

Discover US aircraft wreckage and pilot parachute in a prawn pond

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The authority has just discovered the wreckage of an American aircraft and other artifacts in the prawn pond of a resident in Tra Vinh province.

On 13 July, talking to Vietnamnet, Secretary of Duyen Hai township (Tra Vinh province) Duong Hien Hai Dang confirmed that the authority had just discovered the wreckage of a US aircraft in a resident's prawn pond in Long Thanh hamlet, ward 1.

According to Mr. Duong Hien Hai Dang, the functional task force of Military Region 9 has come to the site and surveyed the area where the aircraft body was discovered.



The prawn pond where the aircraft wreckage was discovered. Photo: Hữu Hiệp

On 8 July, the family of Mr. Le Van Cham (residing in Long Thanh hamlet, ward 1, Duy Hai township) discovered an oil spill from the bottom of the pond while working on the reconstruction of their prawn pond. Mr. Cham used a small tree trunk to hit that location and found a hard object.

Mr. Cham then rented a Kobe excavator to remove sediments and found several metal objects... After that, he collected the pieces ashore and sold them to a scrap buyer...

Immediately after discovering the incident, the Duyen Hai township Military Command sent a functional task force to verify, blockade, and protect the site. At the same time, the Command reported to the Tra Vinh Province Military Command for guidance and sent a military engineer force to coordinate with the party committees and local authorities to make a site report.

The authorities have collected the aircraft wreckage, a pilot parachute, some equipment with the “US NAVY” symbol, manufacturer’s mark, the year of manufacture, etc...



Artifacts discovered in the prawn pond. Photo: Hữu Hiệp

Initially, the letters printed on the artifacts identified it as the wreckage of a US Navy aircraft, belonging to the 514th Destroyer Squadron (during the war).

The engineers scanned with metal detectors and detected dense signals in the area. However, due to the muddy terrain and rainy weather, it was not possible to search for more artifacts....

Regarding the artifacts that Mr. Le Van Cham sold for scrap before, the police of Duyen Hai township are coordinating to track them down and make a custody record, pending handling.

Currently, a General Staff of Military Region 9 survey team led by Colonel Tran Quoc Khanh, Deputy Head of the Military Engineering Department, the General Staff of Military Region 9, in conjunction with the Military Region's Department of Operation, Chemistry Warfare, and Security Protection, is surveying of the area where the aircraft wreckage, pilot parachute, and other related artifacts were found.