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1 June 1973

~~REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL - WARNING NO DISSEM TO OTHERS~~

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DDI AUGUST 1956

SUBJECT DEATH OF U.S. PILOT IN THU PHONG VILLAGE, KY SON
DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

ACQ

SOURCE

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Content UNCLASSIFIED

per 058375
date 15 JUN 1976

Enclosure 2 to C/NF-8192/DIR-4H

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1. AT 1300 OR 1400 HOURS ONE DAY IN ABOUT AUGUST 1966,
SAW ONE OF FIVE OR SIX U.S. AIRCRAFT HIT
BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE NEAR WH365914 IN THU PHONG
VILLAGE, KY SON DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE
AIRCRAFT BURNED AND CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF (WH355943) ABOUT
SEVEN KILOMETERS FROM [] VILLAGE. THE OTHER AIRCRAFT CIRCLED
FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES BEFORE LEAVING THE SCENE. AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS
ON THE SAME DAY, [] I WENT TO THE WRECKAGE SITE AND SAW THE BODY
OF THE U.S. PILOT THAT HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE WRECKAGE AND PLACED
ON THE ROADSIDE. THE PILOT HAD BEEN DECAPITATED AND HIS BODY WAS
BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION. (SOURCE COMMENT: [] BELIEVED THE
PILOT WAS DECAPITATED IN THE CRASH).

2. LOCAL MILITIA WHO REMOVED THE BODY FROM THE WRECKAGE TOLD
[] THAT THEY WOULD BURY THE BODY IN THE AREA. ON THE FOLLOWING
DAY, [] I OBSERVED A NEW GRAVE MOUND NEAR WH348942 ABOUT 20 METERS
WEST OF ROUTE 12. HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS THE BURIAL SITE OF THE
PILOT. THE MOUND WAS MARKED WITH A SMALL BOARD ON WHICH WAS WRITTEN
"THANH TICH CUA DAN QUAN XA THU PHONG" ("ACHIEVEMENT OF THU PHONG
VILLAGE MILITIA").

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3. (FIELD COMMENT: FOLLOWING IS THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATION OF THIS REPORT: CORRELATION EFFORTS BY JCRC RESULTED IN THE PROBABLE IDENTIFICATION OF COLONEL WILLIAM H. NELSON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AS THE VICTIM INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT DESCRIBED. COLONEL NELSON'S AIRCRAFT, AN F105D, WAS DOWNED 29 JULY 1966 NEAR WH364961, ACCORDING TO RECORDS ON HAND. THE LOCATION GIVEN IN THE REPORT IS WH355943 AND THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT IS ABOUT AUGUST 1966. COLONEL NELSON PRESENTLY IS CARRIED AS MISSING IN ACTION BY HIS PARENT SERVICE.)

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

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