

25 01 00Z DEC 71

Short
down

BTH
DDO/AMUC
DDECP
CMC
CJCS
DJS
SJS

ZCZCNKEG05K0A545 SPA799
00 YSNKAZ YSNKQD YSNKQH YSNKQI
DE YEKADL 5425 5593623
ZNY MHHSH
ZKZK 00 ZSL DE
O 250556Z ZYH
FM CIA
TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
DIRNSA COMMAND CENTER
STATE (RCI)
COMNAVINTCOM
CIC
SSO ADSI DA
SSO AMS VIRGINIA
AFSSD USAF
DIA/ISIC
JCS
NIC
CIA-ODI
ZEN

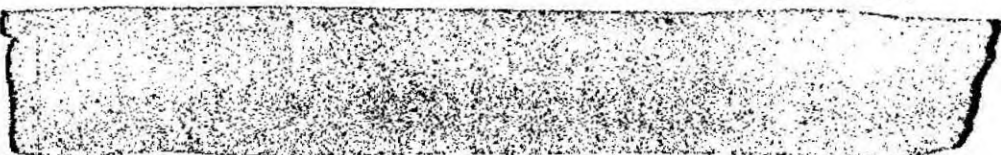
CITE CIA 213423

DDCS 314/15634-71 (ADVANCE)

COUNTRY 1
ADS/NORTH VIETNAM
001 24 DECEMBER 1971
SUBJECT DOWNING OF AN OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT BY ENEMY
AA GUNFIRE NORTHWEST OF SARAVANE, IRREGULAR GM MOVEMENTS
IN THE SARAVANE AND PAKSONG AREAS, AND GOVERNMENT
CLASHES IN THE PAKSONG AND CHAMPASSAK/SITHALONG AREAS

ACQ

SOURCE



SARAVANE AREA

1. ON 24 DECEMBER 1971 at 0905 HOURS A FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER (FAC) FLYING A LIGHT FIXED-WING OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT ON A RECON-NAISSANCE MISSION WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE VICINITY OF XC 4050, 18 KILOMETERS (KMS) NORTHWEST OF SARAVANE (XC 5358). BY AN ESTIMATED 100 ROUNDS OF 12.7MM/14.5MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNFIRE. THE AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED MULTIPLE HITS IN THE ENGINE CAUSING IT TO LOSE OIL PRESSURE. THE PILOT MANAGED TO MAKE A DEAD-STICK LANDING IN AN OPEN FIELD. BY 0957 HOURS THE FAC AND HIS ACCOMPANYING BACKSEATER WERE PICKED UP BY AN H-34 HELICOPTER. NEITHER MAN WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE CRASH. AT 1115 HOURS ON 24 DECEMBER THE REMAINS OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE DESTROYED BY A ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE T-28 AIR STRIKE.

2. THE IRREGULAR GROUPEMENT MOBILE (GM) COMPOSED OF THE FOUR BATTALIONS (BNS) WHICH HAD BEEN OPERATING IN THE SARAVANE AREA HAS COMPLETED ITS LINK-UP WITH ROYAL LAO ARMY (FAR) FORCES NORTH OF THE SE (RIVER) DON IN THE VICINITY OF XC 1839. THE TWO MISSING COMPANIES FROM THIS IRREGULAR GM HAVE NOW BEEN LOCATED AND ALL MEN HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. AS OF 1645 HOURS ON 24 DECEMBER, THIS IRREGULAR GM WAS LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

ONE BN	XC 1437
ONE BN	XC 1235
ONE BN	XC 1637
ONE BN	XC 1637

RETYPE FOR CLARITY

0004
CINCPAC 7 703-703131DB-4

3. THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF 24 DECEMBER, A LAO NEUTRALIST ARMY (FAN) PATROLED IN 101 POSITION ON PHOU NOBLE (XB 335824), 2 KMS NORTH OF PAKSANG (XB 3273), RECEIVED INTERMITTENT FAR SALLAGES OF SIX TO EIGHT ROUNDS. ONE OF THESE PARADES AT 1500 HOURS ON 24 DECEMBER RESULTED IN ONE FAN SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION (KIA).

4. THERE WAS NO OTHER ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE PAKSANG AREA ON 24 DECEMBER. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF 24 DECEMBER THE IRREGULAR GM THAT HAD BEEN OPERATING IN THE THATING (XC 4906) AREA CLOSED INTO PAKSANG. THESE TROOPS WERE SHIPPED BY A TRUCK CONVOY FROM PAKSANG TO PAKSE (WB 8771) AND BY 1630 HOURS ALL UNITS OF THIS GM HAD ARRIVED IN PAKSE. DURING THEIR MOVE FROM THATING TO PAKSE VIA PAKSANG THE GM ENCOUNTERED NO ENEMY ACTIVITY.

CHAMPASSAK/SITHANDONE AREA

5. AT 0800 HOURS ON 24 DECEMBER A COMPANY OF FAR VOLUNTEER BN 48 WITH POSITIONS IN BAN MAI-VANGMAKHEO (WA 888132) ON THE CHAMPASSAK/SITHANDONE PROVINCE BORDER, 53 KMS NORTH OF MIANG KHONG (WA 9260), WAS ATTACKED BY AN ESTIMATED ONE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) COMPANY. DURING THE 1-HOUR FIREFIGHT WHICH FOLLOWED FAR CASUALTIES WERE FOUR KIA AND ONE WOUNDED. THE NVA COMPANY WITHDREW WITH UNKNOWN CASUALTIES.

6. DISSEM. STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF
PACFLT NAVY 7TH AF 7/13TH AF TFA/NKP 7TH KRES

GP-1
550
5428

NNNN

DETYPE FOR CLERK

UNCLASSIFIED
CLASSIFICATION

DEFENSE INFORMATION REPORT EVALUATION

INSTRUCTIONS: To be completed by
Typewriter or Ball Point Pen

CUSTOMER NUMBER B 390	IR NUMBER TDCS-314/13834-71	COLLECTION PROJECT NUMBER	IR DATE YEAR MONTH DAY 7 1 1 2 2 4		
TO:	ICR NUMBER OTHER REFERENCE	SOURCE NUMBER	DATE RECD BY DISSEMINATION ACTIVITY YEAR MONTH DAY		
THRU:	SI CODE(S)	TARGET COUNTRY (IES) LA	DATE RECEIVED BY EVALUATOR YEAR MONTH DAY		
REASON FOR EVALUATION		3. ☐ SELECTED BY COL MGR	IR ORIGINATOR		
1. ☐ ICR		4. ☐ SPECIAL REQUEST			
2. ☐ COLLECTOR'S REQUEST		5. ☒ ANALYST INITIATIVE			
A. IR RESPONDED TO		B. RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION		C. VALUE OF INFORMATION	
1. ☐ DIRM Part Three		1. ☐ Confirmed by other sources		1. ☐ High (Unique, Timely, and of Major Significance)	
2. ☐ CIR		2. ☒ Substantially true		2. ☒ Moderate (Contributory and Useful)	
3. ☐ ICR - If checked, ICR was satisfied		3. ☐ Cannot be judged		3. ☐ Low (Marginal)	
a. ☐ Completely		4. ☐ Doubtful		4. ☐ None (Of no use)	
b. ☐ Partially (If b or c checked, include Guidance in Remarks Section)		5. ☐ False		5. ☐ Cannot be judged (Analyst has no basis for value judgement)	
c. ☐ Not at all					
4. ☐ Other					
D. USABILITY OF INFORMATION					
1. ☒ Used or planned for use in product		2. ☒ Incorporated in Data Base		4. ☐ Not used (All responses require explanation in Remarks section)	
a. ☒ Basic Intelligence		a. ☐ Potentially Useful		a. ☐ Unreliable	
b. ☐ Current Intelligence		b. ☐ Background/Confirmatory		b. ☐ Too Fragmentary	
c. ☐ Estimative Intelligence		3. ☐ Stimulus for Intelligence Guidance or Requirement		c. ☐ Duplication	
d. ☐ Other				d. ☐ Not Pertinent to Needs	
NAME OF PRODUCT:					

REMARKS (Number and Classify each Paragraph)

The report provided information concerning the 24 December 1971 downing of a light fixed-wing observation aircraft in the vicinity of XC 40 50. The report further stated that the two crewmembers were picked up by a H-34.

This information probably relates to the 24 December 1971 loss of an OV-10A. The crewmembers of this aircraft were Timothy M. Tucker and William R. Finn (both USAF MIAs). However, the information that these individuals were recovered is erroneous. SAR was initiated on 26 December. However, there was no voice or beeper contact. Search efforts continued until 31 December and were officially terminated due to hostile activity in the area.

EVALUATOR'S RELEASE and DISCLOSURE GUIDANCE

1. ☐ Paragraph(s) _____ above are releasable to the government of _____
2. ☐ Evaluation is Not Releasable
3. ☒ Releasable Evaluation Not Requested