

30 OCTOBER 1972

REPORT

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM

DOY: ABOUT APRIL 1968

SUBJECT: SIGHTING OF TWO DOWNED U.S. PILOTS IN HOA BINH
PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

ACQ

SOURCE

1. IN ABOUT APRIL 1968 TWO U.S. PILOTS WERE SIGHTED
BAILING OUT OF THEIR PLANES NEAR CHI LE VILLAGE, HOA BINH
PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGERS THE
TWO AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN DURING AERIAL COMBAT WITH NORTH
VIETNAMESE MIG'S. BOTH PILOTS AND THE DEBRIS FROM THEIR
AIRCRAFT LANDED IN LAC TRUY DISTRICT, HOA BINH PROVINCE.
ABOUT 10 MINUTES AFTER THEIR CAPTURE BY THE LOCAL MILITIA,
BOTH PILOTS WERE PICKED UP BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE MAJOR AND
TAKEN TO CHI LE VIA HIGHWAY 21.

2. NGUYEN XUAN T. U Y E N OBSERVED THE TWO PILOTS FOR TEN
MINUTES, FROM A DISTANCE OF ABOUT THREE METERS. BOTH

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per 058375

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WERE BAREHEADED AND WERE STILL WEARING THEIR LIGHT GRAY,
LONG-SLEEVED FLIGHT SUITS AND BLACK LEATHER MILITARY SHOES.

FURTHER DESCRIPTIONS FOLLOW:

A. THE FIRST PILOT WAS A HIGH-RANKING OFFICER ABOUT
35 YEARS OLD. HE WAS ABOUT 1.99 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT
95 KILOS. HE WAS A CAUCASIAN, HAD AUBURN HAIR, LIGHT BROWN
EYES AND A RUDDY COMPLEXION. HE WORE A WATCH ON HIS LEFT WRIST.
NO INDICATIONS OF HIS RANK WERE SEEN, BUT THE LOCAL VILLAGERS
BELIEVED HIM TO BE EITHER A MAJOR OR A COLONEL.

NGUYEN XUAN TUYEN WAS SHOWN THE JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY
CENTER (JPRC) ALBUM OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF PERSONNEL CAPTURED OR
MISSING IN SEA AND PICKED J0326 AS CLOSELY RESEMBLING THIS
PILOT).

B. THE SECOND PILOT WAS A CAUCASIAN ABOUT 33 YEARS OLD
WITH LIGHT BROWN HAIR AND A ROSY COMPLEXION. HE WAS ABOUT
1.75 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 89 TO 90 KILOS. HIS LEFT
LEG WAS INJURED WHEN HE LANDED.

3. THE JPRC HAS SEEN THE INFORMATION IN
THIS REPORT AND HAS EVALUATED IT AS FOLLOWS: AFTER A CLOSE
REVIEW OF OUR RECORDS THIS INCIDENT CORRELATES VERY WELL WITH
INCIDENTS WHICH INVOLVED TWO SEPARATE AIRCRAFT. ONE AIRCRAFT
WAS AN A1E-19(SANDY) PILOTED BY MAJOR ^{MIA} JOHN S. HAMILTON, USAF (0826),
AND THE OTHER WAS AN F105F CREWED BY MAJORS THOMAS M. ^{RMC} MADISON,
USAF (20928) AND THOMAS J. ^{RMC} STERLING, USAF (#1122). THE F105F
HAD BEEN DOWNED AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF AERIAL COMBAT WITH MIG-17'S.
BOTH CREWMEN WERE SEEN TO EJECT FROM THE F105F AND GOOD CHUTES
WERE OBSERVED. THE CHUTES LANDED ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES
APART. AS MAJOR HAMILTON WAS INVOLVED IN A SEARCH-AND-RESCUE (SAR)
EFFORT FOR THE F105F, HE WAS ALSO ATTACKED BY FOUR MIG-17'S.

HIS AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN TAKING FIRE, GOING INTO A ROLL AND DISAPPEARING FROM SIGHT. NO CHUTE WAS OBSERVED. THIS INCIDENT HAPPENED IN APRIL 1967 IN THE NORTHERN PART OF HOA BINH PROVINCE CLOSE TO HIGHWAY 21. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TWO PILOTS ARE QUITE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF MAJORS STERLING AND HAMILTON. (SOURCE PICKED OUT MAJOR HAMILTON'S PHOTO AS THE PILOT HE HAD SEEN.) MAJOR MADISON IS NEGRO. IT IS POSSIBLE SOURCE NEVER SAW HIM SINCE HIS CHUTE LANDED OVER A MILE FROM MAJOR STERLING'S LANDING SITE. MAJORS MADISON AND STERLING ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED BY THEIR SERVICE AS CAPTURED. MAJOR HAMILTON IS CARRIED AS MISSING IN ACTION. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TIME FRAME MENTIONED, THE INCIDENT CORRELATES CLOSELY WITH THOSE IN WHICH MAJORS HAMILTON AND STERLING WERE INVOLVED.

NGUYEN XUAN TUYEN HAD DIFFICULTY IN REMEMBERING DATES. HE MENTIONED THAT HE SAW THE PILOTS BEFORE HE WAS DRAFTED IN 1968 AND THAT IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.)

4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON NGUYEN

XUAN TUYEN: HE WAS BORN IN JUNE 1949 IN AN LAC HAMLET, KIM BINH VILLAGE, KIM BANG DISTRICT, NAM HA PROVINCE, NVN. IN 1963 HE COMPLETED THE 5TH FORM (US 7TH GRADE); HE THEN WORKED AS A FARMER AT HOME UNTIL 26 JUNE 1968 WHEN HE WAS DRAFTED INTO THE 467TH BATTALION, NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) 326TH DIVISION. HE BECAME A LABOR YOUTH GROUP MEMBER IN JUNE 1968. HE RECEIVED SPORADIC INFANTRY TRAINING UNTIL 25 NOVEMBER 1968 WHEN HE WAS PROMOTED TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS. THE 467TH BATTALION BEGAN INFILTRATING SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN) FROM NHO QUAN DISTRICT, NINH BINH PROVINCE, NVN, ON 25 NOVEMBER 1968. IN LATE JANUARY 1969, TUYEN WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 14TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE VIET CONG (VC) QUANG TRI PROVINCIAL UNIT. THE 14TH BATTALION REACHED QUANG

TRI PROVINCE, SVN, VIA LAOS IN APRIL 1969 AND IN MAY, TUYEN CONTRACTED MALARIA AND WAS EVACUATED TO QUANG BINH PROVINCE FOR TREATMENT. FROM EARLY AUGUST 1969 TO LATE FEBRUARY 1970, HE RECEIVED MEDICAL TRAINING IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CORPORAL IN FEBRUARY 1970. AFTER 11 DAYS OF INFILTRATION, TUYEN AND 34 OTHER MEDICS ARRIVED IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE IN MARCH 1970 AND WERE ASSIGNED TO THE KIATH, K18TH, AND K34TH BATTALIONS OF VC QUANG TRI PROVINCIAL UNIT. FROM MARCH 1970 TO 26 AUGUST 1972, THE KIATH BATTALION, TUYEN'S UNIT, WAS QUARTERED IN THE JUNGLE AREA IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, CONDUCTING SMALL-SCALE OPERATIONS AGAINST ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) UNITS. TUYEN WAS ASSIGNED AS A MEDIC FOR HIS UNIT, BUT HE ALSO RAISED CORN, MANIOC, AND YAMS. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT IN JULY 1971. ON 26 AUGUST 1972, HE LED A SEVEN-MAN CELL TO ATTACK AN ARVN UNIT, DURING WHICH HE WAS WOUNDED AND CAPTURED.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV JPRC 7TH AIR FORCE
USARV NAVFORV 525TH MI GP 7602ND AIG OSI AT SAIGON;
SENT TO CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC |