

[REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS STAFF (PACAF)
HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, HAWAII 96863

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7 SEP 1984

PLY TO
TH OF: INA

SUBJECT: PACAF E&E Code Letter Program (U)

TO: AFIS/INAU (Attn: SMSgt Lovelady)

1. (U) The following information is provided in response to your request for information on the PACAF E&E Code Letter Program. Contained below is a history of the program in PACAF and our current guidance/ policy in relation to code letters.

2. (U) During the Vietnam War, PACAF/IN, as coordinating authority for PACOM E&E matters, developed E&E code letters for use by downed airmen. The objective of the program was to aid in locating and identifying a downed aircrew member if he had no other means of communicating with search and rescue forces. At that time, aircrews were provided with the SRU-22/P Signal Marker (Identification Panel), which was carried in the mesh survival vest. The Signal Marker was the first consideration in marking the aircrew member's position; however, any material could be used to construct a code letter. [REDACTED] alphabetic letters were used. However, letters were often used to designate landing zone markers in South Vietnam. Also, cemetery graves in Southeast Asia sometimes had the appearance of letters. As a result, reported sighting of E&E code letters required extensive analysis to determine the validity of the sighting. In an effort to overcome this problem, standard letters were modified [REDACTED]. The use of modified letters eased the problem somewhat but required the crewmember to memorize exactly what the modification was on the particular letter, since there was no system to the modification.

3. (U) In August 1972, the E&E code letter system was reorganized into an easily remembered system. The letters were, by necessity, modified but the modifications helped streamline the program. Primary letters were [REDACTED] and backup letters were either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

4. (U) Attachments 2-5 provide a list of code letters used. Attachments 2 and 3 were published in August 1972 and attachments 4 and 5 were published April 1975. The primary code letters were to be used [REDACTED] and the backup code letters were to be used [REDACTED]. The letters were to remain in effect until the various addressees were notified of a change. There was no scheduled monthly change of primary letters.

5. (U) Crewmembers were briefed that the E&E code letters were not to be carried on their person or in the aircraft in written form. In addition, aircrew members were briefed only the current letters. The letters were to be used for no other purpose than to identify and locate friendly personnel in an actual E&E situation.

[REDACTED]

6.(U) The code letters are classified SECRET NOFORN DISSEM and must be handled on a strict need-to-know basis. Military personnel of friendly nations directly concerned with on-going hostilities involving U.S. forces will be considered to have a need-to-know.

7.(U) Aircrews within PACAF are instructed as follows regarding the use of the E&E code letter.

a. (U) Upon arrival at [REDACTED] or cleared area, the aircrew member will construct the appropriate code letter on the ground, using whatever material is available.

b. (U) The letter should be as large as the area and available materials will permit. [REDACTED]

c. (U) Long thin letters are the most desirable. [REDACTED]

d. (U) Any material may be used to construct a code letter. The materials selected should have high contrast with the background against which it is displayed. For example, white parachute panels, light rocks, sand, dried weeds, logs, planks, or bamboo on a dark background; water on dry bare ground or hard packed sand, etc.

e. (U) Man-made materials which are [REDACTED] should not be used.

f. (U) In the event an E&E code letter is sighted, the following procedures apply:

(1)(U) Person responsible for sighting must debrief with intelligence personnel as soon as possible after sighting.

(2)(U) The intelligence division will notify the area Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) of the sighting by the fastest means available, commensurate with security. If secure telephone is used, a follow-up message must be sent.

(3)(U) The intelligence division will send a priority message to the area RCC, with information copy to PACOPS/INA and parent numbered Air Force/IN. The message should contain the following information:

(a) (U) Type aircraft/vehicle reporting sighting.

(b) (U) Call sign (if any).

(c) (U) Date/time group of sighting.

(d) (U) Altitude (if aircraft sighting).

(e) (U) Location (geographic coordinates, TACAN radial/DME, etc.)

(f) (U) Weather in vicinity of observation.

(g) (U) Terrain.

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(i)(U) Remarks (include any other amplifying data such as enemy defenses observed in area, etc).

8.(U) This program is still in effect in PACAF. Unfortunately in the past years it did not receive the attention it needed and as a result lapsed into dormancy. PACOPS/INAU, the current OPR for the code letter program is currently in the process of making this program an active part of PACAF E&E once again.

9.(U) Hopefully you will find the information provided helpful. If you have any questions regarding this subject request you contact Capt Tereszkiwicz, PACOPS/INAU, 449-5891.

Joseph M. Gardewin

JOSEPH M. GARDEWIN, Lt Col, USAF
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1. E&E Code Symbols (S)
2. Primary E&E Code Ltrs (S/NF)
3. Backup E&E Code Ltrs (S/NF)
4. Primary E&E Code Ltr (S/NF)
5. Backup E&E Code Ltrs (S/NF)

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PRIMARY E&E CODE LETTERS

LETTER

IDENTIFICATION

USED FROM
(DATE/DATE)



[REDACTED] TANGO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UNIFORM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] YANKEE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VICTOR

/

[REDACTED] INDIA

/

[REDACTED] JULIETT

/

[REDACTED] WHISKEY

/

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO
FOREIGN NATIONALS

The information contained in this
document will not be disclosed to

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[REDACTED]

Prepared by: [REDACTED]

NO FOREIGN DISSEM Primary E&E Code Letters (U)

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Identification</u>	<u>Used from (Date/Date)</u>
	[REDACTED] Victor	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED] India	/
	[REDACTED] Juliet	/
	[REDACTED] Whiskey	/
	[REDACTED] Hotel	/

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