Rouge Soldiers following the Mayaguez Battle on Tang Island in May 1975.



## DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

SEP 23 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR STEVEN J. REDMANN

VICE DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY/DIRECTOR OF  
MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE  
ARMY

SUBJECT: Priority Discrepancy Case Review

On behalf of the Secretary of Defense and the families of our missing, thank you for your willingness to participate in this case review board. Your involvement as an unbiased, unaffiliated executive is critical in our efforts to establish whether or not an individual could have survived his loss incident.

The review panel is scheduled for 1300-1700 hours, Thursday, September 29, 2016, in the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) conference room, located at 241 18<sup>th</sup> Street, South, Suite 800, Arlington, Virginia. Directions to DPAA by car or Metro are located in the back of this packet.

The contents of this packet contain the summaries of the five priority discrepancy cases. You are required to examine the circumstances associated with each case and the evidence presented by the analyst. During the panel session, analysts will present each case and answer questions as necessary. Your purpose in this process is to make a policy determination as to whether an individual survived his loss incident and could have been detained past Operation Homecoming, or whether he died during or post hostilities.

In this packet at Tab 1, there is a more detailed explanation of the purpose of this review panel. It provides background on the history and significance of the priority discrepancy cases, referred to as "last known alive" cases. It also includes a discussion of the significance and ramifications of the previous review panels' findings. Tabs 2-6, contain a description of each loss incident and the current DPAA case summary. The cases presented for review are:

### CAMBODIA

Case 1588	(b)(3) P. L. 102-190 105 Stat. 1290	CIV	N/A
	Stone, Dana	CIV	N/A
Case 1998	Hall, Gary L.	USMC	PFC
	Hargrove, Joseph N.	USMC	LCpl
	Marshall, Danny G.	USMC	PVT

### LAOS

Case 1573	Pugh, Dennis G.	USAF	ILT
Case 1683	Skinner, Owen G.	USAF	MAJ
	Duckett, Thomas A.	USAF	ILT

### VIETNAM

Case 0656	Estocin, Michael J.	USN	LCDR
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If during your preparation, you have questions you would like answered prior to the panel meeting, please contact DPAA Senior Analyst (b)(6)



Fern O. Sumpter Winbush  
Acting Director

Attachments:  
As stated



## DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

### MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Priority Discrepancy Case Review Panel, September 29, 2016

On Thursday, September 29, 2016, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) hosted a policy review of the status of investigations regarding priority discrepancy (last known alive) cases from the war in Southeast Asia. DPAA nominated five cases involving nine Americans for review of evidence to assess whether the U.S. Government should still consider these Americans last known alive.

Mr. John A. Fedrigo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs and Airman Readiness; Rear Admiral Katherine McCabe, Reserve Director, Military Personnel, Plans and Policy (OPNAV N13R); and Mr. Steven Redmann, Vice Director of the Army/Director of Management, reviewed the cases on behalf of the Department of Defense. DPAA analysts presented the cases.

After questions and discussion, the reviewers agreed the evidence confirms the following individuals did not survive their loss incident.

#### CAMBODIA

Case 1588	(b)(3)P. L. 102-190 105 Stat 1290		CIV
	Stone, Dana		CIV
Case 1998	Hall, Gary L.	USMC	Private First Class

#### LAOS

Case 1573	Pugh, Dennis G.	USAF	First Lieutenant
Case 1683	Duckett, Thomas A.	USAF	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

#### VIETNAM

Case 0656	Estocin, Michael J.	USN	Lieutenant Commander
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After questions and discussion, the reviewers determined there is insufficient evidence to confirm the following individuals did not survive their loss incident.

#### CAMBODIA

Case 1988	Hargrove, Joseph N.	USMC	Lance Corporal
	Marshall, Danny G.	USMC	Private First Class

#### LAOS

Case 1683	Skinner, Owen G.	USAF	Major
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Attached please find the tally sheets signed by the Board members affirming these decisions.

(b)(6)



Senior Southeast Asia Policy Officer  
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Attachment:  
As stated

cc:  
Board Members

	<b>Fedriga</b>		<b>McCabe</b>		<b>Redmann</b>	
1573/Pugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Non Concur		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Non Concur		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Non Concur	
1683/Skinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non Concur		<input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non Concur		<input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non Concur	
1683/Duckett	<input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Non Concur		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Non Concur		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Non Concur	
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(b)(6)

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## DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

SEP 23 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR REAR ADMIRAL KATHERINE McCABE  
RESERVE DIRECTOR, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PLANS AND  
POLICY (OPNAV N13R)

SUBJECT: Priority Discrepancy Case Review

On behalf of the Secretary of Defense and the families of our missing, thank you for your willingness to participate in this case review board. Your involvement as an unbiased, unaffiliated executive is critical in our efforts to establish whether or not an individual could have survived his loss incident.

The review panel is scheduled for 1300-1700 hours, Thursday, September 29, 2016, in the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) conference room, located at 241 18<sup>th</sup> Street, South, Suite 800, Arlington, Virginia. Directions to DPAA by car or Metro are located in the back of this packet.

The contents of this packet contain the summaries of the five priority discrepancy cases. You are required to examine the circumstances associated with each case and the evidence presented by the analyst. During the panel session, analysts will present each case and answer questions as necessary. Your purpose in this process is to make a policy determination as to whether an individual survived his loss incident and could have been detained past Operation Homecoming, or whether he died during or post hostilities.

In this packet at Tab 1, there is a more detailed explanation of the purpose of this review panel. It provides background on the history and significance of the priority discrepancy cases, referred to as "last known alive" cases. It also includes a discussion of the significance and ramifications of the previous review panels' findings. Tabs 2-6, contain a description of each loss incident and the current DPAA case summary. The cases presented for review are:

### CAMBODIA

Case 1588	(b)(3)P. L. 102-190 105 Stat 1290 1480-1481	CIV	N/A
	Stone, Dana	CIV	N/A
Case 1998	Hall, Gary L.	USMC	PFC
	Hargrove, Joseph N.	USMC	LCpl
	Marshall, Danny G.	USMC	PVT

### LAOS

Case 1573	Pugh, Dennis G.	USAF	1LT
Case 1683	Skinner, Owen G.	USAF	MAJ
	Duckett, Thomas A.	USAF	1LT

**VIETNAM**

Case 0656

Estocin, Michael J.

USN

LCDR

If during your preparation, you have questions you would like answered prior to the panel meeting, please contact DPAA Senior Analyst (b)(6)



Fern O. Sumpter Winbush  
Acting Director

Attachments:

As stated





# DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

SEP 23 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN A. FEDRIGO

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE FOR  
RESERVE AFFAIRS AND AIRMAN READINESS

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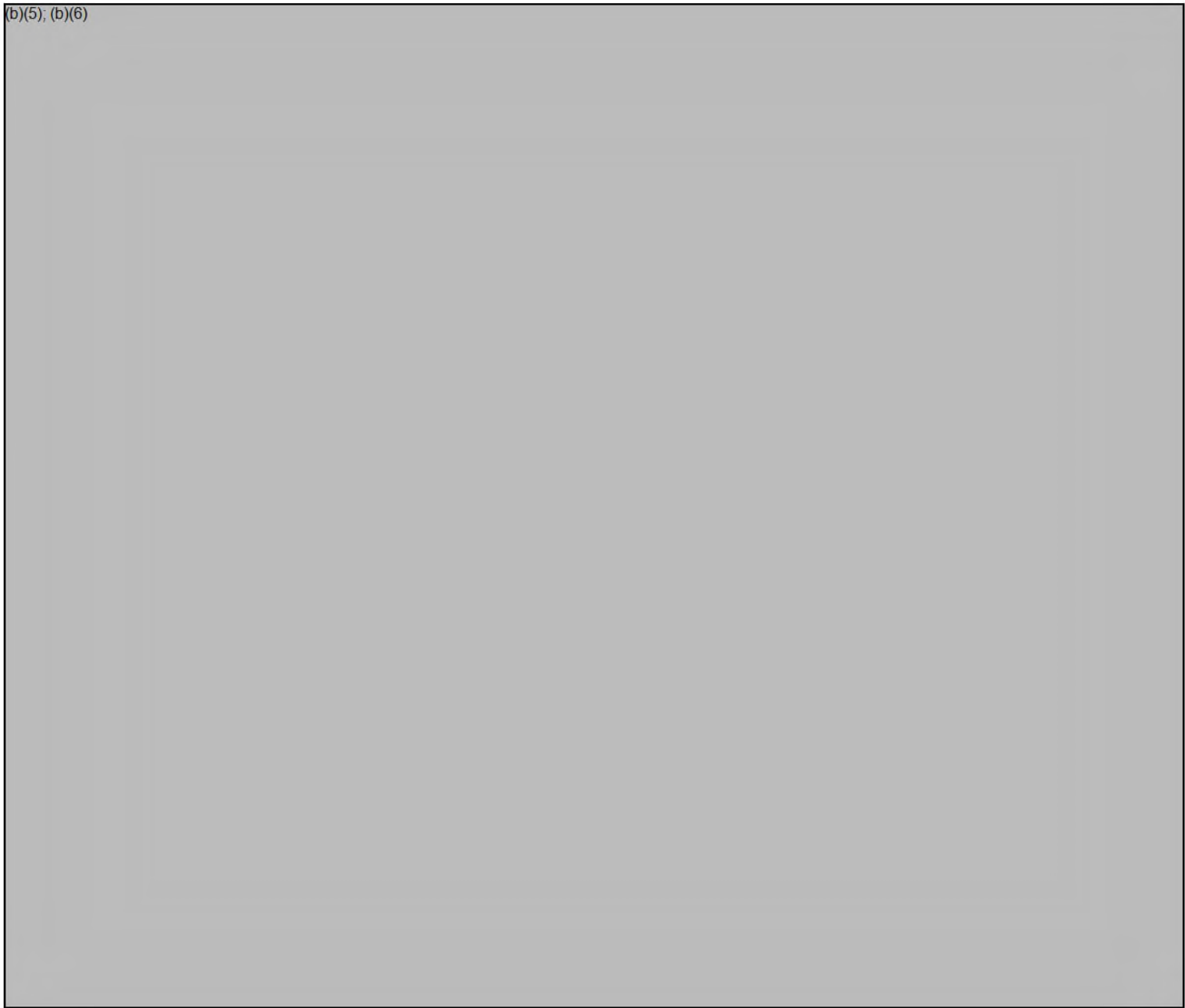
Fern O. Sumpter Winbush  
Acting Director

Attachments:  
As stated



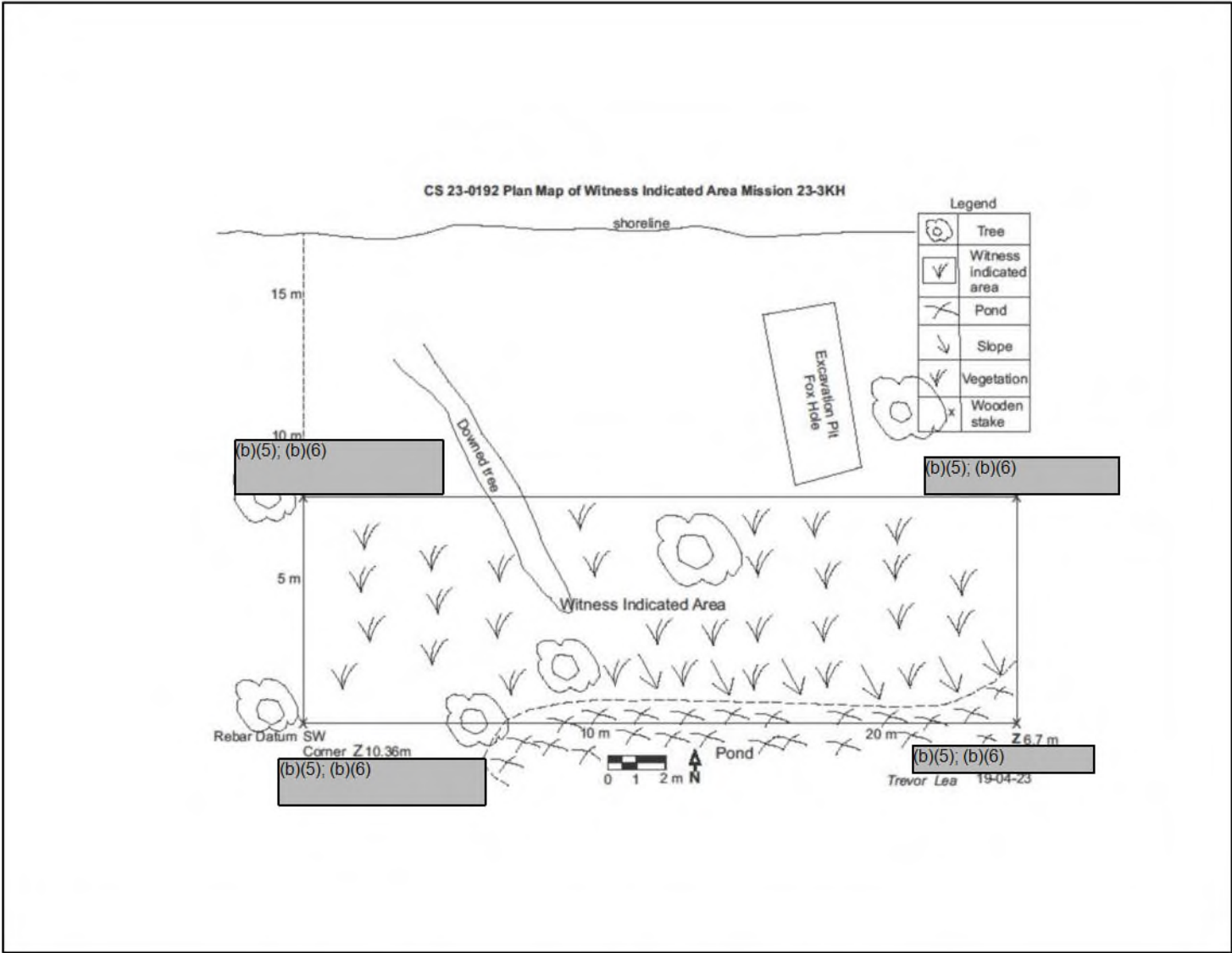
<b>Mission/Team</b>	23-3KH	<b>Project Type</b>	Investigation
<b>Case, Site, CS, Aircraft, BNR (list if multiple)</b>	REFNO 1998, KH-00205, CS23-0192		
<b>Project Location (City, State, Province, Country)</b>	Koh Tang, Preah Sihanouk Province, Kingdom of Cambodia	<b>Crash Scene Coordinates (include source and depth)</b>	(b)(5); (b)(6)
<b>Project Dates/Scheme of Maneuver</b>	19 and 23 April 2023		
<b>Project Partners</b>	Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (GWHF) Stony Beach		
<b>DPAA Main Point of Contact</b>	DPAA, Partnerships & Innovations, Project Archaeologist, (b)(6)		
<b>Summary Case Background</b>	<p>The incident involves the 15 May 1975 loss of a three-man machine gun team that was part of the U.S. Marine Corps' (U.S.M.C.) assault on Koh Tang following the capture of the cargo ship SS <i>Mayaguez</i> and her crew by Khmer Rouge (KR) forces. Operating under the mistaken belief that the <i>Mayaguez</i>'s crew were being held on Koh Tang, the U.S.M.C. launched a helicopter-borne insertion and rescue mission but met stiff resistance from KR forces entrenched on the island, resulting in heavy U.S. casualties (see also REFNOs 2002, 2003 [resolved], and 2038). In the early evening of 15 May, the Marines were ordered to withdraw to Koh Tang's West Beach and establish a defensive perimeter while awaiting extraction via helicopter. The REFNO 1998 individuals were reportedly last seen manning a machine gun post at the far southern edge of West Beach and were not observed to have been wounded or killed in the fighting. Previous investigations encountered Private First Class (PFC) Gary Hall's uniform, but no biological remains on East Beach near a KR outpost.</p>		
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<p>On 19 April 2023, an eyewitness to the 1975 loss incident (b)(6) resident of Stung Chhay Khang Cheung Village, Khum Stung Chhay Commune, Kampong Sayva District, Sihanoukville Province) led the GWHF team to site KH-00205. The site is (b)(5); (b)(6)</p> <p>KH-00220 site, 1200 m southeast of the KH-00219 site, and 990 m southeast of the KH-00207 site (Figure 1). A previous investigation, including excavations, was conducted at this site in 2015 (ESR REFNO 1998; SAR CIL 2015-048-R, REFNO 1998). (b)(5); (b)(6)</p> <p>(b)(5); (b)(6) The first area (Area 1) was excavated as a series of trenches separated by baulks. One burial was discovered that was determined to be Asian in origin and not associated with REFNO 1998. The team then excavated a second area (Area 2) after re-interviewing two witnesses who guided the team north to a location approximately 30 m from the shoreline. The team explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician located and identified an unexploded 40 mm grenade within Area 2, and the team later excavated a possible burial feature in which material evidence associated with PFC Hall was recovered. No osseous material was recovered from the burial feature. During the 2023 site visit, (b)(6) pointed to a different location at site KH-00205 (Area 3). He pointed to a general area approximately 17 m north (closer to the shoreline) where he recalled the American soldier being buried (Figure 2). He indicated an area between a row of trees and a nearby pond. The partner team placed a permanent datum with a large rebar stake at the southwest boundary of the site, obtained grid coordinates with a Garmin GPS, and created a sketch map of the witness indicated burial area (Figure 3). Photographs were taken of the witness pointing to the general area of the purported burial site, and overview photos were taken from various angles. The area has dense vegetation</p>		

	but is bordered by a pond which delineates the southern boundary of the eyewitness indicated area. The team did not excavate any test units.
<b>Evidence Observed or Recovered</b>	GWHF did not recover or retain any possible evidentiary material.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Full systematic excavation of the 25 x 8 m (200 sq m) area. Witness indicated that KR protocol when an enemy was killed was to strip the corpse of gear and clothing. The possessions would then be combed through for anything of value then discarded. This area is adjacent to the location where PFC Hall's uniform clothing and ID tag was discovered and corroborates the story well.
<b>Report Writers</b>	(b)(6) Golden West Humanitarian Foundation, Lead Archaeologist
<b>Sources</b>	(b)(6) 2019. DPAA-Laboratory Archaeological Site Survey Report (ASSR) 19-1KH. Excavation Summary Report (ESR) of LKA Case 1998, dtd 15 April 2015, DPAA internal files. Search and Recovery Report (SAR) Mission CIL 2015-048-R, a Burial Site CB-00205 Associated with REFNO 1998, dtd 26 October 2017, DPAA internal files.
<b>Report Submitted</b>	5 June 2023









**Figure 3. Plan map of witness-indicated possible burial location.**