

# Helicopter 66-16115

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1D tail number 66-16115

The Army purchased this helicopter 0367

Total flight hours at this point: 00001830

Date: 711104

Accident case number: 711104101 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: 173d Avn Co

Marble Mountain Province, South Vietnam

Number killed in accident: 0 Injured: 4 Passengers: 5

costing 244345

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P W1 JB OAKLAND

CP O2 RR DURBIN

CE E4 SD RUPERT

G E4 SC BEACH

Passengers:

UNK, PAX, G; UNK, PAX, G; UNK, PAX, G; UNK, PAX, G; O3 RH SMITH, FCO, G;

Accident Summary:

PILOT IN COMMAND, ^WO OAKLAND^, COPILOT, ^LT DURBIN^ AND GUNNER, ^SP5 BEACH^, HAD FILED THEIR FLIGHT PLAN AND PREFLIGHTED THEIR AIRCRAFT FOR A SERIES OF COMBAT ASSAULTS, AND ALONG WITH OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE FLIGHT, FRRMED UP ON MARBLE MOUNTAIN ARMY AIRFIELD TO START THE DAY'S MISSIONS AT APPROXIMATELY 0715 HOURS. THE WEATHER DURING THE MORNING WAS INTERMITTENTLY BAD DUE TO LOW CEILINGS AND POOR VISIBILITY. AFTER DELAYS AND HOLDS DUE TO WEATHER THEY MORNING'S MISSION WERE FINALLY COMPLETED AND THE AIRCRAFT WENT TO A FIELD LOCATION TO REFUEL. AT 1135 HOURS THE COMMAND AND CONTROL AIRCRAFT CALLED OFF THE FLIGHT OF THREE AIRCRAFT FROM THE REFUEL LOCATION AND DIRECTED THEM TO PRRCEED TO THE PICKUP ZONE (HILL 350) AND TO LOAD A TOTAL OF 14 COMBAT FOR AN ASSAUT APPROXIMATELY FOU KILOMETERS FROM HILL 350. THE WEATHER AND VISIBILITY WERE GOOD AT THIS TIME AND CONTINUED SO UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1300 HOURS 50 MINUTES AFTER THE ACCIDENT. THE FLIGHT WAS BRIEFED THAT THE LANDING ZONE WAS A PINNACLE/RIDGE LINE AND THAT IT COULD ACCOMMODATE THREE AIRCRAFT IF THEY LANDED CLOSE TOGETHER IN TRAIL. THE AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING A TRAIL FORMATION ENROUTE TO THE LZ AITH TWO ROTOR DISC SEPARATION BETWEEN SHIP K AND SHIP ^(66-16115)^ AND APPROXIMATELY 4 DISC SEPARATION BETWEEN SHIP 2 AND SHIP 3. THE FLIGHT INITIATED ONE APPROACH INTO THE LZ BUT WERE TURNED BACK DUE TO A LACK OF ARTILLERY CLEARANCE AND THE GUNSHIP FIRE IN THE LZ. A SECOND APPROACH WAS INITIATED. FLIGHT LEAD SET UP FOR A LONG, ALMOST STRAIGHT-IN FINAL IN A HEADING OF 120 - 140 DEGREES. THE LZ, AS STATED BEFORE, WAS A PINNACLE/RIDGE LINE APPROXIMATELY 300 FEET LONG, TIERED WITH ONE LARGE TREE

AND NUMEROUS SCRUB TREES INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT THE LZ. AS THE FLIGHT APPROACHED THE LZ, SHIP 1 STATTED TO DECELERATE. ^WO OAKLAND^, FLYING CLOSE TRAIL FORMATION IN SHIP 2 AND TO MAKE AN EVEN GREATER DECELERATION WHICH CAUSED HIS AIRCRAFT TO RISE ABOVE THE LEAD AIRCRAFT. ON SHORT FINAL ^LT DURBIN^, COPILOT, CALLED TO ^WO1 OAKLAND^ TO WATCH OUT FOR THE TREE. ACCODRING TO ^WO1 OAKLAND'S^ STATEMENT AND ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS, ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE WARNING THEY STRUCK THE TREE WITH THE TAILBOOM OF THE AIRCRAFT, AND FOR A FEW SECONDS THE AIRCRAFT SEEMED TO BE STUCK IN THE TREE, WOOLWING FORE, AFT, AND LATERALLY, THE AIRCRAFT SUFFERED AN ANTI-TORQUE FAILRUE DUE TO THE TRAIL ROTOR DRIVE SHAFT SHEARING JUST IN FRONT OF THE 42 DEGREE GEAR BOX. THE SHIP CAME OUT OF THE TREE IN A NOSE LOW ATTITUDE AND STARTED SPINNING TO THE RIGHT. ^WO1 OAKLAND^ DIRECTED THE SHIP TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE LZ AND ATTEMPTED TO SET IT DOWN. WHEN HE TOUCHED DOWN THE AIRCRAFT WAS SPINNING RAPIDLY TO THE RIGHT. THE AIRCRAFT SPUN AND ROLLED OFF THE EDGE OF THE EMBANKMENT APPROXIMATELY 180 DEGREES FROM THE LANDING HEADING. THE MAIN ROTOR IMPACTED WITH THE GROUND, ACCODRING TO WITNESS STATEMENTS, NEAR THE TOP OF THE HILL AND THE POWER TRAIN COMPARTMENTS STARTED TO BREAK FROM THE FUSELAGE. THE AIRCRAFT CAME TO REST AT THE BOOTOM OF THE HILL, A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED FEET FROMT HE TOP.\\

The following is Goldbook information on US Army helicopter UH-1D tail number 66-16115  
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	44	45	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6801	0	45	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6802	0	45	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6803	0	45	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6804	14	59	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6805	39	98	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6806	50	148	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6807	31	179	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6808	52	231	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6809	37	268	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6810	35	303	WCKGAA	20 TRANS CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6811	2	305	WDUTAA	187 ASLT HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6812	111	416	WDUTAA	187 ASLT HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6901	112	528	WDUTAA	187 ASLT HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6902	112	640	WDUTAA	187 ASLT HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6903	148	788	WDUTAA	187 ASLT HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN

6904	127	915	WDUTAA	187	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6905	133	1048	WDUTAA	187	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6906	81	1129	WDUTAA	187	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6907	133	1262	WDUTAA	187	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6908	114	1376	WCLGAA	20	TRANS	CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6909	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
6910	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
6911	0	1376	8003	HHD	44	ENG GP	THAILAND		PACIFIC
6912	0	1376	8003	HHD	44	ENG GP	THAILAND		PACIFIC
7001	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7002	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7003	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7004	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7005	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7006	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7007	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7008	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7009	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7010	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7011	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7012	0	1376	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVCOM
7101	3	1379	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVSCOM
7102	6	1385	WOMUAA	ARADMAC			IN MAINT	NAVAL AIR STN	AVSCOM
7103	1	1386	WHB1AA	166	TRANS	CO	VIETNAM		RVN
7104	61	1447	WHB1AA	243	ASHC		VIETNAM		RVN
7105	117	1564	WC41AA	173	AHC		VIETNAM		RVN
7106	51	1615	WC41AA	173	AHC		VIETNAM		RVN
7107	77	1692	WC41AA	173	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
7108	68	1760	WC41AA	173	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
7109	70	1830	WC41AA	173	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN
7110	0	1830	WC41AA	173	ASLT	HEL CO	VIETNAM		RVN

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Please send additions or corrections to:

Email address:

