

CPT Robert F. Coady USAF 602 SOS A1H Sandy 10 18 Jan 1969 7 W Tchepone, Laos. During Stormy 02 SAR (F4D), Cpt Coady was struck by small arms fire during pass over survivor and crashed. His remains were never recovered. Stormy 02B was recovered.

LTC Richard A. Walsh III USAF 602 SOS A1J Sandy 1 15 Feb 1969 38 NE Chavane, Laos opposite A Shau Valley. Shot down by 37mm AA during SAR for downed F4D crew. Remains were never recovered. Back seater from F4D was rescued.

MAJ Gerald R. Helmich USAF 6 SOS A1H Spad 02 12 Nov 1969 6 SSW Ban Phanop Laos. During Owl 07/Packard 01 SAR, Maj Helmich was laying smoke screen when struck by ground fire and crashed. His remains were never recovered. Both survivors from Owl 07 were rescued.

In addition, I have incomplete info for the following:

CPT Walter F. Draeger Jr. USAF (Unit Unknown) A1H (Call Sign Unknown) 4 April 1965 NE Thanh Hoa, NVN over Gulf of Tonkin. During airstrikes against the bridge at Thanh Hoa, Cpt Draeger was flying a VNAF aircraft and flew cover for an F105D pilot that ejected over water. He was shot down and KIA by AAA while covering the rescue attempt and was awarded the Air Force Cross. The F105 pilot was recovered KIA.

LTC Roy A Knight Jr. USAF 602 ACS A1E (Call Sign Unknown) 19 May 1967 Northern Laos. I read that LTC Knight was lost during a SAR on that date and was awarded the Air Force Cross. I have not been able to find any information to verify this. I have seven aircraft listed as lost in NVN that day (6 USN, 1 USMC), but none in Laos. No survivors from the NVN losses were recovered. I have a list of SEA Air Force Cross recipients published in 1982 that does not list a citation for LTC Knight. Maybe you might have some additional info on this.

The above information comes from several different sources both official and unofficial and may have some errors. I hope that at least this will serve as a starting point for you to follow up. No doubt, there were other losses and as I find them, I'll pass on the info.

By the way, I really enjoyed your book and look forward to Volume II. If there is anything I can do to help, let me know.

John Lopez Jr
Major, US Army, Retired