

COUNTRY CAMBODIA

DOI JULY 1978

SUBJECT - JULY 1978 CAPTURE OF THREE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF
WAR IN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE OF CAMBODIA

SOURCE

22135

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 14 JAN 1987

(4)

ENCLOSURE
TO DOC 76

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. THREE AMERICAN SOLDIERS, WHO WERE CAPTURED IN JULY 1972 BY VIET CONG (VC) TROOPS SOUTH OF PRAK PONLEA VILLAGE (NV 8007) IN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE OF SOUTHEASTERN CAMBODIA, WERE TAKEN TO CHHLONG DISTRICT IN KRATIE PROVINCE FOR DETENTION. THE THREE MEN WERE CAPTURED WHEN A HELICOPTER CARRYING SEVEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR PRAK PONLEA. THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS, ARMED WITH M-16 RIFLES, REFUSED TO SURRENDER TO THE VC AND A FIRE-FIGHT ENSUED. FOUR OF THE AMERICANS WERE KILLED AND THE OTHER THREE WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE RALLIER DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODIES OF THE FOUR DEAD AMERICANS.)

2. THE THREE CAPTURED AMERICANS WERE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A BLACK SOLDIER, APPROXIMATELY 1.70 METERS TALL, ABOUT 28 YEARS OLD AND WITH CURLY BLACK HAIR; A WHITE SOLDIER, APPROXIMATELY 1.75 METERS TALL, ABOUT 28 YEARS OLD AND WITH BLOND HAIR; A WHITE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SOLDIER APPROXIMATELY 1.75 METERS TALL, ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD AND WITH BLOND HAIR.

3. ONE OF THE VC SOLDIERS, NAMED A N H, SAID THAT THE VC DID NOT INTEND TO KILL THE SEVEN AMERICANS, BUT RATHER WISHED TO TAKE EACH AS A PRISONER. ANH ADDED THAT THE THREE WHO WERE CAPTURED WOULD NOT BE KILLED BECAUSE THEY WERE CONSIDERED PRISONERS OF WAR.

4. THE HELICOPTER WHICH WAS SHOT DOWN WAS ONE OF ABOUT 30 WHICH HAD FLOWN IN THE AREA OF TEAHOK VILLAGE (COORDINATES UNKNOWN) EARLIER IN THE DAY.

5. (FIELD COMMENT: THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATES THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

"A. THIS REPORT PROBABLY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT INVOLVING A UH1H DOWNED ON 2 MAY 1970 WITH EIGHT PERSONS ON BOARD. OF THE EIGHT PERSONS, ONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND RETURN TO U.S. CONTROL. TWO WERE CAPTURED AND LATER RELEASED, TWO DIED IN CAPTIVITY, TWO ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION, AND ONE IS LISTED AS CAPTURED.

"B. THOUGH THERE WERE NO NEGROIDS ON THE AIRCRAFT, THE OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL DATA MATCHES CLOSELY. THIS IS THE ONLY HELICOPTER LOST IN CAMBODIA WITH SEVEN OR MORE PERSONS ON BOARD LOST

[REDACTED]

IN THE GENERAL VICINITY. A UH1H WAS LOST ON 24 MARCH 1970 IN THE YB GRID SQUARE. THIS AIRCRAFT WAS ON FIRE WHILE IN THE AIR AND EXPLODED UPON IMPACT. ON THE SCENE EYEWITNESSES REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF LIFE OBSERVED AFTER THE CRASH. ALL OTHER HELICOPTER LOSSES IN CAMBODIA LISTED IN JCRC RECORDS HAD FIVE OR LESS PERSONNEL ON BOARD.

"C. [REDACTED]

6. FIELD DISSEM: [REDACTED]

SENT TO SAIGON (DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE)

[REDACTED] CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND IOLAD ONLY)

AND USSAG.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]