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ACTION UNIT C FILE, C C/FE4 C/FE DDS 2

ACTION NO. 955 C/DDS DSP, ADSP, C/PPB,

~~SECRET~~ 050342Z FEB 70 CITE 5 FEB IN

DIRECTOR, INFO

[Redacted]

1. AS ENEMY HAS REGAINED INITIATIVE AND CONTINUES TO INFILTRATE AROUND PDJ THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASING NUMBERS OF INCIDENTS WHEREIN AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN FIRED UPON, HIT AND DISABLE TO POINT OF BEING FORCED TO LAND IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE ENEMY. FLIGHT CREWS ARE VERY MUCH AWARE AND GREATLY CONCERNED BY ABOVE ACTIVITY AND ARE REQUESTING REVISION OF [Redacted] POLICY REGARDING PROHIBITION AGAINST FLIGHT CREW MEMBERS CARRYING FIREARMS IN LAOS. RECENT INCIDENTS CONCERNING CHOPPERS PFF AND H-59 INDICATE THE CREW MEMBERS OF PFF WOULD HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN CAPTURED IF NOT KILLED HAD THEY NOT BEEN ARMED AND ABLE TO STAND OFF HOSTILE FORCES UNTIL RESCUED BY H-59. THIS INCIDENT HAS ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT THE AFOREMENTIONED POLICY TO EVERYONES ATTENTION INCLUDING [Redacted] WHO BELIEVES THAT CREWS FLYING IN LAOS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF CARRYING FIREARMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES IF THEY ARE FORCED DOWN IN HOSTILE TERRITORY AND REQUESTS REVISION OF PRESENT CON-

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 DATE: 14-Sep-2009

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FILE, [ ]

ACTION NO.

PAGE 2 [ ] ~~SECRET~~

TRACTORS POLICY.

2. IF HQS AND CONTRACTORS APPROVE, STATION PROPOSES ISSUE FOLDING STOCK CARBINE OR UZI DISCREETLY CONCEALED IN SEALED CANVASS CONTAINERS MARKED SURVIVAL GEAR. WEAPONS WOULD BE SIGNED FOR AND STRICTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO APPROPRIATE CUSTODIANS. THESE SURVIVAL BAGS WOULD BE SECURED WITH A LEAD SEAL AND IF THE SEAL IS BROKEN OR ANY ACCOUNTABLE AMMUNITION EXPENDED, THE CAPTAIN WHO SIGNED FOR THE WEAPON WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A DETAILED REPORT EXPLAINING SAME. IF POLICY IS ADOPTED IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO AFFORD EACH CREW MEMBER ADEQUATE TRAINING AT SECURE SITE TO ENSURE

WE HANDLING OF THESE WEAPONS. LOCAL [ ] PROPOSES THAT SUCH WEAPONS BE STORED, ISSUED, CLEANED, REPAIRED AND ACCOUNTED FOR AT A SECURE GUN LOCKER MANNED BY THE SAME EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CUSTODIANS WHO CURRENTLY HANDLE SURVIVAL GEAR.

[ ] FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT THIS STORAGE AREA BE MOVED FROM ITS PRESENT LOCALE IN THE OPERATIONS BUILDING WHICH EXPOSES IT TO PUBLIC VIEW TO MORE RESTRICTIVE AREA WELL WITHIN [ ] PERIMETER. IT WOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE PILOTS THAT WEAPONS REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE

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CUSTOMER WHILE IN THEIR CUSTODY AND THEY ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFEGUARDING SAME. ANY MISUSE OF THESE WEAPONS WOULD RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION, INCLUDING TERMINATION.

3. STATION COULD ISSUE THESE WEAPONS ONLY AT UPCOUNTRY SITES AND INSIST THAT THEY BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED, ACCOUNTED AND RECEIPTED FOR AND TURNED IN AT UPCOUNTRY SITES. HOWEVER, SUCH PROCEDURE, ALTHOUGH DESIRABLE IN ORDER TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE IS IMPRACTICAL AND FAILS TO AFFORD CREW PROTECTION WHILE ENROUTE FROM VIENTIANE/UDORN TO UPCOUNTRY SITES. FURTHERMORE, OCCASIONS ARISE WHEREIN ADVERSE WEATHER OR MECHANICAL PROBLEMS NECESSITATE RECOVERY AT VIENTIANE/UDORN WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO TURN IN WEAPONS UPCOUNTRY. PROPOSE ISSUE WEAPONS TO THE CAPTAIN OF EACH  AIRCRAFT DEPARTING VIENTIANE/UDORN TO WORK UPCOUNTRY PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

4. REQUEST APPROVAL.

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