

HOLLAND, LAWRENCE THOMAS



Name: Lawrence Thomas Holland
Rank/Branch: O4/US Air Force
Unit: Unknown (per Air Force)
Date of Birth: 15 May 1934
Home City of Record: Alhambra CA
Date of Loss: 12 June 1965
Country of Loss: South Vietnam
Loss Coordinates: 113431N 1065341E (YT088795)
Status (in 1973): Killed/Body Not Recovered
Category: 1
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: F100D
Refno: 0097
Other Personnel in Incident: (none missing)

Source: Compiled by Homecoming II Project 01 April 1990 with the assistance of one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK 1998.

REMARKS: EJECTED - KILLED IN SHOOTOUT

SYNOPSIS: The North American F100 "Super Sabre" first saw action in Southeast Asia in northwest Laos in May 1962. F100 operations in Vietnam began in 1965, and took part in Operation Flaming Dart, the first U.S. Air Force strike against North Vietnam in February of that year. Further deployments of the aircraft to the area left just five F100 squadrons in the United States.

Various modifications were made to the aircraft affectionately called "Hun" or "Lead Sled" by its pilots and mechanics over the early years, gradually improving night bombing capability, firing systems and target-marking systems. The single seat models D and F were good at top cover and low attack, and could carry a heavy load of munitions.

Major Lawrence T. Holland was the pilot of an F100D dispatched on a tactical mission over South Vietnam. His aircraft was the lead in a flight of two F100's. After making passes on a target near Don Luan in Phuoc Long Province, Maj. Holland radioed his aircraft had been hit by hostile fire. A parachute was observed to alnd in 100 foot trees.

A rescue helicopter landed in the nearest clearing and the helicopter crew proceeded on foot into the woods. They were fired upon by Viet Cong and they saw the enemy drag the limp body of Maj. Holland into a ditch. The helicopter crew were unable to rescue Maj. Holland.

In late August, 1971, the Department of the Air Force received information which they believed sufficient to determine that Holland had died at the time of the incident. It was determined Holland had been shot and killed by Viet Cong soldiers after he opened fire on them. Maj. Holland was reportedly buried in the immediate vicinity of the incident. At this time, his status was changed to Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered.

Holland is one of many who were almost in the grasp of rescue teams when they were last seen. Holland appears to have been dead at that time, but many others were alive. Some of the Americans who remain missing were actually photographed in captivity, only to disappear.

Since the war ended, nearly 10,000 reports have been received relating to Americans missing in Southeast Asia. Some authorities have reluctantly concluded that hundreds of Americans are still alive in captivity today. It would not appear that Lawrence T. Holland is one of them. But if there is even one American still alive, this government, which sent him, has a moral and legal obligation to bring him home.