ENVELOPE
CDSN = CPS315  MCN = 98328/26185  TOR = 983282053
PTTUYUYW RUEKJCSS075 3282054-0000--RUEJULG.
ZNR UUUU

HEADER
P 2418002 NOV 98
FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3//
TO: SAFE
ZEN
CONTROLS
UNCLAS
BODY
SUBJ: (MEC) SUBJ/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 991L-006; INVESTIGATION OF TWO
HELICOPTER CRASH INCIDENTS IN XEPON DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE/
REF/A/RMG/AMBASSAD Y VIENTIANE/1710002NOV98/
REF/B/DOC1:50,000 SCALE MAP SHEET/
//NOTICE// AUTOMATED MESSAGE ERROR CORRECTION

CDSN = CPS315  MCN = 98328/26185  TOR = 983282053
PTTUYUYW RUEKJCSS075 3282054-0000--RUEJULG.
ZNR UUUU
P 2420542 NOV 98
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEJULG/SAFE
P 2418002 NOV 98 ZYB
FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3//
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
RUEHX/SCGSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OGS/XCS/BCTLV/
RUEKJCSS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDPR/ISA/DPMO/
RUEAIJ/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJSS/RCOMM WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCSS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J3//
RHEHVA/UIASCAPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//J32//
RUEHX/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PM-MIA//
RUEHEX/CJTFPA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
RUEHIX/AMBASSAD Y HANOI//CJTFPA DET TWO//
RUEHIX/AMBASSAD Y VIENTIANE//CJTFPA DET THREE//
RUEHUX/CDBRACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
RUEHQR/SAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHMAD/CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J3//
BT
UNCLAS //NO30000/
SECTION 01 OF 02

******* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE **********

MSGID/GENADMIN/CJTF-FA//-NOV//
SUBJ/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 991L-006; INVESTIGATION OF TWO
HELICOPTER CRASH INCIDENTS IN XEPON DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE/
REF/A/RMG/AMBASSAD Y VIENTIANE/1710002NOV98/
REF/B/DOC1:50,000 SCALE MAP SHEET/

OASD DPMO
Date Received 25NOV98
Watch Officer A

Distto Act / Info
Director
Deputy Dir
Chief of Staff
Exec Asst
Gen Counsel
Polit/Pols
Res/Analyst
Jt Comm Spt
Ref/DOC
Ext Affairs
Resour Mgmt

Fivetelson, B. E. 1703
Crear, W. C.
Taylor, J. H.
Powers, J. L.
RMKS/1. REFERENCES.
   A. REF A IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (JFA) 99-11 Conducted in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) from 1 October through 31 October 1998.
   B. MAP DATA: NAME: BAN DONGHAI, SHEET: 6242-II, SERIES: L7015, EDITION: 4-TPC.
   C. ANALYTICAL COMMENTS IN THIS REPORT ARE BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. SUMMARY.
   B. REMAINS/PERSOAL EFFECTS: THE TEAM DID NOT RECOVER OR RECEIVE ANY REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS.
   C. RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION.
   A. ON 23 OCTOBER 1998, THE JOINT U.S./LPDR INVESTIGATION TEAM ARRIVED AT BAN (LAO WORD FOR VILLAGE) ALANG BASE CAMP (48Q XD 428 413), XEPCON DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LPDR, TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION OF 17 CASES AND SEVEN UNCORRELATED REPORTS.
   B. TEAM COMPOSITION:
      (1) U.S. CONTINGENT: TEAM LEADER
      (2) LPDR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT: ANALYST
      NONE PRESENT.
   C. ACTING ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A JTF-FA LAO LINGUIST, ON 26 OCTOBER 1998, THE TEAM INTERVIEWED THE LINGUIST AT BAN ALANG BASE CAMP. THE TEAM OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
      (1) RANK, NAME, AND SERVICE: SFC RUDY GONZALES; U.S. ARMY.
      (2) AGE: 36 YOA.
      (3) CURRENT OCCUPATION: JTF-FA LAO LINGUIST; ATTACHED TO RE2 DURING JFA 99-11.
      (4) STATEMENT:
         (A) ON 6 OCTOBER 1998, DURING THE EXCAVATION OF THE CASE 1703 CRASH SITE (XD 369 438), RE2 INTERVIEWED MR. DA-OUAY FROM BAN NALOM (XD 364 438) TO OBTAIN SPECIFIC INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE
BOUNDARIES OF THE CRASH SITE. (NOTE: DURING JFA 96-4L, MR. DA-OUAY LED THE IE TO THE CASE 1703 CRASH SITE.)


(C) THEN ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE CRASH SITES, BUT THE LAO OFFICIAL, MAJ KINGPHET, INTERVENED. MAJ KINGPHET THEN HAD A "LIVELY" DISCUSSION WITH MR. DA-OUAY WHICH WAS UNABLE TO INTERPRET. AFTER THE DISCUSSION, MAJ KINGPHET TOLD THAT THE FIRST HELICOPTER CRASH SITE TO WHICH MR. DA-OUAY WAS REFERRING TO HAD ALREADY BEEN EXCAVATED, AND HE WOULD NOT ALLOW TO CONTINUE THE INTERVIEW.

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE.
   A. RETAINED BY JTF-FA: NONE.
   B. PHOTOGRAPHED AND LEFT IN PLACE: NONE.
   C. REMAINS: NONE.

5. SITE SURVEY RESULTS: NONE.

6. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.

7. ANALYST COMMENTS:
   A. WITNESS STATEMENTS: THE WITNESSES PROVIDED INFORMATION IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER AND WITHOUT HESITATION.
   B. ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS:

   (1) A SEARCH OF THE BRIGHT LIGHT DATABASE REVEALED SEVERAL HELICOPTER LOSSES WITHIN 10 KILOMETERS OF THE CASE 1703 CRASH SITE. THREE LOSSES INVOLVED UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS. THE FOLLOWING THREE CASES WERE EXCAVATED:

   (A) CASE 1703 INVOLVED THE 15 FEBRUARY 1971 LOSS OF A CH-47C RESULTING IN SIX UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS. CASE 1703 WAS EXCAVATED AT XD 369 438 DURING JFA 99-1L. NO OTHER HELICOPTERS WERE REPORTEDLY LOST IN THIS AREA ON THE DAY OF THE CASE 1703 INCIDENT.

   (B) CASE 1705 INVOLVED THE 18 FEBRUARY 1971 LOSS OF A OH-6A RESULTING IN THREE UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS. CASE 1705 WAS EXCAVATED IN MAY 1990 AT XD 465 415 AND WAS RESOLVED.

   (C) CASE 1717 INVOLVED THE 5 MARCH 1971 LOSS OF A UH-1H RESULTING IN FOUR UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS. CASE 1717 WAS EXCAVATED IN AUGUST 1989 AT XD 458 403 AND WAS RESOLVED.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
SUBJ/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 991L-006; INVESTIGATION OF TWO RMKS/

(2) A SEARCH IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT DATABASE ALSO REVEALED THREE INCIDENTS OF TWO HELICOPTER CRASHES IN THE SAME AREA ON THE
SAME DAY WITHIN 10 KILOMETERS OF THE CASE 1703 CRASH SITE.

(A) TWO UH-1H OPERATIONAL LOSSES ON 5 MARCH 1971 AT XD 422 375.

(B) TWO AH-1G OPERATIONAL LOSSES ON 15 MARCH 1971 AT XD 440 375.

(C) CASE 1717 AND A UH-1H OPERATIONAL LOSS AT XD 457 412 ON 5 MARCH 1971.


(4) RECOMMEND A TEAM RE-INTERVIEW MR. DA-OUAY TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE TWO CRASH INCIDENTS. IF THE INCIDENTS CAN NOT BE CORRELATED TO A SPECIFIC CASE OR OPERATIONAL LOSS, HAVE MR. DA-OUAY LEAD A TEAM TO THE CRASH SITES.

C. LIFE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN COMMENTS: NONE.

8. TEAM LEADER COMMENTS:
   A. CONCLUSIONS: CONCUR WITH THE ANALYST COMMENTS IN PARAGRAPH 7.

B. HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION/SUPPORT: POOR. MAJOR KINGPHET VANNACHALEUN, THE LAO TEAM COMMANDER OF BAN ALANG BASE CAMP AND OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF THE EXCAVATION OF CASE 1703, WAS UNCOOPERATIVE. ON 23 OCTOBER, THE IE WAS TOLD ABOUT THIS INCIDENT AND REQUESTED, THROUGH LAO OFFICIALS, TO RE-INTERVIEW THE WITNESS. EACH DAY, FROM 23 TO 25 OCTOBER, AN INTERVIEW WAS SCHEDULED, BUT MAJ KINGPHET DID NOT PROVIDE THE WITNESS.

9. RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE.

10. DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: CONCUR WITH ANALYST COMMENTS IN PARA 7. AND TEAM LEADER COMMENTS IN PARA 8. //

BT

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----------------------------- END OF MESSAGE TEXT -----------------------------

ADMIN
#5676