

Exhibit # 5 1P123

March 16, 2009

STATEMENT BY:
ANN HOLLAND
WIFE OF T/SGT MELVIN A. HOLLAND
LEFT BEHIND AT
SITE 85
PHOU PHA THI, LAOS
MARCH 11, 1968

When my husband was selected to volunteer for a secret assignment in September of 1967 I attended a briefing for the men and spouses at the Pentagon. Promises were made at that time by the men conducting the briefing: Col. Brojer, Col. Cornetti and Maj. Moore. First: We were assured the assignment was 100% safe, "we wouldn't be sending the men over there if we thought anything would happen to them." Second: If anything did happen to them we would be kept fully informed of any information that was acquired. Third: Every effort would be made to bring them home.

On March 11, 1968, the unthinkable happened. The hill was overrun by enemy forces, five of the technicians were rescued (one died on the helicopter), and 11 men were left behind. Three CIA operatives and numerous indigenous personnel were also rescued. I was notified by telephone that my husband was missing and to not tell anyone. If it got out to the press, I could be causing my husbands' death. Lie # 1. The lies are continuing to this day. The cover-up is continuing to this day.

Since the last Senate Select Committee investigation more information has been discovered that the present task force in Wash. DC (DPMO) has failed to act on. Specifically, a report from 20 Jan 04 of "a very old man standing and walking in a bent over

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position" being held in a prison camp in the Sam Neua area of Laos. The sub-source offered to take photos of the prisoner. The report was discounted because it was "fourth hand information." I offered to supply the camera for the photos. There has been no follow up on the information even though the location of the prison camp is very specific.

DPMO has withheld information from me regarding reports of possible prisoners. They withheld the decision to remove Refno 2052 from the Last Known Alive list from me. I learned of it by accident six months after the fact. They determined 40 years after the fact that all 11 men left behind in 1968 had died on that mountain during the attack. Yet, two years after the attack, three families were told that no one could account for their loved ones.

I was kept in limbo for two years and told to keep my mouth shut. Those men were never on any list until 1982 ! I was never assigned a "Casualty Officer". I had to depend on a voice in the Office of Special Plans for any information about my husband. I was never given any reports that may have surfaced... specifically a report from 1972 telling of a male Caucasian being taken prisoner to Ban Nakay. He was wearing glasses and had come from the radar base at Phou Pha Thi. My husband was the only man wearing glasses. No follow up was ever done on that report because there was no knowledge of anyone missing in that area. That was first hand information. I never received a copy of that report until 1985 and only then through the Freedom of Information Act.

Fast forward to 2006. DPMO received a "transcript" from an individual that very graphically described the "death" of my husband. It was passed through four sets of hands before being sent to DPMO. I only learned of it by attending a family update meeting in Seattle in 2006. I asked that DPMO follow up on that

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transcript and locate the original source and verify by obtaining the tape of the survivor relating the incident. They have refused to do so. I have asked that they contact Cols. Brojer and Cornetti and ask them why I was lied to for two years about the fate of my husband. (I was told he could have survived and to keep my mouth shut.) They have refused. They have relied on reports that are 40 years old, dismissed facts that indicate survivors and capture of the missing men, and accept as truth anything that says they all died on March 11, 1968.

In 1968 the Air Force was so afraid of the loss of those men in Laos becoming public knowledge that they had to do damage control. They thought that by declaring the men dead that no one would learn of the incident. But they didn't tell the families the men were dead! They told us they were missing and to keep our mouths shut because we would be hurting our husbands if it became public knowledge!

The cover-up is continuing to this day. The CIA has never released their records regarding Site 85. The two men assigned to "protect" the hill failed to do their job. They never went to the site to help the technicians until the "bird dog" pilot, Art Cornelius, couldn't raise anyone on the hill and told them to "get their a---- up there and see what was going on."

Reports of captured men are discounted as "unreliable" or "fourth hand information." I was 28 years old when told my husband was missing. I am now 69 years old. My husband would be 73 if still alive. He has sisters in their 80's and one 90 years old. It is time for the truth and time to bring him home.

Ann Holland