

KNIFE-13 MEMORIAL
MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, 13 MAY 1975

KNIFE-13 MEMORIAL



TSGT
JACKIE D.
GLENN
56th SPS



SSGT
GERALD A.
COYLE
56th SPS



SSGT
FALEAGAFULU
ILAOA, K-9
56th SPS



SGT
JIMMY P.
BLACK
56th SPS



SGT
BOBBY G.
COLLUMS
56th SPS



SGT
THOMAS D.
DWYER
56th SPS



SGT
BOB W.
FORD
56th SPS



SGT
GERALD W.
FRITZ, K-9
56th SPS



SGT
DARRELL L.
HAMLIN
56th SPS



SGT
GREGORY L.
HANKAMER
56th SPS



SGT
DAVID A.
HIGGS
56th SPS



SGT
MICHAEL D.
LANE
56th SPS



SGT
DENNIS W.
LONDON, K-9
56th SPS



SGT
ROBERT P.
MATHIAS
56th SPS



SGT
WILLIAM R.
MC KELVEY
56th SPS



AMN
EDGAR C.
MORAN, II
56th SPS



SGT
TOMMY R.
NEALIS
56th SPS



SGT
ROBERT W.
ROSS
56th SPS



CAPT
JAMES G.
KAYS (AC)
AIR CREW
21st SOS



1LT
LAURENCE E.
FROEHLICH (CP)
AIR CREW
21st SOS



TSGT
MCMULLEN,
GEORGE, III
(FE) AIR CREW
21st SOS



SGT
ROBERT P.
WELDON (FE)
AIR CREW
21st SOS



SGT
PAUL J.
RABER (ME)
AIR CREW
21st SOS

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR KNIFE-13 BROTHERS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE EIGHTEEN SECURITY POLICEMEN FROM THE 56TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON AND FIVE AIRCREWMEN FROM THE 21ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON. THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO THE 56TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING AT NAKHON PHANOM ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, THAILAND (NKP). OUR BROTHERS WERE VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING THREE K9 HANDLERS WITHOUT DOGS, WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE VALIANT HOPE OF SAVING THE LIVES OF THE CAPTURED CREW OF THE SS MAYAGUEZ. ALL PERISHED ON MAY 13, 1975, IN THE CRASH OF THE CH-53C SEA STALLION HELICOPTER #68-10933, CALL SIGN KNIFE-13, WHILE EN ROUTE FROM NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB TO THE STAGING AREA FOR THE MAYAGUEZ RESCUE OPERATION AT U-TAPAO ROYAL THAI NAVY BASE.

WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THEM!

THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT SHIP SS MAYAGUEZ AND ITS CREW WERE CAPTURED ON MAY 12, 1975, BY KHMER ROUGE INSURGENTS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF OF THE COAST OF CAMBODIA. PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD ORDERED THE U.S. MILITARY TO RECOVER THE SHIP AND SAVE THE CREW. 75 SECURITY POLICEMEN FROM THE 56TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON AT NKP ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, THAILAND VOLUNTEERED FOR THE MISSION ON MAY 13, 1975, BASED UPON THEIR PRIOR TRAINING FOR EMBASSY

EVACUATIONS DURING OPERATION EAGLE PULL. FOUR HELICOPTERS FROM THE 21ST SOS LIFTED OFF FROM NKP TO TRANSPORT THE SECURITY POLICEMEN TO THE STAGING AREA AT U-TAPAO. SHORTLY AFTER LIFT-OFF, KNIFE-13 FELL OUT OF THE FLYING FORMATION, CRASHING IN DENSE JUNGLE DUE TO CATASTROPHIC MECHANICAL FAILURE. ALL 23 AIRMEN ABOARD KNIFE-13 DIED DUE TO IMPACT AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE WITH EXPLODING AMMUNITION. THE SS MAYAGUEZ AND HER CREW WERE RESCUED ON MAY 15, 1975.

