

ADVANCED COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

FE

REF ID: A66090

AT 1355

SECRET (When Filled In)	GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION	1	5
	REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED	2	6
		3	7
		4	8

PRECEDENCE

DISSEMINATED BY 7

FILE YR. DEC, D/DEC, DDP, CS/RF, KDDP, DDSS2, EX/DIR

D/O, CS/CS2, CS/CS3, CS/CS4, C/C

SECRET 151228Z DEC 72 STAFF

CITE 64749 ADDRES: C/FE/CO4. C/DDS/HB. 736617
DDS2, A/FE C/SD3.

IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR INFO PRIORITY UDORN.

RYBAT ADMIN PERS

1. REGRET TO ADVISE THAT MR. JOHN W. KEARNS III WAS KILLED BY INCOMING ARTILLERY FIRE IN THE PAKSONG AREA AT APPROXIMATELY 1130 LOCAL 15 DECEMBER. JOHN WAS IN AREA TO ASSIST IN INFIL OF 200 REPLACEMENTS FOR GM 401. HE HAD BEEN ON THE GROUND FOR APPROX TWO HOURS AND THERE WAS NO REPORTED ENEMY ACTIVITY IN AREA. APPROXIMATELY 3000 FRIENDLY TROOPS OF GM'S 401 AND 33 WERE SURROUNDING THE VICINITY OF PAKSONG. THREE H-34'S AND ONE CH-47 WITH REPLACEMENTS WERE EN ROUTE TO PAKSONG AT THE TIME. JOHN WAS DISCUSSING ACTIVITIES WITH GM COMMANDERS AND STAFF WHEN ONE MORTAR ROUND (82 MM OR 120 MM) LANDED SEVERAL METERS AWAY. BEFORE PERSONNEL COULD DISPERSE INTO BUNKERS A SECOND ROUND LANDED IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE GROUP KILLING JOHN AND GM 401 COMMANDER, AND WOUNDING APPROX 21 OTHERS. ADDITIONAL INCOMING FOLLOWED THIS TWO ROUND BARRAGE AND THE CH-47 WAS DIVERTED BACK TO PAKSE. THE THREE H-34'S WERE ORDERED TO STAND BY FOR MEDEVAC.

1203
C/S / UNITS PER ECHON, 15 DEC 72

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~

CYCLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN

PERIODICITY NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8

(When Filled In)

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

ON _____ AT _____ Z

REF BY _____ PER _____ # _____

FORM NO.

INFO

FILE, VR

REVISION

PAGE 2 [] 64749 ~~SECRET~~

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

AFTER INCOMING CEASED H-34'S LANDED, DISCHARGED THEIR TROOPS AND EVACUATED KIA AND WIA TO PS-18, ARRIVING ABOUT 1510. JOHN WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD UPON ARRIVAL AT PS-18 AND IT WAS DOCTOR'S OPINION THAT SHRAPNEL HAD SEVERED THE AORTA. COU PAKSE ACCOMPANIED REMAINS TO UDORN AND THENCE TO [] TO SEE []

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(6)

2. DEATH CERTIFICATE EXECUTED BY MAJ BURT, MD, USAF, UDORN, WHICH STATES DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL AND MEDICAL CAUSE INTERNAL BLEEDING. PLACE OF DEATH LISTED VICINITY OF PAKSE, LAOS. EMPLOYMENT LISTED U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTRACT CIVILIAN. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE PRESS COVERAGE BUT WILL PREPARE STORY FOR USE BY EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER AND VIP AIR AMERICA LAOS IN EVENT PRESS QUERIES OCCUR LOCALLY.

(b)(6)

3. [] WHO SAFEHAVENED [] HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY COS. [] REQUESTS RELATIVES LISTED BELOW BE NOTIFIED OF JOHN'S DEATH. [] ADVISES ALL ARE WITTING OF JOHN'S TRUE EMPLOYMENT WITH ENHERALD. NO KNOWN MEDICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN CONTACT.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

[] DESIRES FOLLOWING BE NOTIFIED BY PERSONAL CONTACT. PLEASE CONFIRM WHEN NOTIFICATION ACCOMPLISHED.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(6)

~~SECRET~~

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

SECRET
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8

ACTION UNIT INFO FILE, VR

ACTION NO. _____

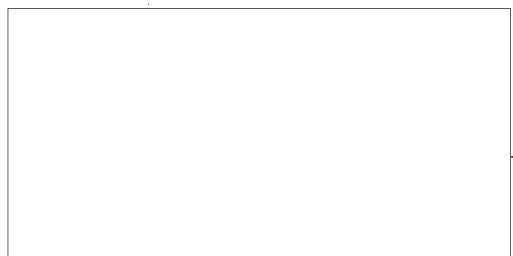
PAGE 3 [] 64779 ~~SECRET~~

[] OF JOHN'S DEATH.

ALSO NOTIFY []

ALSO ATTEMPT NOTIFY [] US SPECIAL FORCES THAILAND OF

JOHN'S DEATH. IN NOTIFICATION, PLS ADVISE []



5. REQUEST HQS ADVISE [] ETA IN

DALLAS. E2 IMPDET.

SECRET

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION:

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

ADVANCE COPY

ISSUED

SLOTTED

~~SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

1

5

2

6

3

7

4

8

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

AT: _____

PER _____

PER

FILE, VR

INFO

FILE, VR

DEVILH* WSC* 427482

PAGE 3

64749 ~~SECRET~~



(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(6)

~~SECRET~~

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN

PERIODICITY NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

BY _____ AT: _____ Z

ISSUED BY _____ PER _____ # _____

PERSON ON

1
N
0

FILE, VR

PERSON ON

PAGE 4 64749 ~~SECRET~~



(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(6)

~~SECRET~~

DEC 15 15 08 16

~~SECRET~~