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**PRITY**

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS//N03000//AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PASS TO CJTFFA DET FOUR  
AMEMBASSY HANOI PASS TO CJTFFA DET TWO

SUBJ/DETAILED SEARCH AND RECOVERY REPORT OF CASE 2003//

RMKS/1. REFERENCES.

## 2. SUMMARY OF EXCAVATION.

/10561/ /333 1 QHA 0023 342/03:31Z 051745Z DEC 95  
 CSN:DSR2003 342/03:35Z CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI  
 V9533011J314 /

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ELEMENT 1 (RE1), WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE USS BRUNSWICK SALVAGE TEAM, EXCAVATED THE CRASH SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 2003 ON TANG ISLAND, KAMPONG SOM PROVINCE, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA (KOC). THIS CASE INVOLVES THE 15 MAY 1975 LOSS OF A CH-53A HELICOPTER, RESULTING IN 13 UNACCOUNTED-FOR INDIVIDUALS. THE CRASH SITE IS AT GRID COORDINATE 48P TS 96439 40716. RE1 ESTABLISHED INITIAL LAND PROJECT BOUNDARIES OF APPROXIMATELY 10-METERS X 30-METERS. UNDERWATER PROJECT BOUNDARIES CONSISTED OF APPROXIMATELY 12-METERS X 23-METERS AROUND THE HELICOPTER WRECKAGE. THE TEAM EXCAVATED APPROXIMATELY 15 CUBIC METERS ON LAND; AND APPROXIMATELY 389-CUBIC METERS UNDERWATER. RE1 RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 139 POSSIBLE HUMAN BONE FRAGMENTS, 9 POSSIBLE HUMAN TEETH WITH APPARENT RESTORATIONS, AND 13 POSSIBLE HUMAN TEETH WITHOUT APPARENT RESTORATIONS. ONE WITNESS PRESENTED REMAINS TO RE1 TO INCLUDE FOUR POSSIBLE HUMAN BONE FRAGMENTS AND ONE POSSIBLE HUMAN TEETH. RE1 RECOVERED THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL EFFECTS: ONE U.S. QUARTER DATED 1966, ONE U.S. DIME DATED 1970, ONE PORTION OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CHAIN, ONE PORTION OF TOOTH BRUSH, AND ONE PORTION OF SHAVING RAZOR. THE TEAM RECOVERED PIECES OF AIRCRAFT, NONE OF WHICH IS EXCLUSIVE TO A CH-53A AIRCRAFT, AND SEVERAL ITEMS OF LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT. THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE RE1 RECOVERED INCLUDES TEN STEEL HELMETS, TWO CANTEEN CUPS, A PORTION OF FLIGHT GLOVE, MISCELLANEOUS M-16 RIFLE SECTIONS, ONE PROBABLE PILOT'S CHECKLIST, ONE M17 CHEMICAL DEFENSE MASK WITH HEAD STRAP PIECE, AND ONE PROBABLE GUNNER'S BELT WITH CONNECTORS. THE CILHI TEAM LEADER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TEAM ANTHROPOLOGIST, CLOSED THE SITE AT 1136 HOURS ON 12 NOVEMBER 1995. THROUGHOUT THE JOINT EXCAVATION, THE U.S. ELEMENT RECEIVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM THEIR ROYAL CAMBODIAN COUNTERPARTS.

B. U.S. CONTINGENT:

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TEAM LEADER  
ANTHROPOLOGIST  
NCOIC  
DOCTOR  
LIFE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN  
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL  
LINGUIST/ANALYST  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
MORTUARY AFFAIRS SPECIALIST  
MORTUARY AFFAIRS SPECIALIST  
CAMBODIA (RGC) CONTINGENT:  
CHAIRMAN, KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, INTERPOL  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
REPRESENTATIVE

C. ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF

(b)(6)

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WITH TWO JETTING PUMPS EACH AND THE WORK FLOAT EQUIPPED WITH FOUR SCREENING TABLES. THE RE1 NAVY DIVERS SUCTIONED THE SEDIMENT DIRECTLY INTO THE SCREENING TABLES CONSTRUCTED OF 1/4 INCH METAL SCREEN AND MONITORED BY CILHI TEAM MEMBERS AND THE TEAM ANTHROPOLOGIST. EACH SCREENING TABLE HAD COLLECTION BAGS FOR REMAINS AND ARTIFACTS, AND BUCKETS FOR ORDNANCE AND AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. THE AREA WAS EXCAVATED TO DEPTHS RANGING FROM APPROXIMATELY 50 CM TO ONE AND A HALF METERS DEPENDING UPON WHEN THE CORAL LAYER WAS ENCOUNTERED. THE NAVY DIVERS SUCTIONED ALL SEDIMENT THAT WAS ABOVE, ADJACENT TO, AND WITHIN THE WRECKAGE IN ORDER TO COMPLETELY EXPOSE THE WRECKAGE. THE NAVY TEAM THEN CUT THE WRECKAGE INTO SECTIONS IN PLACE TO FACILITATE ITS REMOVAL ONTO THE BEACH WHERE IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INSPECTED FOR REMAINS AND ARTIFACTS. AFTER THE TEAM COMPLETELY REMOVED THE WRECKAGE, THE EXPOSED SEDIMENT WAS THOROUGHLY SUCTIONED. BASED ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF WRECKAGE, REMAINS, AND ARTIFACTS, THE TEAM ANTHROPOLOGIST IMPLEMENTED THE STRATEGY OF EXTENDING THE PRIMARY GRID AN APPROPRIATE DISTANCE IN ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS. IF REMAINS OR WRECKAGE WERE ENCOUNTERED, THE TEAM EXPANDED THE AREAS FURTHER TO STERILE CONDITIONS. RE1 PLACED FIVE TEST PITS WHICH WERE POSITIONED TO THE NORTH OF THE PRIMARY D IN ORDER TO TEST FOR THE POSSIBLE TRANSPORT BY OCEAN CURRENT OF WRECKAGE DEBRIS.

## 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS.

A. RE1 EXCAVATED THE LAND AND UNDERWATER AREAS TO STERILE CONDITIONS. THE TEAM EXCAVATED APPROXIMATELY 15 CUBIC METERS ON LAND AND APPROXIMATELY 389 CUBIC METERS UNDERWATER.

B. THE TEAM RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 139 POSSIBLE OSSEOUS ELEMENTS, SOME FRAGMENTED, A TOTAL OF 22 POSSIBLE HUMAN TEETH, NINE WITH APPARENT RESTORATIONS, 13 WITHOUT APPARENT RESTORATIONS, MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL EFFECTS, AND THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. THE TEAM DID NOT RECOVER SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION MEDIA.

C. THE TEAM RECEIVED FOUR POSSIBLE HUMAN BONE FRAGMENTS AND ONE POSSIBLE HUMAN TOOTH FROM WITNESS.

## 8. MATERIAL EVIDENCE.

A. AIRCREW EQUIPMENT:

- (1) TWO PORTIONS OF FLASHLIGHT.
- (2) TWO SECTIONS OF LIFE PRESERVER STRAP.
- (3) NUMEROUS UNKNOWN BUCKLES.
- (4) SEVERAL PIECES OF UNKNOWN CLOTH MATERIAL.
- (5) VARIOUS METAL WEB BELT PIECES.
- (6) TWO SECTION OF WEBBING WITH HOOK.
- (7) TWO SECTIONS OF POSSIBLE HELMET LINER.
- (8) SEVERAL PIECES OF UNKNOWN FABRIC/MATERIAL.
- (9) NUMEROUS UNKNOWN ZIPPER PULL TABS.

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- (10) PROBABLE PILOT CHECKLIST.  
(11) NUMEROUS UNKNOWN SNAP ASSEMBLIES.  
(12) UNKNOWN WEBBING PORTION WITH SNAPS.  
(13) TWO POSSIBLE RAFT REPAIR PLUG PIECES.  
(14) ONE POSSIBLE SIGNAL MIRROR SECTION.  
(15) TWO UNKNOWN METAL BRACKETS WITH WEBBING STRAPS.  
(16) SEVERAL POSSIBLE WEB BELT STRAP HOOKS.  
(17) SEVERAL PORTIONS OF FLAK VEST.  
(18) ONE POSSIBLE LAP BELT BUCKLE.  
(19) MISCELLANEOUS M-16 RIFLE AMMUNITION CLIP

PORTIONS.

- (20) THREE SURVIVAL SHOVEL SECTIONS.  
(21) TWO POSSIBLE COMMUNICATION CORD RELAY SWITCH.  
(22) ONE PROBABLE GUNNERS BELT WITH CONNECTORS.  
(23) ONE UNKNOWN D-RING.  
(24) ONE ALL PURPOSE CLIP.  
(25) SEVERAL PROBABLE SECTIONS OF PONCHO.  
(26) ONE MESS KIT WITH FORK AND ONE PORTION OF MESS

## KIT.

- (27) ONE LIFE PRESERVER CASE WITH CELL (RIGHT SIDE).  
(28) SEVERAL PORTIONS OF LIFE PRESERVER UNIT (LPU).  
(29) NUMEROUS UNKNOWN WEBBING PIECES.  
(30) ONE SMALL VINYL COVER.  
(31) ONE PAIR OF PLIERS.  
(32) THREE PORTIONS OF POSSIBLE AIR MATTRESS.  
(33) ONE M-17 CHEMICAL DEFENSE MASK AND HEAD STRAP

## PIECE.

- (34) ONE HANDSET H-33F/PT.  
(35) MISCELLANEOUS M-16 RIFLE SECTIONS.  
(36) ONE PORTION LOWERING DEVICE WITH HARDWARE AND

WEBBING SECTION.

- (37) ONE POSSIBLE LAP BELT WEBBING WITH BUCKLE.  
(38) ONE PORTION OF FLIGHT GLOVE.  
(39) MISCELLANEOUS UNKNOWN GROMMETS.  
(40) UNKNOWN BAG SHAPED MATERIAL WITH ZIPPER AND

METAL BAR PIECE.

- (41) TWO UNKNOWN BLUE FABRIC PIECES.  
(42) ONE HEADSET OR HELMET EAR CUP CUSHION.  
(43) TWO CANTEEN CUPS.  
(44) ONE UNKNOWN LONG ZIPPER SECTION WITH

UNIDENTIFIABLE ITEMS ATTACHED.

- (45) THREE POSSIBLE SECTIONS OF RAIN GEAR.  
(46) SEVERAL PIECES OF POSSIBLE PONCHO LINER.  
(47) MISCELLANEOUS UNKNOWN BUTTONS.  
(48) MULTIPLE POSSIBLE METAL STRAP END PIECES.  
(49) ONE SECTION OF UNKNOWN WEBBING WITH D-RING.  
(50) ONE UNKNOWN WEBBING SECTION WITH BUCKLE.  
(51) ONE POSSIBLE RIFLE CLEANING BORE PIECE.  
(52) TEN METAL HELMETS.  
(53) ONE PORTION OF METAL HELMET.

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(F) STATEMENT: (b)(6) STATED HE AND UNIT SCAVENGED ALUMINUM FROM THE WRECKAGE OF KNIFE 23 FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS DURING 1944. DURING THEIR SCAVENGING, THEY FOUND THE WRECKAGE OF KNIFE 31. (b)(6) STATED HE REMAINS TO BE AMERICAN BECAUSE OF THEIR AND THE REMAINS WERE BLACK WHEN HE FIRST BROUGHT THE WATER, BUT TURNED WHITE AS THEY DRIED OUT.

11. EOD TECHNICIAN COMMENTS. THE TEAM EOD TECHNICIAN RECOVERED THE FOLLOWING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE FROM THE PROJECT AREA: ONE M72 LIGHT ANTI-TANK WARHEAD (LAW), ONE RUSSIAN ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE (RPG), ONE M67 FRAGMENTATION GRENADE, EIGHT 60MM HIGH EXPLOSIVE (HE) MORTARS, ONE CHICOM RIFLE GRENADE, APPROXIMATELY 450 SMALL ARMS ORDNANCE (5.56MM AND 7.62MM ROUNDS), FIVE 81MM HE MORTARS (EMPTY), AND THREE 105MM HE PROJECTILES (EMPTY). ALL ORDNANCE WAS DESTROYED TO REDUCE THE HAZARDS TO LOCAL PERSONNEL ON THE ISLAND ON 18 JUNE 1995.

H. THE DYNAMIC EFFECTS OF SHIFTING TIDAL CURRENTS, SPORADIC STORMS, AND CONSTANT WAVE ACTION INDICATES THAT MATERIAL EFFECTS AND HUMAN REMAINS COULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED

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U U N C L A S S I F I E D U

## 2. BACKGROUND:

A. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: ON 15 MAY 75, A CH-53A HELICOPTER CRASHED NEAR THE SHORELINE OF KOH TANG (ISLAND), CAMBODIA, WHILE ON A MISSION TO RESCUE THE CREW OF THE U.S. CONTAINER SHIP "MAYAGUEZ." TWENTY-SIX PERSONNEL (FOUR USAF CREW MEMBERS, 20 USMC AND TWO USN PASSENGERS) WERE ABOARD THE HELICOPTER AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS RESCUED 13 PERSONNEL AT SEA, BUT THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT PRECLUDED FURTHER EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE REMAINING PASSENGERS.

B. INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DATE: ON 18 JAN 95, DURING THE 33RD JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY, INVESTIGATION ELEMENT TWO INTERVIEWED TWO WITNESSES: (b)(6)

(b)(6) INDICATED HE POSSESSED HELICOPTER WRECKAGE AT HIS HOME ON PHU QUOC ISLAND. ON 19 SEP 95, DET 2 RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE VNOSMP IN WHICH THEY FORWARDED A LETTER CONCERNING CASE 2003 FROM A VIETNAMESE CITIZEN. THIS CITIZEN, (b)(6) STATED HE FOUND REMAINS AND IDENTIFICATION MEDIA ASSOCIATED WITH TWO UNACCOUNTED-FOR INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE ON KOH TANG (ISLAND).

C. PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION: DETERMINE THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE HELICOPTER CRASH SITE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. LOCATE AND EXAMINE MATERIAL EVIDENCE RETRIEVED FROM THE CRASH SITE LOCATION.

### 3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

#### A. PARTICIPANTS:

(1) U.S. CONTINGENT:

(A) (b)(6) TEAM LEADER  
(B) ANALYST/LINGUIST  
(C) , ANALYST/LINGUIST  
(D) SEARCH AND RECOVERY  
SPECIALIST

(2) VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT:

(A) (b)(6), VNOSMP TEAM LEADER,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE

(B) (b)(6), VNOSMP TEAM  
MEMBER, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REPRESENTATIVE

(3) KIEN GIANG PROVINCE MIA TASK TEAM:

(A) (b)(6) TEAM LEADER  
(B) (b)(6), TEAM MEMBER  
(C) (b)(6), TEAM MEMBER

(4) PHU QUOC ISLAND DISTRICT MIA TASK TEAM:

(A) (b)(6), TEAM LEADER  
(B) (b)(6) TEAM MEMBER  
(C) (b)(6), TEAM MEMBER  
(D) (b)(6) TEAM MEMBER  
(E) (b)(6) TEAM MEMBER  
(F) (b)(6), TEAM MEMBER

B. INVESTIGATION: ON 19 OCT 95, THE RIT TRAVELED TO PHU QUOC

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(2) THE FIELD ASSESSMENTS IN THIS REPORT DO NOT CONSTITUTE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

9. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST COMMENTS: N/A

10. TEAM CHIEF'S COMMENTS:

A. DURING THIS INVESTIGATION THE TEAM RECEIVED OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FROM THE KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, PHU QUOC DISTRICT AND HA TAY PROVINCE MIA TASK TEAMS.

B. (b)(6) RECALLED THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO HIM BY INDIVIDUALS WHO VISITED KOH TANG (ISLAND) AND RECOVERED HELICOPTER WRECKAGE AND REMAINS. (b)(6) ACCURATELY IDENTIFIED THE AREA OF THE HELICOPTER CRASH SITE AND PROVIDED THE IDENTIFICATION MEDIA INFORMATION OF AN UNACCOUNTED-FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. THE RIT WILL FORWARD ALL PHOTOGRAPHS OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE, IDENTIFICATION MEDIA INFORMATION AND THE SKETCH MAP OF THE CRASH SITE AREA TO HQ JTF-FA J-2 FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

C. THOUGH THE RIT'S INVESTIGATION PRODUCED FURTHER LEADS FOR CASE 2003 (SEE MR. SUONG'S STATEMENTS), A JOINT RECOVERY TEAM EXCAVATED AND CLOSED THE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 2003 DURING JFA 96-1C. UNLESS DEEMED NECESSARY, RECOMMEND NO FURTHER FIELD INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003.

11. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS: N/A//  
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RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM CAMBODIAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LONG VISALO INFORMING HIM THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD LEARNED FROM THE SRV THAT IT HAD IN ITS POSSESSION APPROXIMATELY 25 KILOGRAMS OF REMAINS AND TWO ID TAGS RECOVERED FROM TANG ISLAND. ON OCT 23, (b)(6) MET WITH VFM VISALO AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE SRV ONLY HAD 1.55 KILOGRAMS OF REMAINS AND TWO ID TAGS, AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR THE SRV TO TRANSFER THESE ITEMS TO PHNOM PENH. (SEE REF B FOR BACKGROUND)

4. IS IT MERE COINCIDENCE THAT THESE TWO NAMES FOR SERVICEMEN LOST OFF TANG ISLAND HAVE BEEN TURNED IN TWICE NOW, BOTH IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SRV? NOT ONLY DOES (b)(6) CLAIM NEED FOLLOW-UP, BUT ALSO THE 1992 TURNOVER. THE SRV SHOULD BE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE RECOVERY OF REMAINS AND ID TAGS WHICH THEY EVENTUALLY TURNED OVER TO THE SOC. DEPENDING UPON THEIR ANSWERS, A JOINT INVESTIGATION REQUEST COULD BE A POSSIBILITY.

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# ROUTINE

PAGE 01

INFO: REVIEW(01) USA CENTRAL ID LABORATORY(01)

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FM CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH

TO RUHPHQA/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI//PRIORITY//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//

INFO RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

RHHMGG/JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//

RULYSGG/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP: ISA/DPMO//

RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC

RUEHBK/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUHVAHA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PHNOM PENH

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

SUBJECT: DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REPORT CB 95-07//

REF/A/JCRC JCRC REPORT T88-060, 241215Z FEB 88 //

REF/B/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 94-167, 150946Z SEP 94//

REF C/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 95-027, 12 JULY 95//

REF D/CJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-02,

11 AUG 95//

REF E/CJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-03,

14 AUG 95//

REF F/CJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-04,

15 AUG 95//

AMPN/REF A IS INITIAL JCRC REPORTING CONCERNING POSSIBLE WITNESSES FOR TANG ISLAND INVESTIGATION. REF B IS A DETACHMENT FOUR WALK-IN INTERVIEW REPORT, CONCERNING A POSSIBLE WITNESS FOR TANG ISLAND CASES. REF C IS A DETACHMENT FOUR WALK-IN INTERVIEW CONCERNING REMAINS REPORTEDLY FOUND ON TANG ISLAND. REF D IS DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING SEARCH FOR WITNESS FOR TANG ISLAND CASES. REF E IS DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING CONFIRMATION OF WITNESS BY KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS. REF F IS DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH WITNESS, (b)(6) //

RMKS/L. REMARKS:

A. INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT CONCERNS WITNESS TESTIMONY PERTINENT TO CASES 1998, 2002, 2003 AND 2038.

B. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTIC CONCLUSIONS.

## 2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

A. ON 24 AUGUST 1995, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE A REPORTED GRAVESITE ON TANG ISLAND, INQUIRIES WERE MADE BY TEAM MEMBERS AMONG GUARD FORCES STATIONED ON THE ISLAND. KOC MARINE GUARD FORCE MEMBERS INDICATED THAT THEY KNEW OF ONE FORMER GUARD FORCE MEMBER NAMED (b)(6) WHO THEY HAD HEARD HAD RECOVERED AN IDENTIFICATION TAG AND SOME OF THE REMAINS, INCLUDING A SKULL FROM THE WRECKAGE OF ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT. GUARDS ON THE ISLAND STATED THAT (b)(6) LIVED IN BAT TRANG COMMUNE, PREY NOP SUBDISTRICT, SIHANOUKVILLE. UPON RETURN TO KAMPONG SAOM, TEAM REQUESTED KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTEMPT TO LOCATE PURPORTED WITNESS. KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN TURN TASKED PROVINCIAL SECURITY FORCES WITH LOCATING THE INDIVIDUAL.

B. ON 25 AUGUST, TEAM AND COUNTERPARTS TRAVELED TO BAT TRANG COMMUNE, AND WERE TOLD THAT (b)(6) WAS FISHING. LATER THAT EVENING, (b)(6) WENT TO TEAM'S HOTEL FOR INTERVIEW.

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C. (b)(6) STATED THAT HE WAS A GUARD ON TANG ISLAND FROM ABOUT 1989 TO 1994. (b)(6) IS CURRENTLY A FISHERMAN, LIVING IN BAT TRANG COMMUNE, PREY NOP SUBDISTRICT, SIHANOUKVILLE. WITNESS WAS BORN 10 SEPTEMBER 1971, IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

D. ACCORDING TO WITNESS, HE WAS TAKING A BATH IN THE SEA NEAR THE WRECK OF ONE OF THE HELICOPTERS WHEN HE NOTICED A SQUARISH CHUNK OF METAL, WHICH HE TRIED TO PRY UP. THE METAL BROKE AND HE FOUND A SILVER COLORED METAL PLATE, POSSIBLY SOME KIND OF IDENTIFICATION TAG, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BEING SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN AN PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION TAG. ADDITIONALLY WHILE DIGGING IN THE SAND, HE FOUND SEVERAL SMALL BONE FRAGMENTS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ONE SHINBONE, A FRAGMENT OF COCCYX, TWO RIBS, A FRAGMENT OF COLLARBONE, AND ONE POSSIBLE SKULL FRAGMENT. (b)(6) WAS NOT SURE OF THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS, HAVING GIVEN THEM TO OTHER SOLDIERS ON THE ISLAND. HE HEARD THAT THEY WERE SENT TO THE BATTALION COMMANDER, NAMED (b)(6), WHO REPORTEDLY SENT THEM UP THE CHAIN. WITNESS STATED THAT THE BONES HAD COME FROM ON AND AROUND THE LEFT FRONT SEAT OF THE SOUTHERN MOST OF THE TWO HELICOPTERS ON THE EASTERN BEACH. WITNESS DREW A MAP OF THE AIRCRAFT IN WHICH THE ORIENTATION OF THE HELICOPTERS MATCHED A PICTURE TAKEN BY RECON AIRCRAFT IN 1975. WITNESS ALSO EXTRACTED A REVOLVER, IN GOOD CONDITION, AND A SMALL RADIO, WHICH HE STATED WAS MOSTLY RUSTED.

E. WITNESS SAID THAT THE TOP OF THE HELICOPTER, THE FRAME AND SKIN HAD BEEN REMOVED BY SCAVENGERS. WITNESS SAID THAT THE LOWER HALF OF THE HELICOPTER WAS INACCESSIBLE TO SCAVENGERS BECAUSE OF THE SAND.

F. WITNESS STATED HE KEPT THE METAL PLATE, LATER GIVING THE PLATE TO TWO PEOPLE TO SELL, HE STATED THAT HE BELIEVED ONE OF THE TWO MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE, MR. LY SOVANN, BUT DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, OR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE METAL PLATE.

## 3. ANALYSTS COMMENTS:

A. WITNESS DRAWING OF HELICOPTER ORIENTATION, INDICATES KNOWLEDGE OF AREA. CURRENTLY, VISIBLE PORTIONS OF HELICOPTER WRECKAGE GIVE NO CLUE TO THE ORIENTATION OF THE AIRCRAFT.

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# ROUTINE

PAGE 01

INFO: REVIEW(01) USA CENTRAL ID LABORATORY(01)

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ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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FM CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH

TO RUHPHQA/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI//PRIORITY//

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//

INFO RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

RHHMSGG/JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//

RULYSGG/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP: ISA/DPMO//

RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC

RUEHBK/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PHNOM PENH

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

SUBJECT: DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REPORT CB 95-07//

WITNESS SOUGHT NO COMPENSATION DURING OR AFTER THE INTERVIEW.  
IF NECESSARY, WITNESS IS WILLING TO TRAVEL TO TANG ISLAND IN  
NOVEMBER TO POINT OUT EXACT AREA OF WRECKAGE HE REMOVED REMAINS  
FROM.

B. DESCRIPTION OF REMAINS MATCHES REMAINS TURNED OVER TO  
CILHI FROM TANG ISLAND IN AUGUST 1991.

4. COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: IF THE WITNESS STATEMENTS ARE  
ACCURATE THERE WAS AS LATE AS 1991 A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE  
HELICOPTER (KNIFE 31) REMAINING BURIED WITH REMAINS AND  
EQUIPMENT INTACT. THIS IS REASSURING AS WE HAVE BEGUN  
PREPARATIONS TO RECOVER KNIFE 31 IN JFA 96-LC.

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PRIORITY

PAGE 01

INFO: REVIEW(01) USA CENTRAL ID LABORATORY (01)

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TO RUHPHQA/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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INFO RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RHHMSGG/JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RULYSGG/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP; ISA/DPMO//

RUEHBK/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PHNOM PENH

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

SUBJECT: DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REPORT CB 95-06//

REF/A/JCRC JCRC REPORT T88-060, 241215Z FEB 88 //

REF/B/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 94-167, 150946Z SEP 94//

REF C/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 95-027, 12 JULY 95//

REF D/CJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-02,  
11 AUG 95//

REF E/CJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-03,  
14 AUG 95//

REF F/CJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-04,  
15 AUG 95//

AMPN/REF A IS INITIAL JCRC REPORTING CONCERNING THESE POSSIBLE  
WITNESSES. REF B IS A DETACHMENT FOUR WALK-IN INTERVIEW  
REPORT, CONCERNING A POSSIBLE WITNESS FOR TANG ISLAND CASES.  
REF C IS A DETACHMENT FOUR WALK-IN INTERVIEW CONCERNING REMAINS  
REPORTEDLY FOUND ON TANG ISLAND. REF D IS DETACHMENT FOUR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING SEARCH FOR WITNESS FOR  
TANG ISLAND CASES. REF E IS DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING CONFIRMATION OF WITNESS BY KOC  
POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS. REF F IS DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH WITNESS.//

RMKS/L. REMARKS:

A. INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT CONCERNS ATTEMPT TO  
IDENTIFY REPORTED GRAVESITE ON TANG ISLAND WITH WITNESS  
TESTIMONY. PERTINENT TO CASES 1998, 2002, 2003 AND 2038.

B. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS ONLY  
AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTIC CONCLUSIONS.

## 2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

A. ON 28 JULY 1995, TWO MEMBERS OF THE KINGDOM OF  
CAMBODIA POW/MIA COMMITTEE TRAVELED TO TAKEO PROVINCE TO  
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE TWO POSSIBLE WITNESSES FOR TANG ISLAND CASES  
NOTED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING. ONE WITNESS, (b)(6) WAS  
REFERENCED IN BOTH REF A AND REF B. (b)(6) WAS THE  
SOURCE INTERVIEWED FOR REF A. MEMBERS OF THE POW/MIA COMMITTEE  
WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE THE INDIVIDUALS. COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
TASKED THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL POLICE COMMANDER WITH LOCATING THE  
WITNESSES, AND RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH ON 29 JULY.

B. ON 10 AUGUST 95, KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE RECEIVED A  
TELEGRAM, DATED 4 AUGUST, FROM THE TAKEO PROVINCE DEPUTY POLICE  
COMMANDER WITH INFORMATION THAT ONE OF THE WITNESSES, (b)(6)  
HAD BEEN LOCATED AND THAT THE OTHER WITNESS, (b)(6)  
WAS DECEASED.

C. AT THE REQUEST OF DETACHMENT FOUR, ON THE EVENING OF  
11 AUGUST 1995, THREE MEMBERS OF THE KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE  
BEGAN TRAVEL TO TRAM KAK SUBDISTRICT TO CONFIRM THE IDENTITY

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AND LOCATION OF THE LIVING WITNESS. ON 12 AUGUST 1995, THE  
THREE MEMBERS OF THE KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE RETURNED TO PHNOM  
PENH AND REPORTED THAT THEY HAD CONFIRMED THE IDENTITY OF (b)(6)  
(b)(6) AND ESTABLISHED THAT HE HAD BEEN STATIONED ON TANG  
ISLAND. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED BY KOC COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS WAS REPORTED IN REF E.

D. ON 14 AUGUST 1995, (b)(6) WAS INTERVIEWED BY  
DETACHMENT PERSONNEL. (b)(6) REPEATEDLY ASSURED KOC  
POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DETACHMENT PERSONNEL THAT HE WAS  
CERTAIN HE COULD POINT OUT THE BURIAL SITE AS REPORTED TO HIM  
BY THE COMBATANTS. DURING THIS INTERVIEW, WITNESS WAS  
COOPERATIVE, TO THE POINT OF BRINGING CLOTHING TO THE INTERVIEW  
IN CASE OF AN IMMEDIATE TRIP TO TANG ISLAND.

E. ON 24 AUGUST 1995, TEAM CONSISTING OF (b)(6)  
TEAM LEADER, (b)(6) ANTHROPOLOGIST, (b)(6)  
CHHOUK, LINGUIST/ANALYST, (b)(6) MEDIC, AND (b)(6)  
EOD, ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL (b)(6) CHAIRMAN KOC POW/MIA  
COMMITTEE, (b)(6) MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND (b)(6)  
TRAVELED TO TANG ISL AND ON KOC FISHERIES PATROL BOAT. MARINE  
FORCES POSTED ON TANG ISLAND CLAIMED TO HAVE NO WARNING OF  
TEAMS ARRIVAL ON ISLAND; HOWEVER, AFTER BEING REASSURED  
CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE MISSION, KOC MARINES ALLOWED THE  
TEAM TO PROCEED.

F. DESPITE REPEATED ASSURANCES BY (b)(6) THAT HE  
WOULD SHOW THE TEAM THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE REMAINS WERE  
BURIED, UPON ARRIVAL AT TANG ISLAND, HE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY  
STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE BURIAL SITE WAS. (b)(6)  
(b)(6) SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN LOCATING THE SITE AND REPEATEDLY  
STATED THAT HE "DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING".

G. AT THE ISLAND, IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO HIS EARLIER  
TESTIMONY, (b)(6) STATED THAT HE HAD NOT ARRIVED ON THE  
ISLAND IN 1975, BUT THAT HE HAD INSTEAD ARRIVED ON THE ISLAND  
IN 1978. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE STATED THAT HE HAD DEPARTED THE  
ISLAND IN 1977. (b)(6) SAID THAT THINGS HAD CHANGED;  
SPECIFICALLY STATING THAT THE CLEARING DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE  
EASTERN BEACH HAD BEEN ALL JUNGLE DURING HIS STAY ON THE  
ISLAND. (ANALYST COMMENT: THE CLEARING, ABOUT TWO FOOTBALL  
FIELDS IN SIZE, WITH SOME GRASSES AND SOME CHARRED STUMPS OF  
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(b)(6)

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//

INFO RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RHHMSGG/JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RULYSGG/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP: ISA/DPMO//

RUEHBK/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//

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MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

SUBJECT: DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REPORT CB 95-06//

TREES, RESULTED FROM ORDNANCE USED DURING THE EXTRACTION OF U.S. MARINES FROM THE ISLAND, DURING THE INCIDENT, IN 1975.)). QUESTIONS BY ANALYSTS AND KOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE INCREASINGLY ANSWERED WITH "I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING" DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW. WITNESS THEN STATED THAT THE KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT NEVER SHOWED HIM THE BURIAL SITE. WITNESS ADDITIONALLY CONTRADICTED EARLIER INTERVIEWS BY STATING THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF AN AMERICAN ALIVE ON THE ISLAND FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT.

H. WITNESS WAS ENCOURAGED TO LOOK AROUND THE AREA TO TRY TO REGAIN HIS ORIENTATION. WITNESS WAS NOT COOPERATIVE, BUT DID RESIGNEDLY AGREE TO THE ATTEMPT. WITNESS LOOKED AROUND FOR TEN MINUTES BEFORE GIVING UP. ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS TO ENCOURAGE WITNESS FINALLY RESULTED IN THE WITNESS POINTING TO A SMALL NATURAL DEPRESSION IN THE MIDDLE OF A SMALL TRAIL, BETWEEN TWO LARGE BOULDERS, ABOUT 3 METERS BY 2 METERS. AREA WAS ABOUT 10 METERS UP THE TRAIL FROM THE NORTH END OF THE BEACH. AFTER DESIGNATING THE AREA AS "POSSIBLY THE PLACE", WITNESS IMMEDIATELY LEFT THE AREA AND SHOWED NO INTEREST IN THE RESULTS OF THE TEST PIT. WITNESS STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANYONE KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING THE INCIDENT OR THE REPORTED BURIAL SITE.

### 3. TEST PIT:

A. AREA AND METHODS: TEAM EXCAVATED ENTIRE AREA INDICATED BY WITNESS (48P TS 95003 40013). TEST PIT AREA WAS LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF TRAIL. SOIL WAS REDDISH BROWN SAND. ALL SOIL WAS SIFTED THROUGH STANDARD 1/4 INCH WIRE MESH. AT ALL TIMES, TEST PIT WAS CONDUCTED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF TEAM ANTHROPOLOGIST. AREA WAS DUG 20 CM IN DEPTH TO BEDROCK.

B. TEST PIT RESULTS: NOTHING CONSISTENT WITH HUMAN REMAINS WAS FOUND. NO LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT OR PERSONAL EFFECTS OF ANY KIND WERE UNCOVERED DURING THE TEST PIT. NO MAN MADE ARTIFACTS OF ANY KIND WERE FOUND WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TEST PIT.

4. ANALYST COMMENTS: WITNESS TESTIMONY CHANGED SHARPLY ON TANG ISLAND. PREVIOUSLY, WITNESS TESTIMONY HAD BEEN CONSISTENT AND ASSURED. WITNESS TESTIMONY BECAME INCONSISTENT AND ILLOGICAL. WITNESS DID NOT APPEAR CONFUSED, BUT INSISTED HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT OR THE BURIAL SITE. DESPITE TWO HOURS OF TIME IN WHICH TO ORIENT HIMSELF, ON A BEACH AREA WITH SEVERAL OBVIOUS REFERENCE POINTS, WITNESS WAS UNABLE TO PINPOINT LOCATION OF REPORTED BURIAL SITE. WITNESS INDICATED AREA WHICH WAS FAR TOO SMALL TO BURY THE REPORTED

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TWENTY-SEVEN BODIES. WITNESS ALSO SHOWED NO INTEREST IN THE RESULTS OF THE TEST PIT. WITNESS INDICATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCATION OF ANY BURIAL SITE, DESPITE EARLIER TESTIMONY. MR. MOL MON HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO BE THE SAME INDIVIDUAL REPORTED IN REFUGEE REPORT OF 1988 (REF A.) AND WALK IN REPORT OF 1994 (REF B.), THE OTHER POSSIBLE WITNESS, (b)(6)

CHANTORN, FROM REF A. IS REPORTEDLY DECEASED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UPCOMING RECOVERY EFFORT OF HELICOPTER, DETACHMENT FOUR IS NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER LEADS FOR INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE BURIAL SITES ON TANG ISLAND.

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INFO RULYSGG/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP; ISA/DPMO//

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RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

RHHMSGG/JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI

RUEHBK/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//

RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PHNOM PENH

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

SUBJECT: /DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REPORT CB 95-03//

REF/A/JCRC JCRC REPORT T88-060, 241215Z FEB 88 //

REF/B/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 94-167, 150946Z SEP 94//

REF C/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 95-027, 12 JULY 95//

REF/DCJTFFA DET FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CB 95-02, 11 AUG 95//

AMPN/REF A IS INITIAL JCRC REPORTING CONCERNING THESE POSSIBLE WITNESSES. REF B IS A DETACHMENT FOUR WALK-IN INTERVIEW REPORT, CONCERNING A POSSIBLE WITNESS FOR TANG ISLAND CASES. REF C IS A DETACHMENT FOUR WALK-IN INTERVIEW CONCERNING REMAINS REPORTEDLY FOUND ON TANG ISLAND. REF D IS DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT CONCERNING SEARCH FOR WITNESS FOR TANG ISLAND CASES//

RMKS/L. REMARKS:

A. INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT CONCERNS THE SEARCH FOR WITNESSES TO CASES 1998, 2002, 2003 AND 2038.

B. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTIC CONCLUSIONS.

## 2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

A. ON 28 JULY 1995, TWO MEMBERS OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA POW/MIA COMMITTEE TRAVELED TO TAKEO PROVINCE TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE TWO POSSIBLE WITNESSES FOR TANG ISLAND CASES NOTED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING. ONE WITNESS, (b)(6) WAS REFERENCED IN BOTH REF A AND REF B. (b)(6) WAS THE SOURCE INTERVIEWED FOR REF A. MEMBERS OF THE POW/MIA COMMITTEE WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE THE INDIVIDUALS. COMMITTEE MEMBERS TASKED THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL POLICE COMMANDER WITH LOCATING THE WITNESSES, AND RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH ON 29 JULY.

B. ON 10 AUGUST, KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM, DATED 4 AUGUST, FROM THE TAKEO PROVINCE DEPUTY POLICE COMMANDER WITH INFORMATION THAT ONE OF THE WITNESSES, (b)(6) HAD BEEN LOCATED AND THAT THE OTHER WITNESS, (b)(6) REPORTED DECEASED.

C. AT THE REQUEST OF DETACHMENT FOUR, ON THE EVENING OF 11 AUGUST 1995, THREE MEMBERS OF THE KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE BEGAN TRAVEL TO TRAM KAK SUBDISTRICT TO CONFIRM THE IDENTITY AND LOCATION OF THE LIVING WITNESS.

D. ON 12 AUGUST 1995, THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH AND REPORTED THAT THEY HAD CONFIRMED THE IDENTITY OF (b)(6) AND ESTABLISHED THAT HE HAD BEEN STATIONED ON TANG ISLAND. ACCORDING TO THE (b)(6) HE WAS A KHMER ROUGE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MEMBER, AND HE ARRIVED ON TANG ISLAND ABOUT JULY OR AUGUST OF 1975, TO INSTALL

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RADAR-SIGHTED GUNS ON THE ISLAND (ANALYST COMMENT: DATE OF INCIDENT 15 MAY 1975)). THE WITNESS REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE KNEW ALL ABOUT THE BATTLE ON THE ISLAND, HAVING LEARNED IT FROM KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS WHO WERE ON THE ISLAND AT THE TIME. THE WITNESS TOLD KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT HE KNEW OF ONE HELICOPTER WHICH CRASHED VERY CLOSE TO THE BEACH, AND THAT POSSIBLY FOUR OTHER HELICOPTERS HAD CRASHED FARTHER OUT. HE SAID THAT THE SOLDIERS TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE 27 AMERICANS KILLED IN THE FIGHTING AND THEY WERE BURIED ABOUT 50 METERS FROM THE BATTLE SITE. WITNESS KNEW THE NAME OF THE SHIP INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, (b)(6) STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACT AS ADDITIONAL WITNESSES CONCERNING THE TANG ISLAND CASES; (b)(6) STATED THAT SOME WERE STILL WITH THE KHMER ROUGE AND SOME WERE DECEASED.

E. ACCORDING TO THE KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HE WAS INITIALLY HESITANT TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT, BUT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPLAINED

THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THE POW/MIA MISSION TO HIM. COMMITTEE MEMBERS STATED THAT (b)(6) WAS UNCERTAIN CONCERNING DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT, BUT COMMITTEE MEMBER INTERVIEWING BELIEVES THAT, IF TRANSPORTED TO TANG ISLAND, (b)(6) WOULD BE ABLE TO LOCATE SPECIFIC SITES FOR THE SEARCH TEAM. A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW WITH (b)(6) HAS BEEN ARRANGED.

## 3. ANALYST COMMENTS:

A. (b)(6) IS REFERENCED IN REF A AS A "KHMER ROUGE CADRE", WHO ORDERED THE EXECUTION OF ONE AMERICAN FOUND ON THE TANG ISLAND ABOUT FIVE DAYS AFTER THE FIGHTING HAD ENDED, WHICH MAY EXPLAIN HIS HESITANCY TO ASSIST IN LOCATING OTHER WITNESSES. WHEN WITNESS IS CONVINCED OF POW/MIA MISSION MOTIVES, HE MAY BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH INFORMATION. CONCERNING THE REPORTED NUMBER OF AMERICAN LOSSES ON THE ISLAND, 27, BY (b)(6) COUNT, VICE 18 KILLED OR MISSING; A LARGE AMOUNT OF ORDNANCE WAS EXPENDED DURING THE BATTLE, INCLUDING NAVAL ARTILLERY AND ONE 15,000 POUND BOMB. IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THERE WERE ANY NUMBER OF

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(b)(6)

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//  
INFO RULYSGG/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP: ISA/DPMO//  
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//  
RUEHBK/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//  
RHHMSGG/JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI  
RUEHBK/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//  
RUHVAAA/CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//  
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//  
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PHNOM PENH  
MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

SUBJECT: /DETACHMENT FOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REPORT CB 95-03//

UNRECOGNIZABLE BODIES IN THE AREA. DUE TO THE EXTREMELY RAPID BUILD UP OF DEFENSES ON THE ISLAND, THE KHMER ROUGE MAY NOT HAVE HAD AN ACCURATE ROSTER OF KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS ON THE ISLAND.

B. RECOMMEND LEAD BE FOLLOWED ON-SITE IMMEDIATELY. FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS "BONE TRADERS" ARE COGNIZANT OF JTF-FA INTEREST CONCERNING TANG ISLAND: JTF-FA PERSONNEL HAVE MADE THREE TRIPS TO KAMPONG SAOM TO COORDINATE THE TANG ISLAND INVESTIGATION/RECOVERY MISSION. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA TAKEO PROVINCIAL SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE USED TO LOCATE (b)(6) REF B INDICATES THAT (b)(6) NAME IS KNOWN TO PERSONS WITH STRICTLY MONETARY INTERESTS IN THE REMAINS. REF C INDICATES THAT CIVILIAN PERSONNEL HAVE READY ACCESS TO TANG ISLAND, DESPITE OR PERHAPS EVEN WITH THE COMPLICITY OF, KOC MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE ISLAND.

C. AS A MINIMUM AN ANTHROPOLOGIST DESIRED TO ACCOMPANY WITNESS AND DETACHMENT PERSONNEL TO BURIAL SITE. PERHAPS CILHI PERSONNEL MAY BE AVAILABLE DURING THE ONGOING REDEPLOYMENT OF LAOTIAN JFA. FOR CILHI PERSONNEL ESTIMATE A MINIMUM OF FIVE DAYS AND NO MORE THAN 10 DAYS IN COUNTRY FOR TRAVEL AND SURVEY OF SITE. US DEMINERS IN COUNTRY HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUPPORTING DETACHMENT FOUR IF EOD SUPPORT NEEDED ON SHORT NOTICE. IF SURVEY DETERMINES THAT A RECOVERY IS WARRANTED A KOC POW/MIA COMMITTEE CONTROLLED SECURITY ELEMENT WILL BE PLACED ON SITE.

4. COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: CONCUR.  
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**ROUTINE:**

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INFO JICPAC OIC HONOLULU HI  
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USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3//  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP: ISA/DPMO//  
NSC WASHDC  
CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//  
CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH  
DIA WASHINGTON DC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTFFA DET FOUR//

REF/CJTFFA DET FOUR CB 95-027//

RMKS/L. SUMMARY: ON 12 JULY 95, TWO CAMBODIAN NATIONALS APPROACHED DETACHMENT FOUR WITH FRAGMENTS FROM POSSIBLE AMERICAN REMAINS REPORTEDLY FOUND ON TANG ISLAND. THE CAMBODIAN NATIONALS PROVIDED NO SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION DATA. ON 26 JULY 1995, A PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGIST REVIEWED THE REMAINS, AND DETERMINED THEM TO BE OF NO FORENSIC VALUE.

A. NAME: (b)(6)  
B. ADDRESS: VIAL MEAS VILLAGE, REAL RENH COMMUNE,  
SIHANOUKVILLE  
C. DPOB: 1951, REAL RENH VILLAGE, PREY NOP DISTRICT,  
SIHANOUKVILLE

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E. NATIONALITY: CAMBODIAN

F. RELIGION: BUDDHIST

G. LANGUAGE SPOKEN: KHMER

SS TWO (W2) ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. NAME: (b)(6)

B. ADDRESS: VIAL MEAS VILLAGE, REAL RENH COMMUNE, PREY

DISTRICT, SIHANOUKVILLE

C. DPOB: 740910, VIAL MEAS VILLAGE, REAL RENH COMMUNE,

POP DISTRICT, SIHANOUKVILLE

D. OCCUPATION: FARMER

E. NATIONALITY: CAMBODIAN

F. RELIGION: BUDDHIST

G. LANGUAGE SPOKEN: KHMER, LIMITED ENGLISH

H. DATE OF INFORMATION: 950712

H. DATE OF INTERVIEW: 950712

I. INTERVIEWER: SSG GAMACHE

3. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: WITNESSES PRESENTED DETACHMENT WITH A

SMALL CLEAR CELLOPHANE BAG CONTAINING ELEVEN SMALL BONE

FRAGMENTS. FRAGMENTS ARE VERY WEATHERED AND FRAGILE. THE

LARGEST FRAGMENT MEASURES 37MM BY 12MM BY 2MM. FRAGMENTS ARE

EXTREMELY FRAGILE AND MEASUREMENTS COULD NOT BE MADE OF

REMAINING FRAGMENTS WITHOUT INCURRING FURTHER BREAKAGE.

4. ANTHROPOLOGIST COMMENTS: TEN SMALL LONG BONE FRAGMENTS,

ONE DISTAL FOOT PHALANX AND BONE DUST WERE EXAMINED. THE VERY

SMALL AND WEATHERED LONG BONE FRAGMENTS MAY OR MAY NOT BE

HUMAN. THE DISTAL FOOT PHALANX IS HUMAN, NO OTHER BIOLOGICAL

DETERMINATIONS CAN BE MADE. THE FRAGMENTS ARE OF NO FORENSIC

VALUE.

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U U N C L A S S I F I E D U

[illegible]

# ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

IMMEDIATE

O P 171717Z MAY 95 ZYB

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA//  
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/ACS/EAP/VLC//  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5//  
DIA WASHINGTON DC  
CIA WASHINGTON DC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30M//  
USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC  
CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//  
CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//  
ZEN/CJTFFA DET TWO HANOI SRV  
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH CB//CJTFFA DET 4//

BT  
UNCLAS //N03000//

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTF-FA/-/MAY//

SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003//

REF/A/MSG/CJTFFA HONOLULU HI/161700Z MAY 95//  
REF/B/MSG/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH/160522Z MAR 92//  
REF/C/MSG/US MISSION PHNOM PENH CB/180347Z DEC 92//  
REF/D/MSG/CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB/220637Z FEB 93//  
REF/E/MAP/SERIES 1501 AIR, SHEET NC48-5, EDITION 2//

RMKS/1. REFERENCES:

A. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA (KOC) DURING THE 95-1C JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (JFA) FROM 1 APR 95 TO 5 MAY 95.

B. REF B IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003 IN MARCH 1992.

C. REF C IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003 IN DECEMBER 1992.

D. REF D IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003 IN FEBRUARY 1993.

E. REF E IS THE 1:250,000 SCALE MAP SHEET COVERING THE AREA OF INVESTIGATION.

F. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS ALONE AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

/00323/ /137 1 QHA 0003 139/02:44Z 171717Z MAY 95  
 CSN:2003 139/02:45Z CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI  
 V9533011J306 /

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U U N C L A S S I F I E D U



RECOVERY PLAN TO BE PROMULGATED VIA SEPCOR. NO HAZARDS WERE FOUND.

- /00323/                      /137                      4    QHA 0003                      139/02:44Z                      171717Z MAY 95  
 SN:2003                      139/02:45Z                      CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI  
 V9533011J306 /

U U N C L A S S I F I E D U

ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

IMMEDIATE

O P 081804Z FEB 95 ZYB

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//

INFO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC//  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA//  
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC//  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5//  
DIA WASHINGTON DC//  
CIA WASHINGTON DC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30M//  
USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC//  
CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//  
CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH//  
ZEN JTFFA DET TWO HANOI//

J2	J22
J20	J221
J20A	J222
J21	J25
J23	J251
J24	J252
J26	

BT  
UNCLAS //N03000//

MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA//

SUBJ/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT ON CAMBODIAN CASE 2003//

REF/A/RMG/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI/071730Z FEB 95//

RMKS/1. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT U.S./SRV ACTIVITIES  
CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM DURING THE 33RD JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (JFA)  
FROM 5 JAN 95 TO 25 JAN 95.//

2. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION: DURING THE 33RD JFA, IE2 RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM A JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEWING PERSONS IN THE HO CHI MINH CITY AREA. ON 18 JANUARY 1995, TWO VIETNAMESE MEN PRESENTED THEMSELVES AT THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE IN HO CHI MINH CITY WITH HUMAN REMAINS, MATERIAL EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION WHICH MAY CORRELATE TO CASE 2003. ONE OF THESE MEN CLAIMS HE RECOVERED THESE REMAINS AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE FROM A CRASH SITE ON KOH TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. HE ALSO CLAIMS TO HOLD ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EVIDENCE AT HIS HOME ON PHU QUOC ISLAND. HE IS WILLING TO LEAD A JOINT TEAM TO THE CRASH SITE. A U.S. ANTHROPOLOGIST EXAMINED THESE REMAINS. THEY ARE NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF THE VNOSMP AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT JOINT FORENSIC REVIEW.

RECOMMENDATION: REINVESTIGATE.

### 3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION.

/10730/ /039 1 QHA 0004 039/01:22Z 081804Z FEB 95  
 CSN:KOCADDIN 039/01:22Z CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI  
 V9533011J.30 /

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[illegible]

HELICOPTER THIS WAS. AT THE TIME, THE WATER WAS ONLY ABOUT WAIST DEEP. THEY USED A ROTOR BLADE FROM THE HELICOPTER TO DIG AROUND THE WRECKAGE AND WERE ABLE TO RECOVER SOME HUMAN REMAINS AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE. THEY MADE A SECOND TRIP SOMETIME IN MAY 1994 AND RECOVERED ADDITIONAL ITEMS. THEY BELIEVED THE REMAINS MAY POSSIBLY BE AMERICAN, SO THEY BROUGHT THEM TO (b)(6) BECAUSE HE REPRESENTS THE VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE. (b)(6) NEVER ASKED FOR ANY COMPENSATION AND SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LEAD A TEAM TO THE CRASH SITE.

E. WITNESS 2. (b)(6) ACCOMPANIED (b)(6) TO THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE. HE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (1) NAME: (b)(6)  
(2) AGE: 48 YOA.  
(3) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME AT RESIDENCE:  
(BAIX THOOM) HAMLET, BAI THOM (BAIX THOOM) VILLAGE, PHU  
S QUOOC(S) ISLAND, KIEN GIANG (KIEEN GIANG) PROVINCE;  
RESIDENT.  
(4) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: SAME AS ABOVE.  
(5) CURRENT OCCUPATION: MEMBER OF THE BAI THOM VILLAGE  
COMMITTEE.  
(6) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: UNKNOWN.  
(7) WITNESS RELIABILITY: UNABLE TO DETERMINE.  
(8) BACKGROUND INFORMATION: NONE.  
(9) STATEMENT. (b)(6) PROVIDED NO ADDITIONAL

DETAILS. HE CLAIMS HE DID NOT VISIT THE CRASH SITE AND ONLY ACCOMPANIED (b)(6) TO HO CHI MINH CITY BECAUSE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BAI THOM VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, HE SAID TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE (b)(6) ACCOUNT IS ACCURATE.

#### 4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE.

A. MATERIAL EVIDENCE RETAINED BY JTF-FA:

- (1) U.S. ISSUE HELMET LINER WITH GALVESTON, TEXAS  
WRITTEN INSIDE.

- (2) BENT ZIPPO LIGHTER.  
(3) ONE HALF OF A U.S. ISSUE MESS KIT.

B. MATERIAL EVIDENCE PHOTOGRAPHED AND LEFT IN PLACE: N/A.

C. REMAINS:

- (1) ONE CRANIUM.
- (2) ONE HUMAN CANINE TOOTH WITHOUT RESTORATIONS.
- (3) TWO PORTIONS OF A RIGHT HUMERUS.
- (4) SHAFT OF A LEFT HUMERUS.
- (5) SHAFT OF A LEFT RADIUS.
- (6) SHAFT OF A LEFT TIBIA.
- (7) ONE UNDIFFERENTIATED LONG BONE.
- (8) TWO PROBABLE VERTEBRAL FRAGMENTS.
- (9) ONE RIB.
- (10) TWO NON-HUMAN BONES.

5. SURVEY RESULTS: NONE.

/10730/ /039 3 QHA 0004 039/01:22Z 081804Z FEB 95  
 CSN:KOCADDIN 039/01:22Z CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI  
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6. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.
7. AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED. NONE.

## 8. ANALYST COMMENTS.

A. THE INFORMATION (b)(6) PROVIDED POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO CAMBODIAN CASE 2003. THIS CASE INVOLVES THE 15 MAY 1972 LOSS OF A CH-53A HELICOPTER AND 13 U.S. SERVICEMEN WHILE ON A RESCUE MISSION NEAR KOH TANG ISLAND. HIS INFORMATION CORRELATES TO THIS CASE BY LOCATION AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT (HELICOPTER) ONLY.

B. THERE ARE ONLY TWO HELICOPTER LOSSES NEAR KOH TANG ISLAND, CASES 2002 AND 2003. HOWEVER, CASE 2002 INVOLVES THE LOSS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL AFTER THE HELICOPTER HE WAS IN CRASHED IN THE WATER OFF THE COAST OF THE ISLAND. THE HELICOPTER LOST IN CASE 2003 CRASHED NEAR THE SHORE AND THEREFORE MORE LIKELY CORRELATES TO (b)(6) ACCOUNT.

C. THE HELMET LINER HAD "GALVESTON, TEXAS" WRITTEN ON THE INSIDE. THIS HELMET MAY OR MAY NOT CORRELATE TO CASE 2003-0-06. THIS U.S. MARINE WAS THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL IN THIS INCIDENT WITH A HOME STATE LISTED AS TEXAS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE ANOTHER U.S. SERVICEMAN IN THIS INCIDENT WOULD HAVE WRITTEN "GALVESTON, TEXAS" FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL REASONS.

9. SEARCH AND RECOVERY COMMENTS: NONE.

10. TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS:

A. WITNESS RELIABILITY.

(1) (b)(6) APPEARED TO PROVIDE HIS INFORMATION IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. THE ANALYST/LINGUIST DID NOT FEEL HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO MISGUIDE THE TEAM.

(2) WE COULD NOT DETERMINE (b)(6) RELIABILITY.

### B. ANALYTICAL CONCLUSION.

(1) THE INFORMATION (b)(6) PROVIDED POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO CASE 2003. AT THE VERY LEAST, THIS IS A POTENTIAL LEAD FOR THIS UNRESOLVED CASE. A JOINT TEAM SHOULD VISIT MR. DUONG'S HOUSE WHERE HE ALLEGEDLY IS HOLDING ADDITIONAL WRECKAGE FROM THIS CRASH SITE.

(2) THE REMAINS AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE (b)(6) PROVIDED TO THE JOINT TEAM WILL BE FORWARDED TO HANOI AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT FORENSIC REVIEW.

(3) CONCUR WITH ANALYST COMMENTS.

C. DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: NONE.

11. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS. REINVESTIGATE//  
BT

/10730/ /039 4 QHA 0004 039/01:22Z 081804Z FEB 95  
 CSN:KOCADDIN 039/01:23Z CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI  
 V9533011J.30 /

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FLIGHT EQUIPMENT RECOVERED WAS IN USE AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. THEREFORE, NO DETERMINATION WHETHER AIRCREW MEMBERS REMAINS AT THE SITE CAN BE MADE. THE RECOVERED ITEMS ARE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

6. FOR AFMPC, BUBERS AND CMC: THIS INFORMATION IS FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION. A COPY OF REF A WAS PROVIDED ON 29 DEC 92. A COPY OF REF B WAS PROVIDED ON 25 FEB 93.

MDUOPR

U U N C L A S S I F I E D U



IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

IMMEDIATE

O 220637Z FEB 93 PSN 257026P22

FM CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3// IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//VLC//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOD//

NSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 00514

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE  
92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY: CASE 2003 (VANDEGEER, GAUSE,  
MANNING, GARCIA, TURNER, SANDOVAL, RIVENBURGH, MAXWELL,  
JACQUES, COPENHAVER, BOYD, BLESSING, BENEDETT), INCIDENT  
LOCATION GRID 48PTS965400, TANG ISLAND, KAMPONG SAOM PROVINCE,  
CAMBODIA.1. REF: IOPORD 071923Z JAN 93, POW-MIA OPS IN CAMBODIA [93-  
3/C] MAPS USED: 1:250,000 SERIES 1501 NC48-05.2. SUMMARY OF SURVEY: FROM 09 TO 11 FEB 93, A JOINT  
U.S./CAMBODIAN SURVEY ELEMENT (SE) SURVEYED CASE 2003.  
PERSONNEL FROM JTFFA, CILHI, AND A FOUR MAN U.S. NAVY SALVAGE  
DIVING TEAM, CONDUCTED AN UNDERWATER SURVEY OF CH-53 WRECKAGE  
AND THE SURROUNDING AREA AT TANG ISLAND CAMBODIA. THE PURPOSE  
OF THE SURVEY WAS TO EVALUATE THE SITE AND DETERMINE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF A RECOVERY EFFORT. A VISUAL SEARCH OF THE SITE  
COMBINED WITH A METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY OF THE AREA REVEALED THE  
POTENTIAL RECOVERY AREA TO MEASURE APPROXIMATELY 100-X-100  
METERS. THE AREA UNDER WATER MEASURES APPROXIMATELY 100-X-80  
METERS. THE WATER DEPTH AVERAGES LESS THAN 5 FEET. ITEMS OF  
AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, PERSONAL EFFECTSEXPENDED AMMUNITION, AND ONE (1) ITEM OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE  
(UXO) WERE LOCATED AND TURNED OVER TO SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS  
FOR ANALYSIS. EXCAVATION OF THE METAL OBJECTS LOCATED WITH THE  
METAL DETECTOR REVEALED WRECKAGE AT A RELATIVELY UNIFORM DEPTH  
OF 30-50 CENTIMETERS BELOW GROUND SURFACE. BASED ON ANALYSIS  
OF THE WRECKAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS RECOVERED DURING THE  
SURVEY, RECOMMEND THIS SITE BE CONSIDERED FOR RECOVERY BY AN  
UNDERWATER RECOVERY TEAM. RECOMMEND NO FURTHER ACTION IN THIS  
CASE ON THE PART OF JTF-FA EXCEPT IN SUPPORT OF AN UNDERWATER  
RECOVERY OPERATION.3. DETAILS OF SURVEY: FROM 09 TO 11 FEB 93, A JOINT  
U.S./CAMBODIAN SURVEY ELEMENT (SE) SURVEYED CASE 2003. THE  
U.S. TEAM CONSISTED OF (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

TANG ISLAND NAVAL FORCES

COMMANDER, (b)(6) LED THE CAMBODIAN TEAM.

A. SURVEY OPERATIONS:

(1) 9 FEB 93: TEAM CONDUCTED AN UNDERWATER SEARCH OF A 200  
METER BY 50 METER AREA. THE SEARCH AREA STARTED AT THE  
NORTHERN END OF THE COVE (GRID (b)(5), (b)(6)) AND CONTINUED  
SOUTHWARD FOR 200 METERS (GRID (b)(6), (b)(6)) SEARCH AREA  
EXTENDED 50 METERS TO SEA FROM THE SHORELINE. THIS AREA  
INCLUDED THE TWO CH-53 ROTOR MASTS IDENTIFIED DURING PREVIOUS  
INVESTIGATIONS. TEAM RECOVERED NUMEROUS ITEMS OF AIRCRAFT  
WRECKAGE, LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, AND PERSONAL EFFECTS. MOST  
ITEMS RECOVERED WERE LOCATED TOWARDS THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF  
THE SEARCH AREA AMONGST ROCK FORMATIONS. ALL ITEMS RECOVERED  
WERE EXAMINED AND CATALOGED BY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS. METHOD  
OF SEARCH WAS WADING (SKIRMISH LINE, UTILIZING METAL DETECTORS)  
AND SWIMMING (MASK AND SNORKEL). A LINE MARKED IN 10 METER  
INCREMENTS AND 100 METERS IN LENGTH WAS STRETCHED ALONG THE  
SHORE. ANOTHER LINE, MARKED IN 10 METER INCREMENTS RAN  
PERPENDICULAR TO THE SHORE LINE. THIS PROVIDED A MOVABLE GRID  
SYSTEM THEREBY ENSURING TOTAL AREA COVERAGE DURING THE SEARCH.  
EXCAVATION OF THE METAL OBJECTS LOCATED WITH THE METAL DETECTOR  
REVEALED WRECKAGE AT A RELATIVELY UNIFORM DEPTH OF 30-50  
CENTIMETERS BELOW GROUND SURFACE. THE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF THE  
METAL DETECTOR USED IS APPROXIMATELY 30 CENTIMETERS, SO THE  
POSSIBILITY THAT WRECKAGE IS BURIED AT DEEPER DEPTHS COULD NOT  
BE DETERMINED WITH THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING THE SURVEY.  
(2) 10 FEB 93: TEAM COMMENCED SEARCH OF THE ROCK AND CORAL  
AREA COMPRISING THE NORTHERN END OF THE BEACH (AREA WAS  
APPROXIMATELY 150 METERS BY 100 METERS). THE SEARCH OF THESE  
AREAS WAS SLOW DUE TO THE VAST AMOUNTS OF DEAD CORAL AND SHELL.

DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01) ... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 040-000/COP: 3

257026/053

01 OF 02 LDMX0321 053/06:50Z

220637Z

CSN: AUIA00435

053/06:54Z

CJTFFA

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTIONAL MSG

IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

IMMEDIATE

O 220637Z FEB 93 PSN 257028P24

FM CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3// IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//VLC//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOD//

NSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 00514

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY: CASE 2003 (VANDEGEER, CAUSE, THE SEARCH METHOD WAS WADING AND SWIMMING; BOTH WITH MASK AND SNORKEL. DIVERS USED PROBES TO RAKE AND DIG IN THE CORAL AND SHELL. THE SEARCH WAS METICULOUS AND INCLUDED PROBING UNDER ROCK OVERHANGS. ALL RECOVERED MATERIAL WAS ANALYZED AND CATALOGED BY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS. DURING THE SEARCH, ONE UNEXPLODED 40 MM GRENADE WAS IDENTIFIED. THE GRENADE HAD NOT BEEN FIRED. THE GRENADE HAD A HOLE IN THE CASING, MOST LIKELY CAUSED BY CORROSION, WHICH ALLOWED MOST OF THE PROPELLANT CHARGE TO BE WASHED OUT. THE GRENADE WAS LEFT IN PLACE AFTER ANALYSIS BY EOD TECHNICIANS. TEAM PROBED THE AREAS AROUND BOTH ROTOR MASTS USING METAL BARS. METAL TO METAL CONTACT WAS MADE AT BOTH ROTOR HEADS BETWEEN 6 INCHES AND 2.5 FEET UNDER THE SAND. DIVERS WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE CONTACTS AS METAL BY DIGGING DOWN THE PROBE AND FEELING BOTH JAGGED AND SMOOTH METALLIC SURFACES.

(3) 11 FEB 93: TEAM COMPLETED SEARCH OF NORTHERN END OF THE SEARCH AREA. THIS AREA IS SEAWARD OF WHERE MOST OF THE SURFACE WRECKAGE WAS LOCATED ON PREVIOUS DAYS. SEARCH WAS AGAIN SLOW DUE TO THE VAST AMOUNTS OF DEAD CORAL, SHELL, AND ROCKS. ONLY A FEW ITEMS OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, AND PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THIS AREA. ALL ITEMS WERE ANALYZED AND CATALOGED BY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS. TEAM CONDUCTED A BEACH SURVEY AROUND THE ROTOR MASTS TO DETERMINE TIDAL INFORMATION, DEPTHS, AND DISTANCES FOR USE IN DEVELOPING A DETAILED SALVAGE PLAN.

B. INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS: ON 10 FEB 93, A JOINT US/CAMBODIAN INVESTIGATION ELEMENT (IE) INVESTIGATED CASE 2003. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS OF CASE 2003 INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLEGED GRAVE SITES IN A CAVE ON TANG ISLAND. UPON ARRIVAL AT TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL INFORMED IE OF A CAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATED. IE WAS LED TO THE CAVE BY THE TANG ISLAND NAVAL FORCES COMMANDER, CPT NOUN SAMBO. THE CAVE

WAS LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE ISLAND, GRID (b)(5):

(b)(5): (b)(6) THE CAVE IS APPROXIMATELY 3X3 METERS AND 15M DEEP, CUT OUT OF A ROCKY HILLSIDE. SUBSEQUENT SEARCHES OF BOTH THE OUTSIDE AND THE INSIDE OF THE CAVE (THE CAVE OR BEING ALMOST ENTIRELY ROCK), REVEALED NO INDICATION OF POSSIBLE GRAVE LOCATIONS. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH THE NAVAL FORCES AT THE SITE PROVED TO BE NEGATIVE. NONE OF THE NAVAL FORCE PERSONNEL HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. REMAINS OR ALLEGED GRAVE SITES ASSOCIATED WITH U.S. REMAINS.

## 4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE:

- MECHANICAL PART WITH GITS 640-80-7786 STAMPED ON AN ATTACHED RING. (?? - POSSIBLY 00 OR 08)
- MK-13 MOD 0 DAY/NIGHT FLARE WITH N00104-7308327 LOT# 4-KC-0873 STAMPED ON IT.
- NUMBERS OBTAINED OFF OF KNIFE 23 ROTOR AND SHAFT COMPONENTS.

1. 65105-11018-006

2. 65102-11051-187 REV-AC

3. 65102 11064-087 ASSY REVY

4. 65103 11001-102 REV-P  
A 21016 (ETCHED ON) POSSIBLY A SERIAL #  
F 57 PFL0

5. 4-11043-102  
5104-11043

6. VP-4167-7

D. DATA OBTAINED FROM ROTOR BLADE ATTACHMENT HOLDER OFF WRECKAGE OF KNIFE 31, TAIL # 925.  
65150-00045-L03

REV-Y

BB 65M4896

E. AIRCRAFT SHEET METAL WITH FOLLOWING DATA:

0.5-M

NO. 7515

BT

DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01) ... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17/1750

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J22

3 11 120 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

1130/COPIES: 0018

257028/053

01 OF 01 LOMX0322 053/001

220637Z FEB 93

CSN: AUIA00437

053/001

CJTFFA DET FOU

SECTIONAL MSG

UNCLASSIFIED



IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

IMMEDIATE

O 220637Z FEB 93 PSN 257033P20

FM CJTFFA DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3// SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//VLC//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOD//

NSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 00514

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY: CASE 2003 (VANDEGEER, GAUSE,

FG. 671-70

AINT.PER.

IL-L 19538

P.7 77-71

F. AIRCRAFT SHEET METAL WITH THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS 150

G. ACTIVATION LANYARD

H. ACTUATOR ELECTRO-MECHANICAL WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION  
ON A PLATE.

TYPE: SYSTEM, VOLTS: 28 HC, AMPS: 0.7, MODEL: C103, LOAD:

500#, SERIAL: A1211, MFG DATE: 12/70, DUTY CYCLE: INTERMITTENT,

DUTY CYCLE: INTERMITTENT, CUSTOMER NO: 65403-02627, ORDER#: -

101, NASH CONTROLS, INC A SUBSIDIARY OF SIMMONS PRECISION

CALDW??? MADE IN THE USA

I. ELECTRONIC COMPONENT WITH THE FOLLOWING DATA ON A CIRCUIT  
BOARD: DE 1500, DE 1501, DE 1506A.

J. PIECE OF FIBER GLASS WITH E 65302 12003.

K. SMALL PORTION OF M-16

L. ELECTRICAL COMPONENT (POSSIBLY A RADIO) ONE OF ITS  
COMPONENTS HAD THE FOLLOWING STAMPED ON IT: AB, 1046949, TYPE

J, PAT 2.269136, MADE IN USA.

M. PORTION OF SURVIVAL VEST.

N. PORTION OF PROTECTIVE ARMOR FOR SEAT

O. PORTION OF AIRCRAFT NOSE STRUCTURE WITH THE FOLLOWING DATA:  
MAR 8 1977 (POSSIBLY 71), 65??? 01012-101, ????? ????-103.

5. RECOVERY OPERATION RESULTS: N/A

6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS:

A. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE CILHI OIC AND CILHI ANTHROPOLOGIST  
THAT A RECOVERY OPERATION SHOULD BE MOUNTED IN THIS CASE. SUCH  
A RECOVERY OPERATION IS BEYOND THE ORGANIC CAPABILITIES OF JTF-  
FA AND CILHI AND WOULD REQUIRE OUTSIDE SUPPORT.B. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE CILHI OIC AND CILHI ANTHROPOLOGIST  
THAT A RECOVERY EFFORT COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN 2 TO 3 WEEKS  
WITH THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL AND SUPPORT:(1) CILHI: OIC OR SENIOR NCOIC  
ANTHROPOLOGIST  
MEDIC  
UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST (RETAINED  
ON SHORT-TERM CONTRACT)(2) JTFFA: OIC  
LINGUIST  
EOD TECHNICIAN  
LIFE-SUPPORT TECHNICIAN  
CH53 CREW CHIEF OR FUNCTIONAL-AREA EXPERT(3) OUTSIDE SUPPORT: SALVAGE VESSEL  
SALVAGE DIVERS  
EXCAVATION EQUIPMENT  
UNDERWATER EOD TECHNICIAN

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGE: NONE

8. AREAS OF CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE

9. ANALYST COMMENTS: ALL AREAS OF CASE FILE HAVE BEEN  
THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED. CONTINUED INVESTIGATION OF CASE NOT  
RECOMMENDED. CONCUR WITH RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS.

BT

DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01) ... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (15) ... A:

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU

30772/17/1760

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-E

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RTD: 040-000/COPIES: 0018

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3// SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//VLC//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOD//

NSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 00514

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY: CASE 2003 (VANDEGEER, GAUSE,

10. SPECIALIST COMMENTS:

A. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALISTS COMMENTS:

(1) THE PREVIOUS RETURN OF A WEATHERED--BUT OTHERWISE WELL PRESERVED--HUMAN MANDIBLE IDENTIFIED AS THE REMAINS OF AN INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATED WITH THIS REFNO ATTESTS TO THE SURVIVABILITY OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM THIS INCIDENT.

(2) THE PRESENCE OF WRECKAGE, PASSENGER EFFECTS, AND CREW-RELATED LIFE-SUPPORT MATERIALS IN THE DEBRIS FIELD LOCATED BETWEEN THE VISIBLE ROTOR SHAFTS AND THE SHORELINE SUGGESTS THAT THE DRIFT PATTERN IS CONDUCTIVE TO THE RETENTION OF CASE-RELATED MATERIALS WITHIN THE AREA IDENTIFIED FOR RECOVERY.

(3) RECOVERY WILL REQUIRE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE OUTSIDE OF THE IN-HOUSE CAPABILITIES OF JTFFA AND CILHI.

(4) IT IS THE OPINION OF THE CILHI OIC AND CILHI ANTHROPOLOGIST THAT THE SITE IS A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR RECOVERY. NO ADDITIONAL WORK SHORT OF A COMPLETE RECOVERY OF THE AREA IS WARRANTED.

(5) THE RECOVERY TEAM CAN OPERATE AND LIVE ON THE SALVAGE VESSEL THUS ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR HELICOPTER SUPPORT AND HOUSING IN PHNOM PENH AND REDUCING THE WORK HOURS LOST IN DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE RECOVERY AREA.

B. WRECKAGE ANALYSIS COMMENTS: MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL DEVICES; A SMALL PIECE OF FIBERGLASS; THE TIE DOWN STRAP; A SMALL PORTION OF AN M-16, AND A SMALL PORTION OF MATERIAL ON THE SURVIVAL VEST WERE BURNT OR SHOWED EVIDENCE OF BURNING THUS CORRELATING WITH CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING KNIFE 31, AIRCRAFT 925.

C. DIVER COMMENTS:

(1) SURVEY INDICATES A STRONG PROBABILITY THAT BOTH CH-53 HELICOPTERS REMAIN RELATIVELY INTACT BENEATH THE TWO ROTOR MASTS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT, INDICATE

THAT THE SOUTHERN MOST HELICOPTER (BELIEVED TO BE KNIFE 31, TAIL # 925) BROKE UP ON IMPACT. BELIEVE ONLY THE STRUCTURAL MEMBERS OF THIS AIRCRAFT REMAIN RELATIVELY INTACT. THE HELICOPTER FUSELAGES ARE BURIED IN 6 INCHES TO 2.5 FEET OF SAND. ITEMS OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, AND PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE SEARCH AREA, PREDOMINANTLY IN THE AREA NORTH OF THE 2 ROTOR MASTS.

(2) THERE ARE FOUR (4) VIABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR CONDUCTING AN EXCAVATION OF THIS NATURE:

- USN SALVAGE SHIP (USN MANNED)

- USNS T-ATF (MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND (CIVIL SERVICE))

WITH MOBILE DIVING AND SALVAGE UNIT (MDSU-1) EMBARKED

- LAND SUPPORTED OPERATIONS USING MDSU-1 FOR THE IN WATER

PHASE

- CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR

RECOMMEND USING THE USN SALVAGE SHIP TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION. THESE SHIPS PROVIDE ORGANIC SUPPORT, EQUIPMENT, AND MANPOWER. TWO (2) SUCH SHIPS ARE PERMANENTLY HOMEPORTED IN SASEBO, JAPAN AND OPCON TO COMSEVENTHFLEET AND COMMANDER LOGISTICS GROUP WESTERN PACIFIC (SINGAPORE).

(3) USN CONSIDERATIONS FOR WHEN TO CONDUCT SUCH AN OPERATION ARE SHIP AVAILABILITY AND WEATHER. CALM SEAS, AS EXISTED DURING THE SURVEY, ARE REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION. CONDITIONS DURING SURVEY WERE EXCELLENT; SEAS 0 - 1 FOOT; WINDS LESS THAN 15 KTS; WATER VISIBILITY EXCELLENT.

(4) RECOMMEND A MEDICAL OFFICER AND A USN MASTER EOD TECHNICIAN BE ASSIGNED TO THE SHIP'S CREW. ALTHOUGH VERY LITTLE DIVING IS EXPECTED, SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD PROVIDE

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RTD: 040-000/COPIES: 0018

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOD//

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DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 00514

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY: CASE 2003 (VANDEGEER, CAUSE, VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR A DIVING MEDICAL OFFICER. THE MASTER EOD TECHNICIAN WILL BE CRITICAL TO CONDUCTING A SAFE OPERATION.

(5) THE MATTER OF UXO MUST BE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN THE OPORD AND THOROUGHLY BRIEFED TO THE SHIP'S COMMANDING OFFICER BY AN EXPERIENCED EXPERT IN SUCH MATTERS.

(6) HYDROGRAPHIC INFORMATION (DEPTHS AND BOTTOM CONDITIONS) ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SHIP CAN ANCHOR IN THE VICINITY OF THE WORK SITE. IF UNABLE TO ANCHOR, AVAILABLE MANPOWER AT THE WORK SITE WILL BE REDUCED.

(7) BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET SALVAGE SHIPS ARE:

- CLASS: ATS-1 (USS BEAUFORT, ATS-2/USS BRUNSWICK, ATS-

3)

- SIZE: 282 FT LONG, 50 FT BEAM, 17 FT DRAFT

- FUEL: ON BOARD STORAGE FOR SUFFICIENT FUEL

- FRESH WATER: ON BOARD CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE POTABLE

WATER

- FOOD: SELF SUFFICIENT

- EQUIPMENT: 2, 35 FOOT WORK BOATS (LANDING CRAFT STYLE), RUBBER BOATS (ZODIAC STYLE), SCUBA AND SURFACE SUPPLIED DIVING EQUIPMENT, RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER, SALVAGE MACHINERY (PUMPS, COMPRESSORS, GENERATORS, WELDING MACHINES, ETC), 20 TON AND 10 TON CRANES, HELICOPTER DECK (HOVER/DAY ONLY; NO REFUEL CAPABILITY)

- DECK AREA: LARGE DECK AREA WHICH WILL SUPPORT BERTHING VANS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT STORAGE.

- CREW: NORMALLY EIGHT (8) OFFICERS AND 105 ENLISTED PERSONNEL

(8) THE BASIC SALVAGE PLAN FOR SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD INVOLVE THE USE OF 35 FOOT WORK BOATS WITH MINIMUM 250 GPM PUMPS PROVIDING DISCHARGE FOR THE WATER JETS (DREDGES). EXCAVATION WILL REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION OF COFFER DAMS. WATER JET DISCHARGE WOULD BE INTO A BOX SCREEN. THE SHIP WOULD ANCHOR AS CLOSE TO

SITE AS SAFELY POSSIBLE. MULTIPLE COFFER DAMS WILL ALLOW MORE THAN ONE SITE TO BE EXCAVATED AT A TIME. THE SHIP WOULD PROVIDE BERTHING, MESSING, BOAT COMMUNICATIONS, MACHINE, CARPENTER AND REPAIR SUPPORT.

C. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIANS COMMENTS: THE HAZARD FROM UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) ON TANG ISLAND IS NO HIGHER THAN INLAND CAMBODIA.

(1) WHILE ON TANG ISLAND WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL PIECES OF UXO: FOUR 81MM MORTARS, HIGH EXPLOSIVE (HE) U.S., AND ONE 40MM GRENADE, HE U.S. ALTHOUGH ALL FOUR MORTARS STILL HAD SAFETY PINS INSTALLED, THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MORE HAZARDOUS AS THEY HAVE BEEN SEVERELY WEATHERED AND THE EXPLOSIVE FILLER IS LIKELY UNSTABLE.

(2) RECOMMEND AT LEAST ONE NAVY EOD TECHNICIAN, BECAUSE TWO OF THE MORTARS ROUNDS AND THE GRENADE ARE UNDER WATER. IN ADDITION, RECOMMEND AT LEAST ONE ARMY OR MARINE EOD TECHNICIAN, AS THESE TWO SERVICES WORK WITH THESE TYPES OF ORDNANCE MORE OFTEN AND WOULD BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THEM.

(3) A FULL SCALE RECOVERY OF THE AREA IN THE WATER WOULD BE NO MORE HAZARDOUS THAN A RECOVERY ON LAND. CAMBODIA IS HAZARDOUS, WEATHER IT BE SHOTS FIRED, MINES OR UXO AND THE SAME PRECAUTIONS TAKEN ON OTHER RECOVERIES SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THIS ONE. A NAVY EOD TECHNICIAN WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO THIS RECOVERIES SUCCESS AS THEY WILL HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE UNDER WATER.

11. TEAM COMMANDER COMMENTS: OVER THE COURSE OF THREE DAYS, A TEAM OF DIVERS WORKING WITH CILHI OIC AND ANTHROPOLOGIST CONDUCTED A DETAILED SURVEY OF THE AREA SURROUNDING CASE 2003. BELIEVE SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT REMAINS ARE PRESENT IN THE AREA, BURIED IN 30 TO 50 CM OF SAND ON THE OCEAN FLOOR. STRONGLY BELIEVE THIS SITE WARRANTS A

BT

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J03... J... (2)

RTD: 040-000/COPIES: 0018

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/1A/J3-JOD//

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CDR USACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 DET FOUR PHNOM PENH CB 00514

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF SURVEY: CASE 2003 (VANDEGEER, GAUSE,  
RECOVERY OPERATION; HOWEVER, SUCH AN OPERATION APPEARS TO BE  
BEYOND THE ORGANIC CAPABILITIES OF JTF-FA AND CILHI. RECOMMEND  
THIS SITE FOR RECOVERY. RECOMMEND NO FURTHER ACTION ON THE  
PART OF JTF-FA IN THIS CASE EXCEPT IN SUPPORT OF AN UNDERWATER  
RECOVERY OPERATION.

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SECTIONAL MSG

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DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//VLC//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOB//

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USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 PHNOM PENH CB 03449

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE  
92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION: CASE 2003  
(VANDEGEER, GAUSE, MANNING, GARCIA, TURNER, SANDOVAL,  
RIVENBURGH, MAXWELL, JACQUES, COPENHAVER, BOYD,  
BLESSING, BENEDETT), INCIDENT LOCATION GRID  
48PTS965400, TANG ISLAND, KAMPONG SAOM PROVINCE,  
CAMBODIA.

1. REF: (OPORD 041903Z NOV 92, POW-MIA OPS IN  
CAMBODIA (93-2/01) MAPS USED: 1:250,000 SERIES 1501  
NC48-05.

## 2. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION:

A. BETWEEN 6 AND 14 DEC 92, A JOINT US/CAMBODIAN  
INVESTIGATION ELEMENT (IE) INVESTIGATED CASE 2003 ON  
TANG ISLAND. DURING THE INVESTIGATIONS, IE RECOVERED  
FOUR INDIVIDUAL BONES AND A JAW FRAGMENT WITH TWO  
TEETH WHICH ARE SUSPECTED TO BE HUMAN REMAINS.  
DESPITE RECOVERY OF THE REMAINS, IE WAS UNABLE TO  
FIND ANY INFORMATION USEFUL IN CASE RESOLUTION.

B. ON 06 DEC 92, A JOINT US/CAMBODIAN INVESTIGATION  
ELEMENT (IE) INITIATED INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003.

THE U.S. TEAM CONSISTED OF: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, LED THE  
CAMBODIAN TEAM. IE DEPARTED POCHENTONG 0900, ARR

KAMPONG SAOM 0950 TO PICK UP SECURITY PERSONNEL. IE  
DEPARTED KAMPONG SAOM 1005 (G) AND ARRIVED TANG  
ISLAND (48PTS96263516) 1025 (G).  
C. FOLLOWING A BRIEF MEETING WITH MILITARY  
OFFICIALS, TEAM DEPARTED TS96263516 AND MOVED ON FOOT  
TO VIC TS964408. ON ARRIVAL, TEAM OBSERVED TWO ROTOR  
HEADS PROTRUDING FROM SHALLOW WATER APPROXIMATELY 20  
METERS OFF SHORE. A PHYSICAL SEARCH OF THE AREA  
AROUND THE ROTOR HEADS REVEALED NO CONCLUSIVE  
EVIDENCE OF REMAINS. A SUB-SURFACE SEARCH OF A SMALL  
BAY NORTH OF HELICOPTER WRECKAGE REVEALED NUMEROUS  
PIECES OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS.  
ALL PARTS WERE ENCRUSTED WITH CORAL AND BARNACLES.  
TEAM ALSO RECOVERED ONE ARM BONE AND ONE FEMUR. THE  
REMAINS WERE RECOVERED IN APPROXIMATELY FOUR FEET OF  
WATER. FIELD ANALYSIS BY CILHI TECHNICIANS INDICATES  
A STRONG POSSIBILITY THE REMAINS ARE NON-MONGOLOID  
BASED ON SIZE. TEAM ALSO DUG THREE TEST PITS BASED  
ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY JTF-FA, J2. ALL TEST PITS  
WERE DUG VIC. TS964408 WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. IE  
DEPARTED TANG ISLAND 1524 (G), MADE A BRIEF STOP IN  
KAMPONG SAOM, AND ARRIVED POCHENTONG 1636 (G).  
D. ON 7 DEC 92, IE DEPARTED POCHENTONG 0840 (G). IE  
ARRIVED KAMPONG SAOM, KAMPOT PROVINCE 0927 (G). IE  
ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE INDIVIDUALS IN KAMPONG SAOM WHO  
HAD KNOWLEDGE OF MISSING AMERICANS FROM TANG ISLAND  
OR WHO HAD BEEN WITNESSES TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT.  
IE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO CLAIMED  
TO HAVE SECOND HAND KNOWLEDGE OF FIVE ALLEGED  
AMERICAN GRAVES IN A RUBBER PLANTATION NEAR KAMPONG  
SAOM. THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS THE SAME MAN PREVIOUS  
INVESTIGATION TEAMS HAD INTERVIEWED IN MARCH 1992.  
HE COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER INFORMATION NOR COULD HE  
RECALL THE PRECISE LOCATION OF ANY OF THE 5 ALLEGED  
AMERICAN GRAVES. REPORTING THAT HE HAD NEVER ACTUALLY  
SEEN ANY GRAVES. IE WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYONE ELSE  
IN KAMPONG SAOM WHO CLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY EVENTS

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DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01) ... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17/1760

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 074-000/COPIES: 0018

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CSN: AUIA00479

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CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 PHNOM PENH CB 03449

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE  
92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION: CASE 2003  
AT TANG ISLAND. IE DEPARTED KAMPONG SAOM 1127 (G)  
AND ARRIVED TANG ISLAND 1140 (G). ON ARRIVAL, IE  
CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THE AREAS VIC. THE  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED HELICOPTER CRASH SITES. IE WAS  
ABLE TO RECOVER ONE FRAGMENT OF A JAW BONE WHICH  
CONTAINED TWO TEETH. TEST PITS IN THE SAME AREA  
YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS. IE CONDUCTED ONE FINAL  
SKIRMISH SEARCH OF THE BEACH VIC. TS964408. DURING  
THE SKIRMISH SEARCH, TEAM LOCATED TWO BONE FRAGMENTS.  
FIELD ANALYSIS BY CILHI TECHNICIANS INDICATES THAT  
THE REMAINS ARE HUMAN, RACE UNKNOWN. IE DEPARTED  
TANG ISLAND 1542 (G), STOPPED BRIEFLY IN KAMPONG SAOM  
TO DROP OFF SECURITY PERSONNEL, THEN CONTINUED TO  
POCHENTONG, ARRIVING 1653 (G).

E. ON 14 DEC 92, IE DEPARTED POCHENTONG 0816 (G) AND  
ARRIVED CITY OF KAMPONG SAOM 0915 (G) TO PICK UP  
SECURITY OFFICIALS. IE DEPARTED KAMPONG SAOM 0930  
(G) AND ARRIVED TANG ISLAND 0945 (G). ON ARRIVAL, IE  
CONDUCTED DETAILED SEARCHES OF THE BEACH AND WATER  
AROUND THE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED CH-53 MAIN ROTOR  
ASSEMBLIES ON THE EASTERN BEACH OF TANG ISLAND. IE  
LOCATED ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE IN THE WATER AND  
FOUND TWO NUMBERS, BELIEVED TO BE PART NUMBERS, ON  
ONE OF THE ROTOR ASSEMBLIES ALONG THE EASTERN BEACH.  
IE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY SERIAL NUMBERED PARTS. IE  
DID NOT LOCATE ANY REMAINS. IE DEPARTED TANG ISLAND  
1439 (G), STOPPED BRIEFLY IN KAMPONG SAOM TO DROP OFF  
SECURITY PERSONNEL, AND DEPARTED KAMPONG SAOM 1458  
(G).

## 3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

A. ON 06 DEC 92, IE INITIATED INVESTIGATION OF  
CASE 2003 IN KAMPONG SAOM CITY. UPON COMPLETING

NEGOTIATIONS IE, ACCOMPANIED BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS,  
PROCEEDED TO TANG ISLAND. ON ARRIVAL IE INTERVIEWED  
NUMEROUS CAMBODIAN NAVY PERSONNEL (ONLY RESIDENTS OF  
TANG ISLAND) WHO WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING CASE 2003. UPON  
COMPLETION OF INTERVIEWS IE MOVED TO INCIDENT  
LOCATION.

B. ON ARRIVAL, TEAM OBSERVED TWO ROTOR HEADS  
STICKING OUT OF THE WATER APPROXIMATELY 20 METERS OFF  
SHORE. A PHYSICAL SEARCH OF THE AREA AROUND THE  
ROTOR HEADS REVEALED NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF  
REMAINS. A SUB-SURFACE SEARCH OF A SMALL BAY NORTH  
OF HELICOPTER WRECKAGE REVEALED NUMEROUS PIECES OF  
AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS. DURING THE  
SUB-SURFACE SEARCH FOR WRECKAGE, TEAM ALSO RECOVERED  
ONE ARM BONE AND ONE FEMUR. THE REMAINS WERE  
RECOVERED IN APPROXIMATELY FOUR FEET OF WATER. FIELD  
ANALYSIS BY CILHI TECHNICIANS INDICATES A STRONG  
POSSIBILITY THE REMAINS ARE NON-MONGOLOID BASED ON  
SIZE.

C. DURING INVESTIGATION OF REFUGEE REPORT T88-  
286 IE LOCATED AN AREA ALONG THE EASTERN SHORE OF  
TANG ISLAND THAT RESEMBLED THAT OF THE REFUGEE  
REPORT. SOIL CONDITION AT THE ALLEGED BURIAL SITE IS  
MOSTLY SAND WITH CLAY AND SMALL ROCK CONTENT.  
TERRAIN IS FLAT, VEGETATION IS INTERMITTENTLY CHOKED  
WITH DENSE FOLIAGE. THE TEAM CONDUCTED A 100 PERCENT  
SKIRMISH SEARCH AND DUG THREE TEST PITS, 1M X 1M X  
25CM, 1M X 1M X 40CM, 1M X 1M X 70CM WITH NEGATIVE  
RESULTS.

D. ON 07 DEC 92, IE AGAIN PROCEEDED TO KAMPONG  
SAOM CITY. (b)(6)

(b)(6) PROVIDED IE WITH WITNESS (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (INTERVIEWED DURING THE MARCH INVESTIGATION). (b)(6)  
(b)(6) WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE IE WITH ADDITIONAL  
BT

DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01)... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5)... ACT

J3 (1)... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17/1760

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 074-000/COPIES: 0016

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CSN: AUIA00480

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SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

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CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 PHNOM PENH CB 03449

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE  
92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION; CASE 2003  
INFORMATION CONCERNING EVENTS ON TANG ISLAND. IE  
ACCOMPANIED BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS CANVASED THE  
KAMPONG SAOM WATER FRONT IN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE  
ADDITIONAL WITNESSES WHO MAY HAVE FREQUENTED THE  
ISLAND WHILE FISHING OR DELIVERING FOOD. IE MET WITH  
NO SUCCESS ON THE WATERFRONT. IE PROCEEDED TO TANG  
ISLAND.

E. ON ARRIVAL AT TANG ISLAND IE CONTINUED TO  
INVESTIGATE REMAINING REFUGEE REPORTS. IE CONDUCTED  
SKIRMISH SEARCH OF SHORELINE ASSOCIATED WITH IIR 6  
014 0549 92 AND INVESTIGATED REFUGEE REPORTS T85-144,  
T88-060. WITHOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF A LIVE WITNESS  
IE WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE ALLEGED GRAVE LOCATIONS  
BASED ON REFUGEE REPORTS. IE CONDUCTED ONE FINAL  
SKIRMISH OF THE NORTHERN END OF THE BEACH. DURING  
THE SKIRMISH SEARCH, TEAM LOCATED TWO BONE FRAGMENTS.  
FIELD ANALYSIS BY CILHI TECHNICIANS INDICATES THAT  
THE REMAINS ARE HUMAN, RACE UNKNOWN.

F. IE MOVED TO THE WESTERN BEACH IN SEARCH OF A  
CAVE WHICH PREVIOUS WITNESS STATEMENTS INDICATED MAY  
CONTAIN REMAINS. IE LOCATED A CAVE AT TS96204158;  
HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO REMAINS IN THE CAVE NOR WAS  
THERE ANY INDICATION THAT GRAVES HAD BEEN DUG INSIDE  
THE CAVE. THE CAVE WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE KHMER  
ROUGE FROM 1975-1979, BUT WAS NOT COMPLETED PRIOR TO  
THE VIETNAMESE INVASION. LOCAL WITNESSES STATED THAT  
THE CAVE WAS MADE TO HIDE BOATS. THERE IS A SECOND  
SUCH CAVE ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE ISLAND. CAVE  
DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATELY 5M WIDE X 5M DEEP X 10M  
LONG, CUT FROM SOLID ROCK.

G. (b)(6) PRESENTED IE WITH A PARTIAL  
JAW BONE CONTAINING TWO TEETH. (b)(6) KNEW NOTHING  
OF ALLEGED GRAVE SITES, ONLY THE LOCATION WHERE HE

ALLEGEDLY FOUND THE BONE ON THE GROUND. TEST PITS IN  
THE SAME AREA YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS.

H. ON 14 DEC 92, IE RETURNED TO TANG ISLAND.  
IE CONDUCTED A SKIRMISH LINE SEARCH, IN THE WATER OFF  
THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE NORTHEASTERN BEACH, GRID  
COORD TS96496069. SEARCH AREA WAS APPROXIMATELY 200  
METERS BY 60 METERS WITH WATER DEPTH FROM BEACH FRONT  
TO 1.5 METERS. SEARCH YIELDED NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE  
OR REMAINS.

## 4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE:

A. 22 INCH DIAMETER FIBERGLASS PLATE WITH DATA  
PLATE:

(1) SHIELD, PROTECTIVE, AIRCRAFT  
FOR USE ON CH-53 TYPE AIRCRAFT  
SPECIFICATION MIL-S-6451A  
STOCK NO ????  
CONTRACT NO NOW 63-0150  
DATE OF MFG ????  
65700-50000-041  
SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT  
U.S.

(2) ON REVERSE OF PLATE: 70-1627

## B. PART NUMBERS FROM THE MAIN ROTOR ASSY:

65105-11018-006

5104-11043-?

## C. PART NUMBER FROM SUBMERGED AIRFRAME:

?-67-81?

?67?SS?

## D. ONE UNDERARM LIFE PRESERVER

## E. ONE PIECE OF SMOKE MASK

## F. ONE PIECE OF FLAK JACKET

## 5. RECOVERY OPERATION RESULTS: N/A

BT

DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01) ... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (15) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

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J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 074-000/COPIES: 0018

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01 OF 01 LDMX0493 353/04:03Z

180347Z DEC 92

CSN: A01A00405

353/04:18Z

USMISSION PHNO

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SECTIONAL MSG

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O 180347Z DEC 92 PSN 001751P14

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//VLC//

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//PW-MIA/LA/J3-JOD//

NSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA/DOF/XOOF//

CJTF-FA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CJTFFA DET THREE//

RECOVERY APPEARS TO BE BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF A STANDARD RECOVERY TEAM. BELIEVE FURTHER INVESTIGATION ON TANG ISLAND WOULD PROVE FRUITLESS. THE ONLY REMAINING AVENUE FOR CASE RESOLUTION IS ARCHIVAL RESEARCH OF KHMER ROUGE AND/OR VIETNAMESE RECORDS REFERENCE ACTIONS ON TANG ISLAND.

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 PHNOM PENH CB 03449

DIA PASS TO DOD POW/MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

92

UNCLASSIFIED 92

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION: CASE 2003

6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS: RECOMMEND NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF CASE 2003, UNLESS ADDITIONAL PERTINENT WITNESS INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE.

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGE: NONE

8. AREAS OF CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE

9. ANALYST COMMENTS: ALL AREAS OF CASE FILE HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED. WITHOUT FURTHER WITNESS INFORMATION, CONTINUED INVESTIGATION OF CASE NOT RECOMMENDED.

10. SPECIALIST COMMENTS:

A. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALISTS COMMENTS: THE TEAM DISCOVERED 2 UNEXPLODED 81MM MORTAR ROUNDS IN THE AREA. CONSIDERING THE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF THE TEST PITS AND NO FIRST HAND WITNESSES OR DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT THE SITE, RECOMMEND NO FURTHER SEARCH OF AREA BE CONDUCTED.

B. WRECKAGE ANALYSIS COMMENTS: MAJORITY OF REMAINING WRECKAGE IS SUBMERGED IN SHALLOW WATER. NUMEROUS SMALL PIECES OF WRECKAGE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ASHORE BY HUMAN MEANS. PART NUMBERS OBSERVED CONFIRM AIRCRAFT AS A CH-53A ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC SERIAL NUMBER CAN BE DETERMINED.

11. TEAM COMMANDER COMMENTS: BELIEVE INVESTIGATION ELEMENT HAS REACHED A TERMINATION POINT IN THIS CASE. ALTHOUGH APPARENT HUMAN REMAINS WERE RECOVERED DURING SKIRMISH SEARCHES OF THE EASTERN BEACH, A FULL SCALE

DLVR: ADDITIONAL COPY (01) ... INFO

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (15) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

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J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J2 (3 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 074-000/COPIES: 0018

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01 OF 01 LDMXB494 353/04:032

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CDR JTF-FA BARBERS PT HI

INFO CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI//DAP C-PED-H// IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

NSC WASHDC 2378

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC

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JCS WASHDC//J3/J5// 7960

DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA

JCRC LIAISON BKK

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 072692

FOLLOWING PHNOM PENH 00475 DATED 3/5/92 SENT ACTION TO  
SECSTATE BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFORMATION.

QUOTE:

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 00475

STATE PLEASE PASS CDR JTF-FA BARBERS PT HI INFO USCINCPAC  
HONOLULU HI//J3//, JCS WASHINGTON DC//J3/J5//, WHITE HOUSE  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC, SECDEF WASHINGTON  
DC//DASD-ISA-PW-MIA//, DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//, USCINCPAC  
LO WASHINGTON DC, JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH, CDRUSACILHI FT  
SHAFTER HI//DAPC-PED-H//

STATE ALSO FOR EAP/VLC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MUPS, CB

SUBJECT: INTERIM SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT U.S. - CAMBODIAN  
POW-MIA OPERATION, 20 FEB - 4 MAR.

REF: USCINCPAC MSG 151900Z FEB 92

1. SUMMARY: A JOINT U.S.-CAMBODIAN INVESTIGATION/RECOVERY  
(IRT) CURRENTLY IS CONDUCTING A RECOVERY OF ISOLATED GRAVES AT  
48QVT625261 (REFNO 1626) AND HAS COMPLETED AN INVESTIGATION OF  
REPORTS OF AN ISOLATED GRAVE ON KDH TANG, ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
1975 MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT.

2. ON 20 FEB THE IRT ADVANCE PARTY AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT,  
PHNOM PENH BY USAF C-130, FOLLOWED BY THE AVIATION ELEMENT ON  
26 FEB AND THE MAIN BODY ON 27 FEB. AFTER COMPLETING FINAL  
PREPARATIONS THE TEAM BEGAN RECOVERY OPERATIONS AT REFNO 1626,  
VIC SLA KU DISTRICT, KAMPONG SPUE PROVINCE ON 29 FEB.

DLVR:CDR JTF-FA BARBERS PT HI(3)...ACT *NICHIE 00562*

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CSN:RXBP0013

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SECSTATE WASHDC

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SECDEF WASHDC//DASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

2009 001  
DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA//  
BUPERS WASHDC//663B//. 7000  
CNO WASHDC 7003  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J32//  
JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

2009 001  
DIA WASHDC//PW-MIA//  
BUPERS WASHDC//663B//. 7000  
CNO WASHDC 7003  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J32//  
JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

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1. THIS MSG PROVIDES THE PARENT SERVICE AND ALCON WITH THE ID STATUS OF THE TWO REMAINS TURNED OVER BY THE STATE OF CAMBODIA ON 11 JAN 92 WHICH THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVED WERE THOSE OF US SERVICEMEN KILLED DURING THE SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT ON KOH TANG (TANG ISLAND) IN 1975. TWO NAMES WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMAINS BY ID TAGS, AND THE NAMES ARE THOSE OF TWO USMC PERSONNEL UNACCOUNTED FOR AS A RESULT OF THE SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT. THE REMAINS WERE TURNED OVER TO THE HEAD OF THE US MISSION IN CAMBODIA IN A BRIEF CEREMONY AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT ON 11 JAN 92, AND WERE RECEIVED AT CILHI ON 17 JAN 92.

2. TWO DISCRETE PACKAGES, EACH CONTAINING SKELETAL REMAINS AND AN ID TAG, WERE IN ONE BOX. TWO PROCESSING NUMBERS, CILHI 0005-92 AND CILHI 0006-92, WERE ASSIGNED TO THE REMAINS IN THE TWO PACKAGES FOR CONTROL AND REPORTING PURPOSES. THE RESULTS OF THE CILHI ANALYSIS OF BOTH REMAINS FOLLOWS.

3. CILHI 0005-92. JNE ID TAG: "SANDOVAL, A.R., 458 96 48 09 A USMC S ROM CATH" (SANDOVAL IS REFNO 2003-0-06). THE SKELETAL REMAINS CONSIST SOLELY OF EIGHT PIECES OF NONHUMAN BONE, RANGING IN SIZE FROM 1X1 CENTIMETERS TO 3X8 CENTIMETERS. THERE WAS NO HUMAN MATERIAL IN THE PACKAGE.

4. CILHI 0006-92. ONE ID TAG: "JACQUES J. J. 524 84 79 25 B USMC M

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CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

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INFO JCS WASHDC//JCJCS-PW-MIA/J5// IMMEDIATE  
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE  
 SECDEF WASHDC//DASD-ISA/PW-MIA// IMMEDIATE  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3// IMMEDIATE  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA// IMMEDIATE  
 CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI//IAPC-PED-4// IMMEDIATE  
 SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP-VLC// IMMEDIATE

BT

SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 52341

0458 OCT 91

DELIVER DURING FIRST DUTY HOUR

SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT U.S. - CAMBODIAN POW-MIA OPERATIONS, 14-23 OCT.

1. (U) SUMMARY: FROM 14 TO 23 OCT, A JOINT U.S. - CAMBODIAN SURVEY TEAM (JST) CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF REFNO 2003 (48PTS966415) AND ATTEMPTED A RECOVERY OF ALLEGED GRAVE SITES ON TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. UPON COMPLETION OF ACTIVITIES ON TANG ISLAND THE TEAM RECOVERED TO PHNOM PENH, WHERE THEY SURVEYED ALLEGED GRAVE SITES ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 1626 (48PVT625261) FROM 21 TO 23 OCT.

2. AT 0900G, 11 OCT THE JST ADVANCE PARTY, CONSISTING OF (b)(6) (TEAM LEADER), (b)(6) (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST), (b)(6) (EOD TECHNICIAN), AND (b)(6) (INTERPRETER) ARRIVED AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA. THE ADVANCE PARTY HAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY (b)(6) BUNTHENG (DEPUTY DIRECTOR/ DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAS). (b)(6) HAS THEN INFORMED OF HELICOPTER CHARTER COSTS AND BILLETING REQUIREMENTS. (b)(6) ALSO INFORMED (b)(6) THAT IN ADDITION TO THE TEAMS ADVANCE PREPARATION, THERE WOULD ALSO BE MEETINGS AT THE MFA WITH VICE MINISTER

DLVR:CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI(3)...ACT

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UNCLASSIFIED

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY  
 OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF 271945Z JUL 1992  
 ON 16 OCTOBER 1995

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C O N F I D E N T I A L  
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(COMMENT: TOTAL HELICOPTER CHARTER COST FOR THE  
OPERATION WAS \$14997.)

5. (U) AT 1230G, 13 OCT THE MAIN BODY ARRIVED AT  
POCHENTUNG AIRPORT. WHILE IN PHNOM PENH THE TEAM WAS  
BILLETED AT THE CAMBODIANA HOTEL.  
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CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT U.S. - CAMBODIAN POW-MIA  
OPERATIONS, 14-23 OCT.

5. [REDACTED] AT 0800G, 14 OCT THE JST DEPARTED PHNOM PENH FOR [REDACTED] (b)(6) ARRIVING AT 0930G. AFTER MAKING BILLETING ARRANGEMENTS, THE TEAM ENGAGED IN MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS. LATER THAT DAY, THE TEAM INTERVIEWED [REDACTED] (b)(6) AN ALLEGED WITNESS TO THE BURIALS ON TANG ISLAND, WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BURIAL OF TWO AMERICANS AND THE CAPTURE OF ANOTHER WHO HAS LATER KILLED AND BURIED. [REDACTED] (b)(6) DID NOT WITNESS ANY OF THE BURIALS, AND PROVIDED ONLY HEARSAY AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE GRAVES.

7. FROM 15 TO 17 OCT THE JST CONDUCTED SURVEYS OF REFUGES 1998, 2003, AND 2038, ON RANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. AT 0800 15 OCT, THE TEAM DEPARTED KOMPONG SOM AND ARRIVED RANG ISLAND AT 0845. AFTER MEETING WITH LOCAL MILITARY OFFICIALS, THE TEAM WAS TAKEN TO THE SITE OF THE GROUND ACTION ON RANG ISLAND VIC TS965415. (b)(6)

b)(6) SHOWED THE TEAM THE AREA WHERE THE KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS HAD ALLEGEDLY BURIED THE BODIES. THE AREA WAS APPROXIMATELY 200 X 300 METERS, AND CONTAINED 17 COCONUT TREES AND A NUMBER OF DEAD COCONUT TREE STUMPS. ALTHOUGH MR. HENG HAD STATED THE BODIES WERE BURIED UNDER A COCONUT TREE, 10-15 METERS FROM THE BEACH, HE COULD NOT SHOW THE TEAM THE EXACT BURIAL SITE, SAYING LATER THAT THE GRAVES COULD BE UNDER ANY OF THE COCONUT TREES. THE TEAM CONDUCTED AN INTENSIVE SURVEY OF THE AREA. DURING THE SURVEY THE TEAM CLEARED AROUND ALL COCONUT TREES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING LOCATIONS WHERE EVIDENCE INDICATED A TREE MAY HAVE ONCE STOOD. THE TEAM DUG FOUR TEST PITS, ONE COMPLETELY SURROUNDING THE COCONUT TREE NEAREST THE WRECKAGE OF REFNO 2003 (TS 965415) AND THREE MORE IN AREAS WHERE LINEAR DEPRESSIONS INDICATED POSSIBLE GRAVE SITES. DURING THE EXCAVATION OF THE TEST PITS ONLY SMALL FRAGMENTS OF POSSIBLE BONE-LIKE MATERIAL WERE FOUND.

3. ~~CRASH~~ DURING THE EXCAVATION OF THE TEST PITS THE  
CRASH SITE ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 2003 WAS ALSO

DLVR:CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI(3)...ACT

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JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

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SURVEYED. THIS SITE IS IN 3 FEET OF CLEAR AND USUALLY CALM WATER, 55 METERS FROM THE BEACH. THE SITE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SCAVENGED, WITH ONLY THE MAIN ROTOR ASSEMBLY AND OTHER UNIDENTIFIABLE WRECKAGE VISIBLE. OTHER PIECES OF THE WRECKAGE ARE COVERED BY SAND. NO EVIDENCE OF REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WAS FOUND DURING THE SURVEY.

9. THE TEAM ALSO CONDUCTED FOR A SEARCH FOR EVIDENCE OF REFNOs 1998, 2002, AND 2038. MAJ MOYE WAS TAKEN TO THE AREA WHERE (b)(6) INDICATED AN AMERICAN HAD BEEN CAPTURED SOMETIME AFTER THE AMERICAN ASSAULT. (b)(6) RELATED HOW THE AMERICAN WAS CAPTURED, BLUDGEONED, AND BURIED. AGAIN, (b)(6) COULD NOT DIRECT THE TEAM TO THE BURIAL SITE, SAYING HE WAS SCARED AND RAN AWAY AFTER THE AMERICAN WAS HIT. DURING THE INTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENINSULA OF THE ISLAND NO FURTHER EVIDENCE WAS FOUND PERTAINING TO REFNOs 1998, 2002, 2003, OR 2038. AFTER REMAINING OVERNIGHT IN KOMPONG SOM, THE TEAM DEPARTED, ARRIVING PHNOM PENH 0930G 18 OCT.

10. ON 18 OCT (b)(6) APPROACHED (b)(6) WITH A MESSAGE FROM (b)(6) STATING THAT THE MFA HAD LEARNED THAT 25 KGS OF REMAINS AND TWO IDENTIFICATION TAGS FROM RANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA, WERE IN SRV HANDS, AND THAT FURTHER INFORMATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING MOYE'S MEETING WITH VISALO ON 23 OCT. AFTER DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE, (b)(6) AND (b)(6) UN (SOG MFA) DEPARTED PHNOM PENH TO MAKE ADVANCE PREPARATION IN KANDAL PROVINCE FOR SURVEYING REFNO 1836. DURING THE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS IT WAS FOUND THAT THE SITE WAS INACCESSIBLE BY ROAD AND THE TEAM WOULD HAVE TO LEASE A BOAT. (b)(6) THEN TRIED TO LEASE A RIVER BOAT FROM THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, A HEATED EXCHANGE BETWEEN BUNTHENG AND A INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL AROSE CONCERNING THE BOAT CHARGE, \$2000 A DAY. (b)(6) THEN ASKED (b)(6) IF A DECISION ON LEASING THE BOATS COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER (b)(6) WAS APPRISED OF THE SITUATION. (b)(6) CONCURRED. AFTER HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH (b)(6), (b)(6) RETURNED AND INFORMED (b)(6) THAT (b)(6) WAS VERY UPSET, AND HAD CALLED HIS BT

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5 OF 7

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 03 OF 03 BANGKOK TH 52341

CONFIDENTIAL 0458 OCT 91

DELIVER DURING FIRST DUTY HOUR

SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT U.S. - CAMBODIAN POW-MIA OPERATIONS, 14-23 OCT.

COUNTERPART IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND LODGED A COMPLAINT. (b)(6) THEN ASKED THAT THE SURVEY BE DELAYED UNTIL HIS MINISTRY COULD RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. (COMMENT: THE SURVEY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND OF JOINT ACTIVITY.) FROM THIS POINT THERE WAS OPEN HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND MFA REPRESENTATIVES. DURING THE SUBSEQUENT SURVEY OF REFNO 1626 IN TAKED PROVINCE, (b)(6) IGNORED INTERIOR MINISTRY INSTRUCTIONS AND ALLOWED THE TEAM TO CONTINUE THE SURVEY INTO KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, WHERE THE GRAVE SITE IS LOCATED.

11. (b)(6) FROM 21 TO 22 OCT THE TEAM SURVEYED REFNO 1626. THE TEAM WAS LED TO THE ALLEGED GRAVE SITE (VT625261) BY (b)(6) A PRODUCER FOR NBC NEWS. THE TEAM HAS THEN INTRODUCED TO (b)(6) WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY THE VIER CONG TO DIG FIVE GRAVES. (b)(6) REPORTED THAT THE FIVE JOURNALISTS WERE KILLED BY THE VIER CONG AND BURIED IN THE FIVE GRAVES HE DUG. THE TEAM THEN SURVEYED THE BURIAL SITE, WHICH IS UNDER 2-7 FT OF WATER IN A SWIFTLY-MOVING INTERMITTENT STREAM. THE ALLEGED LOCATION OF THE GRAVES IS IN AN AREA 10 X 10 METERS, 50 METERS FROM A LONG LINEAR DIKE WHICH RUNS EAST TO WEST. LOCAL VILLAGERS SAID THE WATER WILL BE AT ITS LOWEST POINT IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, BUT THE SITE IS NEVER ENTIRELY FREE OF WATER. AFTER COMPLETING THE SURVEY THE TEAM REMAINED OVERNIGHT IN TAKED AND DEPARTED 0830G THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR PHNOM PENH.

12. (b)(6) AT 0800G, 23 OCT, (b)(6) MET WITH (b)(6) FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES TO RECAP THE JOINT POW-MIA ACTIVITIES JUST CONCLUDED. DURING THE MEETING (b)(6) CLARIFIED THE MESSAGE DELIVERED TO MAJ (b)(6) ON 20 OCT CONCERNING THE U.S. REMAINS RECOVERED ON TANG ISLAND BY THE VIETNAMESE. (b)(6) SAID THERE WERE

1.55 KGS OF REMAINS, NOT 25 KGS AS FIRST REPORTED. FURTHERMORE, THE REMAINS ARE NOW HELD BY THE SRV. (b)(6)

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13. (U) COMMUNICATIONS. THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION COMMUNICATIONS WERE EXCELLENT. DURING PERIODS WHERE THE TEAM HAS BASED OUT OF PHNOM PENH, COMMUNICATIONS LINKS TO HAWAII WERE AVAILABLE BY BOTH TELEPHONE AND FAX. WHILE IN KOMPONG SOM THE TEAM RELAYED REPORTS TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK BY HF RADIO. THE SOC HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF HF RADIOS.

14. (U) EDD. DURING THE TANG ISLAND SURVEYS THE TEAM LOCATED NUMEROUS SMALL ARMS CASINGS AND ONE U.S. FRAGMENTATION GRENADE.

15. (U) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- A. (U) THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION THE COOPERATION OF THE MFA, THE APPARENT LEAD AGENCY FOR THE CAMBODIANS, HAS OUTSTANDING. DESPITE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND MFA, MFA TEAM MEMBERS DID WHATEVER THEY COULD TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION.

B. (b)(6) OF NBC NEWS, WAS MOST HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE IN THE SURVEY OF REFNO 1626. HE PRESENCE DURING ANY ATTEMPTED RECOVERY OF THE SITE WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.

- C. (U) ROAD CONDITIONS ARE QUITE POOR. DURING THE SURVEY OF REFNO 1626 IT TOOK FOUR HOURS TO TRAVEL A 30 KM STRETCH OF ROUTE 2. OFTEN THE TEAM HAD TO PUSH THE VEHICLES THROUGH POOR SECTIONS OF THE ROAD.

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ROUTINE

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1 CY REFNO 1998-01

CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI//DAAG-PED-H//

1 CY REFNO 2002-01

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

1 CY REFNO 2003-01

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC

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SUBJ: EVALUATION OF RPT TR0-127 (U)

NSC FOR (b)(6)

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A. JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH 070734Z APR 86

1. (U) ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NEANG NENG (AKA NEANG NON), SOURCE OF REF A, REVEALS A PROBABLE CORRELATION TO REFNO'S 1998, 2002, 2003 AND 2038.

2. (U) REFNO 1998: ON 15 MAY 1975, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GARY L. HALL, LANCE CORPORAL JOSEPH N. HARGROVE AND PRIVATE DANNY G. MARSHALL WERE MEMBERS OF A U.S. MARINE GROUND SECURITY FORCE INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE SS MAYAGUEZ ON TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. THEY PARTICIPATED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND WERE NOT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INJURED. DURING THE FINAL EVACUATION OF THE GROUND SECURITY FORCE, PRIVATE HALL WAS SEEN ON THE BEACH, BUT CORPORAL HARGROVE AND PRIVATE MARSHALL COULD NOT BE LOCATED. AFTER THE LAST HELICOPTER DEPARTED, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ALL THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE MISSING. SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS WERE NOT CONDUCTED BECAUSE OF HOSTILE FORCES IN THE AREA. PRIVATE HALL, PRIVATE MARSHALL AND CORPORAL HARGROVE ARE CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

3. (U) REFNO 2002: ON 15 MAY 1975, STAFF SERGEANT ELWOOD E. RUMBAUGH WAS A CREW MEMBER ABOARD A CH53A HELICOPTER WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE MERCHANT SHIP SS MAYAGUEZ.

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THE HELICOPTER, SERIAL NUMBER 926, WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND CRASHED INTO THE WATER IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES TS 940400, OFF THE COAST OF TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. SERGEANT RUMBAUGH WAS OBSERVED IN THE WATER OUTSIDE OF THE HELICOPTER, BUT DISAPPEARED BEFORE HE COULD BE RESCUED. SERGEANT RUMBAUGH IS CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

4. (U) REFNO 2003: ON 15 MAY 1975, A CH53A HELICOPTER, INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE SS MAYAGUEZ, WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND CRASHED NEAR THE SHORE LINE OF TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. THE HELICOPTER, SERIAL NUMBER 925, WHEN DOWN IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES TS 965400. TWENTY-FOUR PERSONNEL WERE ON BOARD THE HELICOPTER AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. THIRTEEN PERSONNEL WERE RESCUED AT SEA BY SEARCH TEAMS. FURTHER SEARCH EFFORTS WERE NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT. THOSE STILL MISSING FROM THE INCIDENT ARE SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD VANDEGEER, HOSPITAL CORPSMAN FIRST CLASS BERNARD GAUSE, JUNIOR, HOSPITALMAN RONALD J. MANNING, LANCE CORPORAL ANDRES GARCIA, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KELTON R. TURNER, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTONIO R. SANDOVAL, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD W. RIVENBURGH, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES R. MAXWELL, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES J. JACQUES, LANCE CORPORAL GREGORY S. COPENHAVER, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WALTER BOYD, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LYNN BLESSING AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANIEL A. BENEDETT.

4. (U) REFNO 2038: ON 15 MAY 1975, LANCE CORPORAL ASHTON N. LONEY DIED FROM MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS WHILE ON A COMBAT OPERATION TO RESCUE THE CREW OF THE SS MAYAGUEZ ON TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES COULD NOT RETURN TO THE ISLAND TO RECOVER HIS BODY BECAUSE OF THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT.

5. (U) THE HELICOPTER WRECKAGE OBSERVED BY THE SOURCE AND THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGHTING CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENTS CITED ABOVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE INFORMATION IS NOT ADEQUATE TO CORRELATE THIS REPORT TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. THE HEARSAY ACCOUNT OF AN ALLEGED AMERICAN, WHO TRIED TO EVADE CAPTURE AND LATER DIED IS SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS REPORTING WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY JCRC. A LACK OF DETAIL IN THESE REPORTS HAS ALSO PREVENTED CORRELATION TO A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL.

6. (U) THIS EVALUATION MAY BE RELEASED TO THE APPROPRIATE NOK BY SERVICE CASUALTY BRANCHES UPON DELETION OF SOURCE'S NAME FROM PARAGRAPH ONE.

7. (U) A SANITIZED COPY OF REF A FOR RELEASE TO NOK WAS FORWARDED TO DPMCB, MHP-10 AND NMPC VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

8. (U) THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION AND NOT A FINAL

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COMNAVMILPERSCOM WASHINGTON DC//NMPC N 64//

INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J36// DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW//  
JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH  
CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI//DAAG-PED-H//  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//  
WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC  
JCS WASHINGTON DC//J5/OCJCS-PW-MIA//

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SUBJ: EVALUATION OF RPT T86-127 (U)  
NSC FOR (b)(6)

A. JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH 070734Z APR 86

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3. (U) REFNO 2002: ON 15 MAY 1975, STAFF SERGEANT ELWOOD E.

Machine gun  
team on  
west side of  
island.

Best guess  
was that they  
took a direct  
hit from enemy  
mortar  
round

J36(4)...INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU H(0)

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RUMBAUGH WAS A CREW MEMBER ABOARD A CH53A HELICOPTER WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE MERCHANT SHIP SS MAYAGUEZ. THE HELICOPTER, SERIAL NUMBER 926, WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND CRASHED INTO THE WATER IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES TS 940400, OFF THE COAST OF TANG ISLAND, CAMBODIA. SERGEANT RUMBAUGH WAS OBSERVED IN THE WATER OUTSIDE OF THE HELICOPTER, BUT DISAPPEARED BEFORE HE COULD BE RESCUED. SERGEANT RUMBAUGH IS CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

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my  
radio  
man

killed in  
 ambush  
 when trying  
 to rescue  
 command group  
 separated  
 from main  
 body  
 drug back  
 to beach  
 then body lost  
 in chest high  
 water as  
 Marines climbed  
 in hovering  
 helo -

5. (U) THE HELICOPTER WRECKAGE OBSERVED BY THE SOURCE AND THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGHTING CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENTS CITED ABOVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE INFORMATION IS NOT ADEQUATE TO CORRELATE THIS REPORT TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. THE HEARSAY ACCOUNT OF AN ALLEGED AMERICAN, WHO TRIED TO EVADE CAPTURE AND LATER DIED IS SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS REPORTING WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY JCRC. A LACK OF DETAIL IN THESE REPORTS HAS ALSO PREVENTED CORRELATION TO A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL.

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7. (U) A SANITIZED COPY OF REF A FOR RELEASE TO NOK WAS FORWARDED TO DPMCB, MHP-10 AND NMPC VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

we did a  
lousy job of  
bringing  
home our  
dead

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