

Robert LaPointe

From: Lopez John - Contractor MSTF [lopezjo@lewis.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2002 9:15 AM
To: 'rlapointe@gci.net'
Subject: Sandy Losses

My name is John Lopez and I am a frequent visitor to your website. For many years I've had an interest in the air war over SEA, especially the out country war. Over the years I have put together a log of aircraft losses over both North Vietnam and Laos. Based on my info, I have the following for Sandy losses:

CPT Richard J. Robbins USAF 602 ACS A1E (Call Sign Unknown) 19 April 1966 Near Mu Gia Pass, Laos. During SAR for a downed O1F, Cpt Robbins was shot down by 37mm AA while flying low over the crash site. The O1F pilot was killed in the crash and remains returned in 1998. Cpt Robbins was never recovered.

CPT Leo S. Boston USAF 602 ACS A1E (Call Sign Unknown) 30 April 1966 80 NW Hanoi, NVN. During SAR for downed RF101C, Cpt Boston disappeared without a trace. It was not until after the war that the USAF confirmed that he had been shot down by a MIG-17. The RF101C pilot was captured.

Maj Theodore J. Schorack Jr. USAF 602 ACS A1E Sandy 31 9 June 1966 25 SW Dong Hoi, NVN.

CPT Robert I. Bush USAF 602 ACS A1E Sandy 41 9 June 1966 25 SW Dong Hoi, NVN. Lost during SAR for downed F105D. The downed pilot was recovered but as the rescue force was egressing the AO both Sandys collided and crashed. Both pilots presumed KIA.

CPT Herbert C. Nichols USAF 602 ACS A1E Sandy 31 1 Sep 1966 13 NW Dong Hoi NVN. During SAR for a downed F104C, Cpt Nichols and his wingman were struck by 37mm AA. The wingman flew back to Thailand where he bailed and was rescued. No trace was ever found of Cpt Nichols. The F104C pilot was captured.

CPT Allen S. Cherry USAF (Unit Unknown) A1E (Call Sign Unknown) 9 Aug 1967 Southern NVN. Information I have was that Cpt Cherry was lost during SAR for a downed RF4C. I have no details other than both RF4C crewmen were captured. Cpt Cherry's remains were returned in 1997.

MAJ Donald E. Westbrook USAF 602 ACS A1E (Call Sign Unknown) 13 March 1968 LS 85, Laos. Information I have is that he was shot down during SAR for personnel that were possibly E&E from LS 85 after it was overrunned 11 March. Other reports say he was flying CAS in support of the fight at LS 85. I don't have any details.

MAJ Henry A. Tipping USAF 6 ACS A1H (Sandy 11) 2 July 1968 Hit 17 NW Dong Hoi NVN, crashed in SVN. This was the Scotch 03 SAR (F105D). During the 2d day, Maj Tipping was hit by 37mm AA and was forced to head back to Da Nang. He crashed enroute in Quang Tri Province SVN. Remains were never recovered. The F105D pilot was rescued.

MAJ Arthur R. Sprott USAF 6 ACS A1H Spad 12 10 Jan 1969 20 SW Da Nang, SVN. Enroute to SAR in Laos when Maj Sprott and his wingman were both hit by ground fire near Da Nang and bailed. Maj Sprott's parachute failed to fully deploy and he was KIA. SAR forces unable to recover remains. Wingman was recovered.