JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 22 OCTOBER 1993

========== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ==========

REFNO: 0961-0-01 (ACCNO 0154)
Name: LANCASTER, KENNETH RAY

Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Date Status assigned: 6 Mar 1978

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	# #
Grade	E4	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	#
Serial No	51664868	Height	68 in /1.73 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	24 Jun 1946	Weight	170 lb / 77.0 kg	Duty pos	TEAM LDR
Home State	MARYLAND	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	$

========== SITE INFORMATION ==========

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: GROUND SITE
UTM: 49PBP804769
Lat/Long: 122655N / 1085846E
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 2
Mission Province: KHANH HOA
(formerly):
Mission District: NINH HOA
Mission Date: 3 Jan 1968
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Unknown location.

========== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY ==========

Folders Passed: Jul 93
Investigations: Aug 93
Surveys: Aug 93
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: GROUND SITE - UNKNOWN LOSS

========== VEHICLE DATA ==========

Vehicle Type: GRND
Crash Type: None
Call Sign: $
Year: $
Serial: $
Engine Type: $
1 Serial: $
2 Serial: $

========== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY ==========

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 0961

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

13 August 1975

ON 3 JANUARY 1968, SP4 KENNETH R. LANCASTER WAS THE TEAM LEADER OF A LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL BEING EXTRACTED BY HELICOPTER FROM A DESIGNATED PICK UP POINT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ABOUT ONE MINUTE AFTER TAKE OFF A MEMBER OF THE TEAM, LT CHI, SAW SP4 LANCASTER HANGING ON THE RIGHT SKID OF THE AIRCRAFT AS THE AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO GAIN ALTITUDE. THE PILOT WAS INFORMED AND REQUESTED TO LAND. WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE PILOT WAS NOT ABLE TO LAND, (MOST LIKELY, ROUGH TERRAIN PRECLUDED A SAFE LANDING), IMMEDIATE EFFORTS WERE MADE TO LOWER A ROPE.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE RESCUE ATTEMPT COULD BE MADE, SP4 LANCASTER FELL FROM THE SKID WHILE THE AIRCRAFT WAS AT AN ALTITUDE OF BETWEEN 1,000 AND 1,500 FEET. THE AREA INTO WHICH SP4 LANCASTER WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FALLEN HAD HEAVY VEGETATION WITH THREE LAYERS OF JUNGLE CANOPY, IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES BP 804 769, KHANH HOA PROVINCE. THE AREA WAS SEARCHED ON 3 JAN 68 AND AGAIN ON 7 AND 8 JAN 68 BY FOUR AMERICANS AND A CIDG PLATOON WITHOUT SUCCESS. EFFORTS TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH SEARCH WERE LIMITED BECAUSE NO ONE WAS ABLE TO PINPOINT THE EXACT AREA INTO WHICH SP4 LANCASTER FELL, AND BECAUSE THE SUSPECTED AREA WAS UNDER HEAVY ENEMY CONTROL. (1, 2) . (1, 2

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION WAS GIVEN DETAILS OF THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WAS TURNED OVER TO FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. SP4 LANCASTER IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

IN EARLY 1975, TWO SEPARATE SOURCES REPORTED INFORMATION THAT COULD BE CORRELATED TO THIS INCIDENT. THE GVN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PREVENTED FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE FIRST LEAD. AFTER CONSIDERABLE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND GVN EFFORT TO LOCATE THE SECOND SOURCE, THE STORY WAS DETERMINED TO BE FABRICATION BY A JCRC LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEE WHO WAS IMMEDIATELY FIRED.

=== REFERENCES ===

13 August 1975

REFERENCES USED: <1> RPT, HQ 9TH INF DIV (AVDE-CG), W/STATEMENTS, 24 JAN 68. <2> RPT, ADJUTANT GENERAL, DD FORM 1300, 3 FEB 72. <3> 240556Z SEP 93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

CASE: 0961

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

20 August 1993

CASE NARRATIVE WAS PASSED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 28 JUL 1993 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

13 October 1993

ON 1 SEP 93, IE4 CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0961 IN NINH TAN VILLAGE, NINH HOA DISTRICT, KHANH HOA PROVINCE. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED ONE INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS A POTENTIAL WITNESS THAT WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO CASE 0961. THE TEAM CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION AND THE SURROUNDING AREA. RESULTS WERE NEGATIVE. NO REMAINS OR MATERIAL EVIDENCE WERE OBTAINED DURING THIS INVESTIGATION. (REF 3)

21 JUL 1993

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-5025

CASE 0961-0-01

NARRATIVE

ON 3 JANUARY 1968, SPECIALIST FOUR KENNETH R. LANCASTER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS RECONNAISSANCE TEAM WERE BEING EXTRACTED BY HELICOPTER UNDER HOSTILE FIRE. BEFORE SPECIALIST FOUR LANCASTER COULD CLIMB ABOARD, THE HELICOPTER STARTED TO ASCEND. HE GRABBED ONTO THE HELICOPTER SKID AS THE AIRCRAFT ASCENDED BUT FELL OFF APPROXIMATELY 1000-1500 FEET INTO A CANOPY OF TREES IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES BP804769, APPROXIMATELY 35 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF NHA TRANG, 20 KILOMETERS WEST-SOUTHWEST OF NINH HOA AND 2 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF HON DU, KHANH HOA PROVINCE. A GROUND TEAM SEARCHED THE AREA WHERE SPECIALIST FOUR LANCASTER WAS SEEN TO HAVE FALLEN BUT DID NOT LOCATE HIM.

PERTINENT DATA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: LANCASTER, KENNETH RAY

RANK: SPECIALIST FOUR, U.S. ARMY

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 JUNE 1946

RACE: CAUCASIAN

HEIGHT: 1.72 METERS

WEIGHT: 77.0 KILOGRAMS

HAIR: BROWN

EYES: BLUE

Passed to officials of the Vietnamese government during a 28 Jul 93 technical meeting