

*Defense  
Prisoner Of War /  
Missing Personnel  
Office*



**memorandum**

*Date:* 15 January 2009

*To:* LC

*From:* RA-SEA/Millner

*Subject:* Alleged POW Information Reported by [redacted]

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1. On 12 January 2009, DPMO received a call from [redacted] who reported that he has been told that John Hartley Robertson (Refno 1184) is currently in a hotel room in Cambodia. [redacted] said he is active in the VFW and was called by another VFW officer, [redacted] whose grandson, [redacted] attends a church in [redacted]. He was told by other members of the church, [redacted] and [redacted] that [redacted] brother-in-law is [redacted] in Southeast Asia and he recently escorted John Hartley Robertson from Vietnam to Cambodia. [redacted] reportedly took Robertson to the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, but embassy personnel said they could not help the man and he would have to go back to Vietnam.

2. Analyst called [redacted] who confirmed [redacted] report explaining that he got the information from his grandson, [redacted] who got it from [redacted] and [redacted]. He confirmed that [redacted] took Robertson to the U.S. Embassy himself. [redacted] said the man identified as Robertson does not speak much English. He has a local wife and children and has been living in the jungle for the past 30 years, but now wants to return to the U.S. [redacted] spoke with the minister of the [redacted] church, [redacted] who put him in touch with the [redacted]. [redacted] spoke with [redacted] and was told that of 10 January, J. H. Robertson was in a Phnom Penh, Cambodia hotel with her [redacted] brother-in-law [redacted] reportedly has photos of Robertson, one of which has the ID number 56299302. [redacted] has also found J. H. Robertson's

wife in the U.S. and spoke with her about the information. The former [redacted] [redacted] reportedly said she didn't want anything to do with it.

3. Analyst then called [redacted] [redacted] who confirmed [redacted] and [redacted] information. She said [redacted] in touch with Robertson is her brother-in-law [redacted] of [redacted] who is currently in Cambodia, with his cousin [redacted] *who sometimes accompanies him*) working for the [redacted] [redacted] told his story to his wife, [redacted] sister, who relayed the information to [redacted]. Reportedly, [redacted] met a pastor in Cambodia who had been approached by people who knew about Robertson. The pastor told [redacted] and asked him to get the information to the proper authorities. The people who had control of (or contact with) Robertson would not allow [redacted] into the mountain area where he lived. They eventually arranged for Robertson to be brought to Cambodia to see [redacted]. [redacted] explained that Robertson's wife and other people (possibly including another family member) brought him from Vietnam to the Cambodian border where he was allowed in "on a day-pass" (apparently a temporary permit). Robertson's escorts went back to their village once Robertson crossed the border. [redacted] said her brother-in-law told her Robertson spoke only Vietnamese and gave the impression he "was not all there." [redacted] took the man to the U.S. Embassy more than once, but they were not convinced of his identity. [redacted] did some research on the Internet and found one web page on Robertson where a man named [redacted] left a posting saying he had known John H. Robertson when they were both in the military. [redacted] sent him a photo of "Robertson" that her brother-in-law provided, and [redacted] positively identified him. In the meantime, the Embassy reportedly called [redacted] on 10 January and said he could bring Robertson back in to be fingerprinted. [redacted] did so. However, Embassy personnel reportedly said they did not intend to check the fingerprints because they considered "Robertson" to be a delusional Vietnamese man. [redacted] did some more research and found Robertson's former wife. [redacted] said she contacted the former Mrs. Robertson and explained the situation, but she said "she did not want to have anything to do with it."

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4. [redacted] sent Analyst three photos and a short video clip of "John Robertson." [Note: Analyst immediately recognized the subject as a self-admitted Vietnamese citizen who, in interviews with U.S. authorities, identified himself as [redacted] [redacted] has lent himself to many previous

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incidents of bogus reporting wherein he and/or his handlers have attempted to pass [redacted] off as J. H. Robertson and other Americans.] One of the photos supplied by [redacted] show [redacted] with [redacted] outside at night. In this photo [redacted] is wearing a light grey jacket with the collar of a blue shirt visible underneath. He has a cigarette in his right hand. [redacted] is a bearded man wearing a brown fedora-like hat. He is wearing a light gray shirt and a watch with a black band on his left wrist. Another photo shows [redacted] [redacted] (cousin) with [redacted] is wearing the same light gray jacket, but with a different shirt collar visible underneath (color not certain). [redacted] is wearing a blue T-shirt. The final photo shows [redacted] and two U/I Asian men on a bed with a map of southeast Asia partially unrolled. [redacted] is recognizable by his hat; his face is not visible. [redacted] is standing behind the men, bending over and pointing to a spot on the map, as is [redacted]. [redacted] explained that the picture shows "Robertson" [redacted] pointing out the spot where he crashed. [redacted] finger is on the tri-border intersection of Vietnam/Cambodia/Laos. [redacted] finger is on a spot slightly to the south. (Analyst Note: The areas being pointed to are about 60-90 NM south of where Mr. Robertson was actually lost.)

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5. The cell phone video initially shows [redacted] inside a house, then stepping outside and coming around the side of the house walking towards the camera where he stops. He is wearing a blue jersey with a pocket, and darker blue pants. The cameraman (NFI) speaks in Vietnamese telling [redacted] to speak in English and give his name.

[redacted] - "What is name Robertson John Hadley Handly Hatley (he is either saying "Hartley" each time with a slightly different pronunciation, or repeats it trying to say it right). What is my name Robertson."

C-man - (prompting) Where you want to go, where you want to live.

[redacted] - I go (two garbled words) American go to home. Thank you.

Recording ends.

(Analyst Note: Two still photos from this video were provided by a resident of Michigan who made another report concerning several alleged American servicemen, including John H. Robertson. These two photos were given to USG investigators on 8 December 2008. See IIR 7 737 0036 09.)

6. Analyst explained to [redacted] (as well as the other people contacted) that "Robertson" is actually [redacted] and has been the subject of many bogus reports. Analyst also asked [redacted] if she knew who actually took the video. She did not. She advised Analyst that [redacted] was currently en route back

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to the U.S. In response to Analyst's request, [REDACTED] said she would tell her brother-in-law that Analyst would like to speak to him and have [REDACTED] call at his convenience.

Recommended Action(s): Tech - Create Source File.  
LS - Copy to PNOK  
DPMO-L - for JPAC/J2

Distro: Chrono, DM, LC, RA, RA-SEA, Rosenau, Millner, Tech, DPMO-L,  
Robertson (1184), McCain

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