

**Information on U.S. Air Force helicopter HH-53C tail number 68-10362**

Date: 06/14/1973 MIA-POW file reference number: 1988

Incident number: 73061414.KIA

Unit: 40th ARRS

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY

This was a Rescue and Recovery mission for search

Cambodia – UTM grid coordinates: VV024427

Systems damaged were: PERSONNEL / Casualties = 03 DOI.

The helicopter crashed, both mission and flight capability were terminated.

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Reference Notes. Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Survivability/Vulnerability Information Analysis Center Helicopter database. Also: 1988, MPC, 90469, CPLL, PACAF (Pacific Air Force.)

**Crew Members:**

C MSG MCLEOD DAVID VANCE JR BNR

AC 1LT MEADOR FRANCIS ELMORE KIA

P CPT ROVITO GILBERT ALLAN KIA

**REFNO Synopsis:**

CASE SYNOPSIS: DAVID VANCE MCLEOD, JR.

Name: David Vance McLeod, Jr.

Rank/Branch: MSGT E7/USAF

Date of Birth: 24 September 1945 / Home City of Record: Jacksonville, FL

Loss Date: 14 June 1973

Country of Loss: Cambodia / Loss Coordinates: 130259N 1040559E

Status (in 1973): None

Category: 3

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: HH-53C

**SYNOPSIS:**

David V. McLeod was aboard an HH-53C helicopter when he became missing on June 14, 1973 in Northeastern Cambodia. It is not known what happened to the rest of the crew. Few American planes were shot down in Cambodia during this time frame. An F-4 piloted by Douglas Martin and with backseater Samuel James had been shot down April 18. An F-4 piloted by Samuel Cornelius with backseater John Smallwood was shot down June 16. These were the only Americans missing during the spring and summer of 1973 in Cambodia. In July 1973, a South Vietnamese agent reported talking to a refugee who had seen three Americans dressed in flight uniforms in captivity near Kompong Borey Hamlet in Prey Veng Province. (Remember that all events described are occurring AFTER the war with Vietnam "ended" and 591 American POWs were released from Vietnam.) The agent was able to make contact with a Communist cadre who said the three were airmen who had been downed in July 1973. The cadre went on to say that they were being taken to Loc Ninh (South Vietnam) to be held for exchange at a later date. No exchange ever occurred. It is assumed, since these three aircraft are the only ones missing in Cambodia that this report pertains to three of the five Americans involved. Nothing has been heard of the five since

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

<http://www.flyarmy.org/incident/73061414.HTM>

*Edited for formatting only*