

20May72 Bowleg 02A

☪️☪️ **TODAY IN SEA AIR WAR HISTORY** 🇺🇸🌐 Saturday, 20 May 1972

.
An HH-53C S-JGG from the 40th ARRS (NKP) crewed by Capt. [Mark Schibler](#) (P), Clifton L. "Rufus" Hutchinson (CP), SSgt. Tommie Bryant Jr. (FE), Sgt. Paul C. Perry (PJ) and Amn. Robert W. Mason (PJ) flew to within 35 miles of Hà Nội (205700 North 1051100 East) to rescue the pilot of an F-4D (Call sign "Bowleg 02-Alpha") 555 TFS, 432 TRW, Udorn RTAFB: 1st Lt. John D. Markle (P) after he and his back seater Capt. James W. Williams (WSO) flying his 228th combat mission ejected from their aircraft after being hit by an Atoll missile fired by a VPAF MiG-21 flown by Phi công-Đỗ Văn Lanh. Capt. Williams was taken as a POW before he could be rescued.

The HH-53C high bird, also from the 40th ARRS, on this mission was crewed by Gary L. Gamble (P), John M. Gillespie III (CP), Denny R. Sanders (FE), Donald H. Goodlet (PJ) and William A. Worber Jr. (PJ).

.
"Vietnam Air Losses" by Chris Hobson & "On a Steel Horse I Ride" by Darrel D. Whitcomb & "Taking Fire" by Kevin O'Rourke and Joe Peters