

**TO: KNIFE-13 Planning Committee**

**FROM: Don Poss, LM-37, VSPA Comm. Director and Webmaster**

**RE: KNIFE-13 MEMORIAL MONUMENT'S DIMENSIONS**

**SIDE-2 DIMENSIONS** (originally agreed upon)

**Note:** Dimensions of the Knife-13 Memorial Monument at its Widest and Longest measurement is: 9'L x 16"W (Lower Panel). With the additional height of the Top and Center Panels, the Monument's height is 9'H.

Viewing Panel-1 (front) and 2 (back) you will note light-gray "bevels" atop each panel. Bevels were to aid donors to "see" a dimensional-view rather than a flat 2D view. The estimated height of the actual bevel is  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ ," as determined by the granite engraver, is a part of the total-height of each panel and will not take-away from images or text at all.

- **TOP PANEL: 8'L x 8"W x 48"H**

The **Top Panel** rests centered on the **Center Panel**, with a surrounding 2" perimeter-shelf platform, presenting an in-scale visual alignment and design balance with the lower panels.

**Top Panel Contains:**

1. The Last Photo of Knife-13 before take-off from NKP RTAFB to U-Tapao RNAB.
2. SP Shield, and patches for the 56<sup>th</sup> SPS, and 21<sup>st</sup> SOS.
3. Images representing the beginning of a string of flares lighting the NKP flightline.

- **CENTER PANEL: 8' 6"L x 12"W x 18"H**

The **Center Panel** centers on the **Lower Panel** and serves as the supporting Base for the **Top Panel**. The front and back Center Panels together are surrounded by a 2" side-perimeter shelf, with a 3" side-ends-perimeter shelf. Measurements provide visual alignment and balance with the above and lower panels.

**Center Panel Contains:**

1. NKP CH-53C Flightline, with 56<sup>th</sup> SPS helicopters boarding 75 SP volunteers to join Mayaguez assault and rescue force. In foreground, eighteen SPs are seen in chalk line await boarding Knife-13. Aircrewmembers are onboard. Last Photo is soon to be taken.
2. K9 handler and dog can be seen in the field securing the flightline.

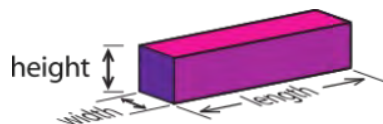
- **LOWER PANEL: 9'L x 16"W x 18"H**

The Lower Panel, as placed on a level foundation, supports the Center and Top Panels for the seven and a half tons Knife-13 Memorial Monument.

**Lower Panel Contains:**

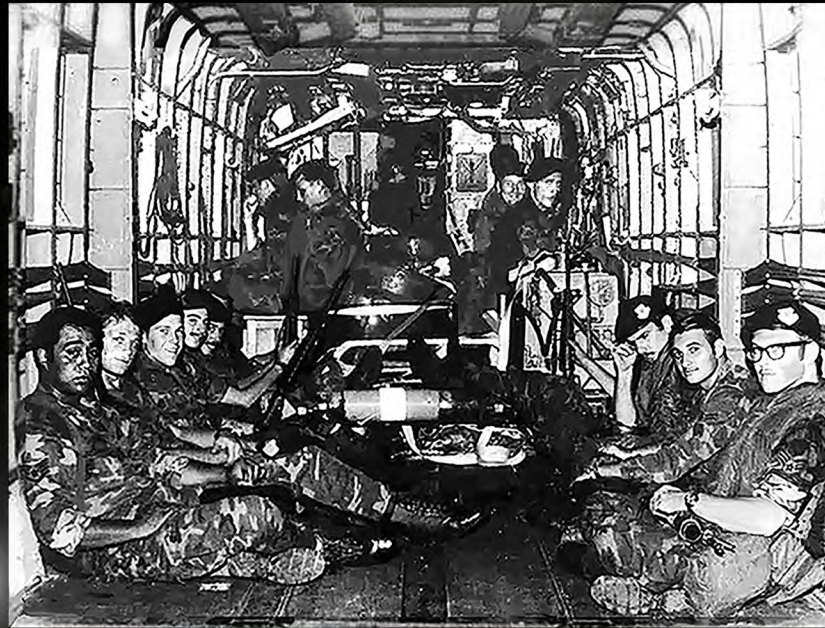
Sgt. J.C. Hagler's poem "Knife-13 Goodbye." SSgt. Hagler is the sole survivor of Delta Squad, Knife-13; May 13 1975.

**LEGEND:**



## KNIFE 13 MEMORIAL

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



### KNIFE-13 GOODBYES

STANDING ON THE METAL TARMAC AT U-TAPO, PEERING AT STARS ON THAT WARM MAY NIGHT, THREE BLINKING LIGHTS APPEARED ON THE HORIZON... HEARTBROKEN, THE FOURTH NOWHERE IN SIGHT.

LANDING IN BREATHLESS SLOW MOTION, NOT KNOWING WHICH ONE WENT DOWN, WE WERE TOLD THAT OUR BROTHERS WERE LOST ... FOUR JOLLY GREENS, NOW ONLY THREE.

STANDING THERE, MY HEART SINKING WITH THE POUNDING ARRIVAL OF EACH WHIRRING ROTOR, READING THE NUMBERS ON THEIR SIDES AS THEY POWERED DOWN EACH PULSING JET MOTOR, I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT MY DELTA SQUAD BROTHERS WOULD NOT DISEMBARK. MY BROTHERS NO LONGER THERE. I BEGAN A SOUL QUENCHING REALITY, A MISSING SPARK, MY YOUTHFUL SPIRIT QUICKLY LOST.

HEROES WHO VOLUNTEERED AND BROKE BREAD WITH ME, NOW THE GHOSTS OF KNIFE-13. THROUGH GOD'S INTERVENTION I HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEM JUST HOURS BEFORE, HANDSHAKING AND HUGGING GOODBYES, NOT REALIZING THERE WOULD NEVER BE MORE. I SHIFTED BETWEEN ANGER, DISPAIR, AND THE REALIZATION I WOULD NEVER AGAIN SEE MY BROTHERS ALIVE...A TWENTY-YEAR OLD SERGEANT, INSTANTLY GROWING IN MATURITY TO A TEMPERED OLD THIRTY-FIVE.

THEY ARE ALWAYS IN MY THOUGHTS, NOW AND IN THE DECADES SINCE THAT WARM AND FATEFULLY CLEAR NIGHT, WHERE THREE BLINKING LIGHTS APPEARED...HEARTBROKEN, THE FOURTH NOWHERE IN SIGHT.

SGT. J.C. HAGLER, 56TH SPS, NKP, THAI, 1974-1975, SOLE SURVIVOR OF DELTA SQUAD, KNIFE-13, MAY 13, 1975.

## DONATE

PLEASE HELP VSPA BUILD THE KNIFE-13 MEMORIAL TO HONOR OUR FALLEN

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