

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILE 8672
2148 SCOMM 80: HOUSE SPEC. COMM. MILITARY & VET. AFFAIRS, 1991-92

A. Schlatter, then chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Special Office for POW/MIAs, was saying that "If we look at everything we collected during the war and everything we've collected since the war, we don't find any evidence that Americans are captive."

Furthermore, as late as October, 1990, an unnamed "senior State Department official" was quoted in the press as saying the U.S. Government has "no evidence" of living American prisoners in Southeast Asia.

However, to say that the U.S. Government has "no evidence" is not the same as saying that no evidence exists. After all, there have been nearly 11,700 reports relating to POW/MIAs over the years, including 1,400 first-hand, live-sighting reports. The question is whether every single one of these reports can be dismissed from the category of credible evidence.

The U.S. Government position makes sense only if every single one of these reports can be shown to have been fabricated, erroneous, or not relating directly to a POW/MIA--for example, some reports may relate to Europeans in the area. In fact, DIA analysts have rejected the evidence of all these reports, except for a small pool of less than 150 still considered "unresolved."

The preliminary conclusions presented by staff for review by Senators are as follows:

1. After the conclusion of OPERATION HOMECOMING in April, 1973, brought the return of the 591 POWs, official U.S. Government policy internally adopted and acted upon the presumption that all other POWs were dead, despite public assertions that the government was still open to investigating the possibility of discovering the existence of living prisoners.

2. Following the adoption of an internal policy in April, 1973, that all POW/MIAs were presumed dead, the U.S. Government, convened commissions in each military service to consider each case on the POW/MIA list in order to make a statutory declaration of presumption of death.

3. While there is no reason to believe that the majority, if not most, of the declarations of presumptive death are incorrect, staff review of live-sighting report files at DIA found a disturbing pattern of arbitrary rejection of evidence that connected a sighting to a specific POW/MIA or U.S. POW/MIAs in general.

4. The pattern of arbitrary rejection resulted in a declaration of presumptive finding of death for every such individual case, except one.

5. The internal policy that all POW/MIAs were presumed dead resulted in an emphasis on finding and identifying remains of dead personnel, rather than searching for living POW/MIAs.

6. The desire to identify specific sets of remains with specific names on the POW/MIA list led DOD to an exaggeration of the capabilities of forensic science, and identification based on dubious presumptions and illogical deductions rather than actual physical identification--a process which resulted in numerous misidentifications of remains.

7. Despite adherence to internal policies and public statements after April, 1973 that "no evidence" existed of living POWs, DIA authoritatively concluded as late as April, 1974 that several hundred living POW/MIAs were still held captive in South East Asia.

8. Although the Pathet Lao declared on April 3, 1973, that Laotian Communist forces were holding American POWs and were prepared to give an accounting, nine days later a DOD spokesman declared that there were no more American prisoners anywhere in South East Asia. No POWs held by Laotian Communist forces ever returned. The evidence indicates that the U.S. Government made a decision to abandon U.S. citizens still in the custody of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, at the conclusion of U.S. involvement in the Second Indochina War.

9. U.S. casualties, including POW/MIAs in South East Asia, resulting from covert or cross border operation, may not be included on the list of those missing.

10. The executive branch has failed to address adequately the concerns of the family members of the POW/MIAs, and has profoundly mishandled the POW/MIA problem.

Definition of POW/MIA

The subject of POW/MIAs requires some definitions. After the Second Indochina War--popularly known as the Vietnam War, even though Thailand, Burma, Laos and Cambodia saw U.S. combat action--hundreds of POWs returned alive, notably in OPERATION HOMECOMING, which concluded in April, 1973.

Those who did not return home are classified by the Department of Defense into two categories: POW/MIAs--that is, those for whom there is some documentation that they were captured but never repatriated; and KIA/BNRs--that is, those believed to have been killed in action, but whose bodies were not recovered. For the latter, there is no evidence of their death except DOD's evaluation of the circumstances, even though no physical evidence of death may be available.

In April, 1973, DOD reported that 2,383 personnel were unaccounted

for: 1,259 POW/MIAs, and 1,124 KIA/BNRs. This study assumes that both categories of the unaccounted for deserve review. Since 1973, DOD has announced the return of 280 sets of remains, diminishing the over-all number by that amount.

In addition, there could well be an equal number of military personnel missing in action from various U.S. covert actions during the war. Since DOD files on covert actions have not been opened, and the participants in such actions never publicly identified, this inquiry could not establish any number for covert POW/MIAs. However, public source books and interviews with participants suggest that the issue of covert operations adds a substantial, but unknown, dimension to the MIA question which has received no scrutiny.

Review of Live-Sighting Documents

In this inquiry, staff has reviewed hundreds of U.S. Government classified, declassified, and open-source documents. In addition, Senator Grassley and Committee Minority staff were given access to, and have reviewed personally, hundreds of classified live-sighting reports (accounts by Southeast Asians of live POWs in Southeast Asia) in the files of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). According to DIA, this is the first time

that either a United States Senator or any United States Congressional Committee staff have been given access to the raw intelligence contained in the 1,400 live-sighting reports.

Out of the 1,400 live-sighting reports, approximately 1,200 are considered by DIA to be "resolved." Each of the so-called "resolved" sightings was resolved by concluding that the live-sighting report did not pertain to U.S. POWs present after April 1979. Staff felt that in some cases such a conclusion was correct, but that in many it was not supported by the facts.

Staff began by first examining so-called resolved cases in order to study DIA methodology by which a conclusion of "resolution" was reached. Since the guidelines set by DIA for access to the files were extremely restrictive, the time available allowed review of only about one-quarter of the so-called "resolved" cases, and none of those in the category of "unresolved." Nevertheless, staff concluded that a significant number of the "resolved" cases reviewed showed that the DIA methodology was faulty, or that the evidence did not support the DIA conclusion in the case, or both.

The information collected and reviewed to date by the staff shows that the position held by the United States Government--namely, that no evidence exists that Americans are still being held against their will--cannot be supported. Rather, the information uncovered during this inquiry provides enough corroboration to cast doubt upon the veracity of the U.S. Government's

conclusion.

Without revealing classified information, staff believes that the review of the classified live-sighting reports reinforces that doubt. Although more information remains to be reviewed, the evidence this inquiry has thus far uncovered shows that:

1) living U.S. citizens, military and civilian, were held in Southeast Asia against their will after the U.S. Government's statement on April 13, 1973, that no prisoners remained alive; and

2) the information available to the U.S. Government does not rule out the probability that U.S. citizens are still being held in Southeast Asia.

In fact, classified, declassified and unclassified information all confirm one startling fact: That DOD in April, 1974, concluded beyond a doubt that several hundred living American POWs remained in captivity in Southeast Asia. This was a full year after DOD spokesmen were saying publicly that no prisoners remained alive.

Evidence uncovered in the several hundred cases reviewed thus far clearly demonstrates that, in a disturbing number of cases, DOD made significant errors in drawing conclusions about live-sighting reports, the presumed deaths of individuals, or about individuals that were unaccounted for at the conclusion of the war. Although many cases were resolved correctly

based upon the files, there were too many errors apparent to rule out the need to undertake and complete the review of the "unresolved" cases.

Staff also concluded that DOD spent an excessive amount of effort in discrediting live-sighting reports, while exaggerating or mishandling forensic data in order to confirm a presumptive finding of death. DOD appeared to be more anxious to declare a presumptive finding of death than in following up reports of sightings with creative investigative work.

Furthermore, there is evidence of insensitivity on the part of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government in providing complete and accurate information to the next-of-kin of missing American servicemen.

The classified evidence in DIA files suggests a pattern by a few U.S. Government officials of misleading Congressional inquiries by concealing information, and misinterpreting or manipulating data in government files. Interested Senators and staff with proper clearances no doubt will want to review the classified files themselves and draw their own conclusions.

The 1973 Policy Decision

Those who have not dealt with the POW/MIA issue may find it

difficult to understand how DOD's analysis of the information could be in error. Unfortunately, staff believes that DOD has allowed its procedures to be dictated by a pre-conceived policy finding.

The *New York Times* reported on April 12, 1973, as follows:

WASHINGTON, April 12 (AP)--The Pentagon, two months after the first American prisoners of war began coming home, said today that it had no evidence that there were any more prisoners still alive in all of Indochina.

Despite the fact that interviews with all returning prisoners are nearly complete, a Pentagon official, Dr. Roger Shields, said that none of the 1,389 Americans listed as missing were now technically considered prisoners. "We have no indication at this time that there are any Americans missing alive in Indochina," Dr. Shields said at a news conference.

Dr. Shields was at that time Assistant Secretary of Defense, but he was following guidance issued on that date by the Department of State in a memorandum to DOD which stated that "There are no more prisoners in Southeast Asia. They are all dead." This directive was issued immediately after the return of the last POWs in OPERATION HOMECOMING. This finding was made despite the fact that none of the hundreds of POW/MIAs that the Pathet Lao publicly acknowledged holding were ever returned from Laos. There were hundreds of live-sighting reports on file in 1973. Thousands of such reports have continued to be received since then.

Process for "Presumption of Death"

Since it was official policy, then, that all MIAs were dead, it became a bureaucratic necessity for all "unresolved" cases to be resolved in favor of a presumed finding of death.

Each respective military service from time to time convenes its own special commissions to pronounce on individual cases. Such a commission has before it at least three categories of information: The first is intelligence-related information concerning the individual. The second is eyewitness accounts of the loss event. The third is the so-called "incident report"--the official report of the loss incident.

If a year passes without new information, the respective military service can convene a commission to determine whether a presumptive finding of death should be declared.

The April, 1973, statement of policy was a political statement, rather than a finding according to statutory authority. As a result, the military services subsequently reviewed each individual case of those who previously had been declared dead *en masse*. And in every case except one, the commissions made a determination of a presumptive finding of death.

Because of this procedure, the bureaucratic necessity arose for discrediting any evidence that might cast doubt on the mass presumptive finding of death of April, 1973. From the standpoint of law and military regulations, the procedure followed in each case gave a legal affirmation to the original political statement.

Therefore, in order to discredit any information which might undermine the political thesis, the analysis of intelligence files fell into a systematic pattern of debunking information contrary to the thesis.

This systematic debunking included discrediting of reports, possible intimidation of witnesses, dismissal of credible evidence through technicalities, and--if all else failed--the arbitrary disregard of evidence contrary to the thesis.

DOD's Working Hypothesis

An analysis of DOD's working hypothesis for fully accounting for American MIAs is the key to understanding the discrepancies between DOD's position on the POW issue and the evidence uncovered by the staff.

DOD's premise, beginning in April, 1973, has been that all MIAs are dead; the corollary, therefore, is that DOD must never find any evidence that

any MIA is alive. The best evidence, in DOD's opinion, is a set of physical remains that can be identified as a specific individual on the POW/MIA list. Once such an identification has been made, the case of that individual can be removed forever from the list. This is an easier task than to accept live-sighting reports that might point to a living POW, thereby necessitating appropriate follow-up action.

It is a reasonable assumption to remove POW/MIAs from the list when remains are identified, if the identification is correct. But the fact is that in a significant number of cases, such identifications have been made on the basis of inadequate physical evidence, using presumptive deductions that may or may not be true. The pressure to identify sets of remains even has resulted in specific cases where caskets have been buried with full military honors as the "remains" of the individual when, in fact, the casket is empty.

Therefore, DOD acts on its premise by vigorously investigating for the remains of dead MIAs. The list of MIAs presumed dead following the conclusion of the war totalled 2,383. DOD has received and claimed to have identified a total of 280 sets of remains since 1973.

Any full accounting of MIAs, according to DOD's working hypothesis, would necessarily involve only those cases in which either a presumptive finding of death could be made, or else full or partial remains could be discovered. As each presumptive finding of death is declared or set of

remains is identified, DIA would remove, as accounted for, the names that matched those on the original MIA list. In this respect, DOD claims that DIA has vigorously investigated and resolved hundreds of such cases.

The policy of DOD is to focus attention on the cases where some evidence, no matter how small, of physical remains can be recovered. But even while DOD enthusiastically and vigorously investigates remains case--no matter how fragmentary--it just as vigorously discredits live-sighting and other witness accounts. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of thousands of Asians fled Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. These refugees provided many first-hand reports, or knew by second- or third-hand reports, of American prisoners being held in their respective countries.

To date, over 11,700 accounts have been received by DOD; 1,400 of these are first-hand, live-sighting reports. DIA claims to have analyzed fully each of these live-sighting reports, and to have left "no stone unturned" in searching for living prisoners. After analyzing the live-sighting reports, DIA has concluded that the majority are not related to living American POWs, with the possible exception of a small percentage of reports that DIA describes as "unresolved."

However, no "resolved" case has ever concluded that an American POW remains captive in Southeast Asia. In this way DIA concludes that there is no evidence of Americans currently being held captive in Southeast

Asia. This contention is consistent with both the working hypothesis described above and with DIA's apparent success at removing from the MIA list names that involve only those cases in which remains are identified, or a finding of death declared.

Insofar as these discrepancies relate to the 1,400 first-hand reports of living prisoners, DOD's original premise comes into question. Numerous live-sighting reports have been erroneously discredited by DIA analysts. Moreover, staff has reason to believe that DOD has misidentified the remains of scores of MIAs, and has incorrectly presumed dead many others.

This analytical bias is typical of a bureaucracy defending an established policy at all costs, even if it means denying the obvious. It is also a typical characteristic of an out-moded paradigm that can no longer explain the real world or real facts. If the original premise of DOD had been that at least *some* of the 2,383 MIAs were alive, then DOD would have been forced by circumstance to view the evidence collected, including the hundreds of live-sighting reports, from an objective standpoint. The relevance and validity of each report could have been judged on its own merits rather than whether it supported a pre-determined hypothesis that no living POW/MIAs remained.

Unfortunately, DOD choose to make its own analysis, without proper legislative oversight. Claiming extreme sensitivity and possible threats to sources and methods of intelligence gathering, DOD evaded the proper

oversight that would have assured the objectivity of their process, The result has been a disservice to the POW/MIAs, their families and the American people.

Importance of the Problem

The resolution of these questions is important not only to any MIA/POWs who may be still alive, but also to the families involved. It is also important to the fate of any possible POWs in a future military action. With 200,000 U.S. troops now deployed to the Persian Gulf, the question of possible prisoners of war once again becomes an urgent matter.

Moreover, the resolution of issues relating to Southeast Asia is a key priority of our nation's foreign policy. Secretary of State James A. Baker III stated recently that the POW/MIA issue is the last remaining obstacle to resumption of relations with the government of Vietnam. But if it turns out that Vietnam has been concealing the existence of POWs, then it would be a complicating factor in initiating relations with the present regime.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2903

DISCUSS A DRAFT OF GOALS FOR PROPOSED SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS

- * To provide a bipartisan group of Senators to exercise effective Congressional oversight in the POW/MIA issue.

- * To review and assess current U.S. policy concerning the POW/MIA issue.

- * To recommend and evaluate new initiatives and/or approaches to enhance resolution of the POW/MIA issue, including specific legislative proposals.

- * To review and assess how agencies are organized for purposes of declassifying POW/MIA information from the Second World War to the present.

- * To consider legislation to declassify government documents on the POW/MIA issue dating back to World War II when release of the documents would not jeopardize national security, including sources and methods.

- * To provide a forum for a closer, more coordinated working relationship between the Administration's POW/MIA Interagency Group (IAG) and the United States Senate.

- * To promote responsible efforts to increase public awareness on the POW/MIA issue.

- * To review and assess benefits and services provided by the Government to families of POW/MIAs.

- * To review and assess the Government's criteria for classifying American service personnel as prisoner of war, missing in action, or killed in action.

- * To coordinate with officials of the International Red Cross and the United Nations in order to review and recommend effective frameworks for enforcement of the Third Geneva Conventions of 1949.

* To review and assess the manning, funding, methodology, and operations of the POW/MIA division of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

* To review and assess the professionalism and quality of the Division's finished analyses of POW/MIA-related intelligence, including live-sighting reports.

* To examine Department of Defense security procedures and practices in responding to Congressional requests for information concerning POW/MIA matters.

* To examine the manning, funding, methodology and operations of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

* To review and assess the manning, funding, methodology, and operations of the United States Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

* To review and assess the professionalism and quality of the Laboratory's finished analyses of alleged U.S. MIA remains.

* To review and assess Government procedures and laws concerning POW/MIA information being provided to next of kin in a timely manner.

[illegible]

November 13, 1990

Copy to: Lieutenant General Harry E. Soyator, U.S. Army
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2803

February 21, 1991

Dear Colleague:

We will shortly introduce a resolution to establish a Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

For nearly a decade, the Executive Branch has designated the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIAs as an issue of highest national priority. It is truly unfortunate that despite this designation, there continues to be foot-dragging by Communist governments in Southeast Asia and North Korea. Moreover, despite seven different investigations since the 1970's, extremely serious charges persist concerning the U.S. Government's handling of POW/MIA matters. We believe these charges are serious enough to warrant further investigation by a bipartisan select committee.

We are also very concerned with the issue of POWs in the Gulf War and Iraq's compliance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949. We all hope for a swift and favorable resolution to the Gulf War. However, we believe it is critical that Congress act now to review and assess our Gulf policies and objectives as they relate to the return of our captured service men and women. The formation of a Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs would strengthen efforts in the Senate to address the POW/MIA issue. It would also ensure that these efforts are pursued until the fullest possible accounting is achieved.

In addition, we believe a Select Committee would provide a much-needed structure for a closer, more coordinated working relationship with the Administration's POW/MIA Interagency Group. We recognize that several members of Congress have made substantial contributions toward resolution of POW/MIA matters from Southeast Asia and North Korea. We strongly feel that a coordinated approach in the Senate on these matters will only further enhance resolution of this issue.

Finally, the House of Representatives established a House POW/MIA Task Force in 1977. There is no comparable

structure in the Senate and, unfortunately, no Senate hearings have been held on this matter since 1986.

If there is any issue serious enough to justify establishing a Select Committee, it is clearly the POW/MIA issue. We also want to assure our colleagues that we will work with the leadership to find a mutually acceptable funding mechanism for the committee.

We have not received a satisfactory accounting of our missing service personnel, and the families and concerned veterans still wait for answers. The present POW situation in the Gulf has further convinced us that it is vital for the Senate to provide an effective oversight structure to address POW/MIA matters.

We ask you to support the creation of this committee by cosponsoring the Senate resolution which we will shortly introduce. Please contact Dino Carluccio at 46338 to cosponsor.

Sincerely,

Bob Smith

Allen Smith

James Helms

Harry Reid

Chuck Grassley

Don Riegle

STATEMENT BY SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY
REGARDING POW/MIA ISSUE
10/12/90

Mr. President, on July 31, I rose before this body to pose several questions regarding a request I had made of the Defense Department for access to eyewitness reports on American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia. I and others of my colleagues had been denied access to these files for the sole reason that they are classified. That response came in April from Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Mr. Henry Rowen. My July statement before this body raised the question of whether or not that response from Mr. Rowen was appropriate.

The day after my statement, I received a letter from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Mr. David Gribbin. That letter reversed the position announced earlier by Mr. Rowen, and I and my colleagues were granted access to the POW files, although with the most extraordinary of restrictions.

Now, Mr. President, let me describe what I mean by 'the most extraordinary of restrictions.' I have to go to the Pentagon myself and camp out there if I want to review these documents. I am not allowed to bring my own staff, regardless of clearance. Instead, I have to bring staff from one of three committees, even though I do not sit on any of them. Furthermore, if I leave, the staff has to leave as well. Needless to say, this is a maximum inconvenience for a member of the United States Senate for documents that are classified mostly at SECRET, CONFIDENTIAL or FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY, which is not a category of classification at all.

Now, Mr. President, my purpose in raising this issue today is not to quarrel with this arrangement at this time, even though it is a most inappropriate arrangement. In the end, the Department did the right thing by granting me and my colleagues access after its initial reluctance. And I have taken advantage of this access by spending 116 man-hours, together with staff, pouring through hundreds of these files. Having now seen many of the reports, I am not at all convinced they warrant such extreme precautionary measures. The question, and this is the purpose for which I rise today, Mr. President, is: What is it that compels such an unreasonable position on the part of DoD?

I may not have an answer to that question, but I do believe I have uncovered the first piece of the puzzle.

It shows little awareness of the responsibility under the Constitution for congressional access to government information. And it shows a deep misunderstanding of the laws and procedures for handling classified information. Furthermore, it suggests a lack of awareness of the line between advocacy of a principle or issue, in this case the POW issue, and the Government's own position. When a self-declared POW advocate, which Griffiths is in her non-quasi-governmental role, begins to take the government's position 'at face value,' as Ms. Griffiths declares in her memo that she has done, then that line is crossed. This is indeed the point that gives rise to the question of whether or not this quasi-governmental official has become "bureaucratized."

The more important question, though, Mr. President, is what impact did this rationale -- this 'sky is falling' hysteria -- have on the Defense Department's decision to restrict the access of United States Senators to eyewitness accounts of POWs, which documents are either SECRET, CONFIDENTIAL or FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY -- not TOP SECRET or Code Word classified? Why is it that a quasi-government official can see them, but not a United States Senator? And why is it that a quasi-government official can dictate or heavily influence the access policy of the Department of Defense?

It is my hope, Mr. President, that the answers to these questions will become clearer in the weeks ahead as those of us who are interested in this issue continue our oversight responsibilities. I will continue to discuss this on-going matter with my colleagues on this floor from time to time in the future until these questions are resolved.

Thank you, Mr. President.

STATEMENT BY SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY
7/31/90

Mr. President, I would like to take a moment of my colleagues' time to address what I consider to be a very important and curious matter.

Like most of my colleagues, I have tried to respond to inquiries from my constituents about the POW/MIA issue. Many of them are concerned that we have not done all we can to resolve this issue. I have committed myself, as others of my colleagues have done, to verifying the assertion that the government has, in fact, done everything it can.

Last summer, the Secretary of Defense issued what is called the POW/MIA Fact Book. In it, the Secretary states the U.S. Government is doing all it can to help resolve the POW/MIA issue. Since the end of the Vietnam War, the Government has acquired over 10,000 reports on sightings of POWs. Of these 10,000, some 1200 are first-hand live sighting reports. Some of these are cases as yet unverified, some are suspected to be fabrications, and some allegedly pertain to individuals since accounted for.

On March 23, fully four months ago, I sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense requesting access to these documents. I asked for the documents in installments over a period of time, trying to mitigate the workload and effort associated with my request. This was a pretty straight-forward, simple request for information that the U.S. Government claims to be proud of with respect to the thoroughness of its investigation, analysis and evaluation of the POW/MIA issue.

On April 16, I received a response to my request. It came from Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Henry S. Rowen.

Mr. Rowen's response, Mr. President, was to deny a member of the United States Senate access to that information solely on the basis that the information is CLASSIFIED. Since when is that a condition for withholding information from a United States Senator?

In response to Mr. Rowen's letter, I wrote a second letter to Secretary Cheney dated May 24 indicating -- with irritation, I might add -- my dissatisfaction with this unacceptable, bureaucratic response. I have yet to receive a reply, and it's now over two months later.

Sunday, February 24, 1991

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Honor Desert Storm POWs by remembering others kissed goodbye

Marine Lt. Col. Clifford M. Acree, 39, Oceanside, Calif.

Air Force Col. David W. Eberly, 43, Goldsboro, N.C.

Air Force Maj. Thomas E. Griffith, 34, Goldsboro, N.C.

Marine CWO Guy L. Hunter, 46, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Air Force Capt. Harry M. Roberts, 30, Savannah, Ga.

Air Force Maj. Jeffrey S. Tice, 35, Sellersville, Pa.

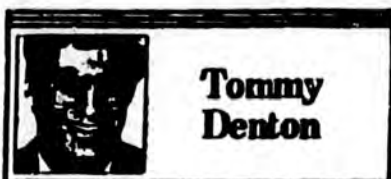
Navy Lt. Lawrence R. Slade, 26, Virginia Beach, Va.

Navy Lt. Jeffrey N. Zama, 28, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Those men are the known American prisoners of war captured and held by the Iraqis during Operation Desert Storm.

Remember them.

As the grim drama of war proceeds, the American public has demonstrated its strong support for the troops fighting in the Middle East. Whatever the painful ambivalence that millions of people may feel about the policies driving the war, the men and women caught in the vortex of battle



Tommy Denton

enjoy the sympathy, admiration and prayers of a nation at war.

Those held in enemy captivity occupy a special place of remorse and yet of honor for the cruel, tortuous ordeal we must hope they are still alive to endure.

Remember them. Do not let them be forgotten as the memories of their captured comrades-in-arms from earlier wars have been allowed to drift into the mists of time. Most certainly, do not allow them to be abandoned as those who were left by a callous, cynical government that treacherously dismissed thousands of American POWs knowingly left behind in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War.

Those abandoned men are the bitter legacy of a point in history when the United

States lost its way. When the peace accords ended the American role in the war with Vietnam in 1973, all the prisoners of war were to have been released, and thousands were. Thousands of others were not, and the government's intelligence agencies knew it, even if the public and members of Congress did not.

Richard Nixon cut a secret deal with Hanoi that included payment of \$4 billion in exchange for all prisoners. Nixon never told Congress about the letter he signed, and when the administration sought the money, Congress refused.

Vietnam had a document in hand, a contract as it were. When the contract was broken, they retained some 2,000 American prisoners. Neither the American public nor Congress knew about them at the time, but people in the government did.

To have exposed their presence would have been embarrassing. The intelligence agencies had too much to hide, including an illegal "secret war" in Laos and a lucrative drug-running operation to finance it surreptitiously, out of the glare even of official scrutiny.

Any probing for prisoner-of-war camps might have revealed the illicit activities of the CIA and intelligence operatives in the Defense Department, so they stonewalled and fabricated an elaborate lie that remains official policy to this day: No live prisoners remained.

Despite solid evidence of actual sightings of live prisoners — from eyewitnesses, photographs and satellite images — four succeeding presidential administrations have perpetuated the lie.

A book published last fall, *Kiss the Boys Goodbye* by Monika-Jane Stevenson and William Stevenson, exposes the people and events that were part of the calculated deception.

Now the Select Committee on Intelligence has begun, although much too slowly, to lend its weight and authority to revealing the truth — gleaned not from the sanitized "official" reports from intelligence agencies used in the cover-up but from the raw data. The committee produced an interim report last October that summarized, and essentially confirmed, the findings de-

mented in *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*.

Committee Chairman Jean Hahn has indicated that the final report, with specific and damning evidence, may be released this week. Already a number of senators have expressed interest in establishing a select committee, with subpoena power, to build on the findings of that report.

Sources within the committee have suggested, though not confirmed, that as many as 300 to 400 American men may still be in captivity, if not in Vietnam, possibly in Laos or even in the Soviet Union. Many steps — in Washington and Hanoi — have been taken to secure "plausible deniability."

Eighteen years of deceit make the task of uncovering the truth all the more difficult. Congress will move only as quickly to uncover and heal the ugly wounds of deception, betrayal and abandonment as the American people demand.

In remembering those of Desert Storm held captive, do not forget the boys kissed goodbye.

Tommy Denton is a senior editorial writer and columnist for the Star-Telegram.

SAINT PAUL PIONEER PRESS

METRO

9TH

FEBRUARY 1991

SATURDAY

6A

Campaign launched to account for POWs, MIAs

■ Backers hope to get support from legislators

ED STYCH ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the number of Americans missing in the Persian Gulf mounts, a national campaign aimed at accounting for soldiers missing in Vietnam was launched Friday in St. Paul.

"What happened in Vietnam could very well be the same scenario that will occur when the issue is finished in the Middle East," said Tracy Usry, a special investigator for the Republican staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Retired Navy Capt. Eugene McDaniel, who organized the campaign, said the gulf war will help refocus attention on

POWs from previous wars. He said he and other prisoner-of-war and missing-in-action activists will work to ensure that each soldier missing in the Persian Gulf is accounted for.

"We'd like to reassure the families of those missing in the Middle East that they will be unlike those that were left behind in Southeast Asia," said McDaniel, who was a POW for six years in Vietnam. "They will be coming home at the end of this war because of the public debate that has been created in this country."

Usry and McDaniel testified before Minnesota lawmakers, urging them to pass resolutions asking Congress to approve two bills that supporters say may lead to the return of Vietnam MIAs.

One of the resolutions asks Congress to

enact the POW-MIA truth bill, which was introduced in late 1989 and failed to get out of committee last year.

The proposal would require government officials to disclose information on alleged live sightings of American soldiers missing in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Under the bill, sources and methods used to collect the reports would be censored to protect national security.

The second resolution urges Congress to continue funding of the POW-MIA special investigation that's being conducted by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The POW-MIA activists said they will ask all state legislatures to pass similar resolutions. The effort is expected to culminate with a march on Washington in

the spring.

More than 88,000 Americans are listed as missing from World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars, according to the Minnesota Veterans Affairs Department.

Usry and the other activists testified before a joint hearing of the Senate Veterans and General Legislation Committee and the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee.

Before the hearing, about 150 people rallied for an hour on the state Capitol steps to show support for the resolutions.

Most of the demonstrators were veterans and wore military uniforms. Several carried American flags or POW flags that had the inscription, "You are not forgotten."

Coverups about POWs a betrayal of liberty and a threat to us all

It's rare when a book comes along that has the potential to make a significant impact on American politics. *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*, by Monika Jensen-Stevenson and William Stevenson, is that rare book.

Read this book, and you will never look at government again in quite the same way. This is the story of how our government -- at least a core of it hidden away in the bowels of national security agencies -- deliberately betrayed American prisoners of war in Vietnam. Our government knew there were living POWs left behind, and resorted to lies, intimidation, disinformation, frameups, character assassination and possibly even murder to keep that disgusting secret.

Men who would betray comrades, men who would deliberately leave behind Americans to suffer and die in captivity and who would attack those trying to tell the truth are dangerous men. Such indecency and fanaticism, or in some cases, cynicism and cowardice, put at risk our liberty. They would betray anyone or anything -- including the Constitution.

Jensen-Stevenson was an Emmy-winning producer for the CBS show *60 Minutes*. She stumbled into this government mafia when she decided to do a 60 Min-



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Kiss the Boys Goodbye reads like a spy thriller, only all the names and people are real. Jensen-Stevenson tells the story just as she discovered it. It is not a textbook on the issue of missing in action soldiers. It is an exciting story of determined people pursuing the truth through the Washington bureaucracy and the back alleys of Southeast Asia.

Jensen-Stevenson became so absorbed as the magnitude of the coverup became evident that she left CBS to work on this book.

Read it, and you'll understand what a villain Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-Brooklyn, is. In view of his role as an anti war man in Vietnam and as one of the chief figures in discrediting and attacking anyone who came forward with information about living POWs, it is ironic that he became a war hawk for the Persian Gulf.

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It is more than the story of how the government betrayed its POWs and then covered up the crime. It is the story of how a free government can become dangerously corrupted by unaccountable men using national security as a camouflage.

Report fuels fight to find truth about 1968 Laos raid

► The wife of a man missing in action in Laos says a recent report indicates there were survivors of an attack where her husband was stationed.

By David E. Hendrix
The Press-Enterprise

For 22 years Ann Holland has battled high-ranking U.S. officials, her family and herself, arguing that nobody could prove all the Americans atop a super-secret radar site in northern Laos were killed in a 1968 communist raid.

Recently, one of the same American agencies with which she has fought, notified her that she had a new-found ally: A high-ranking Laotian official who led the raid against the mountaintop CIA post.

The notification is a significant disclosure by U.S. officials of evidence that American Air Force technicians survived the epic March 11, 1968, battle. A top secret Air Force report acknowledges that the American air war against North Vietnam changed significantly after the fall of what was known as Lima Site 85.

The site's overthrow also significantly changed Holland's life: her husband, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Melvin A. Holland, was one of the 11 men captured or killed in the raid. Until Dec. 10, Holland could get no American officials to publicly acknowledge that there was evidence some of the men might have survived.

On Dec. 10, the Air Force Casualty Office forwarded Ann Holland a message from U.S. officials in Bangkok, Thailand. The message said a Laotian general in

August and September interviews told an Air Force intelligence officer that "two or three Americans had been wounded and taken away by the (North) Vietnamese forces" after the Site 85 battle. "He added that the Pathet Lao had standing orders to send all captured Americans to Vietnam since the Pathet Lao had no facilities to care for them."

For Holland, the message is more than vindication about events that happened after her husband was sent to Southeast Asia.

The new report, she hopes, will make officials believe other information that has come to her attention during the past five years: That some of the men, including her husband, were alive as recently as 1987. She hopes also that someone seriously will consider reports that a 1984 CIA-sanctioned attempt to rescue Site 85 survivors was aborted by other American officials.

A Department of Defense spokesman called the new report "interesting" but said no comment could be made about the information or any investigation about its contents.

"We do not discuss the specifics of any ongoing investigation," said Lt. Cmdr. Ned Lundquist, a Pentagon public affairs officer.

The new information comes on the eve of a scheduled report by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about the POW-MIA issue. A preliminary report Oct. 29 charged that U.S. authorities have consistently discounted their own intelligence reports that hundreds of American POWs were left behind at the end of the Vietnam War and some remained alive in the 1980s.

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Ann Holland
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Please see HOLLAND, D-2

Information flows in



CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
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TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

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January 29, 1991	WITN TV Channel 7	Washington, North Carolina
January 29, 1991	WCTI TV Channel 12	Newborn, North Carolina
January 29, 1991	WNCI TV Channel 9	Greenville, North Carolina
January 29, 1991	Kinston Free Press Newspaper	Kinston, North Carolina
January 30, 1991	Public Forum TV	North Carolina
January 31, 1991	WFIR Radio	Roanoke, Virginia
January 31, 1991	WILM Radio	Wilmington, Delaware
February 1, 1991	WBZ Radio	Boston, Massachusetts
February 4, 1991	BBC	Briton
February 5, 1991	KLBJ Radio	Austin, Texas
February 7 & 8, 1991	WCCO Radio	Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 19, 1991	WDJC Radio	Birmingham, Alabama
February 22, 1991	KABC Radio	Los Angeles, California
February 22, 1991	KFRU Radio	Columbia, Missouri
February 25, 1991	WGR Radio	Buffalo, New York
February 26, 1991	WTIC Radio	Hartford, Connecticut
February 26, 1991	Financial News Network Insiders	National
March 6, 1991	WGR Radio	Buffalo, New York
Date Unknown	Australian TV	Australia

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Please see HOLLAND, D-2

Information flows in



Nation/world

Report on POWs holds chilling

By David Evans
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—The Senate report on the fate of America's Vietnam-era prisoners of war is sure to fan the flames of a long-simmering debate that possibly hundreds of American prisoners were left behind in Southeast Asia.

The report comes at a time when up to 300,000 American troops increasingly face the prospect of a war with Iraq in which some of them would be taken prisoner, and it raises the question of whether the U.S. government would expend every effort to get them back at the end of hostilities.

"When the troops [in Saudi Arabia] learn that we left men in captivity, I'm not sure what they're going to think," said retired Navy Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, who was shot down in May 1967 and spent six years as a POW in North Vietnam.

But the problem is not unique to the Vietnam War. Around 8,000 known U.S. prisoners and other missing personnel were un-

accounted for after the Korean War.

In a 1955 report, Pentagon officials noted that some POWs were transferred to China and Soviet Siberia early in the war and that the U.S. never pursued negotiations for their return because it did not recognize the Communist regime in China, where many were believed to be held.

The latest report, released Monday as part of a continuing investigation by Republican Sens. Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Charles Grassley of Iowa, charged that "the evidence indicates that the U.S. government made a decision to abandon U.S. citizens still in the custody of ... Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia at the conclusion of the U.S. involvement" in the Vietnam War.

Although 591 American prisoners were repatriated in 1973, the Senate report said, more than 4,000 personnel remain unaccounted for, including hundreds of airmen shot down over Laos.

The report charged that classi-

fied evidence in the files of the Defense Intelligence Agency, which tracks the status of unaccounted-for POWs and MIAs, suggests a pattern "by a few U.S. government officials of misleading congressional inquiries by concealing information and misinterpreting or manipulating data in government files."

The report stopped short of citing names but is part of a continuing investigation.

McDaniel, who supported the conclusions of the latest investigation, declared, "I was an absolute believer that we all came home"—until 1985. That's when an Army colonel on the National Security Council confirmed to him that prisoners were still alive in Southeast Asia, McDaniel said.

The Senate report cited the activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency, which "authoritatively concluded as late as April 1974 that several hundred living POW/MIAs were still held captive in Southeast Asia."

The report has remained in the

news for U.S. soldiers in gulf

agency's secret files ever since. But because of the continuing controversy over the matter, the Pentagon conducted a five-month review of about 100 unresolved POW/MIA case files in 1986. This effort was headed by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Eugene Tighe.

From 1974 to 1981, Tighe was deputy chief and then the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency. The so-called Tighe Report concluded that American POWs were still alive in Southeast Asia.

In an interview last week, Tighe said, "There are reports of Americans alive in Southeast Asia that cannot be discarded. We've had all kinds of live sighting reports, and some of them were dismissed summarily, and that bothers me."

The Pentagon rebutted the Senate report Thursday, saying the Defense Department "did not conclude in April 1974 or at any other time that several hundred living American POWs remained in captivity."

In effect, this statement denied the existence of the 1974 Defense

Intelligence Agency report and the findings of the 1986 Tighe report.

In addition, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia on Wednesday lambasted the Senate report—titled "Interim Report on the Southeast Asian POW/MIA Issue"—as "inaccurate, misleading, distorted and extremely simplistic."

But the group's director, Ann Griffiths, said her organization "doesn't rule out the possibility that some could still be alive."

Grassley spent a week in September reviewing about 500 of 1,200 POW/MIA sighting reports. "Nobody's gone through the other 700 sighting reports, but after spending four days going over those files, I can tell you that there are a lot of unanswered questions," Grassley said.

One person hoping some are still alive is Ann Curran of Bensenville, Ill., the mother of Marine 1st Lt. Patrick Curran, the bombardier on an A-6 jet that was shot down over Laos in 1969.

"The search planes heard the beep from his survival radio, so they knew he survived," she said. Lt. Curran was never found, however, and in 1978 he was administratively classified as "killed in action, body not recovered."

"Americans have been seen in Laos," she said. "Was he tortured, is he hungry? These are the questions that just break your heart, and four U.S. administrations have done nothing."

To resolve the continuing controversy, Tighe recommended that an independent presidential commission be created and strip custody of the files from the Defense Intelligence Agency.

McDaniel noted that "according to the studies I've seen, 39 percent of us hit the ground alive. Had I known in 1967 what I know now about my government, I could not have hung on [in captivity] for 2,110 days."

He added, "My advice to the boys in the Middle East is: Don't get captured."

NEWSMAKERS

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PEOPLE IN THE HEADLINES

Ex-POW: Gulf troops are uneasy

A man who spent six years in North Vietnam's infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp says today's soldiers fear they'll suffer the same fate.

Eugene "Red" McDaniel, founder of the conservative American Defense Institute, says, "I've given talks at dozens of military bases, and the first question is typically whether I think POWs still remain in Vietnam. I throw the question back at them, and the response is always over 90% 'yes.'"

"That means almost all the servicemen preparing for war in the gulf know the government might abandon them."

McDaniel, 59, has been trying since 1965 to win release of U.S. prisoners he claims are still held in Vietnam. "It's important that we resolve the issue to reassure the troops."

The Pentagon casts doubt on most reports of sightings.

"When I went to war, I was prepared to be killed, to be wounded, even to be a prisoner of war, but I was not prepared to be abandoned by the country that sent me there."

— Carol J. Castaneda

► Gulf crisis, SA



McDANIEL's concern about Iraq: "We'll have prisoners there if we go to war."



San Francisco
Examiner
Oct. 25/90

WARREN HINCKLE

Has CIA concealed American POWs?

Well, George, I go in looking for prisoners, but I spend all my time discovering the government has been moving drugs around the world and is involved in illegal arms deals. . . I can't get at the prisoners because of the corruption among our own covert people.

— Ross Perot, on his search for American POWs in Southeast Asia, to Vice President George Bush, 1987.



William Webster was sworn in as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency on May 26, 1987. He selected, from all the spook books in the CIA library, Bill Stevenson's "A Man Called Intrepid" as the text for his inaugural sermon. It is the story of the ace Brit spymaster Sir William Stephenson, code named In-

trepid. The new CIA boss sought to inspire his troops with Intrepid's uplifting dictum that intelligence work requires men of great integrity, because when you operate in absolute secrecy, free from most rules of behavior, abuse comes easily.

Spy craft expert Stevenson is a veteran Southeast Asia war correspondent who has always been on close professional terms, and generally admiring of, the intelligence services of Great Britain, Israel and the United States. He was a welcome guest at the CIA's sylvan headquarters in rural Langley, Va.

The CIA no longer sets a place for Bill Stevenson at its table.

Stevenson, in a recent book called "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," co-written by his wife, a former producer for "60 Minutes," has reluctantly concluded that the CIA behaved in a beastly fashion toward American POWs still captive in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam peace accords of 1973.

Stevenson says the CIA continued a secret anti-communist

war in Indochina after 1973 — so secret from congressional scrutiny that some of its activities were financed by profits from drug profiteering. Because a full-scale effort to free POWs might expose the agency's clandestine networks in Laos and Cambodia, Stevenson says the CIA abused its secrecy privileges by concealing solid intelligence reports about captured Americans still alive in Southeast Asia.

Even recently, CIA personnel assigned to investigate reports of missing American servicemen were used as cover for recruiting and arming refugees to fight on the side of the genocidal Khmer Rouge against the Hanoi-supported government in Cambodia, said Stevenson.

As late as November 1989 there was a credible report of 20

OPINION

POW wife fought like a soldier for 25 years

By Eugene B. McDaniel

Marian Shelton, the wife of a POW from the Vietnam War, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery today. She went to her grave convinced that her husband, Air Force Col. Charles Shelton, is still alive somewhere in Southeast Asia. She was equally convinced that evidence of his survival is being suppressed. The mother of five took her own life on Oct. 5 after a quarter of a century of seeking the truth about her husband's fate.

Was she the tragic, but deluded, victim of the prisoner of war controversy? Tragic, yes; deluded, no. The overwhelming weight of evidence is on her side. Incredible as it seems, the issue of Americans still alive in Vietnam is no fantasy.

The evidence has escaped public scrutiny because it is enmeshed in the arcane realm of espionage. A faceless, but powerful, clique of intelligence operatives has controlled certain sensitive foreign policy issues through five presidencies. They control by withholding information, and this will continue until a public outcry puts an end to it.

What is this evidence?

■ 1) Hidden from public view is a large body of precise, high-quality intelligence examined by Lt. Gen. Eugene Tighe, widely regarded as a master of the intelligence craft. What Tighe gleaned from intelligence reports corresponds closely with information provided independently by a Marine who was released from the Vietnamese prison system in 1979.

Before any debriefing, that Marine, Bobby Garwood, endured a court martial on trumped-up charges of desertion. Debriefers finally made it



Associated Press
Marian Shelton

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clear to him, even with photos, that visual and human intelligence methods allowed experts to assemble a detailed record of his whereabouts throughout his imprisonment. Marian Shelton managed to obtain documents confirming this astounding capability in regard to other prisoners, including her husband.

■ 2) Texas industrialist H. Ross Perot, a member of a special commission headed by Tighe charged with examining POW evidence in 1986, was invited to visit Hanoi by the Vietnamese leadership. They acknowledged that the Americans were there. Perot's goal was to lay the groundwork for formal negotiations. To his exasperation, his report to President Ronald Reagan brought no action, making it clear that low-level bureaucrats were controlling the issue.

Many will ask: What motive could there be to suppress efforts that could result in the release of these Americans?

The most significant motive pertains to the determination of the "secret government" of intelligence bureaucrats to retain their foreign policy power and

pursue their private agenda. In Southeast Asia, that means keeping up the military pressure against the Hanoi-dominated governments in Laos and Cambodia. Any substantial US-Hanoi agreement would threaten this agenda.

Yet another reason is embarrassment. The longer the POWs languished in captivity, the more embarrassing would it be when they were returned to America. The zeal for supporting and waging secret warfare, moreover, led to practices of the sort that, in turn, led to prosecution in the Iran-contra case.

The Vietnamese, for their part, are holding American POWs for the same reason they held French POWs from their previous war — as bargaining chips for aid and diplomatic objectives. The POWs were also collateral for the payment of reparations agreed to by President Richard Nixon, which were never paid.

Over the past several years, I've supplied material and guidance to Monika Jensen-Stevenson and William Stevenson for their recently released book, *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*. Even if one discounts the vast majority of evidence in this book, such as the materi-

al regarding Charles and Marian Shelton, it is clear that we are dealing with a scandal far surpassing Watergate.

Some are astounded that this could occur without someone blowing the whistle. Some have tried, only to be rebuffed at every turn. Marian Shelton and her son, a former military chaplain, were harassed beyond endurance by the unelected foreign policymakers only for voicing what they believed to be true. Others, including decorated Vietnam veterans, have had their credibility questioned for daring to dissent.

The National League of Families, of which Marian was once a national director, has done nothing to stop the effort to silence those who ask too many questions. The league sometimes seems to be contributing to the harassment. Marian once said, "The league was started by wives to force a wartime administration to act on behalf of their men held in prison camps. Now it's run by the government as a front to kill open discussion." Her children urged me to stress that sad reality in this article.

By contrast, many families, active-duty service personnel, former POWs, and veterans are carrying on Marian Shelton's crusade. They're calling for the kind of courage on the part of our elected officials that will lead to the negotiated release of our up-to-now abandoned men before any more of them die.

Marian Shelton's fight is over. She can now rest in Arlington National Cemetery. The fight for our POWs is not over. We cannot rest.

Capt. McDaniel (USN-Retired) spent six years in a Hanoi POW camp. He is president of the American Defense Institute in Washington, DC.

Group offers reward in bid to find MIAs

By LULU YU

A GROUP of Americans setting sail for Vietnam this week is offering US\$2.5 million (HK\$19.3 million) to any one who can produce US servicemen declared missing in action from the Vietnam War.

The group, led by former Congressman Bill Hendon, plans to release hundreds of helium-filled balloons with messages attached to them along the Vietnam coast this weekend.

The messages, wrapped in sandwich bags and written in Vietnamese, will offer the multi-million reward to anyone who can help MIA servicemen escape from the Indochinese countries of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

Strong winds this time of the year are expected to carry the balloons to extensive areas of Indochina, particularly along the banks of the Mekong River.

The boat which the Americans are using for the ambitious mission is, ironically, one which achieved a similar mission for a group of Vietnamese people 23 years ago.

The 65-ft luxury cruiser was once a tattered fishing boat which refugees used for their escape to Hongkong. Those refugees, who sold their boat to Mr John Scrivener in 1979, have since been resettled in the US.

On Friday Mr Scrivener will be charting his cruiser, renamed Little John Thomas, back to where it originally came from — this time in a bid to help Americans escape.

"I don't know any MIAs in Vietnam, but I have a lot of compassion for them. I like to do what I can to help," said Mr



□ Mr Bill Hendon

Scrivener, a fund manager who spent two years working in Vietnam in the late 1960s.

Mr Hendon, a long-time lobbyist for the rescue of MIAs and prisoners of the Vietnam War, said yesterday the mission was the latest in a series of civilian efforts towards the recovery of the missing soldiers.

"We are going to deliver this message: If you can make an American pilot a free man, we'll make you a very rich man. We don't care who that person is, as long as he can bring out an MIA, we'll give him the full reward," said Mr Hendon.

There are an estimated 1,800 servicemen stranded in Vietnam 16 years after American troops pulled out of the country.

Said Mr Hendon, Republican Congressman until 1986 and presently the chairman of the POW Publicity Fund: "The question is no longer whether the men are there. The question is how do we get them out."

"The American Government is still counting on diplo-

macy, but diplomacy has failed for the last 16 years. We're going to do the best we can to spread the word to as many people in Indochina as possible.

"Who knows, maybe someone will get the message in a few days, or in a few months, and we will have the chance of saving one MIA."

Mr Jeffrey Donahue, another long-time champion of the controversial MIA issue, said he and another group of Americans had made a similar attempt at flying message balloons over the Mekong River in September 1987.

Mr Donahue is desperate to rescue his brother, Major Morgan Donahue, whom he believes is alive in Laos.

The 1987 attempt failed when Thai authorities intervened at the Thai-Lao border and put a halt to the release of balloons.

Efforts by Mr Donahue, Mr Hendon and others included dropping message leaflets in the Mekong River, interviewing potential witnesses in Indochina and lobbying Washington for assistance.

Joint American-Vietnamese teams staged an unprecedented search last September for witnesses of plane crashes involving American troops during the Vietnam War.

But, like previous American efforts, the search failed to bring out any MIAs.

Mr Hendon said the US\$2.5 million reward has been pledged by 11 congressmen and lobbyists and represented a first step in the use of a reward incentive.

"If we can bring out just one MIA, I'm sure more money will be pledged and more efforts will be put into it."



Traditions

Information flows in about Site 85 men

By David E. Hendrix
The Press-Enterprise

Except for her attorney in a suit against the United States government, Ann Holland in 1985 had worked alone for 17 years in her quest for information about the Site 85 men.

True to the code of secrecy to which the Air Force asked families of Site 85 workers to adhere, none of the workers' wives corresponded with each other.

In July 1985 Holland attended a national convention of relatives of MIAs and found people who had been looking for her because of the suit.

"I found somebody who knew what I was talking about," she said, her voice again choking with emotion. "They hugged me and said, 'You're not alone anymore.'"

Information snowballed to Holland. She hadn't even known that the mountain was called Site 85. She learned that officials knew weeks before the mountain fell that it would be overrun and that some of the men survived and were captured. Her "Deep Throat" source told her the Air Force for 10 days was ready to try to mount a rescue effort but that plans were called off.

She also eventually received from the Air Force a packet of information that included an intelligence report about an American survivor from Phou Pha Thi. The survivor was described as a male Caucasian in his early 20s and wearing light colored glasses.

Melvin would have been 32 at the time of the sighting but did wear glasses.

In the same report, defense intelligence analysts discredited the information solely because it was believed there were no Phou Pha Thi survivors.

"I remember looking at that and saying, 'They did take a prisoner and he was wearing glasses.' And I said, 'Those bastards lied to me,'" she said of Department of Defense personnel.

In March 1986 she received more information that reinforced her beliefs. The Press-Enterprise reported about an alleged CIA-sanctioned clandestine rescue attempt on behalf of Site 85 survivors. Holland was the first family member contacted about the story.

According to four of the team members, who spoke on the condition they not be identified, six American survivors of the Site 85 raid were being held in a Laotian prison cave in 1984. Two members of the attempted rescue team were former CIA agents, one a Special Forces officer and the other an Army intelligence officer.

One of the six Site 85 survivors died of bleeding ulcers in 1985, dropping the number number of survivors to five, the team members said. The mission was scuttled by Department of Defense intervention, they said.

The CIA, in keeping with its policy, declined to confirm or deny such an operation. The Defense Intelligence Agency POW/MIA spokesman in 1986, Col. Howard Hill, a former POW himself, said he was unfamiliar with the Site 85 case.

"Phou Pha Thi Mountain is

where those six were, where those six Air Force guys were taken prisoner," one of the rescue team members said. "They're not on any list, either. What did they do with (accounting for) those people?" the source asked.

In 1988, Holland and other Site 85 families received additional information, this from a man who claimed to be a former Air Force intelligence officer who was researching Site 85. The man, who also provided information to The Press-Enterprise on the condition he not be identified by name, disclosed detailed information previously known only to a limited number of military and intelligence officials and recently publicized in the book "Kiss The Boys Goodbye."

The man said two Australian journalists met with American POWs held near Luang Prabang in central Laos in 1987. Just before leaving Laos, the journalists allegedly were handed five photographs of Americans then being held in a northern Laotian POW camp.

"Each picture had a name, written in both Laotian and English on the back of the photograph," a written statement from the man said. One of the five names was Holland. Another of the last names was Price. One of the missing Site 85 technicians is David S. Price.

The man in mid-1988 severed contact with the families and The Press-Enterprise and disappeared. Efforts by congressional investigators to find him have proved fruitless.

Another report that at least three Americans survived the Site 85 assault came in late October in a San Bernardino interview. A former Thai intelligence officer, one of four Thai fieldworkers who supervised activities for the CIA in Laos, said he directed field interrogations of captured communist officers because of his linguistic skills.

The former CIA contract officer, who spoke on condition he not be identified because he feared reprisals against family members in Southeast Asia, said one of the captured officers was a North Vietnamese lieutenant named Chi. Chi, the Thai officer said, told him that at least three Americans from Site 85 were captured.

The Thai officer said he kept Li Chi as a servant for a lengthy period and found him to be a truthful man. The Thai said he was reassigned and after the fall of Laos asked other CIA crewworkers what had happened to Chi. Chi, the Thai was told, was taken up in a helicopter and pushed out the door.

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Bewitching Scene

A 19-foot witch guarding a pumpkin pile at the Litchfield farm of Charles and Nancy McQuestion has caused a lot of double-takes by motorists traveling Route 3A, even though it's Halloween.

George Naum/Union Leader

N II., and the subsequent rape and shooting of a Manhattan

comment on Caswell was with a escaped by swimming Police said Caswell was with a 31-year-old Connecticut native for two hours b

POW-MIA Report Stirs Mother's Emotions

By GLENN WALLACE
Union Leader Staff

A Manchester woman whose son is listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia said yesterday that reports the Defense Department may have covered up evidence of U.S. servicemen still held captive in Vietnam after the war ended have stirred memories and left her confused.

Jennie Page, 75, whose son, Air Force Maj. Albert Linwood Page, a pilot, was shot down Aug. 6, 1967, said that no matter what his fate, her son lives on.

"This brings back memories of him. I remember when he flew in and buzzed a UNH football game. Oh, he caught hell for that. MIA/POW QUESTION, Page 12

\$20.9M Third-Quarter Loss For Amoskeag

By TOM FAHEY
Union Leader Staff

Amoskeag Bank Shares, Inc. lost \$20.9 million in the third quarter of 1990, bringing to \$45.4 million its losses in the first nine months of the year.

Losses exceeded those for the same periods of 1989, when the company lost \$18 million and \$33.8 million respectively. The loss is equal to \$1.88 a share, compared with a loss of \$1.62 a share for the third quarter of 1989.

The Manchester bank holding company, one of the largest in the state, has been reduced in size by 19 percent, from \$2.1 billion to \$1.7 billion in assets in the 12 months ended Sept. 30.



NACKEY LOEB

Publisher

One Honest Man

Diogenes would be pleased. The searcher for an honest man would have found Ed Rollins — and in Washington, D.C., no

Rollins did the right thing recently advised candidates, "Do not hesitate to either the President or (budget) proponent advanced in Congress."

As co-chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, he is duty-bound to support the beliefs of the party. It was I

TODAY'S DIGEST

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Connors Footwear of Lisbon will lay off about 150 of its work force of 200 beginning

Court Weighing Ban on Abortion Counseling

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Union Leader

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MANCHESTER, N.H. — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1990

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GOP Senate Committee Members Say Defense Dept. Undermined Evidence

from Staff and Wire Reports

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POW/MIA, Page 8

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CORRECTION

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George Naim/Union Leader

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but he was a fine lad and I miss him so much. He's a grandfather and doesn't even know it." Page said.

Page said information she received later regarding the POW-MIA issue included a possibility that Americans may have been taken prisoner the next day on a beach near where he was shot down - a possibility she said she clings to today.

Page said her greatest wish is to learn her son's fate before she dies. "For me, time is in charge," she said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Bob Smith, R-NH, a longtime advocate of full disclosure on the POW-MIA issue, yesterday said the nation will be stunned when the whole story behind the alleged coverup is revealed.

"I think this story is going to be a shocker," Smith said.

The allegations are contained in an interim report released Sunday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Republican staff. The report states a recent staff investigation revealed the Defense Department in April 1974 "concluded beyond a doubt that several hundred American POWs remained in captivity in Southeast Asia."

The report further states that based on information in government documents, some American soldiers may still be held by the Vietnamese.

Page said she believes it is possible the government hid information about POWs and MIAs. "I think the government could have hushed it up because it doesn't mean anything to them; it's just another man. But to me, it's my only boy," she said.

Ever since reports about live Americans first surfaced in the 1970s, the government has repeatedly stated there was never any solid evidence Americans were being kept against their will in Vietnam.

Families of POWs and MIAs, private groups and some politicians, including Smith, have

U.S. May Open MIA Office in Hanoi

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department raised the possibility yesterday of opening an office in Vietnam as part of the government's effort to obtain an accounting for the nearly 1,700 missing American servicemen in that country.

The Vietnamese rejected the idea when it was proposed earlier but the two sides have since agreed to an expansion of their cooperation on the issue.

Two weeks ago, during a visit by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, it was decided that a U.S. technical team would be sent to Hanoi to work with Vietnamese military experts on improving procedures for locating the remains of the missing Americans.

The State Department said the U.S. team could stay there for an indefinite period if the results justified such a presence.

The U.S. government has never operated an office in Hanoi since what was then North Vietnam became independent in 1954.

over the years charged that the Defense Department never took seriously scores of reported live-sightings of U.S. personnel in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Smith said he is glad the Senate is now going to pursue an issue he has raised in the House for many years. "I'm excited about the possibility that there are live Americans, and I am repulsed that this information may have been covered up," Smith said.

He said, however, that satisfying POW-MIA families by learning the fate of all those who are missing should be the goal of any investigation, not just finding Americans who remain in Vietnam, either as captives or of their own volition.

He said Vietnamese officials recently hinted to him that there may well be Americans living in that country, but that any such men are not prisoners.

Smith also said there has never been even a partial accounting of U.S. pilots and aircrews lost during several months of unpublicized bombing raids in Laos after American

involvement in the war officially ended in March 1973.

"I've been intelligent on that. I can tell you that point blank. So where are they are today? The Vietnamese and the Laotians have been very evasive about all this," he said.

Smith said his next step will be a review of a previously classified Defense Intelligence Agency report that may shed new light on the issue.

Page praised Smith as "the only one who listened" and helped her with her attempts to learn the details of her son's disappearance. Maj. Page's jet crashed into the Tonkin Gulf, according to military accounts. Page said Smith obtained for her years later. He was nearing the end of his second combat tour when he disappeared, his mother said.

Sometimes I think he was taken prisoner and other times I think maybe they'll send the body back. So many years...Do I have hope? I don't know what this means. But maybe there'll be a miracle and he'll be the one to come home and prove they are there," she said.

Loan loss reserves
non-performers now
to \$49 million a year

INSURANCE —

(Continued From Page One)

make the poorer do share," he said.

However, he said as companies lose more a change does not necessarily drop for solely, auto insurers would and compete for the by offering lower rates.

People in the industry chance to comment on hearing in Concord any changes he thinks the plan to the Rules Committee. To hold another public plan.

New Hampshire is that require insurance to anyone pool in 1975 to share.

ABORTION CASE

(Continued From Page One)

sional speech."

Starr, conceding "defended its view."

Although fueled by abortion, the legal centers on fr must decide whether with a 1970 federal violate the Constitution.

A decision is expected. The argument is the 5 million low on family planning providers.

Last year, some nationwide receive federal assistance.

Enforcement of the Reagan administration blocked virtually all challenges.

None of the justices yesterday in using 1973 Roe vs. Wade.

Roe vs. Wade was Harvard law.

Union Leader

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POW/MIA, Page 8

Fire at Rochester Lumberyard



Bush Set To Act With Military If Provoked by Iraq

OCT. 30, 1990 → POW/MIA

'rice' Varns

ack would also lead to Israel.
government' has threats seriously attributed gas mask as a general public.
Secretary of State Bush said he does not visit Israel on his Middle East trip Friday.
will use the trip on the Gulf crisis, told a Los Angeles Times. Israel would leave there is a linkage Arab-Israeli conflict crisis.
erv anxious that a linkage." Baker

of his changes in the role of Democrats to play him — and means — as defense.
to that kind of and so I'm on the campaign trail," Bush said. "I've been in focus because getting away with rich, class warfare age that they always election time."
in Republican divis and the budget, clarity has dropped out of the polls, the Presidency.

POW/MIA

(Continued From Page One)

Southeast Asia — or that any were left behind alive after U.S. prisoners returned in 1973.

But the report said that information "uncovered during this inquiry provides enough corroboration to cast doubt upon the veracity of the U.S. government's conclusion."

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Ken Satterfield, said the department had not received the new report and had no comment.

Retired Navy Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, who heads the American Defense Institute, said of the report yesterday: "It's something that will surpass Watergate. ... Here you're dealing with having politicians write off military people as expendable ... It's despicable."

McDaniel, a POW for six years after being shot down after 81 missions as a Navy flier in Vietnam, said, "this report represents six years of effort on my part."

McDaniel said he had been lobbying for such a study for five years, but the catalyst was an author he flew from Canada to Washington last January to meet with Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and two other senators.

Monika Jensen-Stevenson is co-author of "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," a book about the issue being promoted by the institute, a public policy group.

Helms, a critic of the improving relations between the United States and Vietnam, asked the panel's minority staff to conduct the study.

McDaniel said the Senate committee report deals with 107 cases "that we can't resolve and can't discredit." He says he has a photo of one of the missing men that was taken in March, and knows of the existence of a photo of another man taken about three months ago.

The former POW praised Rep. Robert Smith, R-N.H., who has been pushing for action to resolve the POW-MIA issue.

McDaniel said Smith last week succeeded in attaching an amendment to an intelligence authorization bill that will permit access to a classified 1986 report — the Tighe Report — that studied 43 cases.

McDaniel says the investigation needs to be broadened and a special prosecutor may be needed.

"It didn't start out as a coverup. It (denial) started out as an embarrassment," he said.

"We promised them reparations. ... We reneged on the \$4.7 billion (and) they kept the collateral (prisoners)," McDaniel said.

The government considers 2,103 personnel missing since U.S. forces withdrew from Southeast Asia nearly 20 years ago. More than 55,000 Americans died in the war.

The number of military personnel missing in action could be higher because the Defense Department's files on various covert actions during the war have not been opened and those who took part were never identified, the report said.

The release of the report comes nearly two weeks after Vietnam promised to increase cooperation with the United States on an accounting of American servicemen still missing.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, who met with President Bush's special envoy for the MIA issue, said both sides agreed to accelerate their efforts to locate missing Americans.

In a letter accompanying the report, Helms said Thach's visit was inappropriate at a time when the administration was unwilling to address the issue of living Americans being held captive in Southeast Asia.

In an interview Sunday, Helms said the major story may be "that there was a deliberate effort by certain people in the government to disregard all information or reports about living MIA-POWs."

CHAMBERS SUIT

(Continued From Page One)

tion public until the public hearings.

Traditionally, the amount of agency budget requests are far greater than what is finally approved by the Legislature. The department's

they (the administration) produced the documents," she said.

In light of her earlier "It's Grogg's mess — he has to clean it up" remarks on the

New York City Tribune



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1990

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THIRTY CENTS

GLs 'Dead' on Secret Vietnam War Forays Were Really Captured, Senate Report Says

BY PETER SAMUEL
Special to the New York City Tribune

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has concluded that extensive covert U.S. operations in countries on the fringes of Vietnam resulted in many American servicemen being declared dead to cover their activities.

The committee's staff investigation showed that some of those declared dead were almost certainly captured by Communist authorities, swelling unaccounted-for prisoner numbers well beyond those previously published.

Some of those declared dead may still be alive, the report said.

Men missing on covert operations whether in fact lost, captured or killed would normally be declared dead immediately and classified Killed-in-Action-Body-Not-Recovered (KIA-BNR), the report said. A "cover story" about a training or traffic accident would be made up for his family to explain the serviceman's disappearance without revealing anything about the secret mission.

The 67-page report obtained by the New York City Tribune, titled simply

"Issues," is an addendum to a report released Oct. 28 that concluded the Nixon Administration made a formal decision in 1973 to abandon remaining U.S. prisoners-of-war (POWs).

Since that time, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been over-eager to accept offerings of supposed human remains of servicemen missing in action (MIAs) from Vietnam, the report said, and too quick to dismiss reports of live sightings of prisoners.

"Given some of the evidence that staff has found during the course of our investigation, it is highly probable that a number of U.S. servicemen listed as POW, MIA or KIA-BNR [killed-in-action, body-not-recovered] are alive in southeast Asia today," the report said.

Senate staff, together with the investigation leader Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, spent weeks going through previously classified Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) files at the Pentagon.

The most dramatic discovery of the Foreign Relations staff was a major DIA report dated April 1974 stating that there were "several hundred living

see MIAS pg. 8

MIAS

POW/MIAs" being held in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. It was signed by Admiral Donald B. Whitmire, then executive director of the DIA, and classified "Secret."

The assessment of "several hundred live prisoners" was a year after the Nixon Administration's decision to sweep the POW/MIA issue under the carpet by declaring all lost servicemen to be accounted for.

The latest report gave new details on the extent and nature of many secret operations and losses involving U.S. servicemen, State Department officers, Central Intelligence Agency employees and company contractors in Vietnam and in nearby countries, especially Laos.

It made no precise estimate, but quoted government sources as saying that the number of persons missing from covert operations "rivals" the DOD's list of 2,302 MIAs from U.S. military and intelligence operations.

The covert operations men, known inside the system as Black Cowboys, were involved mainly in Laos in reconnaissance and support of U.S. military operations in Vietnam, but because of the Geneva peace accords of 1962 banning outsiders in Laos, the U.S. government did not want to admit their presence in that country.

*The new report gave more details of one on going covert mission in Laos that supported U.S. Air Force bombing around Hanoi and Haiphong. A group

of 10 to 20 Air Force personnel and civilian technicians, officially listed as employees of Lockheed Corporation, were based on the top of Phao Pha Thi mountain in Sam Neua province, just 120 miles from Hanoi, at a site code-named Lima Site 85.

The U.S. servicemen were rotated every 10 days out of Thailand by CIA Air America helicopters, and they had a security guard of anti-Communist Hmong tribal soldiers on a CIA payroll.

In late March 1968, North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao troops made an early morning surprise attack on Site 85, eventually over-running it. Five air force technicians were rescued by a CIA helicopter, but another 11 were lost, their status whether dead or captured being unknown, the report said.

However, the next day all 11 missing were declared KIA-BNR, and saturation bombing of the site was ordered to prevent secret electronic equipment being retrieved by Communist forces.

"There is evidence that as many as four of the technicians left on the mountaintop were taken prisoner by Pathet/Lao/North Vietnamese troops," the Senate staff report said.

Another on-going series of covert operations involved planes used for target spotting in Laos along the many North Vietnamese trails and safe havens. The pilots, known as "Ravens," were officially based in Thailand but operated their light planes from rough air strips in Laos. They were involved in collecting intelligence, spotting for artillery fire and providing targetting

for fighter bomber operations in Laos.

High Casualties

The report said many Raven pilots were lost because of ground fire, bad weather, mechanical failures or pilot error in the dangerous mountainous flying conditions. Those missing would have been declared KIA-BNR by the U.S. government, but some would actually have been captured.

"Between 1957 and 1975 Army SF [Special Forces] lost large numbers of personnel in Laos and other areas of Indochina... the vast majority of KIA-BNR losses and those individuals that vanished [MIAs] remain unaccounted for to date," the report said.

It added that others involved in dangerous covert operations in nearby countries during the Vietnam war years included Air Force commandos, Marine Corps reconnaissance, Navy SEALs (Sea Air Land commandos) and other Navy and Army units. It said they were involved in what the report calls "covert ground and air operations in Laos, Cambodia, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Burma, China and Thailand."

"Due to the covert nature of their activities, personnel losses from intelligence agencies do not appear in public documents from the Second Indochina War [1965-75]... The number of persons lost during covert operations in southeast Asia is not public. Circumstances of these losses are generally kept from loved ones, from Congress and from others," the report said.

New York City Tribune



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1990

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THIRTY CEN

Fake Doctors Falsely Identified Remains of G.I.s Missing in Southeast Asia, Senate Panel Report Says

BY PETER SAMUEL
Special to the New York City Tribune

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 - A congressional report says the Pentagon employed unqualified forensic personnel who misrepresented themselves as doctors and falsely identified the remains of missing U.S. servicemen in Vietnam and Laos.

According to the Senate Foreign Relations committee staff report, which was obtained by the *New York City Tribune*, a U.S. government agency "has falsely identified as many as 80 separate sets of remains of U.S. servicemen who were listed as MIA," and warned that "the total number of sets of remains falsely identified may be much higher."

In one case, bones later inspected by a qualified forensic scientist as those of an animal, not a human, were accepted as missing in action (MIA) remains, the report said. In another case a completely empty coffin was allegedly presented to a serviceman's family as "remains."

The actions reportedly occurred at the Defense Department's Central

Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CIL HI), the staff report says.

It was not clear from the report, which still appeared to be in draft form, exactly when the misrepresentations occurred, but some observers have suggested that it was during the late years of the Reagan Administration.

The 67-page report, titled "Issues," is described as an addendum to an

Interim Report released by the committee October 28, 1990.

The Senate investigators quote Dr. Michael Charney, a physical anthropologist and emeritus professor at the University of Colorado, as concluding that CIL-HI engaged in fraudulent findings: "This facility entrusted with the analysis of mostly skeletonized

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REMAINS

from page 1

remains of our servicemen ... is guilty of unscientific, unprofessional work. The administrative and technical personnel have engaged knowingly in deliberate distortion of details deduced from the bones to give credibility to otherwise impossible identification."

The Senate investigators quote Charney as saying that that CIL-HI personnel had been "blatantly, deliberately lying" in order to close out MIA cases.

He says that many of the personnel who performed the identifications lacked necessary forensic training and "had never been awarded doctorates, yet referred to themselves as doctors."

Another witness, Dr. George Gill, secretary of the physical anthropology section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, made similar charges of forensic fraud against the Hawaii laboratory, telling the Senate staff that the misrepresentation of MIA remains "results either from extreme carelessness, incompetence, fabrication of data, or some combination of these things."

The staff paper says that to date the Defense Department has not contested the outside experts' charges of forensic fraud. But it says that two so-

called "doctors" at the Hawaii laboratory were replaced following the complaints by the forensic scientists.

However, it says the Defense Department overall has been responsible for a long-term effort to discredit all live-sighting reports of MIAs.

Staff reviewed hundreds of these classified and unclassified live sighting reports. In the opinion of staff many live sighting reports were closed prematurely [by the Defense Department], when minimal additional effort could have resolved the veracity of the report," the report explains.

It says that the Defense Department has dismissed the credibility of live sighting reports based on even the slightest inconsistencies in descriptions of time, location or circumstances. It denounces such "debunking."

It also accuses the Defense Department of arbitrary findings of death, saying that its review at the Pentagon showed that often the facts contained in the MIA files did not support the finding of death.

"The method of making a presumptive finding of death has been abused by the [Department of Defense]," says the report.

If the department has issued a presumptive finding of death then it is prepared to conduct ceremonial burials of non-existent remains, the report notes.

And it says that just last month at Arlington National Cemetery the Pentagon buried with full military honors what were described as the remains of two U.S. airmen presumed to have died in Laos 20 years ago.

It adds: "However, the caskets of 'remains' of the two servicemen contained no bones, no physical matter whatsoever. The coffins contained nothing but air. The Defense Department has its own meaning for the word 'remains' of U.S. servicemen, which is not found in any English language dictionary."

A Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff report released Oct. 28 says the Nixon Administration made a decision to abandon remaining U.S. prisoners in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Subsequent administrations have resisted efforts to reopen the issue, officials say.

With the repatriation of 591 prisoners of war (POWs) in "Operation Homecoming," the Nixon Administration claimed April 12, 1973, that all live prisoners of war had been returned, and subsequent administrations have insisted that reported sightings of American prisoners were false.

But a government official told the *New York City Tribune* last month that while many of the live sighting reports are incorrect, others are almost certainly accurate.

He said that for diplomatic and political reasons

all administrations since the Nixon Administration have misled the public about the sightings. He said satellite photography has confirmed the presence of live U.S. prisoners in Indochina.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, under the direction of Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and minority leader Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., have spent the past year examining classified Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) documents on the issue.

The most dramatic discovery of the Foreign Relations staff was a major DIA report dated April 1974 addressed to all service intelligence chiefs stating that there were "several hundred living POW/MIAs" being held in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This was a year after the Nixon Administration's decision to sweep the POW/MIA issue under the carpet.

The Whitmire Report is likely to be the subject of future inquiry and controversy.

"The evidence indicates that American government officials made a decision to abandon U.S. citizens still in the custody of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, at the conclusion of U.S. involvement in the second Indochina war," the report says.

Report of U.S. Servicemen Still in Vietnam Raises Questions of Who, What and Why

By GLENN WALLACE
Times Leader Staff

If there are live American servicemen still in Vietnam, who are they and what are the circumstances of their presence there?

Questions such as these are beginning to surface anew in the wake of a report this week that the U.S. Defense Department may have covered up information it possessed about Americans being held by the Vietnamese years after the war ended.

The report, compiled by a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, said the information in classified and unclassified government documents leads to the conclusion that the government knew several hundred Americans were still held there in 1974 — a year after the war officially ended and the last U.S. troops departed.

The report also said the available evidence leaves open the possibility some Americans to this day remain captives of the Vietnamese.

According to some people close to the POW-MIA issue, finding some veterans, the possibility of live Americans raises a troubling probability. Almost certainly, some of those men are either deserters — men America might not necessarily welcome home — or others who for some reason might decline to come home.

Said Ray Caron of the Greater Manchester Veterans Council, a coalition of local veterans groups, "We have to be realistic. There are going to be some, maybe plenty, that aren't worth

looking for because they're deserters. You don't want to see them again, anyway. Let them stay over there," Caron said.

Caron said, however, that the possibility deserters might be uncovered is no reason not to look for others who may be held captive. "We've said for a long time that the government was putting up a smokescreen on this. We have always believed some of our people are there as prisoners. Now maybe the smoke will be lifted from all this and we'll get answers," Caron said.

The Vietnamese themselves, although generally evasive about the entire subject, according to U.S. officials who have met with them, have in the past dropped hints that Americans may indeed be living in their country. But they insist these men are not being held captive.

"The words they (the Vietnamese) use are 'not under our control.' They say there might be some of our boys out there in the countryside, but they are 'not under our control,'" said U.S. Rep. Robert Smith, R-N.H.

Smith, who has worked closely with POW-MIA families nationwide in their quest to learn the fate of their relatives, has himself considered the disconcerting idea that some of the men who are still there — if indeed any are — may be there of their own volition.

"Yes, there's always the possibility you're going to find deserters. But the main focus is and always has been on the men being kept against their will. We continue to seek a full account-

ing from the governments of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia regarding these men," said Smith.

But Smith also said that any American who is supposedly there of his own free will should still be interviewed about the circumstances of his decision. He said such men cannot simply be written off.

"When did they become deserters? Why and how? You still want to talk to them to see when they became deserters. Was it after the war? What convinced them to stay? These are things I think we should at least ask," said Smith.

Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a former six-year POW who is now head of the non-profit American Defense Institute, said his organization has the names of 18 Americans who he said definitely defected and were known to be living in Vietnam after the war.

"There were (some) of our people who were in the Long Binh jail on murder charges, and they got away and went over to the VC. There were some others who were imprisoned in the North with me who resisted for 12 years and then gave up after the Vietnamese convinced them the American government had abandoned them. Some of them married Vietnamese girls and live in hamlets that they can't leave," McDaniel said.

But McDaniel said the men he is mainly concerned with are "those who are still in cells tonight."

"I'm convinced some of our people are in captivity as of this

very hour, and I am convinced my government knows who they are and where they are. There is an effort on the part of the government to call them traitors, and that is a tragedy."

The desertion issue first arose in 1979 when Marine Cpl. Robert Garwood returned to the U.S. from Vietnam. Captured by the Vietnamese during the war, Garwood was later accused of collaborating with the enemy. Former Marines who had been in Garwood's unit testified that he had aided the Vietnamese and even accompanied NVA (North Vietnamese Army) troops on combat forays.

Garwood in 1981 was convicted of collaboration. He received a dishonorable discharge and lost pay and benefits but did not go to prison.

McDaniel said he, Smith and others were convinced after interviewing Garwood years later that he did not desert, but only did what he had to do to survive while a captive.

Monika Jensen-Stevenson, a former television producer for "60 Minutes" and the author of a book on the MIA subject, "Kiss The Boys Goodbye," agreed. In a September interview with the New Hampshire Sunday News, Jensen-Stevenson asserted Garwood was innocent and that the government's effort to portray him and other POWs as traitors is "sinister."

"There is simply no question that one of the most horrible and sinister things the government has done is to intimate that these men, the POWs, are traitors who want to stay there," she said.

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New York City Tribune



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THIRTY CENT

Some U.S. MIAs in Vietnam May Still Be Alive, Probers On a Senate Panel Declare *Government Coverup Is Charged*

Secrecy of Operations Believed to Be Factor

BY PETER SAMUEL
Special to the New York City Tribune

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 — U.S. airmen and special operations men captured in the Vietnam War remained alive in prison camps for many years after the war ended, and some may be alive to this day, according to government officials and Senate investigators.

A Senate Foreign Relations Committee Republican staff report released this weekend said that during the Nixon Administration (1969-74), the government decided to abandon some U.S. prisoners in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Subsequent administrations have resisted efforts to reopen the issue, officials said.

With the repatriation of 591 prisoners of war (POWs) in "Operation Homecoming," Nixon Administration officials

claimed on April 12, 1973, that all live prisoners of war had been returned.

Subsequent administrations have insisted that reported sightings of American prisoners were false.

But a government official told the *New York City Tribune* last week that while many of the live-sighting reports are incorrect, others are almost certainly accurate.

He said that for diplomatic and political reasons all administrations since the Nixon Administration have misled the public about the sightings. He said satellite photography has confirmed the presence of live U.S. prisoners in Southeast Asia.

A new book, *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*, by Monika and William Stevenson said the coverup was inspired in part by the highly secret and controversial nature of many of the operations during which the prisoners were taken. They said that the Reagan White House planned two Delta Force rescue missions to bring the prisoners home in 1981 and 1983, but operational factors caused

MIAs See page 1

them to be called off.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, under the direction of Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Jesse Helms, R-N.C., have spent the past year examining classified Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) documents on the issue.

An interim report released this weekend said it found "a disturbing pattern of arbitrary rejection" of evidence of live POWs following adoption of an internal policy in April 1973 that all missing-in-action (MIA) Americans were to be presumed dead.

"The pattern of arbitrary rejection [of sighting reports] resulted in a declaration of presumptive finding of death ... The internal policy that all POW/MIAs were presumed dead resulted in an emphasis on finding and identifying remains of dead personnel, rather than searching for living POW/MIAs," the report said.

It said that an excessive zeal at the Pentagon to dispose of the hot political issue of MIAs led to an exaggeration of the capabilities of forensic science and "identification based on dubious presumptions and illogical deductions rather than actual physical identification."

The report also said that as a result there have been "numerous misidentifications of remains" handed over by the Hanoi regime.

The most dramatic discovery of the Foreign Relations staff was a major

DIA report dated April 1974 addressed to all service intelligence chiefs stating that there were "several hundred living POW/MIAs" being held in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This was a year after the Nixon administration's decision to sweep the POW/MIA issue under the carpet.

The report is likely to be the subject of future inquiry and controversy.

"Despite adherence to internal policies and public statements after April 1973 that 'no evidence' existed of living POWs, DIA authoritatively concluded as late as April 1974 that several hundred living POW/MIAs were still being held captive in southeast Asia," the Senate staff report stated.

The Stevensons' book, *Kiss the Boys Goodbye* described the stories of losses of Americans in Southeast Asia during covert operations.

In one example in the late 1960s, the CIA ran a small secret outpost called Site 85 in Laos on a 5,600 foot mountaintop 160 miles west of Hanoi to provide guidance for U.S. bombers in Thailand attacking the North Vietnamese. A surprise North Vietnamese special forces attack had captured the Americans, but the decision was taken in Washington to abandon them. The men involved had signed contracts with the CIA in which they had acknowledged beforehand that the U.S. government would deny any relationship with them if they were captured.

NY City Tribune

Senate Probers Say U.S. Abandoned MIAs When a Nixon Deal With Hanoi Collapsed

Nov. 26, 1990

BY PETER SAMUEL
Special to the New York City Tribune

WASHINGTON — A secret deal was made in 1973 between the Nixon Administration and the newly victorious North Vietnamese regime that would have allowed thousands of U.S. prisoners to be exchanged for billions in U.S. aid, according to Senate probers.

But, according to a copy of a report obtained by the *New York City Tribune*, the prisoners were abandoned and the deal fell apart when Nixon, already weakened by the Watergate scandal at home, could not push the package through Congress.

Several thousand prisoners of war (POWs) and servicemen missing in

action (MIAs) who the Nixon Administration was bargaining for with promises of \$3.25 billion in aid one week were the next week written off with the adamant declaration from the Pentagon on April 13, 1973: "There are no more [U.S.] prisoners in southeast Asia. They are all dead," according to the report.

The Nixon Administration simply writing off the prisoners is the dramatic conclusion of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under the direction of Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who have been studying previously classified documents at the Pentagon as well as recently declassified documents at the National Archives.

A new report by the committee calls

the April 1973 statement a lie. As well as abandoning known prisoners in Vietnam, the report says: "The fact of the matter is that we left men in Laos, men the Pathet Lao publicly admitted to be holding."

Following the formal U.S. surrender in Vietnam signed January 27, 1973, President Nixon proposed in a then-secret letter to Hanoi that the United States would provide \$3.25 billion of economic aid over 5 years.

The administration and the Vietnamese agreed on a long, detailed list of items the United States would furnish in the first year, including: 700,000 square meters of pre-fabricated housing and warehousing; 201,000 tons of steel building supplies; 50,000 cubic meters of lumber; 40 million meters of

cloth.

When details of the proposed aid leaked to Capitol Hill, criticism was widespread and sharp. Secretary of State William Rogers reportedly called on congressmen to exercise "restraint" in their criticism of the aid proposal at least until American prisoners were released by the North Vietnamese. By the end of March 1973 Hanoi had released 591 U.S. prisoners, but their tales of mistreatment and atrocities in the prison camps only fueled congressional determination not to authorize any aid to Hanoi.

For example, Rep. Joel Brody, R-Va., said that "not a cent of American aid should be spent on a country that is apparently run by savages."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee report quotes a source from 1973 as stating that the 591 released prisoners constituted 15 percent of the total

servicemen held by Hanoi, suggesting that there were in fact about 4,000 there before the release and that about 3,400 were eventually abandoned.

The Associated Press and *The New York Times* quoted Nixon administration sources as stating in February 1973 that Hanoi held about 5,000 American prisoners, which would mean that about 4,400 were left behind, officially declared dead.

The report says that the Vietnamese communist leaders always regarded the U.S. prisoners as collateral for the promised economic aid: "Apparently the North Vietnamese were waiting for the aid that Nixon promised before they released the vast majority of the American POWs."

By April 1973 the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Edward Hebert, D-La., had said he could see no justification for Nixon's request of \$1.3

billion aid to Hanoi. It was then that the administration decided it had no hope of freeing the thousands of remaining POWs, so it decided to declare them non-existent, the Senate committee says.

It says that this political decision to declare all unaccounted-for U.S. prisoners dead was pursued "to extraordinary lengths." It quotes a June 1973 cable in which the U.S. embassy in Saigon said it persuaded U.S. reporters from United Press International, The Associated Press and NBC to omit from their dispatches a reference by a North Vietnamese defector to live U.S. POWs remaining in North Vietnam.

The report says that similar abandonment of remaining live POWs were made in the Korean War and World War II.

Kissing the

"It's dangerous to be right when your government is wrong." Quoting Voltaire in his opening remarks, Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel (U.S. Navy, Retired) addressed a group of about 100 in the small Michigan town of Stockbridge. It was January 5th and those assembled had braved snow and ice to learn what could be done to bring American prisoners of war home from Vietnam.

McDaniel, who spent six years as a POW, is now president of the American Defense Institute. He traveled from his home in Virginia to speak on a subject that has become a very personal issue for him. He was also asserting his position once more on the right side of an issue in which the government is wrong.

In 1973 the Department of Defense proclaimed that all remaining prisoners of war had returned from Vietnam. Serious observers have said for years that this is not the case. Now there is irrefutable evidence that hundreds of prisoners were deliberately abandoned even though their exact locations were known.

Offering his audience more hope than many had come to expect of a near-hopeless situation, McDaniel declared: "The wheels are set in motion. This issue will be resolved. It cannot be stopped." This new sense of optimism has been sparked by the publication, in September 1990, of the book *Kiss the Boys Goodbye: How the United States Betrayed its own POWs in Vietnam*. The book was written by Monica Jensen-Stevenson, Emmy award-winning producer of CBS-TV's *60 Minutes*, and her husband, William Stevenson, author of *A Man Called Intrepid*.

Embarrassing Revelation

In 1979, six years after President Nixon had announced that all American prisoners had come home, a Marine named Robert Garwood smuggled a message out of Hanoi, and the entire world discovered that we had left at least one American prisoner in Vietnam. To make mat-

Boys Goodbye

ers worse. Garwood spoke of "many" other Americans still being held.

Bobby Garwood presented a problem for the U.S. government. His very existence was an embarrassment, but what he was saying, even before he got out of Hanoi, threatened to be far more than embarrassing. The government responded to this crisis in predictable fashion. It court-martialed Garwood, thereby destroying his credibility and, at the same time, punishing him for opening his mouth.

Work on *Kiss the Boys Goodbye* began the day that Jensen-Stevenson decided to do a segment for 60 Minutes on Garwood. Before it was over, her entire life was changed. As word of her project got around, she found herself on the receiving end of more information than she was prepared to deal with. Worse yet, the more information she accumulated, the more questions were raised. The issue obviously went well beyond Garwood. Eventually, the CBS production became a story about the missing POWs; but, before it was completed, Jensen-Stevenson would encounter opposition she had never experienced before. First her career was threatened, then her life.



Garwood challenged DOD's 1973 lie

Jensen-Stevenson was allowed to produce a watered-down version of the program that she had planned for CBS; but, by the time it went on the air, she was convinced that the real story could only be told in book form. When Jensen-Stevenson quit her job with CBS to work full-time on the book, she was drawn deeper and deeper into a shadowy world of intrigue where deception and distrust were commonplace. After doing everything he could to discourage her from pursuing the story, her husband eventually joined in the effort.

Scoundrels and Heroes

In *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*, the reader encounters officials of our government who make the Watergate conspirators seem like Sunday School teachers. But for every unethical character presented there are others who have elevated the concept of ethics to new heights. Of Captain McDaniel (a recipient of the Navy's highest award for heroism), Jensen-Stevenson says: "He had the look of someone who has suffered and risked so much that nothing is left to frighten him; who is so secure in his sense of integrity that it would never occur to him to dissemble." McDaniel gave up a career that would clearly have taken him to high rank, in order "to do what he felt was more important: arouse civilians and politicians to an awareness of defense needs...."

Lieutenant General Eugene Tighe was director of the Defense Intelligence Agency from June 1977 to September 1981. From 1974 to 1977 he served both as deputy director and acting director. In each of the positions, he was able to analyze the best intelligence information available concerning POWs. Tighe told the author flatly that "he had seen the best possible evidence of Americans still alive. For speaking out, he was publicly humiliated."

H. Ross Perot is "much more than a Texan entrepreneur. He displayed a grim resolve to get to the bottom of the POW/MIA issue from the moment

he realized the numbers of prisoners returned in 1973 were inexplicably small." Perot is the man who organized the rescue of two employees when the U.S. government refused to work for their release from an Iranian jail. His efforts on behalf of American POWs have been no less valiant. Perot was successful in getting his people out of Iran. He has probably come close to negotiating the release of POWs held in South-east Asia. If Jensen-Stevenson is correct, Perot would have been successful in that endeavor had his efforts not been sabotaged by the government he served.

The reader can also expect to learn much about men like Colonel James "Nick" Rowe (who escaped from the Viet Cong after five years of imprisonment), Colonel James "Bo" Gritz (prosecuted by the government because of his personal attempts to gain the release of prisoners in Laos), and Major Mark Smith and Sergeant First Class Melvin McIntire (who sued President Reagan and other U.S. officials for covering up information on POWs).

One Gnawing Question

This book provokes an unavoidable question: Why would our government be so determined to avoid the possible return of any live POWs and to destroy the reputation of anyone presenting a case for their existence? In answering it, the authors display astounding objectivity. If a case could be made for appointing a special prosecutor to assess the guilt of the politicians and bureaucrats involved in this shameful chapter of history, Jensen-Stevenson and her husband have made it. The question now is whether or not their book will be used to gain the freedom of the men our government has "kissed goodbye." If McDaniel has his way, the answer will be yes, but he stressed that "time is running out" for those still being held.

Kiss the Boys Goodbye has been widely circulated on Capitol Hill. "Hundreds of copies have been presented to Congressmen, and they are getting read," said McDaniel. "I know of former POWs who didn't believe we had left anybody behind. Now they are buying hundreds of

copies at a time to present one-on-one to others." In late 1990 McDaniel flew Jensen-Stevenson to Washington to meet with senators on a special committee looking into "whether the U.S. government has handled the question in a truthful and effective manner." She convinced them that Americans had been abandoned.

On October 29, 1990 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee released an interim report containing many revealing statements. Perhaps the most shocking: "... classified, declassified and unclassified information all confirm one startling fact: That DOD in April 1974 concluded beyond a doubt that several hundred living American POWs remained in captivity in South-east Asia. This was a full year after DOD spokesmen were saying publicly that no prisoners remained alive."

In December the Tighe Report was declassified for members of Congress to see. This report was prepared under the leadership of Lieutenant General Eugene Tighe when he served as director of the Defense

Intelligence Agency. According to McDaniel, the report contains information confirming the abandonment of hundreds of POWs. As soon as it was released, it was classified to prevent it from being read by POW family members or even by members of Congress. Now that the classification has been lifted for Congress, McDaniel emphasized that "it is imperative that we ask our senators and congressmen to read the report and then tell us what they are going to do to get our men back."

"We've got to turn the heat up on Congress," urged McDaniel. "We've got the ammunition we need now, and we're closer than we've ever been to getting our men home. Now is the time to double our efforts. Read the book. Share it with others and then talk to your elected officials." He concluded with some sober thoughts: "If we do nothing, the men will die. If I had known, as a POW, what I know now about my government, I could not have lived the 2110 days I spent in captivity." ■

— GARY S. BRAINARD

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SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

December 13, 1988

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have your further letter, of December 5, concerning your study of questions connected with the American prisoners of war who fell into Russian hands in the final months of the Second World War. I have also received the many copies of documents that accompanied your letter, as well as the volume of reminiscences of your Vietnam service, the gift of which -

It would seem to me that the sort of documentation you have sent to me should permit you to form a pretty fair picture of the course of these

Mr. John M. G. Brown

-2-

December 13, 1988

exchanges with the Russians on the part of both the British and ourselves, and of the results obtained.

I can only give you one memory that may be of interest to you. I thought it, at the time, highly probable that General Golikov, while wearing a regular military uniform, was actually a high official of the then N.K.V.D. and not of the regular Russian military authorities. I believe I made my view plain to General Deane, but that he felt that he had no choice but to deal with the man assigned for this purpose, and had no formal grounds for questioning his status. I could understand his position, but I resented this sort of obfuscation and saw it as an attempt to prevent and contact between our Military Mission and the regular Russian military establishment.

Very sincerely,

George Kennan
George Kennan

Mr. John M. G. Brown
37477 Macaula Road

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SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//
SECSTATE WASHDC//RAP-VLC//

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SUBJ: LAO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON LIMA SITE 85

1. CAPT [REDACTED], AN AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PHD STUDENT AND CAREER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A THREE WEEK RESEARCH VISIT TO LAOS DURING WHICH TIME HE MET AND TALKED WITH SEVERAL LAO OFFICIALS. ON 21 AUG 90, HE INTERVIEWED GENERAL [REDACTED], PRESENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PEACE COMMITTEE AND CHIEF COORDINATOR OF THE LAO OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH GEN [REDACTED], CAPT [REDACTED] ASKED HIM ABOUT THE ATTACK ON LIMA SITE 85 (PHOU PHATHI RADAR SITE). GEN [REDACTED] TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE IN DIRECTING U.S. BOMBING. HE ALSO PROVIDED OTHER DETAILS WHICH CORRELATE WITH KNOWN INFORMATION ABOUT THE PHOU PHATHI INCIDENT: FOR EXAMPLE, HE RELATED HOW THE VIETNAMESE/LAO FORCES USED SOVIET MINE DETECTORS TO AVOID MINES AS THEY BEGAN THEIR ASSAULT ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP INSTALLATION. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT 100 PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND DOUBLE THAT NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSAULT. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE U.S. PERSONNEL WHO WERE AT THE SITE WHEN IT WAS OVERRUN, THE GENERAL RESPONDED THAT TWO OR THREE AMERICANS HAD BEEN WOUNDED AND TAKEN AWAY BY THE VIETNAMESE FORCES. HE ADDED THAT THE PATHET LAO HAD STANDING ORDERS TO SEND ALL CAPTURED AMERICANS TO VIETNAM SINCE THE PL HAD NO FACILITIES TO CARE

FOR THEM.

2. CAPT [REDACTED] CHARACTERIZED THE GENERAL AS BEING VERY FORTHCOMING BOTH IN THE 21 AUG INTERVIEW AND IN A SECOND INTERVIEW WHICH WAS HELD A FEW WEEKS LATER. [REDACTED] WAS A SENIOR PATHET LAO MILITARY LEADER, AND SAID HE WAS THE PATHET LAO COMMANDER OF FORCES INVOLVED IN THE MARCH 68 ATTACK ON LIMA SITE

3. WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD.

3. CAPT [REDACTED] WILL DEPART BANGKOK ON 18 SEP AND RETURN TO [REDACTED], UNTIL COMPLETION OF HIS DOCTORAL PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF [REDACTED] IN JUL 91. CONTACT NUMBER IS [REDACTED]

JUTINE

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SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA//
SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP-VLC//

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SECRET LIAISON BANGKOK 57246

SECRET WFOH 0600 OCT 89

SUBJ: JCRC RPT T69-381; HEARSAY OF
LAOS

US POW IN

1. SOURCE/ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

2. SUMMARY: SOURCE, A LOCAL THAI
BUSINESSMAN, PROVIDED HEARSAY CONCERNING AN ALLEGED
POW AND FORMER B-52 PILOT IN LAOS.

3. SOURCE CONTACTED RO ON 11 OCT 89 AND
ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN CHECKING OUT A NAME ALLEGED
TO BE THAT OF A POW IN LAOS. THE NAME PROVIDED
BY SOURCE IS "MILLINER, WICCTAMP 401745001."

4. SOURCE SAID HIS CONTACTS IN NAKHON PHANOM
HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM INSIDE LAOS THAT
"MILLINER" IS AND CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE THAI
BORDER. SOURCE SAID THE PEOPLE (U/I) WHO ARE INSIDE
LAOS INDICATED "MILLINER" IS A FORMER B-52 PILOT AND
THEY ARE INTERESTED IN RETURNING HIM TO THE US IN
EXCHANGE FOR A REWARD.

DLVR:CDK JCRC BARBERS PT HI(2)...ACT

RTD:000-000/COPIES:0003

547617/0322/289
CSN:RXBP0045

1 OF 2 MI 0046

257 247
289/04:49Z 160450Z OCT 89
JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

R 180049Z NOV 80 P41 039699P36

SUBJ: JCRC RPT TAA-6055 HEARSAY OF AMERICAN PRISONERS
IN [REDACTED] LAOS

2. SUMMARY: SOURCE REPORTS HEARSAY OF 260 AMERICANS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN A CAVE IN [REDACTED] LAOS. SOURCE STATED THAT [REDACTED] IS ABLE TO OBTAIN RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEVERAL OF THE PRISONERS

WHICH WERE OBTAINED FROM A LAO CONTACT.

3. INFORMATION: SOURCE REPORTS THAT "WITHIN THE PAST MONTH [REDACTED] HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A LAO WHO HAS TOLD [REDACTED] ABOUT AND SHOWN [REDACTED] PROOF OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WHO ARE BEING HELD IN LAOS. SOURCE STATED THAT THE LAO, WHOSE NAME [REDACTED] DOES NOT WISH TO REVEAL AT THIS TIME, RECENTLY CROSSED INTO THAILAND FROM LAOS AND MADE CONTACT WITH SOURCE. THE LAO TOLD [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD OBSERVED A LOCATION IN HUGGED MOUNTAINS IN THE TRI-BORDER (LAOS, VIETNAM, CAMBODIA) AREA WHERE 260 AMERICANS ARE PRESENTLY BEING HELD. SOURCE WAS TOLD THAT UNTIL RECENTLY THERE WERE 270 PRISONERS, BUT TEN HAD DIED DUE TO POOR HEALTH. SOURCE STATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD MAILED A LIST OF SIX NAMES TO JCRC AND INQUIRED IF JCRC REP HAD RECEIVED THE LIST. WHEN INFORMED THAT JCRC HAD NOT RECEIVED SUCH A LIST OR ANY OTHER MAIL FROM SOURCE, SOURCE STATED THAT [REDACTED] COULD ONLY RECALL THAT ONE OF THE SIX PEOPLE ON [REDACTED] LIST WAS A MAN NAMED "MR. MORGAN." [REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] RECALLED THIS NAME BECAUSE IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE, BUT WHEN ASKED WHY, [REDACTED] WASN'T SURE.

4. SOURCE STATED THAT HIS LAO CONTACT HAD GONE TO THE AREA HIMSELF AND OBSERVED THAT THE 260 PRISONERS WERE BEING HELD IN A CAVE AT THE FOOT OF A LARGE KARST MOUNTAIN. THERE IS ONLY A SINGLE ROAD INTO THE VALLEY, AND IT IS WELL GUARDED; ONLY RESUPPLY TRUCKS TO THE CAVE-PRISON ARE ALLOWED IN. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, LAO CONTACT IS RELATED TO ONE OF THE GUARDS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HELPING THE AMERICAN PRISONERS RETURN TO FREEDOM IF HE AND HIS MEN COULD ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED. SOURCE SAID THAT THE LAO SHOWED HIM SIX RECENTLY SHOT COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH SHOWED EIGHT OR NINE OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS AT THE CAVE-PRISON. SOURCE SAID THAT [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE CAVE, BUT THAT HIS FRIEND HAD BEEN THERE AND COULD PROBABLY DRAW A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION.

SOURCE STATED THAT [REDACTED] WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE, BUT INSISTED IN KNOWING THE TERMS OF THE 2.4 MILLION DOLLAR REWARD [REDACTED] HAD HEARD ABOUT IN THE NEWS RECENTLY. JCRC REP EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OFFERING A REWARD AND DID NOT SUPPORT THE PRIVATE GROUP WHO IS ADVERTISING THE REWARD. JCRC REP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INQUIRING RECENTLY ABOUT THE REWARD, AND CAUTIONED SOURCE NOT TO BE TOO QUICK TO BELIEVE EVERY RUMOR HEARS. SOURCE INSISTED THAT THE INFORMATION [REDACTED] HAS IS VALID, STATING THAT [REDACTED] SAW THE PHOTOS [REDACTED]. JCRC REP IMPRESSED ON SOURCE THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE PRIVATE GROUP WHO WAS OFFERING THE REWARD WAS SINCERE, NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNTIL THE USC HAD A CHANCE TO EVALUATE THE INFORMATION SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE. SOURCE AGREED, AND SAID [REDACTED] WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE PHOTOS AND A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CAVE AND SEND THEM TO JCRC BY REGISTERED MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, DEPENDING ON WHEN SEES [REDACTED] LAD SOURCE NEXT.



ENGLISH

I am a citizen of the United States of America. I do not speak your language. Misfortune forces me to seek your assistance in obtaining food, shelter and protection. Please take me to someone who will provide for my safety and see that I am returned to my people. My government will reward you.

BURMESE

ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် အမေရိကန် ပေါ့မင်းတို့၏ ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်များ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် မိမိတို့၏ ဘာသာစကားကို မသိရပါ။ ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် အစာ၊ အိမ်ထောင်နှင့် ကာကွယ်မှုတို့ကို ရရှိရန် အကူအညီတောင်းဆိုပါသည်။ ကျွန်ုပ်တို့ကို အာမခံပေးသူတို့ထံသို့ ပို့ဆောင်ပေးပါ။ ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်းကို ပြန်လည်ရရှိရန် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ ဝန်ကြီးချုပ်က ကျေးဇူးတင်ပေးပါမည်။

THAI

ข้าพเจ้าเป็นคนสัญชาติอเมริกัน พูดภาษาของท่านไม่ได้ ใจกว้างทำให้ข้าพเจ้าต้องมาขอความช่วยเหลือจากท่านในเรื่อง อาหาร ที่พัก และความคุ้มครอง โปรดนำข้าพเจ้ามาพบผู้มีหน้าที่เกี่ยวข้อง ที่สามารถจะให้ความปลอดภัยแก่ข้าพเจ้า และนำทางส่งข้าพเจ้ากลับ บ้านเมืองของข้าพเจ้าด้วย รัฐบาลของข้าพเจ้าจะตอบแทนใน ความช่วยเหลือของท่าน.

LAOTIAN

CHINESE

幸食你全國政府
要物領和的必
求住我設人
你到法那大
幫能和送裡
我保給我美
護我給美
獲我給美
得請安美政

CHINESE (MODERN)

我是美国人民。我不會說
Wǒ shì Měiguó Rénmín. Wǒ bù huì shuō.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2903

February 2, 1991

Kris Kolesnik
Office of Senator Grassley
SH-135, INSIDE MAIL

Dear Kris:

I am writing to invite you to a staff meeting concerning the establishment of a Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. The meeting will take place this Wednesday, February 6th, at 3:30 p.m. in room 823 Hart.

I know your boss has been interested in the POW/MIA issue for many years, and we know he shares our concerns about the Gulf POW dilemma.

Before we left the House side to come here, the Senator had already determined that one of his first goals here would be to formally establish a group of Senators to work on the POW/MIA issue. We believe that the new POW situation in the Gulf makes the formation of a committee on this issue even more urgent.

On the House side, Senator Smith was part of the House POW/MIA Task Force which operated under Rep. Steve Solarz (D-NY) and the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. Nothing comparable exists on the Senate side. In fact, it's been more than FIVE years since any Senate committee has had a hearing on the POW/MIA issue. We recognize that during this time, some Senators, including yours, have made substantial progress toward resolution of POW/MIA matters from Southeast Asia and Korea. We strongly feel that a coordinated approach in the Senate on these matters will only further enhance resolution of this issue.

For nearly a decade, the Executive Branch has designated POW/MIA matters as an issue of highest national priority. We believe that the Senate, as an institution, needs to show Americans and Communist nations in North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and now Iraq, that we are committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting and return of American service personnel. A Senate Select Committee on

POW/MIA Affairs would provide an effective vehicle in the Senate to help resolve this troubling issue.

Attached is a discussion draft of goals for the proposed committee. It would be helpful if you could review the goals before Wednesday's meeting and make any suggestions at that time. I've also enclosed information on why the Senator wants to establish this committee instead of a task force or ad hoc caucus.

Right now, our first goal is to circulate a Dear Colleague asking Senators to cosponsor a Senate resolution to establish this committee. We do not need a commitment from Senators to SERVE on the committee - only to SUPPORT the committee and its goals.

At Wednesday's meeting, I would like to know if your boss is interested in signing a Dear Colleague to the rest of the Senate urging support for the establishment of a Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

I'm contacting a bipartisan group of 20 other Senators whom Senator Smith initially thought would be interested in this issue. I realize it's short notice, so if you cannot make the meeting on Wednesday and want to talk about this further, please call me at 48338.

Sincerely,



DINO L. CARLUCCIO
Legislative Assistant

enclosures

THE POW SCANDAL: A GUIDE TO SOME OF THE PLAYERS

ROSS PEROT

INDUSTRIALIST;
RESCUED SEVERAL
OF HIS OWN
EMPLOYEES FROM
A PRISON IN
TEHERAN.

- o A member of the commission, headed by Lt. Gen. Tighe, whose members arrived at the conclusion that the evidence of POWs in Vietnam was overwhelming.

- o Visited the leadership in Hanoi, at their invitation, and received confirmation that the men were there.

- o Met with President Reagan following the Hanoi trip and informed him that the groundwork for successful negotiation had been laid; received no sign of appropriate follow-up. Revisited Reagan, told him that he had gone back on his promise to take decisive action.

LT. GEN. EUGENE TIGHE
KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY
AS ONE OF HISTORY'S
GREAT MASTERS OF THE
INTELLIGENCE CRAFT;
FORMER DIRECTOR OF
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY.

- o Headed a commission, appointed by President Reagan, whose members concluded that approximately 100 men were still alive as POWs in Vietnam. Much of the evidence has been given to Hanoi, even though none is available to American legislators or people.

- o Has reviewed evidence he regards to be of the highest quality, including extremely detailed descriptions of camps, how men were dressed, etc.

ROBERT GARWOOD

MARINE WHO WAS A
PRISONER IN MANY
VIETNAMESE CAMPS
FOR 14 YEARS.

- o Has given specifics about numbers and locations of prisoners that correspond with evidence reviewed by Lt. Gen. Tighe.

- o Upon arrival back from Vietnam, was told immediately that he should remain quiet about other American prisoners. Was never debriefed until long after a trial on trumped-up charges of desertion and collaboration. Later, at his first full debriefing, nine years later, he was shown photographs demonstrating that U.S. intelligence had known complete details of his whereabouts and activities throughout his entire captivity.

(over)

SYNOPSIS OF KISS THE BOYS GOODBYE

THE SCANDAL LARGER THAN WATERGATE

YET IGNORED BY CONGRESS AND PRESS

Bureaucrats Are Obstructing the Release of POWs in Vietnam

Picture these dramatic -- and true -- scenes presented in the just-released book, KISS THE BOYS GOODBYE: HOW THE UNITED STATES BETRAYED ITS OWN POWS IN VIETNAM:

SCENE 1. Ross Perot, the billionaire industrialist, is seated at a conference table before the leadership in Hanoi, who invited him there. They confirm for Perot that the POWs are indeed still alive. They set forth easy terms by which a successful negotiation may be concluded. Perot flies to Washington on his private jet and reports all this to the Administration. He returns to Dallas, expecting the immediate beginning of serious action on negotiating for the POWs' release, and he waits. And waits. And waits.

SCENE 2. Now Perot is angry. He flies to Washington again and is seated at a table in front of President Reagan. Looking at Reagan directly, he says, "You've gone back on your word!" By that he means that President Reagan promised him support in getting to the bottom of the POW question and in doing whatever it took to resolve it. Reagan reaches for some index cards that contained responses to whatever Perot might say. With Defense Secretary Carlucci at his elbow, Reagan begins mumbling these prepared statements. Perot leaves in exasperation; it is clear that others are controlling the issue.

A COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION: THE PROOF IS THERE.

This was not Perot's first journey into the Byzantine realm of the all-powerful intelligence clique. In 1986, he had been asked to join a commission to review the evidence about live Americans in Vietnam. The commission was to be headed by a three-star general who was considered by NATO colleagues as one of history's great masters of the intelligence craft, Lt. Gen. Eugene F. Tighe (pronounced "tie").

For Tighe, Perot, and the others on the commission, the proof was there. Americans were still being held in Vietnam. One might have assumed that such a conclusion would have prompted immediate action on the part of the Congress, and press, and Administration. On the contrary, it was never even released, let alone acted upon. Like all the other information about our servicemen left behind, it sits in a file cabinet labeled "TOP SECRET."

Unknown to ordinary citizens, the capabilities of surveillance have attained a level of incredible precision. High-tech intelligence reporting is so good that satellite photos can show minute details of prison camps, and a person can transmit information from a Vietnamese jungle to the Oval Office within five minutes.

One high-tech intelligence expert would use super-secret procedures to track hundreds of POWs long after the official POW homecoming in 1973, but the information would disappear before it reached the level where someone might take action. When this expert sought to testify about this, he was harassed by intelligence operatives and cut off in his official testimony by a self-important Congressman.

Human surveillance is so good that observers can be trained to record the exact details about what prisoners are wearing, what the camp commanders do for after-hours amusement, and so on. Using a combination of high-tech and human methods, our intelligence people have been tracking our POWs from place to place throughout their entire captivity.

OUR OWN ON-SITE REPORTER ON THE PRISON SCENE.

Beyond these high-tech and specialized human methods, it became clear to Gen. Tighe, Mr. Perot, and others that we also had another extraordinary resource -- a serviceman who had spent his entire adult life in various Vietnamese prison camps.

This marine, Bobby Garwood, emerged from the system in 1979. One would logically assume that our intelligence people would have debriefed him exhaustively to learn everything about the Vietnamese prison system and especially about POWs. Logical, but unnecessary, since our intelligence agents had already tracked his whereabouts throughout his captivity and even had photographs of him in the different camps. They knew things about his immediate guards that he didn't know himself!

The only important thing to the intelligence bureaucrats was that Garwood's message about other prisoners never be believed. As soon as he arrived back from Vietnam, he was intimidated and threatened the moment he would speak about other prisoners. To demoralize him beyond what the Vietnamese had done, and to discredit any reports he might make to the American people, Garwood was put through a whirlwind farce of a trial on charges of desertion and collaboration. Over the years, however, Bobby Garwood has not only recovered from his ordeal under the thumb of the Vietnamese and U.S. officials but is reporting what he saw and heard in Vietnam. His information corresponds closely with the evidence reviewed by Lt. Gen. Tighe.

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

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Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HJR 41

H m EVA

5/1/91

SCOMM

80:17

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BILL NO. HJR 63

Revision Date: March 4, 1992 Department Affected: None
 Title: Support military at Ft. Richardson BRU: None
 Component: None

Sponsor: Representative R. PhillipsRequestor: House Special Committee onMilitary and Veterans Affairs

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

0	0	0	0
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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES	0					
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0					
MISCELLANEOUS	0					
TOTAL OPERATING	0					

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
FUND SOURCE:	0					

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0					
FEDERAL FUNDS	0					
OTHER	0					
FUND SOURCE:	0					
TOTAL	0					

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0					
PART-TIME	0					
TEMPORARY	0					

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Thomas W. Wright, Committee Staff Phone: 465-4527
 Division: House Special Committee on Mil. and Vet Affairs Date: March 4, 1992
 Approved by Commissioner: Representative Ivan M. Ivan, Chair
 Agency: House Special Committee on Mil. and Vet. Affairs Date: March 4, 1992



Member

House Finance Committee

Alaska State Legislature

Randy Phillips

State Representative

House District 15

Session

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4949

Interim

P.O. Box 142
Eagle River AK 99577
(907) 694-4949

Memorandum

TO: Representative Ivan Ivan, Chairman
House Special Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs

FROM: Representative Randy Phillips *REP*

DATE: February 5, 1991

RE: Sponsor Statement in Support of:
House Joint Resolution No. 63
Supporting the continuation of the current military presence at
Fort Richardson in Alaska.

Fort Richardson has long been an integral part of the economic and social fabric of the Anchorage area.

The soldiers, their immediate families, army retirees and civilian employees of Fort Richardson account for almost 14,000 of the citizens living in the Anchorage area. In addition to those persons directly employed at Fort Richardson, thousands of other Alaskans earn their living in private businesses that are supported by Fort Richardson personnel and military spending.

Not only is Fort Richardson economically important to Alaska. It is also located in one of the most strategically important locations on U.S. soil. Alaska is located at a crossroads. Soldiers stationed at Fort Richardson can be quickly deployed to trouble spots in Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. As the U.S. military withdraws from bases in the Philippines, South Korea, Europe and other areas throughout the world, Fort Richardson becomes increasingly important to national security. At this time, when President Bush has promised to cut defense spending by \$50 billion over the next few years, it is imperative that the remaining defense spending be allocated to those areas where it can be most effective both from an economic

standpoint and a defense standpoint. Fort Richardson is one of those places.

If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to call me at 4949.
Your cooperation is appreciated.



Member

House Finance Committee

Alaska State Legislature

Randy Phillips

State Representative

House District 15

Session

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4949

Interim

P.O. Box 142
Eagle River AK 99577
(907) 694-4949

Memorandum

TO: Representative Ivan Ivan, Chairman
House Special Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs

FROM: Representative Randy Phillips *REP*

DATE: January 30, 1991

RE: House Joint Resolution No. 63
Supporting the continuation of the current military presence at
Fort Richardson in Alaska.

Thank you for the prompt scheduling of HJR63 before your committee.
The back-up materials for this resolution will be to your committee in the
next few days.

If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to call me at 4949.
Your cooperation is appreciated.

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Rep. Ivan, Chair
Rep. Davidson
Rep. Foster
Rep. Gonzales
Rep. Gruenberg
Rep. M.W. Miller
Rep. Parnell



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4527

Special Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs

SUMMARY OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

House Joint Resolution 63 supports the continuation of the current military presence at Fort Richardson and urges the President, Congress and the U.S. Army to maintain its current level of military and civilian manpower. There is a committee substitute before the committee.

7-LS1831ND
Lauterbach
3/3/92

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63 (MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): **REPRESENTATIVES R.PHILLIPS, M.A.Miller**

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the continuation of at least the current level of U.S. military presence at Fort**

2 **Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** changing world conditions and relationships have lead to pressure on the Congress
5 and the President to reduce defense spending; and

6 **WHEREAS** reductions in defense spending would probably result in some cuts in personnel
7 stationed at bases around the country because a very significant portion of defense spending is related
8 to personnel costs; and

9 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force have been reviewing the need for a continued
10 presence of the present complement of military personnel at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force
11 Base in Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** changing world conditions and relationships have lead the U.S. Army and U.S. Air
13 Force to reduce their presence in the Philippines, South Korea, and the other areas; and

14 **WHEREAS**, although military reductions have occurred in Europe and the Far East, Alaska's
15 strategic importance should continue to grow in order to defend the interests of the United States in the
16 Arctic and the Pacific Rim regions; and

17 **WHEREAS** in 1990, the military services in Alaska stood as the third largest industry in the

1 state, accounting for 16 percent of the state's labor force and 13 percent of the state's payroll with
2 expenditures on behalf of the military services in Alaska having an estimated \$2,700,000,000 effect on
3 Alaska's economy; and

4 **WHEREAS** Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base represent the largest concentration
5 of military personnel in Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS** the military personnel at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base and their
7 families contribute significantly to the state's economy and their presence is vital to the social fabric of
8 the Anchorage area;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President, the Congress, the U.S.
10 Army, and the U.S. Air Force to maintain at least the current level of military presence at Fort
11 Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
13 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;
14 the Honorable Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro
15 Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of
16 Representatives; Michael P. W. Stone, Secretary of the Army; Donald B. Rice, Secretary of the Air
17 Force; General Carl E. Vuono, Army Chief of Staff; General Merrill A. McPeak, Air Force Chief of
18 Staff; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
19 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.



Anchorage Star of the North
Chamber of Commerce

February 6, 1992

To: House Special Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs
From: The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
Re: HJR 63

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce strongly supports HJR 63. The Military represents a vital sector of the Anchorage and Statewide economy. Fort Richardson personnel contribute to the quality of life in Anchorage as well as the economy.

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has adopted as one of its Federal priorities: Support of Alaska's Congressional delegation as needed to keep Alaska Military facilities open and at current or greater levels of personnel.

Alaska serves as a strategic military position and Fort Richardson is a key to military operations in Alaska. The Chamber supports and urges passage of HJR 63 as currently written.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages > 1
To: Larry Burnett	From: Carol Kymen	
Co. P. W. Phillips	Co. A.C.C.	
Dept. Office - House	Phone # 272-2401	
Fax # 465-2778	Fax # 272-4117	

IMPACT OF MILITARY SPENDING ON THE ECONOMY OF ALASKA



PREPARED BY:

**DCS/COMPTROLLER
HEADQUARTERS ALASKAN AIR COMMAND
ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE ALASKA**

PREFACE

The Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Reserves, United States Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, and Canadian Forces have a significant economic and social impact on the state of Alaska. The 33,936 active duty military and civilian employees, and 48,732 dependents account for approximately 15 percent of Alaska's population.

Measured in economic terms, the military services' total impact in Alaska is approximately \$2.6 billion. This pamphlet highlights various aspects of the dollar expenditures and resources for Fiscal Year 1987.

For the purposes of this report, the term "military services" refer to Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Reserves, United States Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, and Canadian Forces. The National Guard, United States Coast Guard, and Canadian Forces are included even though they are not branches of the Department of Defense during peacetime. Additionally, the terms "Retiree" or "Retired" refer to the retirees of the military services. The term "Civilian" or "Civil Service" is used in the same manner.



The Directorate of Cost, Deputy Chief of Staff Comptroller, Headquarters Alaskan Air Command, Elmendorf Air Force Base, has prepared this pamphlet to provide federal, state and local officials, military personnel, and community leaders with information on the economic impact of the military services on the state of Alaska.

The contents of this report were obtained through research and assistance from each military organization, the State Department of Labor, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER).

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all military and civilian personnel and agencies whose participation made this report possible.

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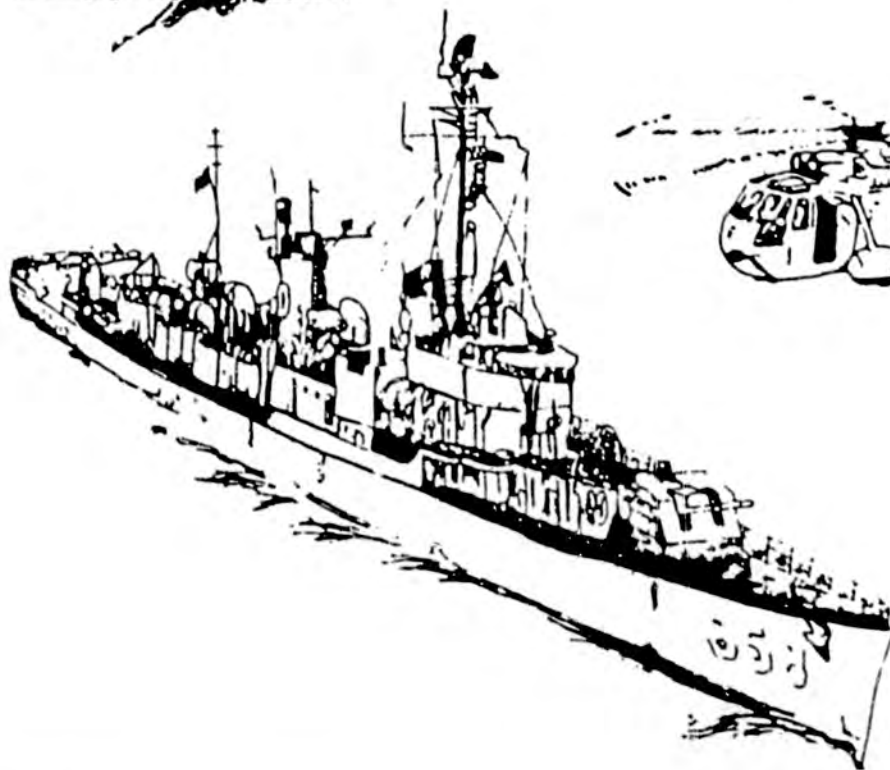
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MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS



MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

AIR FORCE

The Air Force is the largest of the military services in the state and serves as the senior military organization. The Alaskan Air Command (AAC), with headquarters at Elmendorf Air Force Base, is the largest component in Alaska and provides support to all other Air Force units in the state. AAC's largest subordinate units are the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing at Elmendorf Air Force Base and the 343rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eielson Air Force Base. Other units are the 5073rd Air Base Group at Shemya Air Force Base, the 5072nd Combat Support Squadron at Galena Airport, the 5071st Combat Support Squadron at King Salmon Airport, and the thirteen long range radar stations located throughout the state. AAC provides combat-ready air forces to preserve the sovereignty of United States' lands, waters, and air space.



Other major Air Force components in Alaska include the Strategic Air Command with its KC-135 tanker fleet and other activities, the Military Airlift Command with its fleet of C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft and the Air Weather Service, the Tactical Air Command with its E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft at Elmendorf Air Force Base and radar installations along the northern seacoast, the Air Force Space Command performing missile warning and space surveillance, the Air Force Communications Command providing major communications networks throughout the state, and the Electronic Security Command.

ARMY



The principal Army unit in the state is the the 6th Infantry Division (Light) and United States Army Garrison, Alaska, which has its headquarters at Fort Richardson. The division's mission is to defend Alaska, to include providing initial defense of the Aleutians, and to be prepared to deploy rapidly anywhere in support of United States' national interest and objectives. The major subordinate units of the division include the 1st Brigade at Fort Richardson, 2nd Brigade at Fort Wainwright, and the 6th Combat

Aviation Brigade with aircraft at both forts. The Division Support Command provides support to divisional elements at both posts. A United States Army Reserve "roundout" force, the 205th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate), is headquartered at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and serves as the division's third infantry brigade.

Garrison elements are stationed at both forts as well as at Fort Greely, near Delta Junction, which is also home to the Northern Warfare Training Center and the Cold Regions Test Center, both tenant agencies. Other tenant organizations include the United States Army Health Service Command with its medical and dental facilities at all three posts, the United States Army Information Systems Command headquartered at Fort Richardson, and the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory at Fort Wainwright. The division provides advisory assistance to Alaska Army National Guard units throughout the state and commands the state's Reserve forces; specifically the 813th Engineering Battalion and the 1984th General Hospital Unit.

MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL GUARD

Headquarters for the State Adjutant General, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard are located in Anchorage; and principal subordinate units are in Anchorage, Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel, and Juneau. The "Guard" has both state and federal responsibilities. During peacetime, the Guard trains and maintains a force which is frequently called upon to assist in natural disasters. It can be called upon to preserve peace and order and is integrated into the federal military establishment in time of war.



COAST GUARD

The 17th Coast Guard District encompasses the entire state of Alaska or 33,000 miles of coastline—more than all other states combined. As the nation's smallest military service, the United States Coast Guard performs its many missions in Alaska with 2,300 military and civilian employees at 39 units. District headquarters is located in Juneau, and the largest Coast Guard base and air station in the country is located at the former Navy base in Kodiak. Major responsibilities in Alaska include enforcing the 200-mile fisheries conservation zone where the majority of the fish caught are sold to foreign countries. Search and rescue in the often harsh climate of Alaska is another major task performed by Coast Guard units. The service maintains aids to navigation including LORAN C radio beacons, lighthouses, and buoys; and ensures the safety of shipping and the marine environment as required by law. Military readiness responsibilities increased with the appointment of the District Commander as Maritime Defense Zone, Sector Alaska Commander.



MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

NAVY/MARINE CORPS

The Navy and Marine Corps have commands and detachments located in Anchorage and on Adak Island, in the Aleutians. Commands located in Anchorage include the Naval Security Group Activity; Military Sealift Command Office; Naval Reserve Center; Personnel Support Detachment, Company E, 4th Recon Battalion, 4th Marine Division; as well as several other small detachments. Naval Air Station Adak is host command for many organizations including the Naval Security Group Activity; Naval Facility; Naval Investigative Service Office; Naval Electronics Center Detachment; Company I, Marine Support Battalion; and Marine Corps Barracks. The Marine Corps Barracks provides security forces for the United States Naval Station Adak, Alaska, and assists in the training and supervision of, as well as providing the nucleus for, a joint ground defense force.



ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Alaska District Corps of Engineers (COE) has both a military and civil works mission in the 49th state. The Alaska District COE plans and designs military structures, runways and roads, utilities, and other facilities for the Army, the Alaskan Air Command, and the Alaska National Guard (Army and Air Force). Among its civil works responsibilities are engineering and design of flood control projects, erosion control measures along streams, protection of navigable waterways from obstruction, and regulation of the discharge of dredged and fill material to prevent water pollution.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**