

484

Page 1  
All Denied

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

184

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Assistant Vice Director For Collection  
Management  
Department Of Defense  
Principal Advisor For Prisoner Of War  
Missing In Action Affairs  
(International Security Affairs)  
Director, Vietnam, Laos And Kampuchea  
Bureau Of East Asian And Pacific Affairs  
Department Of State

**SUBJECT :** The Alleged Crash Site of a U.S. Jet and  
the Burial of its Two Pilots on Cai Bap  
Island, Quang Ninh Province in Late 1962.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. Attached as of possible interest to you is a report about the downing of a U.S. jet and the burial of its two pilots on Cai Bau Island, Quang Vinh Province in late 1972.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director For Operations

cc: DCI  
DDCI  
EXEC DIR  
STATE/EAP  
DIA  
WIO/EAP  
NSA

Attachment: Report as stated

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**SUBJECT:** Alleged Crash Site of a U.S. Jet and the Burial of its Two Pilots on Cai Bau Island, Quang Ninh Province in late 1972.

**TEXT:** 1. In late 1972 during the tenth month of the lunar year, a U.S. F-4 or F-105 aircraft was fired upon while over island area of Quang Ninh Province, the former Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) by the Quang Ninh Provincial military forces. The aircraft flew seaward from Cua Ong and crashed at Cai Tat Beach (YJ 6010) on Quan Lan Island, Quang Ninh Province. [REDACTED] comment: According to DRV propaganda, this was the 200th U.S. aircraft shot down by the Quang Ninh Military. One of the pilots parachuted onto Quan Lan Island. The second pilot parachuted onto a nearby island. Both were killed by local forces, and their bodies were taken by separate boats to Cai Bau Island for burial. As of September 1982, their bodies were still buried on Cai Bau Island.

2. The district military (huyen doi) command had ordered that U.S. pilots could not be buried until they had inspected the bodies. Therefore, local forces had to take the bodies to Cai Bau or wait for the district command to arrive for an inspection. Local forces usually chose the former option since district command personnel frequently took long to arrive. Many U.S. aircraft shot while over land in the areas of Tien Ya, Ba Che or Cam Pha tried to fly out to sea to crash in the hopes of rescue by other U.S. aircraft. During one such rescue operation, U.S. personnel killed a number of DRV militia who tried to capture the pilots. After that incident, the militia decided to kill any pilots who landed.

3. The first pilot involved in the U.S. jet crash over Cai Bau Island was over 1.80 meters tall and had a large build. He had a short beard. His skull was fractured. It took six militiamen to carry his improvised coffin. Through at least September 1982, his grave was located behind the house of Nguyen Van ((Ha)), an armless man also known as Tan ((Ha)). A creek and a manioc field were located beyond the grave. Ha's house was about 650 meters from the Tai Xa Pier (YJ-4929) in Dong Xa Village, about 300 meters from the gate of the Third Battalion of the 242nd Division, on the west side of the only paved road through the island. The second pilot was buried about 20 kilometers from the first grave, probably on an inlet (YJ-6238) in Van Yen Village. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Comment: Senior residents of Van Yen Village should indicate the exact location of the graves.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]