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CIA Link to My Lai Claimed by Officer

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (AP) — An Army intelligence officer who participated in the My Lai operation says he believes the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in the 1968 incident, the Daily Oklahoman said today.

"My Lai itself was an operation that was directed from higher sources — from the CIA — in Quang Ngai and Saigon," Capt. Dennis H. Johnson of Ft. Lewis, Wash., said in an interview. Lt. William Calley later was courtmartialled by the Army for his part in My Lai.

"I DON'T know what to do," Johnson said. "It just involved a whole lot of people. Some of them I knew personally."

Johnson, an intelligence officer with the task force that raided My Lai, told Taylor that just before the raid he accompanied Lt. Col. Frank Barker, commander of the task force, to a secret meeting with two men Johnson believed to be CIA agents.

Johnson said the meeting took place in the CIA's local headquarters in Quang Ngai, the capital of the province in which the village of My Lai was located, and that the same two men later visited Barker at his task force headquarters.

JOHNSON said he was excluded from the meetings despite his assignment as a military intelligence officer. He could not identify the two men.

Barker was killed in action a few weeks after the 1968 incident.

Johnson linked My Lai to

the CIA-sponsored Phoenix program, which was aimed at eliminating the Viet Cong leadership.

Johnson was charged with participating in the cover-up of the incident but charges were later dropped for lack of evidence. He said he was angered by accusations against him contained in the Paris Report, the report on the Army's investigation of the incident.