

**SUBJECT: VIETNAM-ERA UNACCOUNTED FOR STATISTICAL REPORT**

**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:

**AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

| <u>COMPONENT</u>   | <u>COUNTRY OF LOSS</u> |            |            |           |          | <b>TOTALS</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
|                    | VN                     | VS         | LA         | CB        | CH       |               |
| ARMY               | 9                      | 451        | 95         | 24        | 0        | <b>579</b>    |
| NAVY               | 263                    | 89         | 19         | 0         | 7        | <b>378</b>    |
| MARINE CORPS       | 22                     | 185        | 16         | 8         | 0        | <b>231</b>    |
| AIR FORCE          | 193                    | 160        | 236        | 18        | 0        | <b>607</b>    |
| COAST GUARD        | 0                      | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | <b>0</b>      |
| CIVILIANS          | 1                      | 20         | 8          | 5         | 0        | <b>34</b>     |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>488</b>             | <b>905</b> | <b>374</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>1829</b> * |
|                    | <u>PURSUIT STATUS</u>  |            |            |           |          |               |
| FURTHER PURSUIT    | 175                    | 461        | 308        | 46        | 4        | <b>994</b>    |
| DEFERRED           | 53                     | 86         | 24         | 5         | 0        | <b>168</b>    |
| NO FURTHER PURSUIT | 260                    | 358        | 42         | 4         | 3        | <b>667</b>    |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>488</b>             | <b>905</b> | <b>374</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>1829</b>   |

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH      VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH      CB = CAMBODIA  
 CH = CHINA      LA = LAOS  
 \* INCLUDES 468 AT SEA/OVER WATER LOSSES

**AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR POST-1973 REPATRIATED BY:**

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| VIETNAM      | 528        | *          |
| CHINA        | 3          | **         |
| LAOS         | 195        |            |
| CAMBODIA     | 28         |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>754</b> | <b>***</b> |

**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.

**This change reflects the accounting of four U.S. Army officers previously missing in action from South Vietnam.**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS:** Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, the U.S. Government has acquired 22676 reports possibly pertaining to Americans in Southeast Asia:

**SUMMARY OF REPORTS**

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| FIRSTHAND LIVE SIGHTINGS  | 1976         |
| HEARSAY SIGHTINGS REPORTS | 5224         |
| CRASH/GRAVE SITES         | 5707         |
| DOGTAGS                   | 9769         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>22676</b> |

- a. Of the 1976 firsthand reports received since 1975, 1942 (98.28%) reports are resolved.
  - 1341 (67.86%) 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 (2.28%) reports were correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sighting of civilians who remain unaccounted for.
  - 556 (28.14%) reports were determined to be fabrications.
- b. The remaining 34 (1.72%) unresolved firsthand reports represent the focus of the U.S. Government analytical and collection efforts:
  - 31 (1.57%) pertain to Americans reported in a captive environment.
  - 3 (0.15%) reported sightings of Americans in a non-captive environment (i.e. working as truck drivers; married with Vietnamese family).
- c. Since mid-1982, 9769 “dog tag” reports on 8275 individuals reveal the following trends:
  - 7719 (93.28%) of those names reported are individuals who returned to the U.S. alive
  - 386 (4.66%) of the reports correspond to U.S. remains that have been recovered/identified and buried in the U.S.
  - 170 (2.05%) relate to individuals who remain unaccounted for.
- d. In all instances, dog tag reports receive thorough investigative attention, to include informing the military services of those reports with valid names so next of kin can be advised as appropriate.

**The following timeline presents an overview of unresolved firsthand sightings by the year of the sighting:**

**TIMELINE: UNRESOLVED LIVE SIGHTING REPORTS**

| Pre-1976 | 1976-1980 | 1981-1985 | 1986-1990 | 1991-1995 | 1996-2000 | 2001-2005 | <b>Total</b> |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 24       | 3         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 3         | 3         | <b>34</b>    |