

REFNO; 1717-0-04  
 NAME; NELSON DAVID LINDFORD  
 NATIONALITY UNITED STATES

\*\*\*\*\* BIOGRAPHIC SECTION \*\*\*\*\*  
 STATUS; (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
 DATE STATUS ASSIGNED; 13 MAY 71  
 RACE CAUCASIAN  
 SEX MALE  
 HAIR BROWN  
 EYES HAZEL  
 HEIGHT 70 INS 1.77 MTRS

ACCNO 5617

SERVICE ARMY  
 GRADE O3  
 SSAN [REDACTED]  
 SERIAL NO 05442243  
 BIRTH DATE 10 NOV 43  
 CREAT DATE 12 NOV 71  
 DUTY POS ACFT CDR  
 UNIT ASGD CO C 158TH AVN BN 101ST ABN DIV  
 PW CAMP \$  
 RPD 2

WEIGHT 143 LBS 64.7 KILOS  
 COMPLEXION #  
 BLOOD TYPE # #  
 RELIGION PROTESTANT  
 HOME STATE WASHINGTON  
 GRAVE CORR 3

MED RECORD YES  
 DEN RECORD YES  
 DEN XRAY YES  
 DD1300 YES  
 PHOTO NO

DIA FILE NO #  
 PERS AUTH NO \$  
 BLOOD CHIT NO \$  
 WEAPON TYPE #  
 WEAPON SERIAL #

## INCIDENT LOCATION

\*\*\*\*\* SITE SECTION \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\* SITE DATA \*\*\*

## \*\*\* VEHICLE DATA \*\*\*

SITE NUMBER	1717-0-00	SITE TYPE	CRASH SITE	MISSION NAME	COMBAT
GRID ZONE DESG.	48Q	CATEGORY	2	CALL SIGN	AUCTION 16
UTM	XD425405	NUMBER MIS/BNR	04	CRASH TYPE	A
COUNTRY	LAOS	NUMBER RECOVERED	00	VEHICLE TYPE	UH1H
MILITARY REGION	3	NUMBER POS ID	00	YEAR	67
PROVINCE	SAVANNAKHET	JCRC SEARCH	NO	SERIAL	17341
MISSION DATE	05 MAR 71	JCRC INSPECTION	NO	ACCCY	
		OTHER INSPECTION	NO	SVC	AR
		WITNESS STATEMENT	YES	ENGINE TYPE	T53
		BOARD ACTION	YES	1 SERIAL	#

A001 01 MAR 76 01 (U) ON 5 MARCH 1971 SP4 JOEL C. HATLEY, CREWCHIEF, WO1 RALPH A. MOREIRA JR., PILOT, SP4 MICHAEL E. KING, GUNNER AND CPT DAVID L. NELSON, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, WERE THE CREW OF A UH1H HELICOPTER, (#6717341), IN A FLIGHT OF TEN HELICOPTERS CONDUCTING A COMBAT ASSAULT MISSION. THEIR AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY ENEMY FIRE AND CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES (GC) XD 425 405 IN LAOS. WHILE ON THE FINAL APPROACH TO LANDING ZONE SOPHIA AT (GC) XD 340 400, THE AIRCRAFT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE A TURN SOUTH AND WAS FORCED TO FLY FURTHER WEST THAN DESIRED.

A001 01 MAR 76 02 AT ABOUT THE TIME HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MAKING HIS FINAL TURN, CPT NELSON MADE A RADIODED TRANSMISSION THAT HIS AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN HIT IN THE FUEL CELL AND THAT HIS GUNNER HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE HEAD, HE THEN SAID HE WAS GOING TO TRY TO MAKE IT BACK TO FIRE SUPPORT BASE (FSB) ALOVI ON THE SAME FLIGHT PATH AS BRIEFED. AFTER THE OTHER HELICOPTERS HAD DISEMBARKED TROOPS AND WERE RETURNING TO FSB ALOVI, SOME CREWMEN STATED THAT THEY SAW AN AIRCRAFT, BELIEVED TO BE THAT OF CPT NELSON'S, BURST INTO FLAMES, CRASH AND EXPLODE.

A001 01 MAR 76 03 AS SOON AS THE BALL OF FLAME WAS OBSERVED, ATTEMPTS TO MAKE RADIO CONTACT WITH CPT NELSON WERE MADE, BUT NO ANSWER WAS RECEIVED, NO FORMAL AIR OR GROUND SEARCH WAS MADE BECAUSE OF ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND GROUND ACTIVITY IN THE AREA, (REF 1)

A001 01 MAR 76 04 (U) A REFUGEE REPORTED HE KNEW OF A NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN THE ZEPONE AREA OF LAOS. THIS REPORT POTENTIALLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 1717 (REF 2)

A001 01 MAR 76 05 (U) DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THESE INDIVIDUALS' NAMES AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. SP4 HATLEY, WO1 MOREIRA, SP4 KING AND CPT NELSON ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

1 SERIAL 11  
2 SERIAL \$

LAST KNOWN LOCATION      SAME AS INCIDENT LOCATION

To BE SURVEYED 29 AUG FOR POSSIBLE EXCAVATION