

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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~~SECRET SPOKE~~ CRITIC FOLLOW-UP NUMBER TWO AND FINAL TO BIG LOOK 32 CRITIC 01-70 DTG, 280811Z JAN 70. SUMMARIZATION OF HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST U.S. AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER SOUTHERN NORTH VIETNAM. IN THE 0400 HOUR, 28 JAN 70, A FLIGHT OF TWO F-105 AIRCRAFT WERE PROVIDING SAM SUPPRESSION SUPPORT FOR AN RF4C RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLE. THE FLIGHT OF F-105'S WERE FIRED ON BY TWO SAM MISSILES AT 0506, LAUNCHED FROM A SITE LOCATED WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF 18-00N 105-53E. THE F-105'S SUCCESSFULLY EVADED BOTH MISSILES AND WERE CONDUCTING AN APPROACH TO A SECOND SITE LOCATED AT 18-04N 105-47E WHEN ONE OF THE STRIKE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT AND SHOTDOWN BY AAA FIRE. BOTH THE PILOT AND THE ECM OFFICER REPORTEDLY EJECTED; HOWEVER, LATER INTER-CEPT FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED NVN SAM ASSOCIATED FACILITY REPORTED THAT THE TWO F-105 PILOTS ARE DEAD\$. IN THE 0700 HOUR, SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED TO THE AREA OF THE DOWNED F-105 AND TWO MIG-21 AIRCRAFT REACTED FROM VINH AIRFIELD AND SUCCESSFULLY INTERCEPTED AND SHOT DOWN THE SAR HELICOPTER. THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS OF THE MIG REACTION IS AS FOLLOWS, AT 0650, NVAF AIR OPERATIONS COMMUNICATIONS FROM CAM XUYEEN TO AN UNKNOWN STATION INFORMED BAI THUONG TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A FLIGHT. 1-5 0701, CAM XUYEEN INFORMED BAI THUONG THAT A CONDITION ONE ALERT STATUS EXISTED. AT 0715, CAM XUYEEN RELATED TO HANOI BAC MAI TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A TAKE OFF\$ AND THREE MINUTES LATER, QUERIED BAI THUONG TO DETERMINE IF THE MIG-21 PILOTS HAD FINISHED THE CONDITION ONE ALERT. AT 0725, THE VINH TERMINAL BECAME ACTIVE AND INFORMED ALL STATIONS THAT CONDITION ONE AT VINH WAS FINISHED, INDICATING PREPARATIONS FOR AN IMMEDIATE TAKE-OFF. AT 0731, A TAKE-OFF WAS REPORTED AND AT 0735, FRIENDLY RADAR REFLECTED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF MIG AIRCRAFT OPERATING SOUTHWEST OF VINH. BETWEEN 0742 AND 0745, THE VINH GCI CONTROLLER VECTORED THE MIGS TO THE TARGET. ONE OF THE MIGS FIRED ON THE HELICOPTER WITH MISSILES AND REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN THE HELICOPTER IN THE VICINITY OF 17-40N 105-50E AT 0745. THE MIG AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY HEADED NORTH; HOWEVER, ONLY ONE MIG-21 WAS NOTED RECOVERING AT VINH. REPEATED CALLS TO THE SECOND MIG-21 FAILED TO DRAW A POSITIVE RESPONSE AND APPARENTLY ONE MIG-21 FAILED TO RETURN AFTER THE INTERCEPT. POSSIBLY RELATED TO THE INTERCEPT BY THE VINH MIGS WAS AN EARLIER DEPLOYMENT IN THE 0600 HOUR OF TWO MIG-21'S FROM PHUC YEN TO BAI THUONG. PRIOR TO, AND PROBABLY DURING, THE ENGAGEMENT, THE MIGS WERE PLACE EON ALERT AT BAI THUONG BUT WERE NOT NOTED AIRBORNE. COMMENTS, THE ABOVE DATA IS BASED ON PARTIALLY EVALUATED SIGINT, DECRYPT OF AIR OPERATIONS MESSAGES AND AVAILABLE OPERATIONAL INFORMATION. U.S. NAVY AND AIR FORCE AUTHORITIES REPORT NO U.S. AIRCRAFT LOSSES OTHER THAN THE SAR HELICOPTER AND THE F-105. THE ONLY SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF ANY SAM LAUNCHES DURING THIS TIME FRAME OCCURRED AT 0539 WHEN A POST LAUNCH REPORT INDICATED THAT A SAM SITE, POSSIBLY VN315 (18-53N 105-19E), FIRED TWO MISSILES AT A BUMPY ACTION RECONNAISSANCE DRONE OPERATING NORTH OF VINH. OPERATIONAL DATA INDICATES THE DRONE SUCCESSFULLY EGRESSED THE THREAT AREA AND WAS SUCCESSFULLY RECOVERED XXHH 750 NNNN

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