



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

27 OCT 1998

HQ AFPC/MSIMD
550 C Street West Ste 48
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4750

CW2 John B. Konek, Retired
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Konek

This is in response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (#99-0019) of 10 August 1998 concerning Master Sergeant William C. Sutton.

Attached is a Loss Information Sheet on Sergeant Sutton which provides the circumstances of loss and is available to the general public. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, his records do not reveal an exact cause of death. We are unable to send the letter (determination memorandum) you requested because the status of Sergeant Sutton was not changed to deceased under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act. On 26 March 1970, his commander determined that he died on 28 January 1970 and changed his status to deceased.

If you interpret this "no records" response as an adverse action, you may decide to appeal this decision and write to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. Include in the appeal your reasons for reconsideration and attach a copy of this letter. Mail to:

Secretary of the Air Force
THRU: HQ AFPC/MSIMD (FOIA)
550 C Street West Ste 48
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4750

Sincerely

ANGELICA CORDERO
Freedom of Information Act
Manager

Attachment:
Loss Information Sheet

Info removed by VNCA

NAME: William C. Sutton

RANK: Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 28 Jan 70

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 05 May 35

HOME OF RECORD: Goldsboro NC

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

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

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Sergeant Sutton was a pararescueman on an HH-53B helicopter which was on a search and 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 aircraft. The helicopter was observed to explode in the air. The status of Sergeant Sutton was subsequently changed to killed in action on 26 March 1970 by an Air Force determination that he died at the time of the incident. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.