

DATA

Thank you for the information from the Department of State. However, the information is so very conveniently "pat", and so refutable.

Quoting the Defense Dept. and Department of State, and giving you what information we have gathered, let us show you what we mean:

"SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST REPORT HAD BEEN RECEIVED... A U.S. AIR FORCE HC130 SEARCH AND RESCUE CRAFT DEPARTED FOR THE CRASH SCENE." (Dept. of State)

4/15/69 1:50 P.M. (Korean Time) Time of the attack
3:41 P.M. (K.T.) Two HC 130 planes were airborne from Tachikawa (20 miles west of Tokyo)
10:15 P.M. (K.T.) Planes arrive at crash sight.
12:35 A.M. (K.T.) Planes report they saw dim lights on the water. They decided they were search lights on ships, but could not tell what they were doing. Planes then left area for Osan, S. Korea for rest and refueling.

4/16/69 A.M. (K.T.) Another C130 takes off from Osan, S. Korea and makes contact with area and finds Russian boats picking up debris. Pilot radios to Osan for a Russian speaking pilot.

11:35 A.M. USS Tucker recovered 2 bodies in flight uniforms, but no life jackets, 85 miles off coast of Chonjin, where a Russian ship discovered wreckage of plane. Russian Ships #429 and #580 transfer on a whale boat (taking only 8 min.) parts, parachutes, ladder, rubber life raft, wheel.

USS Dale receives parts from 2 Russian Submarines.

Meanwhile, in Washington D.C. at 11:50 P.M. ^(EST) on April 14, 1969, Walter Restow informs Henry Kissinger, National Security Advisor, of the attack. The two of them decide it is not important enough to awaken President Nixon.

"THERE WERE NO CREDIBLE REPORTS OF PARACHUTES... NEITHER IS THERE EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT ANY NORTH KOREAN SHIPS WERE IN THE AREA PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF U.S. AIRCRAFT, OR THAT ANY MEN SURVIVED THE CRASH." (Dept. of State)

4/15/69 Regular Tues. A.M. meeting for Congressional Leaders: Senator Everett M. Dirksen reports details given by the National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger (with Pres. Nixon present). Dirksen said, "Kissinger indicated that the radar operator saw crew members parachuting from the plane." (Chic. Trib. 4/16/69) The weather was survivable. (air temp. 10-16 above freezing, and water temp. 10 degrees above that.)

Also reported at this meeting: (N.Y. Times, 4/16/69) "there were on radar, 2 Russian boats, 2 Russian Submarines, TWO NORTH KOREAN VESSELS. One reason Mr. Nixon was playing

it low-key was that the 2 Korean destroyers were speeding toward the area. It was believed they might capture survivors and hold them hostage against retaliation as with the PUEBLO."

Mr. Nixon revealed on April 18, 1969: (Chic. Trib., 4/19/69-Sec.1, p.2) that we now have "devices which can monitor the radars of other countries and determine not only the distance from the radar site to a plane it is tracking, but also its bearings." He then added, "OUR INTELLIGENCE, AND, OF COURSE NO ONE CAN BE SURE HERE, INDICATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS AWARE THAT THIS ATTACK WAS TO BE MADE."

If the Russians were aware of the coming attack, could the base at Atsugi also have been suspicious? We know from several families that many of the involved men were not scheduled to be on that flight, but had been sought out, late in the day, to substitute for others.

As for reports of survivors, the Rev. Paul Lindstrom is quoted in the Japan TIMES (4/17/69) "From a high source friendly to our committee "possibly seven" of the 31 crewmen were picked up by Korean gun-boats. They were known to be in the area of NaYang Do." Also, in the Chic. Trib.: (4/17/69) "Two Soviet built MIG's in the attack were from Vladivostok. (only 17 min. from where the attack of war took place) He did not know whether the MIGs were manned by Russians or Koreans. He said, "A high gov't. official has committed the identical error as did a former official in handling the PUEBLO affair by failing to advise the Pres. immediately. The time delay has brought about the failure to rescue the known survivors of the EC-121 who parachuted into the Sea."

Why was Rev. Lindstrom never contacted to find out what either he or his sources knew about these men?

Why did Maj. Gen James Knapp walk out of the meeting in Panmunjom on April 17, 1969 after only 42 minutes of discussion on this attack? The Chicago Tribune (4/18/69) says "the Panmunjom text appeared to be carefully proposed by the Nixon Admin."

Why has a list of families of these men been held from each of us for these 12 years? Could we get one now?

Why was the status of these men changed from "Missing to Determined Dead" on May 2nd, 1969 "in accordance with the provisions of the missing persons act," when they produced no bodies to us or any proof of death? Shouldn't there have been a 7 yr. waiting period, and a "hearing" for this declaration?

If you can continue to help us, we are ever so grateful.

Sincerely,

Eileen L. Taylor
Eileen L. Taylor

DATA

We congratulate you on your efforts over the return of the hostages from Iran, your concern for the plight of the Vietnam Veterans and the heartaches of other unconfirmed POWs and MIAs. We are hoping that you might also help us spark a concern-over the plight of 29 families of American men that could be in North Korea.

My husband, Lt. Robert F. Taylor, U.S.N., was one of the crewmen of the unarmed EC-121 Reconnaissance plane that was shot down in the Sea of Japan off the shores of North Korea in International air space on April 15, 1969. At the time there was no evidence that my husband and his crewmates had not survived. Two bodies of the 31 crewmen were returned by a Russian boat that had picked up debris before we could get rescue planes to the area. There had been reports of parachutes from the plane. Rev. Paul Lindstrom, of the "Remember the Pueblo Committee" confirmed that seven of the men had been picked up by North Korean boats in the area.

The seriousness of the situation at the time prompted all of us to remain very quiet. Mr. Nixon had just been elected, -basically on the tenet that there would never be another "Pueblo". His administration was as yet unaware that the reconnaissance missions were still going on by air, at least unescorted. The men from the PUEBLO had just been returned, and this incident became known as the "FLYING PUEBLO". It was thought at the time that North Korea had attempted, in this manner, to re-enter the War with South Korea. The plane was based in Japan, a nation that had become nervous having U.S. bases in their country, and our armistice with Japan was reaching it's duration.

These were highly trained men. Many of them spoke fluent Korean, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and other languages. If they survived the plane incident, they would survive in another country, even as captive. It was internationally necessary, at the time, to declare reports of survivors as "unconfirmed", rather than have the U.S. in another Pueblo-type hostage situation.

If they did survive, perhaps, in this time, they would have been better off not having survived. However, if they have, and no one bothers, there is no one left but the families of 29 Americans to try to find out. We have waited quietly for 12 years for our government to "Remember the Flying Pueblo" men, and it would be tragic if we did not try to at least reach for the seven heroic men that were reportedly picked up, just because it was internationally convenient to sweep something "unofficially" confirmed under the rug?

If any of our Americans are still in North Korea, and no one "knows", or cares, that would be unforgivable. If we can confirm that they aren't there, many families, including these 29 families, will go about our lives just as we have for these past years, but knowing that at least we tried. We would appreciate any information or help you can give us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eileen L. Taylor
tel. DATA

~~Star~~
Earl S. Seely conducts a status review of the
~~the~~ MIA case according to Law. If the
MIA can no longer be reasonably ~~presumed~~
~~presumed~~ presumed to be alive, a Presumptive
Finding of Death ~~is entered~~ (PFOD) is
entered.