



JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND

310 Worchester Ave
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96853-5530

SEP 04 2012

DCO (ER)
2012-633
13 August 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

Thank you for your June 15, 2012 letter on behalf of your constituent, Terri Francisco-Farrell on our efforts to resolve the fate of her brother, Major San Dewayne Francisco who was lost during the Vietnam War. You requested information about our efforts to recover Major Francisco, and to provide regular updates to Ms. Francisco-Farrell concerning her brother's case.

First Lieutenant Francisco was the pilot of an F-4D aircraft that was downed in a heavily fortified area near the Lao border on November 25, 1968. Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts were hampered due to small arms fire, and worsening weather conditions. The SAR units believed 1st Lt Francisco landed very close to enemy personnel and that he had been captured. On November 26, 1968, radio Hanoi announced the shoot down and said the pilot(s) had been captured. The same day an article in Nhan Dan Newspaper also announced that the pilot(s) had been captured alive. Later, the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) turned over Vietnamese News Agency photographs showing the dead remains of both crewmembers, with other photographs showing their identification cards, and wreckage associated with this case. The Quang Binh Province graves registry provides a burial location for the bodies, but other documents indicate those graves were lost.

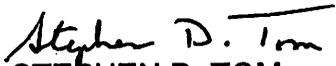
During the course of our prior investigations of this case, firsthand witnesses have reported on locations of burial sites for Major San Francisco. None of those locations produced evidence of his remains. JPAC is currently focused on locating other witnesses who may have information relating to Major Francisco's burial location. As early as the first quarter of fiscal year 2013, our teams will be in Vietnam and will seek other witnesses who either participated in his burial, or who may know of a grave location. It is too early to predict what the outcome will be, but we are hopeful that with the assistance of our Vietnamese counterparts, we can ultimately locate a more specific location to conduct a ground search.

The recent announcement by Secretary Panetta regarding access to previously closed areas in Vietnam affects a small number of cases. Fortunately, Major

Francisco's loss location is not in a restricted area. Access to the suspected loss site for this case has never been restricted by the government of Vietnam.

Please let us know if you need any additional information. My point of contact is Mr. Johnie E. Webb Jr., Deputy to the Commander for Legislative Affairs and External Relations. He can be reached at 808-448-1710 or via e-mail at johnie.webb@jpac.pacom.mil.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN D. TOM
Major General, U.S. Army
Commander, Joint POW/MIA
Accounting Command

Copy to:
✓ Senator Maria Cantwell
Army Casualty Office
DPMO

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2012

Major General Stephen D. Tom
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
310 Worchester Avenue, Building 45
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96853-5530

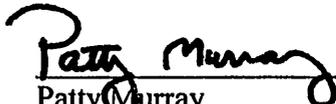
General Tom:

We are writing on behalf of our constituent Terri Francisco-Farrell, sister of Major San Dewayne Francisco. On November 25, 1968, Major Francisco was shot down over North Vietnam while flying an escort mission. According to reports, Major Francisco and his co-pilot Lt. Col. Joseph Morrison were able to parachute out successfully but could not be rescued due to enemy fire.

When Americans held as Prisoners of War were released to return home from Vietnam, Major Francisco was not among them and his family was left without information regarding his whereabouts. While Major Francisco has been declared dead by a Presumptive Finding of Death hearing, his family still wishes for the recovery and return of his remains. They believe his remains may be in the Quang Binh province, one of the areas newly accessible to Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. We are requesting information from Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command regarding the efforts to find and recover the remains of Major Francisco as soon as possible. We also request that Terri Francisco-Ferrell be provided with regular updates regarding efforts to recover her brother's remains.

Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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