SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT  
Rescue Operation   
CASUALTIES NAMES AND PHOTOS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
*“****Aim High… Fly-Fight-Win”****” — (“In Memory of”)*

USAF 24 KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY (CH-53 KNIFE-13, CRASH)

18 – 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON

04 – AF AIRCREW: 21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF NKP - (CH-53).  
01 – AF AIRCREW: 20TH SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF NKP,   
 SECURITY SPECIALIST (CH-53).  
01 – AF AIRCREW, TECH: 40TH AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SQUADRON (HH-53A),   
 NAKHON PHANOM RTRAB (NKP)

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
***“Semper Fidelis” (“Always Faithful”)***

USMC 14 KILLED IN ACTION  
02 - 1ST PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
06 - G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
03 - E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
02 - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
01 - WPNS PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF

UNITED STATES NAVY

*“Non Sibi Sed Patriae” (“Not Self but Country”)*

USN 02 KILLED IN ACTION (NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMEN)

02 - NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMAN - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
 (USMC HH-53A)

THE SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, RESCUE OPERATION

Thailand To Cambodia

Photo & Composite © 2020, Don Poss



Photo & Composite © 2020, Don Poss

# A-Z, LOD (CH-53 Crash)

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
*“****Aim High… Fly-Fight-Win*** *(“In Memory of”)*

EIGHTEEN 56TH SEC POLICE SQUADRON, 7TH AF,  
AND FIVE 21st SPECIAL OPS SQUADRON AIRCREW, KILLED LOD IN THE SS MAYAGUEZ RESCUE INCIDENT.  
CH-53A HELICOPTER CRASH, ENROUTE FROM NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB TO U-TAPAO RTAFB,   
TO JOIN MARINE ASSAULT ON KHO TANG ISLAND, CABMODIA.   
*Casualty Photos, Restored, Enhanced, Colorized by VSPA.com*

# BLACK, JIMMY P. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 20, Male. Born 24 AUG 1954, from DAPHNE, AL. Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. Non-Hostile [LOD]: Thailand. Helicopter Crash from NKP (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 124s Description: On the night of 31 January 1968, Sgt. Cyr was one of five men who manned the O-51 Bunker at Tan Son Nhut AB during the attack by NVA forces. They were directly attacked by Bangalore type charges and RPG rockets. The bunker was ultimately overwhelmed by enemy forces. Casualties and Losses during the Attack on TSN Air Base: KIA: 22 US; 29 RVN; 669 NVA/Viet Cong;. POW: 0 US; 0 RVN; 26 NVA/Viet Cong.

**BLACK, JIMMY P.**

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular  
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 20, Male.

Born 24 AUG 1954, from DAPHNE, AL.   
Tour of Duty began at,  
NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,  
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Thailand.  
Helicopter Crash from NKP (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.

Panel 01W – Line 124 \*

# COLLUMS, BOBBY GLEN SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 22, Male Born 24 SEP 1952, from HELENA, MT. Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. Non-Hostile [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W - Line 125 *COLLUMS, BOBBY GLEN

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 22, Male Caucasian.

Born 24 SEP 1952, from HELENA, AR.

Tour of Duty began at,   
NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.

Panel 01W – Line 125 \*

# COYLE, GERALD A. SSGT (E5) – Air Force Regular. Age 31, Male Born 14 MAY 1943, from BENTLEYVILLE, PA. Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 125COYLE, GERALD A.

SSGT (E5) – Air Force Regular  
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 31, Male

Born 14 MAY 1943, from BENTLEYVILLE, PA.

Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 125

\*

# DWYER, THOMAS D. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 21, Male Born JUN 17, 1953, from MIDDLEBURY, CT. Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 125DWYER, THOMAS D.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 21, Male

Born JUN 17, 1953, from MIDDLEBURY, CT

Tour of Duty began at,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 125  
 **\***

# FORD, BOB WAYNE SGT - Air Force 21 years old Male Born on 19 FEB 1954 From SEMINOLE, TEXAS NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975 Non-Hostile, Helicopter Crash (18 56th SPS were Killed) (Mayaguez Rescue Operation, Cambodia, 12-15 MAY 1975) Body was recovered Panel 01W - Line 126. FORD, BOB WAYNE

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 21, Male

Born 19 FEB 1954, from SEMINOLE, TX

Tour of Duty was at,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 125  
  
**Steve Davidson - Comment:** I have a better understanding of how things are now, but I don't agree with the "Washington D.C. bean counters" [not issuing Purple Hearts to Mayaguez SPs], but that's not unusual. Sgt Bob Wayne Ford was a good friend of mine. We were stationed together at Kingslely Field, OR, from 72-75. He left for Thailand in early 1975 and I was attending Camp Bullis en route to Korea when we first learned of his (and the others who were killed) death in the helicopter crash. You have a great web site and I'm glad to see that all Security Police who served in Vietnam are honored and remembered with integrity.

**\***

**FRITZ, GERALD W**.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 21, Male

Born MAY 6, 1954, from JUNCTION, TX

Tour of Duty was at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 125

**\***

GLENN, JACKIE D.
TSGT (E6) – Air Force Regular.
Age 36, Male
Born 10 MAY 1939, from SEYMOUR, MO.
Tour of Duty began at, 
NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 
56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON.
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975.
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01W -  Line 126**GLENN, JACKIE D.**

TSGT (E6) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 36, Male

Born 10 MAY 1939, from SEYMOUR, MO

Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.

Panel 01W - Line 126

**\***

# HAMLIN, DARRELL L. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 19, Male Born 20 OCT 1955, from IOWA CITY, IA. Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 126HAMLIN, DARRELL L.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 19, Male

Born 20 OCT 1955, from IOWA CITY, IA

Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 126

\*

# HANKAMER, GREGORY L. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 21, Caucasian Male Born 15 SEP 1953, from SAN PEDRO, CA Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 126HANKAMER, GREGORY L.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 21, Caucasian Male

Born 15 SEP 1953, from SAN PEDRO, CA

Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 126

**\***

# HIGGS, DAVID ALAN SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 20, Male Born 05 MAY 1955, from SPOKANE, WA. Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Thailand. Helicopter Crash from NKP (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 126HIGGS, DAVID ALAN

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 20, Male

Born 05 MAY 1955, from SPOKANE, WA

Tour of Duty began at,   
NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Thailand.  
Helicopter Crash from NKP (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 126

**Description: ‘**CH-53 KNIFE-13, Serial Number 68-10933, 21st SOS, with 4 Air Crew, a 56th Security Ops., and 18 56th SPS Airmen onboard, airlifted from NKP enroute to U-Tapao RTAFB. As one of three 3 CH-53s carrying 75 SPs, as requested by 7th Air Force, to join the assembling force for the SS Mayaguez Incident rescue operation.

At 2130 local, and about 37 miles west of NKP RTAFB, bound for U-Tapao, KNIFE-13 fell out of formation and crashed and exploded on impact. All 23 aboard were killed. Other CH-53s landed nearby, but exploding ammunition and burning fuel hindered all rescue attempts. The marines CH-53s continued on flight to Cambodia and on 15 May 1975, after an ongoing vicious battle, control of the SS Mayaguez returned to the United States.

**\***

# ILAOA, FALEAGAFULU SSGT - Air Force 27 years old Male Born 06 APR 1948 From SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975 Non-Hostile, Helicopter Crash (18 56th SPS were Killed) (Mayaguez Rescue Operation, Cambodia, 12-15 MAY 1975). Body was recovered Panel 01W -Line127. ILAOA, FALEAGAFULA SSGT (E5) – Air Force Regular 56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF Age 27, Male

Born 06 APR 1948, from SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 127

\*

**LANE, MICHAEL DAVID
SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. 
Age 25, Male Born 04 JAN 1950.
From JACKSONVILLE, FL.
Tour of Duty began at, 
NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 
56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON.
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975.
Non-Hostile [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01W – Lane 127LANE, MICHAEL DAVID**

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 25, Male Caucasian  
Born 04 JAN 1950.

From JACKSONVILLE, FL  
Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Lane 127

\*

# LONDON, DENNIS W. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 25, Male, Caucasian Born 21 AUG 1949, from SPARKS, NC Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 127LONDON, DENNIS W.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Age 25, Male, Caucasian

Born 21 AUG 1949, from SPARKS, NC

Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.   
Panel 01W – Line 127

\*

# MATHIAS, ROBERT P. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 21, Male Born 13 OCT 1953. from GRANADA HILLS, CA Tour of Duty began at NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 127MATHIAS, ROBERT P.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular  
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF Regular. Age 21, Male

Born 13 OCT 1953. from GRANADA HILLS, CA  
Tour of Duty began at

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 127  
  
\*

# MC KELVEY, WILLIAM R. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular - Age 23, Male Born 30 JAN 1952, from PHILADELPHIA, PA Tour of Duty began, at NAKHON PHANO RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. Non-Hostile [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 128MC KELVEY, WILLIAM R.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular - Age 23, Male  
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Born 30 JAN 1952, from PHILADELPHIA, PA  
Tour of Duty began, at

NAKHON PHANO RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

Non-Hostile [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.

Panel 01W – Line 128

**Description: McKelvey** was the last of the 630 servicemen from Philadelphia to die in the Vietnam Theater of Operations during the Vietnam Era, which the Department of Defense defines as the period from August 1964 through May 1975. The 23-year-old – Air Force Regular sergeant was killed when the from CH-53 helicopter in which he was riding crashed 35 miles southwest of Nakhon Phanom, ROYAL THAILAND, on May 13, 1975. McKelvey had left Roxborough High School in 1969 at the age of 17 to enlist. He was assigned to the 56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF in Vietnam. McKelvey had married a Thai woman and planned to adopt her daughter. In addition to his wife, he was survived by his parents and a sister. William lived on DuPont Street, in Roxborough, (PA. Source: Philadelphia Daily News 10/26/1987, Saturday, December 20, 2003). Don Graham.

\*

# MORAN, EDGAR CRAIG, II AIRMAN (E2) – Air Force Regular. Age 19, Male| Born 16 FEB 1956, from PITTSBURG, PA Tour of Duty began at NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. Non-Hostile [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 02W – Line 128 MORAN, EDGAR CRAIG, II

AIRMAN (E2) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 19, Male|

Born 16 FEB 1956, from PITTSBURG, PA  
Tour of Duty began at

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

Non-Hostile [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Cambodia—the last battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.   
Panel 02W – Line 128

\*

NEALIS, TOMMY R.
SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. 
Age 22, Male 
Born 23 APR 1953, from MT STERLING, CT.
Tour of Duty began at, 
NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 
56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON.
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975.
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered. 
Panel 01W – Line 128  **NEALIS, TOMMY R.**

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 22, Male   
Born 23 APR 1953, from MT STERLING, CT  
Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.   
Panel 01W – Line 128

**\***

# ROSS, ROBERT W. SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular. Age 19, Male Born 09 JUL 1954, from CYPRESS, CA Tour of Duty began at, NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND, 56th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON. Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975. NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Body was Recovered. Panel 01 – Line 129ROSS, ROBERT W.

SGT (E4) – Air Force Regular   
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 19, Male

Born 09 JUL 1954, from CYPRESS, CA  
Tour of Duty began at,

NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB, ROYAL THAILAND,

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975

NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 129

\*

USAF CH-53 AIR CREW

06 USAF KILLED IN ACTION OR LINE OF DUTY, DURING THE SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT 1975  
56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF, NKP RTAFB, THAILAND

CH-53 KNIFE-13, AIRLIFTED FROM NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB TO U-TAPAO RTAFB,  
WITH 18 56TH SECURITY POLICE TO JOIN THE USMC ASSAULT AND SS MAYAGUEZ RESCUE

05 — LOD, AF AIRCREW, 21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN. (USAF CH-53 KNIFE-13 CRASHED IN JUNGLE).

KAYS, JAMES G
Air Force – CAPT 03 – PILOT
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
Age 25, Male
Born 4 OCT 1949, from ATLANTA, GA
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01 – Line 127**KAYS, JAMES G**

Air Force – CAPT 03 – PILOT (USAF CH-53, Tail# ………..)  
Age 25, Male  
Born 4 OCT 1949, from ATLANTA, GA  
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND, with the  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND  
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01 – Line 127

\*

FROEHLICH, LAURENCE E.
Air Force — 1LT 02 – CO-PILOT
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
Age 25, Male Caucasian
Born 26 DEC 1949, from SODUS, MI
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01 – Line 126**FROEHLICH, LAURENCE E.**  
Air Force — 1LT 02 – CO-PILOT (USAF CH-53, Tail#[**68-10933**](https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/incident/75051333KIA.HTM))  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Age 25, Male Caucasian  
Born 26 DEC 1949, from SODUS, MI  
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,  
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND  
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01 – Line 126

\*

MC MULLEN, GEORGE E. III
Air Force Regular. TSGT – 06 . FLIGHT MECHANIC
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
Age 31, Male
Born 7 SEP 1943, from OXFORD, CA
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01 – Line 128**MC MULLEN, GEORGE E. III**  
Air Force Regular. TSGT – E6 . FLIGHT MECHANIC (USAF CH-53)

Age 31, Male

Born 7 SEP 1943, from OXFORD, CA  
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND, with the  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND  
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01 – Line 128

\*

RABER, PAUL J.
Air Force Regular – SGT - SECURITY SPECIALIST,
56TH SEC POLICE SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
Age 21, Male Caucasian
Born 21 APR 1954, from PORT ANGELES, WA
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01 – Line 128**RABER, PAUL J.**  
Air Force Regular – SGT - SECURITY SPECIALIST (USAF CH-53)  
Age 21, Male Caucasian  
Born 21 APR 1954, from PORT ANGELES, WA

Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF

Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND  
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01 – Line 128

\*

WELDON, ROBERT PAUL
Air Force Regular - SGT - E4 – AIRCREW
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
Age 19, Male.
Born 10 OCT 1955, from KANSAS CITY, KS
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND,
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the SS Mayaguez Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
Body was Recovered.
Panel 01 – Line 129
*
**WELDON, ROBERT PAUL**Air Force Regular - SGT - E4 – AIRCREW (USAF CH-53)  
Age 19, Male.  
Born 10 OCT 1955, from KANSAS CITY, KS  
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND, with the  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
Casualty was on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND  
NON-HOSTILE [LOD]: Helicopter Crash (Eighteen 56th SPS and 5 Aircrew were Killed enroute to the *SS Mayaguez* Incident and Operation Rescue, Thailand—the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

Body was Recovered.  
Panel 01 – Line 129

\*

**A picture containing person, person, indoor, looking

Description automatically generatedRUMBAUGH, ELWOOD EUGENE**  
Air Force Regular – SSGT (E5) AIRCREW (USMC HH-53A **KNIFE-53**)  
Age 31, Male Married  
Born 10 SEP 1943, from SPANGLER, PA  
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, in CAMBODIA  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN, 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF [Green Hornets - Helicopter Technician]  
CASUALTY WAS ON 17 MAY 1975  
HOSTILE [KIA], Died While Missing, HELICOPTER – CREW AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA [Mayaguez Incident]  
Religion: Nazarene  
Body was Not Recovered.   
Panel 01W – Line 125

Description: Elwood E Rumbaugh: KIA, AF Aircrew, 20th Special Ops Squadron (aboard USMC HH53A KNIFE-53, shot down while inserting marines in to hot LZ, West Beach, Koh Tang Island, Cambodia, and crashed at sea. Missing presumed drowned by 17 May 1975:

A Note from The Virtual Wall (16 APR 2002): From a fellow *Green Hornet*, Robert Hall:   
While off-loading Marines on the West Beach (Hostile LZ) of Koh Tang Island, Cambodia, in support of the Mayaguez Incident. His CH-53 [carrying marines in to a hostile LZ] was hit by ground fire. The pilot managed a single engine takeoff and headed out to sea, skipping along the water, taking on water each time hit surface. The helicopter made it nearly a mile off shore when it crashed… rolled on its left side and all the crew managed to exit … [however] SSgt Rumbaugh disappeared a short time later and is presumed drowned. SSgt Rumbaugh was serving with the 20th SOS in 1970-1971. His remains have not been recovered.  
\*

VANDEGEER, RICHARD
Air Force – 2LT (O1) CO-Pilot (CH-53A, tail # 68-10925, KNIFE-31)
Age 27, Male Caucasian, Married
Born on 11 JAN 1948, from COLUMBUS, OH
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND, with the
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN(SOS), 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF
CASUALTY WAS ON 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND
HOSTILE [KIA], Died While Missing, Air Loss Crash at Sea, Helicopter, Crew,
Died While Missing, HELICOPTER – CREW AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA [Mayaguez Incident]
Religion: Protestant.
BNR (Died while Missing).
Panel 01W - Line 132

Description [2LT VANDEGEER (USAF) previously served as an Army CAPT (1970-1971)]: Co-Pilot USAF 2LT Vandegeer was a member of the 21st Special Operations Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Airfield, Thailand. On 15 MAY 1975, he was flying in a Sikorsky Sea Stallion Cargo Helicopter (CH-53) carrying 23 Marines and 2 US Navy Corpsmen to Koh Tang Island, Cambodia. While approaching the island to insert marines in to the hostile East Beach, the CH-53 was caught in a cross fire and hit by a rocket. Severely damaged, the helicopter crashed into the sea just off the coast of the island and exploded. Enemy weapons raked the helicopter and survivors were forced to swim out to sea for rescue. Twelve aboard were rescued, including Pilot Major Corson.

Co-Pilot 2LT Vandegeer’s remains were recovered 6 DEC 1995, and identified on 22 June 2000, and on 27 Oct 2000, buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.**VANDEGEER, RICHARD**Air Force – 2LT (O1) CO-Pilot (CH-53A, tail # [68-10925](https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/incident/75051555TXT.HTM), **KNIFE-31**)  
Age 27, Male Caucasian, Married  
Born on 11 JAN 1948, from COLUMBUS, OH  
Tour of Duty began on 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND, with the  
21ST SPECIAL OPS SQDN(SOS), 56TH SPECIAL OPS WING, 7TH AF  
CASUALTY WAS ON 13 MAY 1975, in THAILAND  
HOSTILE [KIA], HELICOPTER – CREW AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA  
Religion: Protestant.  
BNR (Died while Missing).  
Panel 01W - Line 132

Description: [2LT VANDEGEER (USAF) previously served as an Army CAPT (1970-1971)]: Co-Pilot USAF 2LT Vandegeer was a member of the 21st Special Operations Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Airfield, Thailand. On 15 MAY 1975, he was flying in a Sikorsky Sea Stallion Cargo Helicopter (CH-53) carrying 23 Marines and 2 US Navy Corpsmen to Koh Tang Island, Cambodia. While approaching the island to insert marines in to the hostile East Beach, the CH-53 was caught in a cross fire and hit by a rocket. Severely damaged, the helicopter crashed into the sea just off the coast of the island and exploded. Enemy weapons raked the helicopter and survivors were forced to swim out to sea for rescue. Twelve aboard were rescued, including Pilot Major Corson.

Co-Pilot 2LT Vandegeer’s remains were recovered 6 DEC 1995, and identified on 22 June 2000, and on 27 Oct 2000, buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His name is inscribed on the *Courts of the Missing* at the Honolulu Memorial.

\*

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
***“Semper Fidelis” (“Always Faithful”)*** *— In Memory of*  
FOURTEEN KILLED IN ACTION

IN THE SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, RESCUE OPERATION

Thailand To Cambodia

USMC 14 KILLED IN ACTION  
02 - 1ST PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
06 - G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
03 - E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
02 - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
01 - WPNS PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF

# UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

# BENEDETT, DANIEL ANDREW Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single Born 30 OCT 1955, from AUBURN, WA Tour of Duty began on 15 May 1975 Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 129 BENEDETT, DANIEL ANDREW Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single Born 30 OCT 1955, from AUBURN, WA Tour of Duty began on 15 May 1975 Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 129

# \*

# BLESSING, LYNN Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 18, Male Caucasian, Married Born 16 JAN 1957, from LANCASTER, PA Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 129 BLESSING, LYNN Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 18, Male Caucasian, Married Born 16 JAN 1957, from LANCASTER, PA Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 129

# \*

# BOYD, WALTER Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 18, Male Negro, Single Born 17 APR 1956, from NORFOLK, VA Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132BOYD, WALTER Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 18, Male Negro, Single Born 17 APR 1956, from NORFOLK, VA Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132

# \*

# COPENHAVER, GREGORY SCOTT Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 - Regular Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single Born 21 JUL 1955 from PORT DEPOSIT, MD Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132 COPENHAVER, GREGORY SCOTT (Rifleman) Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single Born 21 JUL 1955 from PORT DEPOSIT, MD Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132

# \*

# GARCIA, ANDRES Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 – Regular H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 20, Male Caucasian Born 27 OCT 1954, from CARLSBAD, NM Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132 GARCIA, ANDRES Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 – Regular H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 20, Male Caucasian Born 27 OCT 1954, from CARLSBAD, NM Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132

# \*

**HALL, GARY LEE
Marine Corps – PFC – E3 – Regular
E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF
Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single
Born 26 JUL 1956, from COVINGTON, KY
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975
Casualty was on 21 JUL 1976, in Cambodia (MIA: Captured, Torched, Executed)
HOSTILE, died while missing, GROUND CASUALTY AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND
Religion: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Body Not Recovered.
Panel 01W – Line 130HALL, GARY LEE**

Marine Corps – PFC – E3 – Regular  
E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Engineer Equipment)

Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single  
Born 26 JUL 1956, from COVINGTON, KY

Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975  
Casualty was on 21 JUL 1976, in Cambodia (MIA: Captured, Torched, Executed)  
HOSTILE, died while missing, GROUND CASUALTY AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND  
Religion: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Body Not Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 130  
  
  
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**HARGROVE, JOSEPH NELSON
Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 – Regular
E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF
Age 25, Male Caucasian, Married
Born 15 May 1951, MT OLIVE, NC
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975
Casualty was on 21 JUL 1976, in Cambodia (MIA: Captured, Torched, Executed)
HOSTILE, died while missing, GROUND CASUALTY AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND
Religion: PRESBYTERIAN
Body Not Recovered.
Panel 01W – Line 130**

**HARGROVE, JOSEPH NELSON** (Engineer Equipment)  
Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 – Regular  
E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Engineer Equipment)  
Age 25, Male Caucasian, Married  
Born 15 May 1951, MT OLIVE, NC  
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975  
Casualty was on 21 JUL 1976, in Cambodia (MIA: Captured, Torched, Executed)  
HOSTILE, died while missing, GROUND CASUALTY AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND  
Religion: PRESBYTERIAN

Body Not Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 130

# \*

# JACQUES, JAMES JOSEPH Marine Corps – PFC – E2 - Regular Age 18, Male Caucasian, Single Born 18 JUN 1954, from ALBANY, NY Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY, MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 131JACQUES, JAMES JOSEPH Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 18, Male Caucasian, Single Born 18 JUN 1954, from ALBANY, NY Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY, MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 131

# \*

# LONEY, NATHANIEL ASHTON Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 1ST PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 20, Male Negro, Single Born 18 JUN 1954, from ALBANY, NY Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY, MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS Religion: Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 131LONEY, NATHANIEL ASHTON Marine Corps – LCPL – E3 1ST PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 20, Male Negro, Single Born 18 JUN 1954, from ALBANY, NY Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY, MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS Religion: Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 131 \*

**MARSHALL, DANNY GLEN
Marine Corps – PVT – E1 – Regular
E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF
Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single
Born 9 MAR 1957, from WAVERLY, WV 
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975
Casualty was on 21 JUL 1976, in Cambodia (MIA: Captured, Torched, Executed)
HOSTILE, died while missing, GROUND CASUALTY AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND
Religion:
Body Not Recovered.
Panel 01W – Line 131MARSHALL, DANNY GLEN**

Marine Corps – PVT – E1 – Regular  
E CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Equipment Engineer)  
Age 19, Male Caucasian, Single  
Born 9 MAR 1957, from WAVERLY, WV

Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975  
Casualty was on 21 JUL 1976, in Cambodia (MIA: Captured, Torched, Executed)  
HOSTILE, died while missing, GROUND CASUALTY AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND  
Religion:  
Body Not Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 131

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# MAXWELL, JAMES RICKEY Marine Corps – PFC – E2 2ND PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 18, Male Caucasian, Single Born 20 FEB 1957, from CENTER RIDGE, AR Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 131MAXWELL, JAMES RICKEY Marine Corps – PFC – E2 2ND PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Hospitalman) Age 18, Male Caucasian, Single Born 20 FEB 1957, from CENTER RIDGE, AR Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975, Casualty was on 15 MAY 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 131

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# RIVENBURGH, RICHARD WILLIAM Marine Corps – PFC – E2 Age 21, Male Caucasian, Single Born 14 JUL 1953, from San Diego, CA Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132RIVENBURGH, RICHARD WILLIAM Marine Corps – PFC – E2 WPNS PLT, G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Assaultman) Age 21, Male Caucasian, Single Born 14 JUL 1953, from San Diego, CA Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 132

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# SANDOVAL, ANTONIO RAMOS Marine Corps – PFC – E2 H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 19, Male, Caucasian, Single Born 4 MAR 1956, from SAN ANTONI, TX Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 129SANDOVAL, ANTONIO RAMOS Marine Corps – PFC – E2 H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF (Rifleman) Age 19, Male, Caucasian, Single Born 4 MAR 1956, from SAN ANTONI, TX Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA Religion: Body was Not Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 129

# \*

# TURNER, KELTON RENA Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 18, Male, Negro, Single Born 15 JUL 1956, from Los Angeles, CA Religion: PROTESTANT Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA. Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 130TURNER, KELTON RENA Marine Corps – PFC – E2 – Regular G CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 18, Male, Negro, Single Born 15 JUL 1956, from Los Angeles, CA Religion: PROTESTANT Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA. Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 130

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UNITED STATES NAVY   
***“Semper Fortis,” “ Ever Strong”*** *—*

*In Memory of*  
TWO NAVY CORPSMAN KILLED IN ACTION

IN THE SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, RESCUE OPERATION, CAMBODIA

# USN 02 KILLED IN ACTION 02 - NAVY CORPSMAN - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF

# UNITED STATES NAVY

# GAUSE, BERNARD JR. Navy – HM1 – E6 NAVY CORPSMAN - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 34, Male, Caucasian, Married Born 11 NOV 1940, from BIRMINGHAM, AL Religion: PROTESTANT Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA. Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 130GAUSE, BERNARD JR. Navy – HM1 – E6 NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMAN - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF Age 34, Male, Caucasian, Married Born 11 NOV 1940, from BIRMINGHAM, AL Religion: PROTESTANT Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975 Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia. HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA. Religion: PROTESTANT Body was Recovered. Panel 01W – Line 130

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**MANNING, RONALD JAMES
Navy — HN – E3 – Navy - Regular - NAVY CORPSMAN
NAVY CORPSMAN - H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF
Age 21, Male Caucasian, Single
Born 9 MAY 1954, from TORONTO, OH
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975
Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia.
HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA.
Religion: PROTESTANT
Body was Not Recovered.
Panel 01W – Line 131MANNING, RONALD JAMES**Navy — HN – E3 – Navy - RegularNAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMAN **-** H&S CO, 2ND BN, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARDIV, III MAF  
Age 21, Male Caucasian, Single  
Born 9 MAY 1954, from TORONTO, OH  
Tour of Duty began on 15 MAY 1975  
Casualty was on 15 May 1975, in Cambodia.  
HOSTILE, HELICOPTER – NONCREW, AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA.  
Religion: PROTESTANT  
Body was Not Recovered.  
Panel 01W – Line 131

# \*

**MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT – 03 US MARINES, MIA, CAPTURED, TORCHERED, AND EXECUTED**

**BY KHMER ROUGE, CAMBODIA. DIED WHILE MISSING. BNR.**MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT – 03 US MARINES, MIA, CAPTURED, TORCHERED, AND EXECUTED
BY KHMER ROUGE, CAMBODIA. DIED WHILE MISSING. BNR.
-- Lance Cpl. Joseph Hargrove                       Pfc. Gary Hall                                 Pvt. Danny Marshall    
H/T Stars and Stripes, for this Image.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Hargrove Pfc. Gary Hall Pvt. Danny Marshall   
*H/T Stars and Stripes, for this image*

# MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT: Operation Rescue, Thailand— The Last Battle of the Vietnam War. Photo: 15 May1975): U.S. freighter, SS Mayaguez, boarded by U.S. crew from the SS Harold E. Holt. The first ship-to-ship boarding since the Civil War.

**MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT:   
Operation Rescue, Thailand—**The Last Battle of the Vietnam War.

**Photo: 15 May1975):   
U.S. freighter, SS Mayaguez,**boarded by U.S. crew from the *SS Harold E. Holt*. The first *ship-to-ship* boarding since the Civil War.

**INCIDENT**

We identified 17 casualties in our archive that might be related to the #750515-MAYAGUEZ incident on May 15, 1975.

◼[Daniel A Benedett](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=261934)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Lynn Blessing](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=262667)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Walter Boyd Jr](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=263288)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Gregory S Copenhaver](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=267667)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Andres Garcia](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=273709)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Bernard Gause Jr](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=273995)*:: Hospital Corpsman*

◼[Gary L Hall](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=276226)*:: Engineer Equipment*

◼[Joseph N Hargrove](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=276703)*:: Engineer Equipment*

◼[James J Jacques](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=280115)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Ashton N Loney](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=284660)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Ronald J Manning](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=285621)*:: Hospitalman*

◼[Danny G Marshall](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=285830)*:: Engineer Equipment*

◼[James R Maxwell](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=286330)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Richard W Rivenburgh](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=294955)*:: Assaultman*

◼Elwood E Rumbaugh*:: Helicopter Technician*

◼[Antonio R Sandoval](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=296482)*:: Rifleman*

◼[Kelton R Turner](https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=302636)*:: Rifleman*

**REMEMBERED**

A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedElwood Eugene Rumbaugh is buried or memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. This is an American Battle Monuments Commission location.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedElwood is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 01w, Line 132.

Mayaguez: President Ford ordered the aircraft carrier USS CORAL SEA, the guided  
missile destroyer USS HENRY B. WILSON and the USS HOLT to the area of  
seizure.

The USS HOLT was ordered to seize and secure the MAYAGUEZ, still anchored  
off Koh Tang. Marines were to land on the island and rescue any of the crew.  
Navy jets from the USS CORAL SEA were to make four strikes on military  
installments on the Cambodian mainland.

n May 15, the first wave of 179 Marines headed for the island aboard eight  
Air Force "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters. Three Air Force helicopters  
unloaded Marines from the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines onto the landing pad of  
the USS HOLT and then headed back to Utapao to pick up the second wave of  
Marines. Planes dropped tear gas on the MAYAGUEZ, and the USS HOLT pulled up  
along side the vessel and the Marines stormed aboard. The MAYAGUEZ was  
deserted.

Simultaneously, the Marines of the 2/9 were making their landings on two  
other areas of the island. The eastern landing zone was on the cove side  
where the Cambodian compound was located. The western landing zone was a  
narrow spit of beach about 500 feet behind the compound on the other side of  
the island. The Marines hoped to surround the compound.  
  
As the first troops began to unload on both beaches, the Cambodians opened  
fire. On the western beach, one helicopter was hit and flew off crippled, to  
ditch in the ocean about 1 mile away. The pilot had just disembarked his  
passengers, and he was rescued at sea.  
  
Meanwhile, the eastern landing zone had become a disaster. The first two  
helicopters landing were met by enemy fire. Ground commander, (now) Col.  
Randall W. Austin had been told to expect between 20 and 40 Khmer Rouge  
soldiers on the island. Instead, between 150 and 200 were encountered.  
First, Lt. John Shramm's helicopter tore apart and crashed into the surf  
after the rotor system was hit. All aboard made a dash for the tree line on  
the beach.  
  
One CH53A helicopter was flown by U.S. Air Force Major Howard Corson and  
2Lt. Richard Van de Geer and carrying 23 U.S. Marines and 2 U.S. Navy  
corpsmen, all from the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines. As the helicopter  
approached the island, it was caught in a cross fire and hit by a rocket.  
The severely damaged helicopter crashed into the sea just off the coast of  
the island and exploded. To avoid enemy fire, survivors were forced to swim  
out to sea for rescue. Twelve aboard, including Maj. Corson, were rescued.  
Those missing from the helicopter were 2Lt. Richard Van de Geer, PFC Daniel  
A. Benedett, PFC Lynn Blessing, PFC Walter Boyd, Lcpl. Gregory S.  
Copenhaver, Lcpl. Andres Garcia, PFC James J. Jacques, PFC James R. Maxwell,  
PFC Richard W. Rivenburgh, PFC Antonio R. Sandoval, PFC Kelton R. Turner,  
all U.S. Marines. Also missing were HM1 Bernard Gause, Jr. and HM Ronald J.  
Manning, the two corpsmen.

Other helicopters were more successful in landing their passengers. One  
CH53A, however was not. SSgt. Elwood E. Rumbaugh's aircraft was near the  
coastline when it was shot down. Rumbaugh is the only missing man from the  
aircraft. The passengers were safely extracted. (It is not known whether the  
passengers went down with the aircraft or whether they were rescued from the  
island.)

Late in the afternoon, the assault force had consolidated its position on  
the western landing zone and the eastern landing zone was evacuated at 6:00  
p.m. By the end of the 14-hour operation, most of the Marines were extracted  
from the island safely, with 50 wounded. Lcpl. Ashton Loney had been killed  
by enemy fire, but his body could not be recovered.  
  
Protecting the perimeter during the final evacuation was the machine gun  
squad of PFC Gary L. Hall, Lcpl. Joseph N. Hargrove and Pvt. Danny G.  
Marshall. They had run out of ammunition and were ordered to evacuate on the  
last helicopter. It was their last contact. Maj. McNemar and Maj. James H.  
Davis made a final sweep of the beach before boarding the helicopter and  
were unable to locate them. They were declared Missing in Action.  
  
The eighteen men missing from the MAYAGUEZ incident are listed among the  
missing from the Vietnam war. Although authorities believe that there are  
perhaps hundreds of American prisoners still alive in Southeast Asia from  
the war, most are pessimistic about the fates of those captured by the Khmer  
Rouge.

In 1988, the communist government of Kampuchea (Cambodia) announced that it  
wished to return the remains of several dozen Americans to the United  
States. (In fact, the number was higher than the official number of  
Americans missing in Cambodia.) Because the U.S. does not officially  
recognize the Cambodian government, it has refused to respond directly to  
the Cambodians regarding the remains. Cambodia, wishing a direct  
acknowledgment from the U.S. Government, still holds the remains.