

Current as of: 10/14/2020

SUBJECT: VIETNAM-ERA 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

COMPONENT	COUNTRY OF LOSS					TOTALS
	VN	VS	LA	CB	CH	
ARMY	3	417	69	23	0	512
NAVY	248	81	17	0	7	353
MARINE CORPS	22	160	16	4	0	202
AIR FORCE	169	125	180	16	0	490
COAST GUARD	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIVILIANS	1	19	3	5	0	28
TOTALS	443	802	285	48	7	1,585
PURSUIT STATUS						
FURTHER PURSUIT	198	499	262	41	7	1,007
DEFERRED	22	56	12	0	0	90
NON-RECOVERABLE	223	247	11	7	0	488
TOTALS	443	802	285	48	7	1,585

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH
CH = CHINA

VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH
LA = LAOS

CB = CAMBODIA

AMERICAN REMAINS REPATRIATED POST - JANUARY 27, 1973:

VIETNAM	727
CHINA	3
LAOS	288
CAMBODIA	42
TOTAL	1,060

This update reports the accounting of USAF Maj. Avolese, Paul A., previously missing from South China Sea.

U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS: Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, the U.S. Government has acquired 23,575 reports possibly pertaining to Americans in Southeast Asia:

SUMMARY OF REPORTS

FIRSTHAND LIVE SIGHTINGS	1,996
HEARSAY SIGHTINGS REPORTS	5,614
CRASH/GRAVE SITES	5,947
DOG TAGS	10,018
TOTAL	23,575

- a. Of the 1,996 firsthand reports received since 1975, 1,941 (97.24%) reports are resolved.
 - 1,340 (67.13%) 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 (2.25%) reports were correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sighting of civilians who remain unaccounted for.
 - 556 (27.86%) reports were determined to be fabrications.
- b. The remaining 55 (2.76%) unresolved firsthand reports represent the focus of the U.S. Government analytical and collection efforts:
 - 48 (2.40%) pertain to Americans reported in a captive environment.
 - 7 (0.35%) reported sightings of Americans in a non-captive environment (i.e. working as truck drivers, married with Vietnamese families).
- c. Since mid-1982, 10,018 “dog tag” reports have been received on over 10,000 names.
 - Generally speaking 93% of those names reported are individuals who returned to the U.S. alive.
 - 5% correspond to U.S. remains that have been recovered/identified and buried in the U.S.
 - 2% 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

CAPTIVE

Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	Total
36	2	1	10	1	50

NON-CAPTIVE

Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	Total
0	1	0	4	0	5