

Current as of: 1999/07/21

SUBJECT: VIETNAM-ERA UNACCOUNTED FOR STATISTICAL REPORT

1. **BACKGROUND:** The Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service, and the Department of State report the current numbers of Americans who are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia:

Figure 1
AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>COUNTRY OF LOSS</u>					TOTALS
	VN	VS	LA	CB	CH	
ARMY	10	497	110	35	0	652
NAVY	285	92	28	3	8	416
MARINE CORPS	24	203	22	14	0	263
AIR FORCE	234	165	270	17	0	686
COAST GUARD	0	1	0	0	0	1
CIVILIANS	0	22	12	5	0	39
TOTALS	553	980	442	74	8	2057 *

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH

VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH

LA = LAOS

CB = CAMBODIA

CH = CHINA

* INCLUDES 468 AT SEA/OVER WATER LOSSES

2. **ACCOUNTING FOR U.S. PERSONNEL:** The Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii reports that since 1973, the U.S. has accounted for 526 Americans from Southeast Asia.

Figure 2
AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR POST-1973

VIETNAM	388	*
CHINA	2	**
LAOS	129	
CAMBODIA	7	
TOTAL	526	***

NOTES:

* 34 remains from the Official Died in Captivity Lists provided by the Vietnamese in 1973.

** 2 ashes returned from China.

*** 4 remains were recovered and turned over to the U.S. by indigenous personnel; 1 from North Vietnam and 3 from Laos. They are included in the country count.

3. **U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS:** Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, the U.S. Government has acquired 21,498 reports possibly pertaining to Americans in Southeast Asia:

Figure 3
SUMMARY OF REPORTS

FIRSTHAND LIVE SIGHTINGS	1903
HEARSAY SIGHTINGS REPORTS	4734
CRASH/GRAVE SITES	5147
DOGTAGS	9714
TOTAL	21498

- a. Of the 1903 firsthand reports received since 1975, 1858 (97.64%) reports are resolved.
 - 1300 (68.31%) reports were equated to Americans who are accounted for (i.e., PW returnees, missionaries, civilians jailed at various times for violation of Vietnamese codes).
 - 45 (2.36%) reports were correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sighting of civilians who remain unaccounted for.
 - 513 (26.96%) reports were determined to be fabrications.

- b. The remaining 45 (2.36%) unresolved firsthand reports represent the focus of the U.S. Government analytical and collection efforts:
 - 37 (1.94%) pertain to Americans reported in a captive environment.
 - 8 (0.42%) reported sightings of Americans in a non-captive environment (i.e. working as truck drivers; married with Vietnamese family).

- c. The following timeline presents an overview of unresolved firsthand sightings by the year of the sighting:

Figure 4
TIMELINE: UNRESOLVED LIVE SIGHTING REPORTS

Pre-76	76-80	81-85	86-90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	Total
28	8	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	1	45