

17Mar69 Dinan SAR not successful

I managed to track down the PJ from that mission: Leland Sorenson, who shared an incredibly emotive recollection of that day with me. He recalled the JG16 pilot that day being the late Col John Morse, and he thinks the crew chief was the late William Jordan, but he can't recall who the co-pilot was. As Leland put it, he was pretty much in the dark as to their location that day, so I'm now hoping to track down the co-pilot, in the remote chance that he may help us get something better than the multiple 6-digit grid coordinates that we have for 1LT Dinan.

Attached is my attempt to construct a nominal roll of Det 1 at the time of 1LT Dinan's loss, and I hope it may prove useful for you and other Det 1 veterans to re-connect. I'm glad to see that you and Clifton Caffall managed to link-up, for I had seen where you were seeking him a few years back on www.vietvet.org. The Internet is a mixed blessing, but certainly a welcome tool in this regard.

Best regards,
Niall

-----Original Message-----

From: THOMAS NEWMAN [<mailto:tanewman@wans.net>]

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 6:20 PM

To: Brannigan, Niall R CIV OSD DPMO

Cc: Clif Caffall; dhorka@aol.com; John Cassidy; Bob Lapointe

Subject: 1LT Dinan Search

Mr. Brannigan,

Please forgive the delay in my reply which was due to computer server issues.

I'm sorry I can be of no definitive help; I served in Det 1, 40th ARRS, but completed my tour and returned to the US in early Feb '69.

If you've contacted Doug Horka, he may still be a valuable source, as he was there at that time. He also serves in a key position with the Pararescue Assoc, and may have other resources there. Two other sources who might help are Bob LaPointe, who wrote a 2-volume history of the PJs and missions in Vietnam, and John Cassidy who serves the brotherhood as a communication conduit (jcassidy@alaska.net). The Jolly Green Association may also be of help, since it wasn't uncommon for crews from more than one station to be involved in a rescue. I don't have a contact there, but one may be available through the PJ Assoc.

Thank you for your efforts on 1LT Dinan's behalf. After TSgt Allen J. Avery's repatriation and interment at Arlington on 6 Apr 12, I can testify to the importance of your work. I wish you every success.

Respectfully,

From: Brannigan, Niall R CIV OSD DPMO [<mailto:Niall.Brannigan2@osd.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 9:36 AM
To: 'tanewman@wans.net'
Subject: FW: Seeking veterans of Det 1, 40th ARRS from 1969

Dear Mr. Newman,

Pardon the intrusion, but I located your e-mail on the www.vietvet.org website, when you were seeking contact with Clifton Caffall, and hope that this e-mail address is still valid.

I am an historian with the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and am seeking crew members of JG 16, which sought to recover 1LT David T. Dinan, an F105D pilot downed over Laos on 17 Mar '69, and whose remains have never been recovered. Although the PJ of JG 16 saw 1LT Dinan's body (he had ejected safely, but was killed upon landing on the wooded karst mountainside), enemy ground fire prevented a recovery.

Since the official grid coordinate recorded for the site of 1LT Dinan's body had merely 6 digits, and multiple other sites have been suggested by witnesses and informants over the years, we have never found any evidence of his remains to prompt an excavation. I'm specifically looking for crew members of JG 16, or the accompanying JG 09, in the remote chance that they may be able to assist with better defining the exact location of 1LT Dinan's remains.

I have made contact with Doug Horka (A1C with Det 1 in '68-'69), who does not recall this SAR mission, nor who comprised the crew of JG 16 or JG 09 that day. Any help you might provide would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Niall Brannigan
Southeast Asia Division
Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
703-699-1229

Tom Newman

-----Original Message-----

From: Brannigan, Niall R CIV OSD DPMO [<mailto:Niall.Brannigan2@osd.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 9:36 AM
To: 'tanewman@wans.net'
Subject: FW: Seeking veterans of Det 1, 40th ARRS from 1969

Dear Mr. Newman,

Pardon the intrusion, but I located your e-mail on the www.vietvet.org website, when you were seeking contact with Clifton Caffall, and hope that this e-mail address is still valid.

I am an historian with the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and am seeking crew members of JG 16, which sought to recover 1LT David T. Dinan, an F105D pilot downed over Laos on 17 Mar '69, and whose remains have never been recovered. Although the PJ of JG 16 saw 1LT Dinan's body (he had ejected safely, but was killed upon landing on the wooded karst mountainside), enemy ground fire prevented a recovery.

Since the official grid coordinate recorded for the site of 1LT Dinan's body had merely 6 digits, and multiple other sites have been suggested by witnesses and informants over the years, we have never found any evidence of his remains to prompt an excavation. I'm specifically looking for crew members of JG 16, or the accompanying JG 09, in the remote chance that they may be able to assist with better defining the exact location of 1LT Dinan's remains.

I have made contact with Doug Horka (A1C with Det 1 in '68-'69), who does not recall this SAR mission, nor who comprised the crew of JG 16 or JG 09 that day. Any help you might provide would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Niall Brannigan
Southeast Asia Division
Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
703-699-1229