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per 058375

date 8 NOV 1976

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI EARLY SEPTEMBER 1967

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF A CAPTURED U.S. PILOT IN DAI TU DISTRICT,  
BAC THAI PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

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1. AT ABOUT 1300 HOURS ONE DAY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1967, PHAM TU NGUYEN SAW A U.S. AIR FORCE F-105 HIT BY A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE FIRED FROM DA PHUC AIR BASE, VINH PHU PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE PLANE WAS FLYING WITH THREE OTHER F-105'S WHICH WERE BOMBING AROUND THAI NGUYEN CITY, BAC THAI PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE PLANE BURST INTO FLAMES OVER DAI TU DISTRICT, BAC THAI PROVINCE, AND CRASHED NEAR (WJ733793) IN A FOREST OF HOA BINH HAMLET, CAT NE VILLAGE, DAI TU DISTRICT.

THE PILOT BAILED OUT USING A RED AND WHITE PARACHUTE AND LANDED IN THE FOREST IN HOA BINH HAMLET NEAR WJ729804. NGUYEN SAID THAT THE DOWNED PLANE HAD BEEN FLYING AT A HIGHER ALTITUDE THAN THE OTHER THREE PLANES WHEN IT WAS HIT.

2. SHORTLY AFTER THE PILOT LANDED, APPROXIMATELY 100 MILITIAMEN FROM CAT NE VILLAGE WENT TO THE FOREST AND CAPTURED HIM. THE PILOT WAS INJURED AND THE MILITIAMEN PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER AND BROUGHT HIM OUT TO THE EDGE OF THE FOREST WHERE NGUYEN OBSERVED THE PILOT AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT SIX METERS FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES. THE PILOT'S ARMS AND FACE, FROM HIS NOSE TO CHIN, WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED. HE COULD NOT WALK. HE

APPEARED TO BE TIRED AND THIRSTY AND WAS ONLY WEARING BLUE UNDERSHORTS. THE PILOT WAS A CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 1.72 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 90 KILOS, HAD A HEAVY BUILD, A LARGE SQUARE FACE, HIGH CHEEKBONES, A HIGH FOREHEAD WITH A RECEDING HAIRLINE, A LONG SHARP NOSE AND SHORT BLACK WAVY HAIR. AT ABOUT 1500 HOURS THAT DAY THE PILOT WAS EVACUATED TO THE CAT NE VILLAGE DISPENSARY (WJ693806) AND AT ABOUT 1530 WAS DRIVEN AWAY IN A JEEP TOWARD THAI NGUYEN CITY.

3. THAT EVENING ONE OF THE MILITIAMEN TOLD NGUYEN THAT WHILE AT THE DISPENSARY THE PILOT HAD HAD A CONVERSATION IN ENGLISH WITH A MEMBER OF THE HANOI GEOLOGY OFFICE. THE PILOT SAID HE WAS BORN IN 1929 AND WAS A COLONEL IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE. THE PILOT HAD MADE 90 MISSIONS OVER NORTH VIETNAM. THE PILOT SAID THAT AS A RULE, U.S. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER HAVING COMPLETED 100 BOMBING MISSIONS.

4. (SOURCE COMMENT: NGUYEN WAS SHOWN VOLUMES I AND II OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SAID THAT THE SUBJECT PILOT LOOKED SIMILAR TO THE FOLLOWING TWO PICTURES: WILLIAM A. L I L L U N D, L024, 03, AF, 671004; U.S., VOLUME I; AND THOMAS VANCE P A R R O T T, P056, 03, AF;

670812, U.S., VOLUME II. NGUYEN SAID THAT THE PICTURE OF LILLUND WAS MOST SIMILAR TO THE PILOT, ESPECIALLY THE FOLLOWING FEATURES: LONG SHARP NOSE, HIGH CHEEKBONES, HIGH FOREHEAD, RECEDING HAIRLINE AND SHORT WAVY HAIR. IN THE PICTURE, PARROTT'S HAIR IS DIFFERENT FROM THE SUBJECT PILOT'S HAIR.)

5. (FIELD COMMENT: THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATED THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "THIS REPORT PROBABLY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT INVOLVING AIR FORCE LT. COL. ARTHUR T. FINNEY (JCRC 748). COL. FINNEY WAS THE PILOT OF AN F104 IN A FLIGHT OF FOUR AIRCRAFT ON 1 AUGUST 1966. WHILE PERFORMING THE MISSION OVER THE TARGET, COL. FINNEY'S AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY A SAM. THE PLANE WAS IN FLAMES AND WAS DISINTEGRATING WHEN COL. FINNEY EJECTED. A GOOD CHUTE DEPLOYED AND WAS SEEN BY A WINGMAN TO GO DOWN IN A DENSELY WOODED AREA OF LOW HILLS AT WJ729804, THE PLANE CRASHED AT WJ733793. THIS IS NOT A DEFINITE CORRELATION. THERE ARE OTHER CASES WITH SIMILARITIES TO THIS REPORT. WHILE THE TIME OF COL. FINNEY'S INCIDENT IS ONE YEAR EARLIER THAN THAT REPORTED, THE SEASON IS THE SAME. COMPARISON OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS IDENTIFIED BY PHAM TU NGUYEN WITH THOSE OF COL. FINNEY REVEALS MANY SIMILARITIES.")

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6. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE  
IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG  
AND VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).