

# Beret 'Killer' Is Accused by Army

Associated Press

## Saigon

The United States Army today singled out Green Beret Captain Robert F. Marasco, 27, of Bloomfield, N. J., as the triggerman who fired the pistol that killed an alleged Vietnamese double agent.

The killing resulted in murder charges against six Green Beret officers.

The Army broke a relative-

ly strict silence on the case and released the charges and specifications against the six officers despite defense

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objections, which were overruled yesterday.

### ACCUSATION

The charge sheets accused Colonel Robert B. Rheault, 43, of Vineyard Haven, Mass., former commander of the 3000 Green Berets in Vietnam, of premeditated murder, although they said he did not participate in the actual slaying.

The Army charged that Rheault, during the period June 15-20, conspired with seven other Green Berets in

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the slaying of Thai Khac Chuyen.

The specifications said Captain Leland J. Brumley, 27, of Duncan, Okla., obtained a boat to carry the victim from the Fifth Special Forces headquarters at Nha Trang and "did administer an injection of morphine to Thai Khac Chuyen to render the said Thai Khac Chuyen unconscious."

### CHAIN

"Captain Robert F. Marasco, a co-conspirator here-in, did request Captain Robert A. Wolf to obtain a heavy chain to be used in disposing of Thai Khac Chuyen, and the said Captain F. Marasco did shoot Thai Khac Chuyen with a pistol," the specification said.

It gave no further identification of Wolf, but military defense attorneys identified

him as a supply officer. He has not been charged in the case.

There also were no charge sheets or specifications listed for Chief Warrant Officer Edward M. Boyle of New York City and Sergeant First Class Alvin L. Smith Jr. of Naples, Fla.

Specifications against the other Green Berets said, however, that "in order to effect the object of the conspiracy," Brumley and Boyle carried Thai Khac Chuyen from the Fifth Special Forces headquarters building.

### TRIAL

The Army announced September 18 it had directed trial by general court-martial on the charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder against Rheault; Major David E. Crew, 33, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Major Thomas C. Middleton Jr., 29, of Jefferson, S.C.; Brumley; Marasco, and Captain Budge E. Williams, 27, of Athens, Ga.

It said charges against Boyle and Smith were being held in a b e y a n c e pending trial of the other cases.

Military sources said Boyle and Smith have been given immunity from prosecution. Defense attorneys claim the Army plans to use their testimony in efforts to convict the other six.

Brumley, Marasco and Williams are scheduled to go on trial October 20, but defense motions may bring a postponement. One of Marasco's defense attorneys will be F. Lee Bailey of Boston.

### CHARGE

Although the Army listed Marasco as the man who fired the pistol, the specifications on the premeditated murder charge were the same for all six officers.

The main charge against all six is "violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 118," premeditated murder. The specification for each officer under this charge reads:

"In that (name of the accused and unit) did at or near Nha Trang, Republic of

Vietnam, on or about 20 June, 1969, with premeditation, murder Thai Khac Chuyen by means of shooting him with a pistol."

The second charge listed against each man was "violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 81," conspiracy to commit murder. The substance of the specifications under this charge were substantially the same.

### CIA

According to defense accounts Chuyen was ordered executed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA has denied any involvement.

Chuyen, according to sources close to the case, was in charge of a team of trail-watchers used by the Special Forces' B-57 Detachment, which Crew commanded, to keep track of enemy troop movements and other activities along the Cambodian border.

The informants said he was discovered to be a double agent through films taken in Cambodia showing him in the company of known North Vietnamese.

They said Chuyen's body was weighted with chains in a bag and dumped into the South China Sea near Nha Trang. An underwater search by divers in July and August failed to turn up the body.