

# Helicopter 66-16121

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1D tail number 66-16121

The Army purchased this helicopter 0367

Total flight hours at this point: 00000001

Date: 670619

Unit: DIROF SUP TRAN

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was REPAIRED IN THEATER

This was a Logistics Support mission for Resupply

Unknown this helicopter was Landing at 0050 feet and 040 knots.

South Vietnam

Helicopter took 2 hits from:

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in size. (7.62MM)

The helicopter was hit in the Cockpit

Systems damaged were: PERSONNEL

Casualties: YES

The helicopter Continued Flight.

The aircraft continued and accomplished all mission objectives.

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Information on U.S. Army helicopter tail number 66-16121

The Army purchased this helicopter 0367

Total flight hours at this point: 00000001

Date: 671209

Accident case number: 671209011

Unit: 355 AVN CO

Number killed in accident: 0 Injured: 0 Passengers: 0  
costing 6000

Crew Members:

AC W1 RG SODOUSKI

Accident Summary:

☐ On take off, a loud bang was heard. The aircraft veered with loss of tail rotor drive. An autorotation was made to a small area with incident damage. Suspect transmission output quill failed.

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Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1D tail number 66-16121

The Army purchased this helicopter 0367

Total flight hours at this point: 00000710

Date: 681024

Unit: CO C 101 AHB

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: ZC126937

## Loss to Inventory

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Information on U.S. Army helicopter tail number 66-16121

The Army purchased this helicopter 0367

Total flight hours at this point: 00000710

Date: 681024

Incident number: 681024231ACD Accident case number: 681024231 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: HHD 44 ENG GP

Hue / LZ Sally Province,

Number killed in accident: 3 Injured: 3 Passengers: 2

costing 418238

### Crew Members:

AC W1 RILEY RICHARD STEPHEN JR KIA

P W1 TH SMITH

CE E5 K TUEL

G E4 SPARKS DAVID LEO KIA

### Passengers:

□ E5 FH WINGOR, PAX, C; SGT DUNN ROBERT TERRENCE, NOT, A;

### Accident Summary:

□ AT APPROXIMATELY 1745 HOURS, 24 OCTOBER 1968, UH-1H 66-16121 WAS ON A LOGISTICAL RESUPPLY MISSION FOR COMPANY "D", 2/501ST INFANTRY BATTALION. THE AIRCRAFT HAD REFUELED AT FSB ROY APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES PRIOR AND HAD TAKEN ON 1400 POUNDS OF CARGO AND THE TWO (2) "KICK OUT" MEN. THE AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO THE FIRST LZ AND DROPPED OFF APPROXIMATELY 50 POUNDS OF CARGO. THE AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF FOR THE SECOND LZ APPROXIMATELY 1000 METERS AWAY. THE APPROACH WAS TOO FAST FOR THE SECOND LZ AND THE AIRCRAFT CAME TO A 10-15 FOOT HOVER ABOUT 15 OR 20 FEET PAST THE INTENDED TERMINATION AREA. THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER ATTEMPTED TO BACK THE AIRCRAFT TO THE LEFT REAR. IN DOING SO THE TAIL ROTOR STRUCK A TREE CAUSING THE AIRCRAFT TO TURN TO THE RIGHT. THE AIRCRAFT BEGAN TO SETTLE INTO THE TREES AND POWER WAS APPLIED IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE AIRCRAFT OUT OF THE TREES. THIS CAUSED THE AIRCRAFT TO CONTINUE TURNING AND CRASH VERTICALLY INTO THE GROUND. THE MEDICAL AID MAN ATTENDING WO1 SMITH SAID THAT HE (WO1 SMITH) HAD TOLD THE OTHER PILOT THAT HE WAS LOSING RPM PRIOR TO THE STRIKE. THIS WAS PROBABLY DUE TO A FAST APPROACH TO THE LZ AND ATTEMPTING TO STOP THE AIRCRAFT AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE LANDING ZONE. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT BEGAN SETTLING WHILE ATTEMPTING TO HOVER OUT OF GROUND EFFECT. THE APPROXIMATE WEIGHT OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS 8500 POUNDS WHICH WAS NOT AN OVER GROSS CONDITION. IT IS ALSO ASSUMED THE AIRCRAFT WAS IN A TAIL LOW CONDITION FROM THE RESULTING FLARE TO STOP THE AIRCRAFT AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE LANDING ZONE. THE RESULTANT LIFT FROM APPLYING FULL POWER WOULD BRING THE AIRCRAFT BACK AND DOWN AND ACCOUNT FOR THE TAIL ROTOR

## STRIKING THE TREE.\\

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The following is crew member information for this incident:

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Name: SGT Robert Terrence Dunn  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 10/24/68 while performing the duty of Passenger.  
Age at death: 21.8  
Date of Birth: 12/20/46  
Home City: Kansas City, MO  
Service: regular component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: 101 ABN DIV  
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division  
Service: U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 40W-028  
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 66-16121  
Service number: 17748924  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 11B40  
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea  
Compliment cause: fire or burns  
Vehicle involved: helicopter  
Position in vehicle: passenger  
Started Tour: 03/04/68  
"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew  
Current status: non-hostile dead - died of wounds/injury  
Length of service: 02  
Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.  
Reason: aircraft lost or crashed  
Casualty type: Non-hostile - died illness or injuries  
single male U.S. citizen  
Race: Negro  
Religion: Baptist - other groups  
The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.  
Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army  
Military class: enlisted personnel  
This record was last updated on 07/30/95

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Name: SP4 David Leo Sparks  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 10/24/68 while performing the duty of Gunner.  
Age at death: 19.6  
Date of Birth: 03/06/49  
Home City: Lakewood, CO  
Service: regular component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: C/101 AVN 101 ABN  
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division  
Service: U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 40W-030  
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 66-16121  
Service number: 16916965  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 67A1F  
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea  
Compliment cause: fire or burns  
Vehicle involved: helicopter  
Position in vehicle: door gunner  
Started Tour: 04/01/68  
"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew  
Current status: non-hostile dead - died out-right  
Length of service: 01  
Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.  
Reason: aircraft lost or crashed  
Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes  
single male U.S. citizen  
Race: Caucasian  
Religion: Methodist (Evangelical United Brethren)  
The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.  
Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army  
Military class: enlisted personnel  
This record was last updated on 07/28/94

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Name: WO1 Richard Stephen Riley, Jr.  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 10/24/68 while performing the duty of Pilot.  
Age at death: 23.6  
Date of Birth: 04/01/45  
Home City: Elizabeth, NJ  
Service: AV branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: C/101 AVN 101 ABN  
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division  
Flight class: 67-503/67-25  
Service: AV branch of the U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 40W-30  
Short Summary: Unit ip giving in-country check ride. went on MEDEVAC un-armed - shot down on short final to a ridgeline between phu bai & Da Nang  
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 66-16121  
Service number: W3159386  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 062B = Army rotary wing aviator, warrant officer  
Primary cause: Shot Down  
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: fire or burns

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: aircraft commander

Started Tour: 04/10/68

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Current status: non-hostile dead - died out-right

Length of service: 00

Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Roman Catholic

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army

Military class: warrant officer

This record was last updated on 08/20/95

The following is Goldbook information on US Army helicopter tail number 66-16121

It is provided here as an ESTIMATE of the history of this helicopter and is not intended to be the final authority.

This helicopter was purchased by the US Army in 0367.

Please provide any additional information on this helicopter to the VHPA.

DATE	FLT	HRS	UIC	UNIT	AREA	POST	COUNTRY
6703	1	1	WOMHAA	DIROF SUP TRAN	6TH ARMY	SHARPE GD	AVCOM
6704	0	1	WOMHAA	DIROF SUP TRAN	6TH ARMY	SHARPE GD	AVCOM
6705	0	1	WOMHAA	DIROF SUP TRAN	6TH ARMY	SHARPE GD	AVCOM
6706	0	1	WOMHAA	DIROF SUP TRAN	6TH ARMY	SHARPE GD	AVCOM
6707	0	1	3300	USARV FLT DET	VIETNAM		RVN
6708	0	1	3300	BELL HCPTR	BAILMENT	FT WORTH	AVCOM
6709	0	1	3300	BELL HCPTR	BAILMENT	FT WORTH	AVCOM
6710	0	1	3300	BELL HCPTR	BAILMENT	FT WORTH	AVCOM
6711	0	1	3300	355 AVN CO	4TH ARMY	FORT SILL	4TH ARMY
6712	0	1	3300	355 AVN CO	4TH ARMY	FORT SILL	4TH ARMY
6801	20	21	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6802	62	83	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6803	83	166	3303	355 AVN CO	4TH ARMY	FORT SILL	4TH ARMY
6804	80	246	3303	BELL HCPTR	BAILMENT	FT WORTH	AVCOM
6805	60	306	3303	355 AVN CO	4TH ARMY	FORT SILL	4TH ARMY
6806	74	380	3303	355 AVN CO	4TH ARMY	FORT SILL	4TH ARMY
6807	83	463	3241	OPM SEA NITEOPS	1ST ARMY	FORT BELVOIR	AMC
6808	119	582	WAB3C0	CO C 101 AHB	VIETNAM		RVN
6809	94	676	WAB3C0	CO C 101 AHB	VIETNAM		RVN
6810	34	710	3190	HHD 44 ENG GP	THAILAND		PACIFIC

Please send additions or corrections to:

Gary Roush

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Email address:

