Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

FBI File on
American POWs/MIAs
in Southeast Asia

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Introduction

This FBI file covers 1970 to 1993 and began as an investigation into the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). Included are interviews with hundreds of Vietnamese refugees plus information on how the North Vietnamese hoarded personal items of American servicemen to exchange for money. Information on the Women’s Liberation Movement, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), and the Women’s Peace Party is also included. Types of documents include airtels, tele-types, interviews, letters, memos newsletters, and reports.

The file is organized chronologically within two divisions: Domestic Security and Foreign Counterintelligence. Scholars interested in Vietnam-related government policy and domestic unrest will find this a useful collection.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act; certain documents or portion of documents have been deleted by the FBI pursuant to provisions of that legislation. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of material or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.
Roll Notes

FBI File: 100-457899
VOLUME 1  Roll 1, 0001-0197
Jan-Jun 1970

Internal Investigation, Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in Vietnam (COLIFAM) as a channel for communication between U.S. POWs and their families

Belief of the COLIFAM that only a U.S. decision to withdraw all troops from Vietnam will ensure safe return of American POWs now in detention

Investigation into Charlotte Bunch Weeks, Women’s Liberation Movement, (WLM); and Jerry Schwinn, Committee of Returned Volunteers, (CRV); and their attempt to negotiate with Hanoi in regard to American prisoners released by North Vietnam

News articles:

  Washington Evening Star (Apr 1970)
  “POW Wives Pressed to Join Peaceniks”

  Washington Post (Apr 1970)
  “More Names of Prisoners are Listed”

  Washington Evening Star (Jun 1970)
  “Rep. Scherle Assails POW Liaison Group”

  Daily Oklahoman (Mar 1970)
  “Anti-War Group’s PW List Includes 2 from Oklahoma”

List of confirmed POWs held in North Vietnam
VOLUME 2
Jun-Jul 1970
Miscellaneous Registration Act
Investigation into Mrs. Dagmar Wilson and her attempt to obtain information of her POW husband through the Woman’s Union of North Vietnam and the Women’s Strike for Peace
Committee of Liaison newsletters indicating attempts to deliver mail to U.S. POWs in North Vietnam
Listing of U.S. Servicemen confirmed to be POWs

FBI File: 100-457899
VOLUME 3 (not available for microfilming)

VOLUME 4
Aug 1970
Miscellaneous Registration Act
No acknowledgment of Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM) activities in Anchorage, Alaska
Investigation into the activities of the COLIFAM
News articles:
San Diego Union (Jan 1970)
“Antiwar Group Seen as Liaison to U.S. POWs”
The New York Times (Jan 1970)
“Foes of War Form Group to Forward Letters to POWs”
Kansas City Call (Aug 1970)
“Phil Larson Will Take Letters to Prisoners”
Interviews with several wives of U.S. servicemen held captive in North Vietnam, concerning their contact with COLIFAM and aid in contacting their husbands
List of 13 confirmed U.S. POWs from Jacksonville, FL
Newsletters and form letters from COLIFAM

VOLUME 5  Roll 1, 0698-0969
Aug 1970
Internal Security, Misc. Registration Act
List of Air Force prisoners of war and Air Force personnel
missing in action

VOLUME 6  Roll 1, 0971-END
Aug-Sep 1970  Roll 2, 0001-0100
Internal Security, Misc. Registration Act
Interviews with wives of U.S. POWs concerning their con-
tact with the Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM) and aid
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COLIFAM background information
COLIFAM newsletters and form letters
COLIFAM press release containing 335 confirmed POWs
held in North Vietnam

VOLUME 7  Roll 2, 0102-0358
Sep-Oct 1970
Internal Security, Misc. Registration Act
Interviews with wives of U.S. POWs in North Vietnam,
regarding any contact they may have had with the
Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM)
Newsletters and form letters from COLIFAM and the
American Friends Service Committee
Excerpts from Dr. Joseph Elder’s meeting with families of MIAs and POWs in which he discussed his visits to Hanoi (Nov 1969, Hamline University, MN)

Interviews with the parents of five U.S. servicemen held as POWs in North Vietnam concerning their contact with COLIFAM and attempts to contact their sons through this organization

News articles:

San Diego Union (Jan 1970)
“Antiwar Group Seen as Liaison to U.S. POWs”

The New York Times (Jan 1970)
“Foes of War Form Group to Forward Letters to POWs”

VOLUME 8 Roll 2, 0360-0582

Sep-Nov 1970

Internal Security, Misc. Registration Act, North Vietnam Dept. of Justice requests investigation regarding activities and possible contacts of the Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM) with the relatives of Air Force personnel reported to be MIA or POW in North Vietnam

COLIFAM background and form letters

More interviews with POW relatives regarding their contact with COLIFAM

Travel of U.S. Delegation to North Korea and North Vietnam led by Eldridge Cleaver and the search of their luggage at JFK International Airport, NY (Sep 1970)

Transcript of a press conference at International Arrivals Building, JFKIA with members of the U.S. Delegation (Sep 1970)
More interviews with relatives of POWs regarding their contact with COLIFAM

VOLUME 9

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Nov 1970

Internal Security, Misc. Registration Act

Regarding Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM) press release, Nov 1970, listing four new POWs and confirming the deaths of six U.S. pilots

Interviews with relatives of POWs regarding any contact with COLIFAM and attempts to send letters to the POWs

Attempts made to determine the identities of attorneys traveling under COLIFAM to North Vietnam

News articles:

Center Report (Oct 1970):
“Prisoners of War in Vietnam” by Jon M. Van Dyke

The Nation (Oct 1969)
“Prisoners from Hanoi: Were They Tortured?”

by Jon M. Van Dyke

Interviews with relatives of POWs

Form letters from COLIFAM and the American Friends Service Committee

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Nov 1970

Internal Security, Misc. Registration Act

Interviews with relatives of POWs regarding contact with COLIFAM
News article:

*Macomb Daily* (Oct 1970)
“High-Twelve Club Urges Campaign to Free POWs”

*Denver Post* (Nov 1970)

COLIFAM form letters
Listing of 17 missing U.S. pilots
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Listing of 335 names, confirmed by Hanoi, to be prisoners in North Vietnam (Apr 1970)

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*Dec 1970-Jan 1971*

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Internal Security, Miscellaneous

Interviews with relatives of POWs regarding contact with the Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM)

Documentation of one family’s attempt to receive information about their son, a POW, including correspondence from COLIFAM and other organizations volunteering help in this matter

News article:

*Mansion Forum*, South Bend, IN (Oct 1969)
“Troop Withdrawal Must Include American POWs”

*Vietnam Courier* (Apr 1967)

COLIFAM form letters
More interviews with relatives of POWs regarding contact with COLIFAM
Internal Security, Miscellaneous

News articles:

* Ledger Star*, Norfolk, VA (Nov 1970)
  "Postmen’s ‘Love Letter’ read at least 50 times”
  "I’m Luckiest Person in World Says Wife”
  "Letters from POW Brightens Birthday”


Listing of captured U.S. pilots (1964-1970)
Interviews with relatives of POWs regarding contact with COLIFAM

COLIFAM form letters

Transcript from a Canadian television program:
  Viewpoint with Kay MacPherson (Jan 1971) CNBC

COLIFAM list of 339 POWs captured between Aug 1964 and Nov 1970

Report of five U.S. POWs visited by COLIFAM representatives (Dec 1970)
News articles:

*The Evening Star* (Apr 1971)
“FBI Confirms POW Probe”

*Clearwater Sun* (Jan 1971)
“Mother of POW Raps War”

*The New York Post* (Jan 1971)
“Son Tay: The Real Story”

Reports on Cora Weiss, Co-Chairman of the Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM) and her appearance on the “Today Show” (Apr 1971)

COLIFAM form letters

News articles:

“Hanoi Aide Links Pull-Out Date and POW Issue”

“Illogic in Vietnam”

“Mr. Nixon and the Prisoner Smokescreen”

Internal Security, New Left

Investigation of COLIFAM members and their attempt to travel abroad with mail for POWs

News articles:

*The Washington Post* (Feb 1972)
“Nixon Plan Even Sillier to Hanoi”

*The New York Times* (Feb 1972)
“Nixon Report: Shrewd Politics but No Peace”

“Hanoi Rules Out a Partial Accord”

“Slaughterhouse Six” (Apr 1972)

Report that COLIFAM’s Cora Weiss and David Dellinger will travel to Hanoi to escort three POWs home to the
U.S. They denounce Pres. Nixon and U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia

VOLUME 14

Roll 3, 0524-0827

Sep-Nov 1972

Internal Security, Revolutionary Activities

Report on Cora Weiss and David Dellinger of COLIFAM and their trip to Hanoi to escort three POWs home

Excerpts from press conference held by David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rev. William Coffin upon safe return of POWs, denouncing U.S. political and military tactics

Investigation of: “Travel by Four Doctors and Four Lawyers to Hanoi” (Oct 1972)

VOLUME 15

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Report of U.S. delegation including Tom Hayden, et al., traveling to Hanoi (Nov 1972)

Report of four lawyers from Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam (LCAPTV) and their trip to Hanoi

News article:


“Hanoi Aides Say Both Sides Made Concessions on Pact”
Report that the Committee of Liaison (COLIFAM) will send a delegation (Joan Baez, Rev. Michael Allen, et al.) to Hanoi to deliver Christmas mail and packages to POWS (Dec 1972)

Report concerning three unidentified women from the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) traveling to Hanoi with mail for POWs

VOLUME 16 Roll 3, 1050-END

Jan 1973-Nov 1974

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Report that two unnamed people are planning a trip to Hanoi on behalf of COLIFAM

Report on Joan Baez and her trip to Hanoi (Dec 1972) and comments she made against Pres. Nixon and U.S. military activities in Vietnam

Report on COLIFAM and its activities, including background information

Report of four members from Medical Aid to Indochina (MAI) trip to Hanoi and returning with mail from POWs

Report concerning the termination of COLIFAM (Apr 1973)

Report suggesting the interview of returning POWs regarding their contact with COLIFAM

FBI File: 227-188

VOLUME 1

Jun 1982-Sep 1986

Internal Security, POW/MIA Matters

Investigation concerning an American soldier seen alive in South Vietnam in 1979

Report of an American male seen in a South Vietnamese prison

MIA Matter: Possible identification of U.S. Serviceman, positive Intelligence Vietnam

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American Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) in Indochina

Report concerning American military POWs in Cambodia Investigation into the discovery of the remains of a U.S. serviceman in the region of Tan Uyen, South Vietnam

Investigation into the report that two U.S. servicemen listed as MIA in 1964 are alive and living in the U.S.

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American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA), Southeast Asia

Investigation into the report that two U.S. Marines captured by enemy forces in 1964 had returned to the U.S. in 1979-1980 and have been living under assumed identities, concerned about their legal status
Investigation trying to confirm the remains of U.S. servicemen: Michael L. Tyson and Dale T. Taylor

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Aug 1988
American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) in Indochina
Investigation into alleged reports of U.S. Servicemen living in Laos and others being held as POWs
Investigation concerning alleged "remains" of U.S. POWs in Vietnam

VOLUME 5 (not available for microfilming)

VOLUME 6
Aug-Sep 1988
MIA/POW Issue, Foreign Counterintelligence Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Report concerning the recovery of remains and/or identification of American servicemen
"Dog Tag" Reports outline the process of reporting false leads to the whereabouts of American servicemen in return for passage to the United States
Listing of U.S. servicemen confirmed to be listed as AWOL
Investigation into alleged gravesite of U.S. servicemen killed in helicopter crash in Vietnam
Investigation into alleged unearthing of gravesite of U.S. servicemen in Vietnam
Investigation concerning the attempt of a private group to pass along bogus POW/MIA information
Investigation into a Vietnamese couple’s allegation that they were responsible for saving the life of a U.S. POW

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Nov 1989-Aug 1991
MIA/POW Issue, Foreign Counterintelligence Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Investigation into the report that Vietnamese families wish to trade the alleged remains of U.S. servicemen for money
Report of “body brokers”
News article:
San Francisco Chronicle (1990)
“Viet Bone Brokers Offer U.S. Remains”
Investigation into the report of an alleged organized effort to collect and register U.S. remains in Vietnam
Investigation into an offer of receiving information on MIAs and POWs for cash reward
Investigation into report of POWS alive and being held in Cambodia

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Investigation into dog tag tracings and the alleged remains of three MIAs and the sighting of three live Americans in Cambodia
Investigation into the request of one: Larry J. Stevens, to be able to “come home” to the United States
Investigation into the report that American POWs are alive and living in Southeast Asia, based on “sightings”
Investigation into the report that a Vietnamese national found a dog tag and the remains of a U.S. serviceman

VOLUME 9
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POW and MIA Matters
Investigation into the release of several alleged MIA bodies
News article:
   San Diego Union Tribune  (Oct 1992)
   “Not all U.S. POWs were returned in ‘73 says Vietnamese defector”
Investigation into remains reported to belong to U.S. MIA servicemen
Investigation into report alleging U.S. servicemen alive and being held in Cambodia
Transcript from Lieutenant Commander Richard Stratton as broadcast from Hanoi  (Mar 1967)
Recovery of skeletons with U.S. dog tags from Vietnam
POW and MIA Matters

Investigation into the remains allegedly belonging to six U.S. servicemen killed in Vietnam

Report of a serviceman listed as MIA, but actually alive and living in Vietnam

Investigation into the report that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) contained burial chambers with the remains of U.S. soldiers, hoping to sell these remains to the United States

Report of POWs held in Vietnam and Cambodia by "bandits," willing to repatriate their prisoners for money

Investigation into the alleged remains of U.S. servicemen, one being the son-in-law of Gen. William Westmoreland

Investigation into identification of U.S. servicemen still missing in Vietnam based on whole and fragmented fingerprint analysis

Declassification and release of materials pertaining to Missing in Action (MIA) and Prisoners of War (POW)

FBI File 62-1036360

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Remains of American Servicemen Missing in Action in Vietnam

U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs

Results of various field research efforts

Investigation of extortionate activities directed against POW/MIA families
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Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia (Oct 1987)
House Task Force Report on American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia
News articles:
   The Atlanta Constitution (Mar 1987)
   "Children of MIAs fight guerrilla war over fate of fathers"
   New York Times (Sep 1986)
   "POWs Alive in Vietnam, Report Concludes"
POW Policy Center Newsletter (Jul 1987)
Account for POW/MIAs, Inc., Sky Hook II Project
Transcript of statement by Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., Special Emissary for the President on POW/MIA Affairs before the House Foreign Affairs Committee (Sep 1987)
Statement of U.S. Policy Toward Vietnam (Sep 1987)

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Americans Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia
   Report from the Latent Fingerprint Identification Section
National Alliance of Families correspondence
Vietnow National POW Committee
Printout list: Americans Unaccounted for in SE Asia (1984)
FBI File 95-174563  Roll 5, 0568-0574

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*Sep 1990*
Investigation into alleged remains of two U.S. servicemen

FBI File 95-1038318  Roll 5, 0588-0594
*Oct 1992*
Investigation into the POW/MIA Grassroots Association

FBI File 95-299671  Roll 5, 0596-0602
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Unknown subjects
  Requests for comparative analysts of alleged Prisoners of War (POW) Photographs

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*Jan-Feb 1972*
Internal Security: MIA Campaign, New Left
Investigation into the POW/MIA Campaign of Los Alamitos, California

FBI File 227-24148  Roll 5, 0613-0617
*Apr-Jun 1992*
Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA);
  Foreign Counterintelligence (FCI)
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Aug-Nov 1967  
Criminal Acts of Warfare Against North Vietnam  
Report of three POWs released in Vietnam and allowed to return to the United States  

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VOLUME 4  
Jul 1968  
Report that three individuals linked to anti-war movements will go to Hanoi to negotiate the release of U.S. POWs  

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VOLUME 6  
Sep 1969-Apr 1970  
News articles:  
The Jackson Daily News (Sep 1969)  
“Citizens Urged to Write North Vietnamese Today”  
The New York Times (Nov 1969)  
“Two Civilian Groups Release Purported POW Lists”  
Star Bulletin, (Honolulu) (Jan 1970)  
“Adm. McCain’s Son Reported Well in POW Camp”  
U.S. Delegation to Paris Peace Talks seeks the release of sick and injured U.S. POWs from Vietnam  
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Daily News (NY) (Jan 1972)  
“The Quality of Mercy”

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Sep-Dec 1972  
News article:  
The Boston Globe (Sep 1972)  
“POW Gartley to obey Navy Orders”  
Newsletter: Voices in Vital America (VIVA)
Liaison Matter, Prisoners of War
Reports concerning the debriefing of prisoners of war
revealing certain POWs had cooperated with the enemy
Report indicating that some 1,287 servicemen are being held
as POWs in Vietnam (Apr 1977)
H. Ross Perot enlisted to investigate POWs/MIAs allegedly
to still be alive in Vietnam (Sep 1986)
News article:
*The Washington Post* (Jan 1987)
“Perot, Bush Discussed Firing Armitage”
Investigation into alleged sightings of U.S. servicemen held
as POWs in South Vietnam

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Investigation into alleged POW/MIA sighting provided
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Internal Security: Misc., Registration Act
Interviews with relatives of U.S. POWs concerning their contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

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News articles:

_The Baltimore Sun_ (Jan 1973)
“State adds up human bill for war”
“War foes vow to fight on”

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Oct 1970-Jan 1971
Internal Security: Misc., Registration Act
Attempts to interview relatives of U.S. POWs concerning any contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

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Investigation into the identification of alleged remains of U.S. MIAs through dog-tag etchings

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News article:
   The Birmingham News (Oct 1970)
   “POW’s wife does more than stand and wait, she’s involved”

Literature from North Vietnamese Embassy, Paris, France
   Anti-war propaganda
Newsletter:  
   POW - MIA Inc.
   What you can do to help our men
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FBI File 203-51  Roll 6, 0040-0047
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News article:
   *The Times Union* (Jan 1970)
   “Peace Tactic: War on Taxes”

FBI File CE 62-0-12449  Roll 6, 0049-0054
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POW/MIA Grassroots Association
Request for enhancement of a tape-recorded telephone message

FBI File 105-CE-67720-1  Roll 6, 0056-0060
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Report on joint U.S./Russian Commission to address POW/MIA issue

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*Jun-Oct 1970*

Internal Security: Misc., Registration Act
Interviews with relatives of U.S. POWs concerning any contact from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

COLIFAM newsletters

News articles:
*Twin City Sentinel* (Sep 1970)
“POW Letters are Returned to Courier”

“Names of 334 Captives on List Accepted by Hanoi”

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*Jul 1993*

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FBI File 100-18730  Roll 6, 0157-0176
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Internal Security: Misc., Registration Act
News articles:
  * Cincinnati Enquirer* (Mar 1970)
  "Hanoi Releases Names of 31 U.S. Prisoners"
  "N. Vietnam Lists Names of POWs"
  "Reds Ignore S. Viet Offer to Free 343 Sick POWs"
Report that no POWs or their families were contacted by COLIFAM

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Investigation into the alleged sighting of U.S. POWs in North Vietnam in 1978

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Report on MIA/POW Activists

FBI File Indianapolis 100-20786  Roll 6, 0235-0301
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Interviews with relatives of U.S. POWs concerning any contact from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) COLIFAM newsletters
News article:
*The Indianapolis Star* (Jun 1970)
“4 Hoosier Men on POW List”
FBI File Indianapolis 100-26442 Roll 6, 0303-0305
Medical Aid for Indochina (MAI) National Contacts List

FBI File 80-687 Roll 6, 0307-0310
Sep 1986
American Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) in Indochina

FBI File JN 100-1595 Roll 6, 0312-0376
Jan-Oct 1970
Internal Security: Misc., Registration Act
Interviews with relatives of U.S. POWs concerning any contact from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) COLIFAM newsletters
Peace Coordinating Committee of Jackson:
Our Position on Vietnam
American Friends Service Committee, Inc. Newsletter

FBI File LS 227-10 Roll 6, 0378-0380
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American Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) in Indochina

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Report suggesting an armed raid into Cambodia for the purpose of rescuing American POWs held in work camps
FBI File Las Vegas 100-952  Roll 6, 0396-0401
Jul 1970-Jan 1971
Interviews with relatives of U.S. POWs concerning any contact from COLIFAM

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American Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) in Indochina

FBI File 227-LV-21933  Roll 6, 0413-0455
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Missing in Action; Vietnam Conflict
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FBI File Las Vegas 227-21933  Roll 6, 0457-0492
Jun-Aug 1992
Missing in Action; Vietnam Conflict
Investigation into the possible identification of a U.S. serviceman reported as MIA in Vietnam

FBI File Las Vegas 227-21933  Roll 6, 0494-0536
Dec 1969-Jan 1971
Interviews with relatives of U.S. POWs concerning contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Service-men Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)
COLIFAM newsletters
News article:

Naples Daily News (Jun 1970)
"Naples Man Confirmed as Red POW"

Reprint from:

The Center Report (Oct 1970)
"Prisoners of War in Vietnam"
The Nation (Oct 1969)
"Prisoners from Hanoi: Were They Tortured?"

FBI File Mobile 100-2219 Roll 6, 0538-0548
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Internal Security: Misc., Registration Act
POW/MIA matters and investigating attempts of COLIFAM to contact relatives of U.S. servicemen

FBI File NY 100-168469-11,630 Roll 6, 0550-0553
News articles:

Daily World (Jan 1970)
"Anti-War Group to help families contact POWs"

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