

17 June 1972

A-1E 52-133857 1 SOS, 56 SOW, USAF, Nakhon Phanom

Maj Esequiel Martinez Encinas (KIA)

A Skyraider was lost near Muang Khongxedon, 25 miles north of Pakse during a Steel Tiger mission in southern Laos. A flight of two aircraft was directed onto a target by a Covey FAC and made multiple passes. Maj Zeke Encinas was diving on his sixth pass when his aircraft was seen to start smoking and continue its dive until it crashed. There was no apparent attempt to escape and the pilot may have been wounded. A ground team later searched the wreck and found the pilot's remains as well as evidence of shrapnel damage to the aircraft's cockpit, probably from an exploding round of 23mm AAA.