

*Carol Hrdlicka*  
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As the wife of a U. S. Air Force officer, Col. David L. Hrdlicka I was aware that my husband could be killed or captured in the event he had to go to war. However, I was not prepared for him being abandoned by the very country he had sworn to serve and that sent him into harms way.

David was shot down over Laos on May 18, 1965. There is a wealth of information that he was captured alive. There is a capture photo, tape recordings, and a visit by the Prince of Laos. A Russian correspondent interviewed David several times while in captivity. The US government assured me that they would do everything possible for David. I was told of rescue attempts in the early years so I assumed that they would continue to do everything possible to get David released. I believed the government for years but to my horror I discovered in 1990 that they were not doing any investigation on David's case only trying to write him off. I received my first live sighting report in 1990 talking about David trying to escape. I had been told there were reports that indicated David had died. Up until this 1990 I accepted what the government had told me so now I am wondering how does a dead man try to escape. Then I receive another report stating, "I am talking to General Chaeng suspected of holding D. Hrdlicka and friends" the report was dated 1990 and is present tense. At that point I became enraged that the US government had not been telling me the truth. Of course, I wondered why they were lying.

I started to do my own investigation and research. I became painfully aware that the government's story that all the POWs were dead was not the truth. I began to collect documents, worked to change legislation to protect our service men, testified before several congressional committees' and collected information on David's case through Freedom of Information Requests. The documents I was finding was not backing up the governments statements that the POWs had died but that they had knowingly abandoned them and had set about purposely misinforming the public as well as the families. It has now been 17 years that I have fought to get the truth and get the US government to bring home the men that remain alive in Southeast Asia. It has been 42 years that David Hrdlicka has waited for someone to come get him and bring him back to his family. My husband and the other men deserve to come home.

David was never told if he got captured his country would abandon him. He was prepared to possibly be killed or captured but not be abandoned. The US government does not tell their military that they will abandon them.

*Carol Hrdlicka*

Exhibit # 4, p. 2 of 2

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# memorandum

21 SEP 1992

DATE:

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: PW

1099/PW

SUBJECT: Response to FOIA Request, Case 0670-92

TO: DSP-1 (FOIA)

Ref: DSP-1 memo 2,450), 10 Aug 92 (enclosure 1).

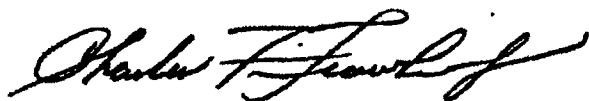
1. Reference requested that DIA (PW) conduct a file search in response to a request from Mrs. Carol Hrdlicka, wife of Colonel David Hrdlicka, USAF, missing in Laos. Mrs. Hrdlicka is requesting "all documents that have recently been declassified concerning MIA/POW's in Laos." Specifically, she is requesting "all the documents pertaining to rescue attempts made to gain the freedom of Col David L. Hrdlicka USAF and Col Charles Spelton USAF." Mrs. Hrdlicka believes the first rescue attempt was code named "Duck Soup."

2. Regarding her broad general request, please inform Mrs. Hrdlicka that all declassified documents pertaining to missing in action from the war in Southeast Asia have been placed in the public domain and will be available through the Library of Congress. In answer to her specific request, please inform Mrs. Hrdlicka that we have no records that the U.S. Government has ever mounted a rescue attempt for either Colonel Hrdlicka or Colonel Shelton. Based upon numerous inquiries due to articles in the public media, DIA undertook a records search, with the help of other government offices, to determine whether any operation by the name of "Duck Soup" ever actually occurred. The results of our inquiries revealed that, in 1949, a limited U.S. Government operation code named "Duck Soup" did occur. The nature of the operation remains classified. However, the operation was completely unconnected with the POW/MIA issue and was completely unconnected with the area of Southeast Asia.

3. A DD Form 2086 is provided as enclosure 2.

4. POC for this action is John Horn, (703) 908-2761.

2 Enclosures  
1. DSP-1 memo 2,450),  
10 Aug 92  
2. DD Form 2086



CHARLES F. TROWBRIDGE, JR.  
Deputy Chief  
Special Office for Prisoners  
of War and Missing in Action