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From: Jim Henthorn < >
To:
Cc: VHFCN1 Pilots and Crew < >
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 8:16 AM
Subject: [Vhfcn-l] This Day in Vietnam 9/10

September 10

1963: President Kennedy gets mixed signals

Maj. Gen. Victor Krulak, USMC, Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Joseph Mendenhall of the State Department report to President John F. Kennedy on their fact-finding mission to Vietnam.

The president had sent them to make a firsthand assessment of the situation in Vietnam with regard to the viability of the government there and the progress of the war. Having just returned from a whirlwind four-day visit, their perceptions differed greatly. Krulak concluded that progress was being made in the war against the Viet Cong, but Mendenhall perceived from talks with bureaucrats and politicians that the Diem regime in Saigon was near collapse and lacking popular support among the South Vietnamese people. A frustrated Kennedy responded, "You two did visit the same country, didn't you?" This was emblematic of the problem that faced the American president as he tried to determine what to do about the situation in Vietnam. Two months later, the Kennedy administration decided that the Diem government was too far gone to save and told opposition South Vietnamese generals that they would not oppose a coup. The coup began on November 1, 1963, and Diem and his brother were murdered in the early morning hours of the following day. President Kennedy was assassinated shortly thereafter on November 22. His successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson oversaw a steady escalation of the war that ultimately involved the commitment of more than half a million U.S. troops.

1964: President Johnson sends signal to both North and South Vietnamese

Following the Tonkin Gulf incidents, in which North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked U.S. destroyers, and the subsequent passage of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution empowering him to react to armed attacks, President Lyndon Johnson authorizes a series of measures "to assist morale in South Vietnam and show the Communists [in North Vietnam] we still mean business." These measures included covert action such as the resumption of the DeSoto intelligence patrols and South Vietnamese coastal raids to harass the North Vietnamese. Premier Souvanna Phouma of Laos was also asked to allow the South Vietnamese to make air and ground raids into southeastern Laos, along with air strikes by Laotian planes and U.S. armed aerial reconnaissance to cut off the North Vietnamese infiltration along the route that became known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Eventually, U.S. warplanes would drop over 2 million tons of bombs on Laos as part of Operations Steel Tiger and Tiger Hound between 1965 and 1973.

1965: Operation Than Phong IV and Operation Cold Steel are launched
The Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and US Forces conducted joint search and destroy operations near Qui Nhon in II Corps.

1968: Operation Vinh Loc launched

The 2nd Brigade, of the 101st Airborne Division and ARVN 54th Regiment conducted a pacification operation on Vinh Loc Island, in Thua Thien Province.

1968: Operation Comanche Falls I launched

The 1st Cavalry Division and the ARVN 1st Division conducted a clear and search operation in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces.

1969: Operation Wayne Boulder launched

The 1st Battalion, of the 8th Infantry Regiment conducted a clear and search operation in Binh Dinh Province.

1970: Operation Ballard Valley and Operation Dubois Square are launched

The 1st Marine Division conducted 2 search and destroy operations near Da Nang.

1970: Operation Cung Chung 3 launched

The 1st Squadron SAS and the 8th Battalion, of the Royal Australian Regiment conducted an operation to ambush a VC party in Hoa Long.

POW/MIA's Reported missing on this day during the Vietnam war.

1	09/10/65	RIVERS WENDELL B.	USN	SEWARD	
		NE			
2	09/10/66	PETERSON DOUGLAS B.	USAF	MINEOLA	
		IA			
3	09/10/66	TALLEY BERNARD L.	USAF	BALTIMORE	
		MD			
4	09/10/66	TATUM LAWRENCE B.	USAF	CHATTANOOGA	
		TN			
5	09/10/71	CORNWELL LEROY J. III	USAF	TUSCON	
		AZ			
6	09/10/71	IVAN ANDREW JR.	USAF	SOUTH RIVER	
		NJ			
7	09/10/72	MUSSELMAN STEPHEN OWEN	USN	TEXARKANA	
		TX			

Fixed Wing Aircraft Losses reported on this day in South East Asia

1	1963	T-28D	53-8367	1 ACS	34TG	USAF	Bien
							Hoa
2	1965	A-4E	149991	VA-155		USN	USS
							Coral Sea
3	1965	A-1E	52-132669	602 ACS	6251 ACW	USAF	Bien

Hoa						
4 1966	F-5C	63-8424	10 FCS	3 TFW	USAF	Bien
Hoa						
5 1966	A-1E	52-132675	1 ACS	14 ACW	USAF	Pleiku
6 1966	O-1E	56-4184	21 TASS	505 TACG	USAF	Pleiku
7 1966	F-4C	64-0832	433 TFS	8 TFW	USAF	Ubon
8 1966	EA-1F	132543	VAW-13		USN	USS
Franklin D Roosevelt						
9 1967	B-57B	52-1510	8 TBS	405 FW	USAF	Phan
Rang						
10 1967	A-4E	150047	VA-163		USN	USS
Oriskany						
11 1968	F-100F	56-3772	355 TFS	37 TFW	USAF	Phu
Cat						
12 1968	F-4B	148409	VMFA-314	MAG-13	USMC	Chu
Lai						
13 1968	F-8H	148680	VF-51		USN	USS
Bon Homme Richard						
14 1971	F-4D	66-8712	13 TFS	432 TRW	USAF	Udorn
15 1972	A-7C	156798	VA-82		USN	USS
America						
16 1972	F-4E	69-7251	335 TFS	4 TFW	USAF	Ubon

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