



Originating Office: Washington (Records Management Division)

Archive File Summary: Emanuel Santana

Missing Person # USSAZ0-09-1971-856890923011
Fugitive (Military Personnel)
National Security Risk (Restricted Access)

Summary:

Emanuel Santana. Born: 3rd Feb. 1948 Geronimo, Arizona, U.S.A

Race/Ethnicity: Native American (Apache)

Enlisted US Army: 1st November 1967

Santana was an excellent soldier whose outstanding dedication and promise saw him recruited to Army Special Forces duty within a year of enlisting.

Santana's records indicate that he excelled in Unarmed Combat, Demolitions, Small and Medium Arms, Survival Techniques and latterly (see 'Project Phoenix' below) in 'Intelligence Asset Realisation' (read Interrogation).

He served two tours in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart on his second tour for outstanding bravery, rescuing a wounded comrade who had been captured and removed to an underground command and control network by the enemy. (According to his C.O. of the time he single-handedly 'smoked the whole nest out').

He achieved the rank of Master Sergeant in August 1970.

His skillset came to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency and for his third tour he was seconded to PROJECT PHOENIX, operational details of which are still classified today. It can be surmised that Santana got the opportunity to put his talents to considerable use during this period.

In March 1971, while still seconded to PHOENIX he was granted compassionate leave to attend the funeral of his mother (the last of his immediate family) in Geronimo, Az. He attended the funeral and subsequently appears to have decided to go AWOL.

The CIA considered his disappearance to be a security risk given the 'special duties' he was performing for Uncle Sam in South East Asia. Consequently his desertion attracted more attention than that of the average grunt. The Bureau, CIA, US Marshalls Office and Army Criminal Investigation Command all deployed assets in the search for him.

That search was unsuccessful however (perhaps not surprising given Santana's unique abilities and the general antipathy towards federal institutions felt by the native American community at the time).

His file with the Bureau remains open/unresolved. It has been reviewed periodically with no result.

CIA, US Marshalls Office and ACIC should be informed through the appropriate channels of any developments regarding Santana - each will doubtless have a small mountain of paper that they will be pleased to dispense with.

Sandra Chen
Supervisor
Records Review and Dissemination Section