

29Apr66 Capt. Leo Boston

[Air Force Magazine](#)

Final Resting Place for Vietnam War Pilot:

Air Force officials on Friday will bury **Col. Leo S. Boston** of Canon City, Colo., with full military honors at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Defense Department forensic scientists identified the Vietnam War pilot's remains in April. Boston went missing over North Vietnam west of the Black River in Son La Province on April 29, 1966, while flying his A-1E Skyraider during a search and rescue mission. Then a captain, he flew with the 602nd Fighter Squadron out of Thailand. DOD considered him missing-in-action until April 1978, when his status changed to presumed dead. The Air Force promoted Boston to the rank of colonel while he was listed as MIA. Between 1996 and 2005, joint US-Vietnamese teams investigated Boston's case, eventually recovering aircraft wreckage, human remains, and crew-related equipment that led to his identification. (Colorado Springs [release](#))



Airman missing in action 45 years to be buried at Academy

7/13/2011 - **U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS)** -- An Airman who went missing in action over North Vietnam in 1966 will be buried at the Air Force Academy on July 15 with full military honors.

Col. Leo S. Boston of Canon City, Colo., was a member of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, in 1966. Then a captain, he was the pilot of an A-1E Skyraider which was on a search and rescue mission when he was reported missing.

The general procedure for a rescue escort entailed two A-1 Skyraiders flying directly to the search area to look for signs of the downed crewmen while two other A-1s escorted the rescue helicopter to the area. If necessary, the A-1s would attack any enemy in the area with bombs, rockets and cannon fire so that the rescue helicopter could land.

His aircraft, the lead plane in a flight of two, became separated from the other aircraft during the mission. No visual contact was made and no radio transmissions were received from him. The

last known location of the flight was about 5 miles west of the Black River in Son La Province, North Vietnam. The object of Boston's search is unknown. There were several pilots missing in this general vicinity on that day.

He remained in MIA status until April 27, 1978, when his status was changed to presumed dead. During the time he was listed as MIA, he was promoted to the rank of colonel.

Between 1996 and 2005, joint U.S.-Vietnam teams, led by members of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, analyzed numerous leads, interviewed villagers in Son La Province and conducted excavations and eventually recovered aircraft wreckage, human remains and crew-related equipment.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA, which matched that of Boston's mother and brother, in the identification. His remains were positively identified April 4, 2011.

With the accounting of the colonel, 1,687 service members still remain missing from the conflict.