

☪☪☪ **TODAY IN CSAR AIR WAR HISTORY** Thursday, 1 June 1972: Linebacker I

"Any US aircraft - this is Oyster-Zero-One-Bravo -- over."

{The Search & Rescue for **Oyster 01-Bravo**}

Background: Flying pre-strike MIGCAP support on the first day of Operation Linebacker I (10 May 1972) Major Bob Lodge and Capt Roger Locher (F-4D s.n. 65-0784, "Oyster 01") shotdown a MiG-21, then at approximately 0945L are shotdown themselves by 30mm cannon fire from an undetected J-6 (aka MiG-19) 60 miles NW of Hanoi, near Yên Bái MiG-19 airfield. A J-6 pilot of the 1st Flight, 925TH Fighter Regiment claimed the shootdown for the Việt Nam People's Air Force.

Oyster 01 was observed to be on fire in an inverted flat-spin during descent and impacted the ground in a ball of fire. No chutes were seen or 'beepers' heard from either crewman. Maj Lodge was MIA (KIA). Capt Locher was MIA.

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Editor's note: The Oyster 01-Bravo SAR effort is perhaps the greatest and most audacious in all of U.S. Air Force history. Having escaped and evaded capture for over three weeks in Route Package 5 of North Việt Nam, Capt Roger Locher was located on 1 June 1972 and rescued the following day, after spending 23 days on the ground, deep in enemy sovereign territory.