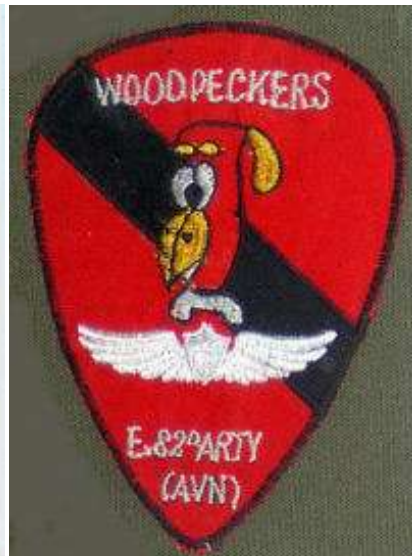


MICHAEL JOHN BLANSCET
is honored on Panel 9W, Row 18 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: MICHAEL JOHN BLANSCET
Wall Name: MICHAEL J BLANSCET
Date of Birth: 12/3/1948
Date of Casualty: 6/6/1970
Home of Record: MERRIAM
County of Record: JOHNSON COUNTY
State: KS
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: PHUOC LONG



CPT Blanscet served with Battery E, 82nd Artillery (Aviation), 1st Cavalry Division as an OH-6A Helicopter Pilot. On 17 May 1970 he was flying a Scout mission as the "Low Bird" on a "Hunter-Killer" Team. He was flying low level at about 100 to 150 feet above the trees and went into a right hand turn. The aircraft lost airspeed in the turn, started spinning to the right after completing a 180 degree turn and crashed into the trees. CPT Blanscet had sensed something wrong a few minutes before the incident. He had instructed the door gunner to remove the inspection panel the next time the aircraft landed to check the tail rotor drive-shaft. CPT Blanscet died twenty days later from injuries sustained in the crash.



From www.flyarmy.org

BLANSCET MICHAEL JOHN

Name: CPT Michael John Blanscet

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/17/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Died 20 days later on 06/06/1970.

Age at death: 21.5

Date of Birth: 12/03/1948

Home City: Merriam, KS

Service: FA branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: E/82 ARTY 1 CAV

Major organization: 1st Cavalry Division

Flight class: 69-50

Service: FA branch of the U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 09W-018

Short Summary: Shot down near Phuc Vinh. Gunner T.B. Broman survived.

Aircraft: OH-6A tail number 67-16096

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Position in vehicle: pilot

Started Tour: 04/03/1970

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

Length of service: *

Location: Phuoc Long Province III Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died illness or injuries

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Methodist (Evangelical United Brethren)

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel:

active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 07/29/1995

Helicopter OH-6A 67-16096

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 67-16096

The Army purchased this helicopter 0668

Total flight hours at this point: 00000543

Date: 05/17/1970

Incident number: 700517081ACD Accident case number: 700517081 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: E/82 ARTY 1 CAV

The station for this helicopter was Phouc Vinh in South Vietnam

Number killed in accident = 1 . . Injured = 2 . . Passengers = 0

costing 170021

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database. Also: OPERA (Operations Report.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P CPT BLANSCET MICHAEL JOHN INJ

G E5 TB BROMAN

Accident Summary:

The aircraft was assigned a scout mission as the "low bird" on a hunter-killer team. The aircraft had been flying for about 45 minutes on this mission before the accident. Approximately 5 to 10 minutes before the accident the pilot told the right door gunner to pull the inspection panels and check the tail rotor drive shaft because he thought something was wrong. This was to be done the next time the aircraft landed. The pilot was flying low level about 100 to 150 feet above the trees when he went into a right hand turn. The aircraft lost airspeed in the turn and started spinning to the right after completing a 180 degree turn. The pilot kept the aircraft fairly level until he crashed into the trees.

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

Michael is buried at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Section P Site 835