



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER **COMPLETED**
NAS BARBERS POINT, HAWAII 96862

CDD
21 February 1990

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MEMORANDUM

From: LTC Harvey
To: COL Wilkerson
Subj: VNOSMP RESEARCH EFFORT

1. This memo has been prepared in response to your request for an evaluation of the research results presented at the last technical meeting. The Vietnamese passed us information they said were the results of their research on the following cases:

- DATA: The VNOSMP provided a photo copy of a report dated 10 Mar 73, which indicates a District team searched for NAME's burial site on 6 Apr 73. The report stated that the pilot was buried in a shallow grave in a remote area, without a coffin and that wild animals had dug up the remains and taken them away. The report also listed the names of the search team members. When questioned about the difference in the dates (10 Mar 73 vice 6 Apr 73), the Vietnamese provided an obscure explanation and said the 6 Apr 73 date should be 6 Apr 72. The report provides no details of NAME's incident or death. If the individual team members named in the report can be located during the Joint Investigation, they should be of value.

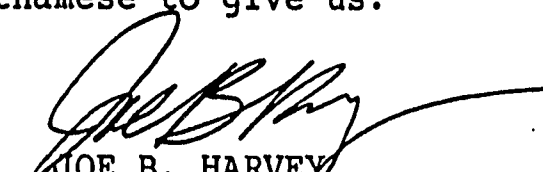
- 0691 (Patterson): The VNOSMP provided a photocopy of a 13 Nov 72 report. It is generally consistent with their previous statements concerning the incident, the circumstances of loss and the disposition of remains, I.E., "the grave was dug up by wild animals and the bones eaten and the remaining bones, because they were buried beside a stream, may have been carried away by the water." The handwritten, superimposed annotations of names and service numbers and the description of an individual as having black skin raises more questions than answers. Pending the outcome of the field investigation we are inclined to accept the document, but question the accuracy of the information and the extent of the recovery effort which they say was attempted in 1972.

- 0904 (Cook): The VNOSMP returned Commander Cook's identification card which was in excellent condition. They said that Commander Cook parachuted from the aircraft, was seriously injured and was taken to a clinic where he died. He was buried at the Viet Trung State Farm and his grave was later obliterated by U.S. bombing. Based on the recovery of the identification card and the additional information, it is apparent that the VNOSMP recently has conducted some type of research. It is disappointing that this information was not provided during the Joint Investigation of this case which occurred in December 1988.

2. The two reports appear to be authentic extracts from Vietnamese official records. They are consistent with the effort we know was begun by central authorities in the late 1960s to locate and recover remains. The reports contain information which is, in general, corroborated by the circumstances of loss described in JCRC files. The reports contain other information which is not available in our records and thus could not have been taken from case narratives we provided to them. The identification card has obviously been stored and protected from the elements.

3. Regrettably one must question the veracity of some of the information contained in the reports and the conclusions that wild animals or bombs destroyed the graves. At the least, such claims cast doubt on the effort the local authorities expended at the time to find the remains and prepare the reports.

4. In any event, the materials provided about Cases DATA and 0691 provide a jumping-off point for the field investigations which are being conducted right now. The research information passed to us represents a pre-investigation input which is something we've been pushing the Vietnamese to give us.


JOE B. HARVEY
Lieutenant Colonel, USA
Commander