

1 May 1972

O-2A serial ..? 20 TASS, 366 TFW, USAF, Da Nang
1Lt W L Jankowski (survived)

On 1 May the city of Quang Tri fell to the North Vietnamese invaders. Four HH-53s made a daring emergency evacuation of 132 American and South Vietnamese troops under intense close quarter fire. Throughout the day FAC aircraft brought in air strike after air strike on the enemy forces surrounding the city. The only fixed-wing aircraft lost during the evacuation was an O-2 FAC that was shot down near Quang Tri on 1 May. 1Lt Jankowski bailed out safely from his aircraft and was later recovered. This was the first confirmed US fixed-wing aircraft lost to the new SA-7 Strela man-portable missile. The 57 inch-long missile guided to the heat produced by the aircraft's engines and was a particular threat to slow-moving aircraft and helicopters, especially at altitudes below about 6,000 feet.