

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

ACCNO 5617

SERVICE	ARMY	RACE	CAUCASIAN	MED RECORD	YES
GRADE	03	SEX	MALE	DEN RECORD	YES
SSAN		HAIR	BROWN	DEN XRAY	YES
SERIAL NO	05442243	EYES	HAZEL	DD1300	YES
BIRTH DATE	10 NOV 43	HEIGHT	70 INS 1.77 MTRS	PHOTO	NO
CREAT DATE	12 NOV 71	WEIGHT	143 LBS 64.7 KILOS	DIA FILE NO	#
DUTY POS	ACFT CDR	COMPLEXION	#	PERS AUTH NO	\$
UNIT ASGD	CO C 158TH AVN BN 101ST ABN DIV	BLOOD TYPE	# #	BLOOD CHIT NO	\$
PW CAMP	\$	RELIGION	PROTESTANT	WEAPON TYPE	#
RPD	2	HOME STATE	WASHINGTON	WEAPON SERIAL	#
		GRAVE CORR	3		

***** SITE SECTION *****

INCIDENT LOCATION

*** 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	ACCY	
		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 RADIOED 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.

LAST KNOWN LOCATION SAME AS INCIDENT LOCATION

To BE SURVEYED 29 AUG FOR POSSIBLE EXCAVATION

1 SERIAL #

2 SERIAL \$