

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION ON TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	EX OFF / DDC	8/30	[Signature]
2	A D D S	5 SEP 1972	[Signature]
3	D D S	5 SEP 1972	[Signature]
4	SA / D D S		[Signature]
5			
6			
<i>Comment: [unclear] file</i>			
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
<p>FYI Good for them + for Bill Nelson for volunteering this. (need to know what some of the flights are about)</p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
[Signature]			30 AUG 1972
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FORM NO. 1-67

237

Use previous editions

(40)

~~SECRET~~

26 AUG 1972

Mr. Paul C. Velte, Jr.
Managing Director
Air America, Inc.

Dear Paul,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and admiration to your aircrews that made possible the airborne infiltration of Lao irregular forces deep into enemy territory north of the Plain of Jars on 20 August. Flying at night over enemy-controlled territory in less-than-favorable conditions, two S-58T helicopters successfully inserted a small "pathfinder" team that acted as a reception party for airborne troops who were later parachuted.

There were several factors that made this difficult mission even more hazardous. During the helicopter infiltration the lead S-58T pilot experienced problems with his long range navigational system, but continued the mission until the system could be restored. On the return flight the second helicopter lost its automatic stabilization system and artificial horizon instrument, making flight under the prevailing instrument conditions extremely dangerous.

Without extremely well-qualified and professional aircrews this mission could not have been accomplished. The positive attitude and dedication of these crews to their assigned missions continue to be the hallmark of our operations in Southeast Asia.

Please extend my sincere appreciation to the crews who made this mission a success.

W. E. Nelson

William E. Nelson

~~SECRET~~

LETTER TO: Mr. Paul C. Velte, Jr.

DDP/FE/TBL/LOC: RVMiller/sac (25 August 1972)

Distribution:

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