

NAME: William D. Pruett

KIA ✓

RANK: Senior Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 28 Jan 70

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 18 Jul 30

HOME OF RECORD: Bluefield VA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 40 Air Rescue/Recvry Sq, Udorn Afld TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Sergeant Pruett was a crew member aboard an HH-53B helicopter which was on a search air rescue mission when he was reported missing in action. The helicopter was struck by hostile aircraft fire while in a holding position awaiting entrance to the rescue area to assist the crew of a downed F-105. The helicopter was observed to explode in the air. Evidence was received on 26 March 1970 in the Department of the Air Force that the helicopter crew did not survive and their status was changed to killed in action at the time of the incident. Since Sergeant Pruett's remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.