

Nail 89 27Jan73

OV-10A

23 TASS, 56 SOW, NKP

Capt George W. Morris and 1st Lt Mark A. Peterson (both KIA)

This was the last combat loss in SVN before the cease fire took effect

When a Navy F-4J was shot down near Quang Tri, a Nail FAC was diverted to the area to search for survivors. As the aircraft approached the incident site at 6,000 feet, it was hit by an SA-7 missile and the crew were forced to eject as the aircraft spun down out of control. Observers saw two good parachutes and Lt. Peterson made voice contact on his survival radio and stated that he was about to be captured. A rescue attempt failed due to intense enemy activity and the crew was posted as MIA. After one of the survivors of the Navy F-4 was released as a POW (LtCdr Kientzler) reported that he saw about 30 VC firing at Peterson and Morris as they parachuted down.

27Jan 73

F-4J

VF-143, USN, USS Enterprise

Crd Harley H. Hall (KIA) and LtCdr Phillip A. Kientzler (POW)

This aircraft was lost near Quang Tri on the very day that the Paris Peace Accords were signed between the USA and NVN. The Phantom was flown by the CO of VF-143, was bombing a number of trucks on a road about 8 miles north of the city and was hit by AAA as it pulled up from its third pass. The aircraft caught fire and the flight controls failed leading to a loss of control. Both crew ejected at 4000 feet and were seen to land only about 100 feet apart near a village on an island in the Cau Viet River. Cdr Hall was seen to be moving about and to discard his parachute. Lt Cdr Kientzler was captured and was told that Cdr Hall had been killed by North Vietnamese soldier. Kientzler was released on 27 March 73. Cdr Hall's remains were returned to USA for burial in 1995.