

ARMY SPELLS OUT BERET CHARGES

Trigger Man, Aide Named

SAIGON — (CDN) — The U. S. Army broke its silence in the Green Beret murder case today and aired specific charges against seven of eight men accused of killing a suspected Vietnamese double agent.

Capt. Robert Marasco, 27, Bloomfield, N.J., was named as the triggerman. Capt. Leland Brumley, 27, Duncan, Okla., was identified as the man who injected the victim with morphine to render him unconscious before he was murdered and his weighted body dumped into the South China Sea off Nha Trang June 20.

In disclosing the charges before the trial the Army reversed its previous position that to do so would prejudice the accused men's case.

Informed sources said the Army's tactical switch was to still rising congressional criticism of the case and counter defense lawyers' charges that the U.S. military command headed by Gen. Creighton Abrams is prejudiced against the defendants.

Overruled

Army authorities overruled two defense motions to stop airing of the charges.

"This is another example of the military's unethical conduct, a deliberate attempt to prejudice the case," said Henry Rothblatt, New York City, one of the defense attorneys.

All eight Berets, including Col. Robert Rheault, former commander of all 3000 U.S. Special Forces in South Vietnam, were charged with premeditated murder.

However, Rheault and two codefendants, Majors David E. Crew and Thomas Middleton Jr., did not physically take part in the murder, the Army charge sheets said. The messy details were left to their juniors, according to the prosecution.

Little New

In general the Army charges added little new to what was already known to observers and newsmen familiar with the case — except to officially assign specific roles.



BERET CAPT. MARASCO
Called killer



EDWARD BOYLE
"Won't Testify"

It was already known that Marasco would be accused as the triggerman. There have been persistent reports that Marasco wrote his parents expressing remorse over his role in the slaying.

For the first time the Army identified the victim as Thai Khac Chuyen, 31, a refugee from North Vietnam who had worked for Special Forces since 1965, apparently as an interpreter-translator.

The Army also specifically named the Special Forces' highly classified B-57 detachment as the center of the murder plot. Six of the accused men belong to the B-57 unit, which is housed in a separate building at Nha

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Trang and is off limits to visitors.

The B-57 group is known to deal with some of the shadier aspects of the Special Forces' intelligence operations.

The Army charged that Brumley and Chief Warrant Officer Edward Boyle of New York City carried Chuyen out of the B-57 building to a waiting boat after he had been drugged.

A new name was introduced into the case when the Army said that Marasco went to Capt. Robert Wolf to get a heavy chain, presumably used in weighting Chuyen's body after he was murdered. Wolf was identified as the B-57 supply officer. There are no charges against him.

Charges against Boyle and another one of the accused, Sgt. First Class Alvin Smith of Naples, Fla., are being held in abeyance. Both, it has been reported, have agreed to testify for the prosecution.

Significantly, no mention of Smith's role in the murder was made in the Army charges. It was Smith who blew the case wide open when he went to a CIA agent at Nha Trang, told the story of the killing and asked protection from members of his own unit.