

CASE SYNOPSIS: ACALOTTO, ROBERT JOSEPH

Name: Robert Joseph Acalotta
Rank/Branch: Corporal E4/USA30
Unit:

Date of Birth: January 1951
Home City of Record: Greensburg PA
Loss Date: 20 February 1971
Country of Loss: Laos
Loss Coordinates: 162721N 106274BE
Status (In 1973): Missing In Action
Category: 2
Acft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1C
Other Personnel In Incident: John E. Reid (pilot); Randolph L. Johnson; David M. May

REMARKS:

SYNOPSIS: Robert J. Acalotto was part of a crew on a UH1C helicopter assigned to an emergency resupply mission in Laos on February 20, 1971. The aircraft was hit by 50 caliber ground fire.

When the helicopter landed, it was upright on its skids, with the tail boom broken off and the right aft burning. Witnesses stated that it was certainly a "survivable crash". Witnesses further noted that the left pilot door was jettisoned and that both forward seats were empty.

There were reports that the crew may have been taken captive, particularly the pilot John Eric Reid. The four crew are among the nearly 600 men abandoned in Laos who disappeared without a trace.