

CONFIDENTIAL

DOC 36'

S T A T E M E N T

8 June 1972

SUBJECT: Sandy 7 and 8 (Seafox 06A & B S&B)

1. As we were stopping in for normal rotation to NKP we were told by Queen on VHF that Seafox 06 was down near the mouth of the DMZ river. Two good chutes had been observed and another fast FAC and a slow FAC were in the area talking to 06B.
2. We made a record scramble launch and enroute listened to Covey 99 who was OSC lining ~~up~~ the forces, we learned that 06B was feet wet being carried out by tide and ok. The 06A man had missed feet wet by only a hair, his parachute was located near a small bunker, and had not come up on radio. Also, one of the fast movers who was on scene from the beginning reported that 06A was being shot at by 23mm while he floated down. Several air bursts were very near him.
3. We arrived on scene and Covey 99 described the area where 06B was floating. We established voice with 06B and he vectored us to him. Even at 100-200' above the water he made an extremely small target to spot floating in his raft.
4. By this time a Ch-47 from a nearby boat had heard the radios and come into the area to assist. We vectored him to 06B's position (approx 3 miles off the coast) and covered him while he nabbed 06B. After he was east bound with 06B unhurt and aboard we reported this to King and headed into where Covey 99 was circling 06A's parachute.
5. Covey 99 briefed us that there was a lone bunker near the parachute, he still had no radio contact, and we were all taking ground fire from AK-47's from 4 NVA he had seen just south of the chute, some 23/37 AAA guns 500 meters north on the north bank of the river and a large field piece located inland somewhere.
6. We located the chute and deployed life raft near the sand bunker and assumed OSC directing Covey 99 to get a shot on the AAA that was firing at us all.
7. The remainder of this report is written by an impetuous youth who can't understand why a cumbersome military communications and control system orders a S&B force into inactivity allowing Americans to be taken POW.
8. It became very obvious to us that since 06A had been seen alive in the chute, was not at present in the harness laying attached to the chute, had not come up on the radio at all or used any other signals to the Sandy's making numerous very low passes over the area, that there were 2 basic possibilities that he was dead, either killed by AAA in his chute and his body was removed by NVA, or he had been killed upon reaching the ground by NVA waiting on him, or he was alive but being held by a small force at NVA in the nearby bunker.

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9. Both Covey 99 and Sandy 07 saw movement in the bunker, and knowledge that the area was held by NVA regulars led us to believe that Seafox 06A was alive and being held by 1-4 NVA in that bunker. FAC's had been overhead immediately after the downing and we had been overhead since then providing continuous coverages. We felt that movement in the area had been hampered completely. This left 06A and his captors in the small lone bunker awaiting the 2 hours to dark before moving.

10. Numerous requests for a small landing team or similar team using Jolly Green^{POB} and even the request to use a PJ on a penetrator were rejected by Joker. We had direct contact with Queen and after a full explanation they agreed with our plan which was to put in BLU-52 and then CBU-30/19 just before landing, then smoke off the area and put in Sandy ordinance close in and ~~and~~ F-4 ordinance further out to suppress movement and reaction. If 06A was in the hole we felt this would get him out, after 1.5 hours of persistent and even belligerent radio calls we withdrew. I, Sandy 07 made one last pass over 06A's area gunning the engine as a salute to the survivor. I was later to learn he was a T-38 instructor of mine in VPT. His capture was unnecessary.

11. Both Sandys took numerous small arms hits while in the area. Sandy 08 got hit in the CBU-25 canister on station 1 and it exploded before he could jettison it causing numerous holes in the left wing. Also upon landing Sandy 08 discovered his left main tire was flat and he had no left brake, but by superior handling kept the bird on the run-way. Maintenance determined that Sandy 07 and 08 both took from 6-9 hits each.

12. Upon debriefing the Lt Col. at Queen advised that Joker had said he was afraid to grant request because of Sandy 07's inexperience (approx. 10 SAR's and 9 pickups as Sandy 07). Later at a SAR conference Joker made the policy statement that no SAR exists without radio contact or visual contact.

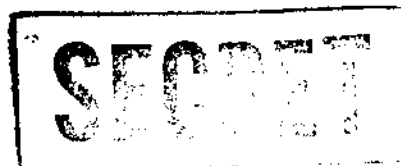
13. Intelligence reports from sensitive sources say that Capt. John Murphy (Seafox 06A) is now a POW in Hanoi.

L. C. Smith

L. SMITH, 1Lt, USAF
Sandy 07

L. Shotwell

L. SHOTWELL, Capt, USAF
Sandy 08



GROUP 1
Declassified at 3 year intervals:
Excluded after 10 years.

MURPHY, JOHN S. JR

Name: John S. Murphy Jr.
Rank/Branch: United States Air Force/O3
Unit:
Date of Birth: 13 January 1940 Waco TX
Home City of Record: Mineral Springs TX
Date of Loss: 08 June 1972
Country of Loss: South Vietnam
Loss Coordinates: 170100 North 1070700 East
Status (in 1973): Returnee
Category:
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: F4E
Missions: 224
Other Personnel in Incident:
Refno:

Source: Compiled by P.O.W. NETWORK from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews.

REMARKS: 730327 RELEASED BY PRG

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JOHN S. MURPHY JR.
Captain - United States Air Force
Shot Down: June 8, 1972
Released: March 27, 1973

Biographical data: Born in Waco, Texas, 13 January 1940. Grew up in Mineral Wells, Texas and attended Mineral Wells High School. Married Jo E. McCloud who also attended Mineral Wells High School. We have three children, Stan 11, Jo Beth 9, Jill 7. Education: Attended Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas where I received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1964 and Jo received her Bachelor of Arts (English) in 1962.

Military data: Reese AFB, Lubbock, Texas - Class 66A, graduated in August 1965. B-52 Copilot, Altus AFB, Oklahoma, February 1966 - May 1967. F-105D, Nellis AFB, Nevada 1967. Korat RTAFB, Thailand. Flew 100 missions over North Vietnam in 1968. T-38, Reese AFB, Texas. Was Instructor Pilot from March 1969 to May 1971. F-4E, MacDill AFB, Florida, July 1971. Korat RTAFB, Thailand, October 1971, from which I flew 124 combat missions including 54 Tiger Fast FAC missions (Pappa Tiger). I was shot down over the DMZ 8 June 1972 and was held by North Vietnamese in Hanoi. I was released 27, March 1973.

Future plans: Present assignment, F-4E Operational Air Defense Unit Check Six.

December 1996
John resides in Texas.