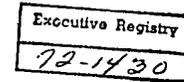


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DD/S 72-0959

10 MAR 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Air America Aircraft Incident Report for the
Month of February 1972

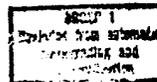
1. This memorandum is forwarded in accordance with your request for monthly reporting on Air America aircraft hits and accidents.

2. During the period 1 through 29 February 1972, Air America aircraft hit by groundfire or lost due to enemy associated activity totaled 14. This total compares with 19 incidents in January 1972 and 29 incidents in December 1971. One serious aircraft accident, described in paragraph 3 below, resulted in serious injuries to two American Air America flight crew members and possible loss of the aircraft. Two foreign nationals, including one Lao Air America Air Freight Specialist and one Lao military, lost their lives in this accident. In addition, two Lao nationals were killed when they ran into the blades of a helicopter which was performing a medivac operation.

3. Twelve of the 14 incidents described above did not involve loss of life, serious injuries, or loss of aircraft. The two exceptions are as follows:

a. A C7A Caribou, 61-2393, crashed on a landing strip approximately 15 kilometers southeast of Long Cheng, Laos on 4 February 1972. The aircraft, carrying Lao military forces to a forward position, was making a normal landing approach when an obstruction was sighted on the runway. The pilot initiated a go-around but the left engine failed to respond and the aircraft's left wing contacted the ground causing the aircraft to pancake into the ground. The pilot and First Officer were seriously injured but both are now recovering satisfactorily. One Lao Air Freight Specialist and one Lao military passenger were killed. Five Lao military personnel were seriously injured. The C7A was extensively damaged and a determination of the aircraft's future airworthiness is in progress.

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b. In addition to the above, two Lao nationals lost their lives when they ran into the spinning main rotor blades of a Bell 205 helicopter which had just landed to medivac wounded military personnel.



John W. Coffey
Deputy Director
for Support

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