

OASD DPMO	
Date Received	12 Dec 05
Watch Officer	R
Distro	Act / Info
Director	_____
Deputy Dir	_____
Chief of Staff	_____
Exec Asst	_____
Gen Counsel	_____
Pol/Plas	_____
Res/Analyst	_____
Jt Comm Spt	_____
Ref/DOC	_____
Ext Affairs	_____ AWK
Resource Mgmt	_____
<i>Collections</i>	_____
<i>Research - Analyst</i>	_____
<i>CS-Analyst</i>	_____
<i>PPT</i>	_____

(b)(3)

HEADER

R 121444Z DEC 05
 FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//DPMO//
 TO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC [REDACTED]
 INFO RUBDPLA/CDR JPAC HICKAM AFB HI//J2//
 RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI//CDRJPACDETTWO//
 RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE//CDRJPACDETTTHREE//
 RUEHPE/USDAO PHNOM PENH CB
 ZEN [REDACTED]
 ZEN/OSD DPMO

BT

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL NONE XI~~

SUBJ: (U) COMPOSITE CONSUMER IIR EVALUATION/DPMO.
 SERIAL: (U) OSD/USDP/ISA/DPMO 017-06.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) LA.
 SUBJ: (U) COMPOSITE CONSUMER IIR EVALUATION/DPMO.
 REFS: A. (U) 6 024 0083 05/AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, AMERICANS
 KILLED IN ACTION, AND U.S. AIRCRAFT LOSSES IN LAOS.
 B. (U) 6 024 0096 05/AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR,
 AMERICANS KILLED IN ACTION, AND U.S. AIRCRAFT LOSSES IN LAOS.
 REQS: (U) D-VOP-1587-001-03; D-VOP-1587-002-03; D-VOP-1587-007-03;
 D-VOP-1587-008-03; D-VOP-1587-001-04; D-VOP-1587-013-04; DIAC-076-04;
 U-UPH-1587-024-04.

CONSRESP: ~~(C)~~ REF IIRS SUMMARIZED INFORMATION ACQUIRED BY A JOINT
 INVESTIGATIVE TEAM DURING JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY 85 IN LAOS. TEAM
 INTERVIEWED FOURTEEN LAO CITIZENS THAT EITHER SERVED, OR WERE
 EXPECTED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN LOSS INCIDENTS, IN HOUA PHAN
 PROVINCE, LAOS. FIVE WITNESSES IDENTIFIED FOR INTERVIEW WERE SAID TO
 BE DECEASED. ANOTHER FOUR POTENTIAL WITNESSES WERE SAID TO BE TOO
 ILL TO BE INTERVIEWED, AND NINE COULD NOT BE LOCATED. INFORMATION
 PROVIDED BY THE FOURTEEN INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED CORRELATES TO CASE
 NUMBERS 0079, 0084, 2052, AND POSSIBLY 1089. MR. SINGKHAM, WHO HAS
 BEEN INTERVIEWED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST, CONTINUES TO CHANGE HIS
 STORY, AND NOW DENIES EVER SEEING ANY AMERICAN POWS. OF THE
 REMAINING 13 WITNESSES INTERVIEWED, SIX CLAIM TO HAVE PERSONALLY SEEN
 AN AMERICAN POW IN HOUA PHAN PROVINCE DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE
 SEA CONFLICT, AND MANY PROVIDED HEARSAY INFORMATION ON BURIAL
 LOCATIONS, ONE WITNESS STATED PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE BURIAL.

Hedrick, D.L. 0084
Shilton, C.E. 0079
Hinsley, T.T. 1089
Holland, M.A. 2052
 [REDACTED]
Shannon, P.L.
Fish, H.G.
Hall, W.R.
 [REDACTED]
Davis, J.W.
 [REDACTED]
Springstead, D.K.

FIVE OF THESE SIX WITNESSES REPORTED THE POW DIED IN CAPTIVITY, EITHER FROM A STOMACH AILMENT OR A GUNSHOT WOUND. ALL BUT ONE OF THESE FIRSTHAND REPORTS SUGGEST THE AMERICAN OBSERVED WAS CAPTURED OR HELD NEAR BAN MUANG NGA. ONE OF THESE WITNESSES, MR. BOUNKHAM, SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME WITH THE POW AND IDENTIFIED HIM AS "DAVID." THE REMAINING FIRSTHAND WITNESS REPORTS AN AMERICAN POW BEING HELD IN A CAVE NEAR THE KENG LIT WATERFALL. THIS CAVE WAS REPORTEDLY LOCATED SEVERAL KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF THE PATHET LAO HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX IN VIENG XAI, NEAR THE NAM SIM/HOU EI VANG RIVER. GUID: (U)

1. ~~(C)~~ (DPMO/RA-SEA) REPEATED INTERVIEWS OF MR. SAKDARA HAVE PRODUCED NOTHING BUT CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS OF ALLEGED FIRSTHAND SIGHTINGS OF AMERICAN POWS IN THE VIENG XAI AREA. DPMO ANALYSTS HAVE CONCLUDED HE IS EITHER FABRICATING OR RELATING HEAVILY EMBELLISHED AND INACCURATE INFORMATION. MR. SAKDARA DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL RESULT IN THE RESOLUTION OF CASE 0079 OR '0084, AND DO NOT FORESEE NEED TO PURSUE FURTHER.
2. (U) WHILE SEVERAL OF THE INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED CLAIMED TO HAVE PERSONALLY OBSERVED AN AMERICAN POW, NONE REPORTED SEEING TWO OR MORE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT ALTHOUGH CAPTAINS SHELTON AND HRDLICKA WERE CAPTURED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER LESS THAN TWO MONTHS APART, THEY WERE NEVER ACTUALLY HELD TOGETHER.
3. (U) WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED POW SIGHTING NEAR KENG LIT WATER, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED THREE WAR-TIME REPORTS OF AN AMERICAN POW BEING HELD NEAR A "KANG LIT" WATERFALL IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE AN AMERICAN POW WAS HELD IN THE AREA AND ANY FURTHER MENTION OF THIS WATERFALL, REGARDLESS OF SPELLING, SHOULD BE PURSUED. SEE 7TH AF MSG 211045Z APR 67, CIA CABLE [REDACTED] AND CIA CABLE [REDACTED] FOR PREVIOUS REPORTING.
4. (U) IF ONE WERE TO EXCLUDE THE SUBJECT LINE, REF IIRS ARE EXACT DUPLICATES.. RECOMMEND RO GIVE STRONG CONSIDERATION TO COMBINING SUCH REPORTING IN THE FUTURE. DPMO SENDS.

VALUE: (U) C - OF VALUE.

EVALNME: (U) DPMO/ROSENAU, COMM (703) 699-1253.

(b)(3)

PRODUCE: (U) A - BASIC INTEL.

CUSTNO: (U) A-022.

DRV FM: DIA [REDACTED] SCG, OCT 04.

ADMIN

DECL: ~~25X1~~

BT

#1383