

**DAN L F COOMBS III**  
is honored on Panel 6W, Row 132 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** DAN L F COOMBS III  
**Wall Name:** DAN L COOMBS III  
**Date of Birth:** 4/1/1947  
**Date of Casualty:** 12/19/1970  
**Date of Death:** 12/19/1970  
**Home of Record:** OVERLAND PARK  
**County of Record:** JOHNSON COUNTY  
**State:** KS  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** BINH DUONG



### **My Lt. Pilot who kept me alive**

To the Family of Lt. Dan Coombs, It has been 40 years for me since I learned of Dan's and Joe's death. I flew quite a few missions with Dan and he was a great pilot. I would really like to meet his family and let them know how good he was to each of us (his Observers) and the respect we all had for him. I miss him and Joe every day and have for the past 40 years. I am now retired and receiving help from the VA for PTSD but would be very grateful to hear from a family member and share some 'Good times' with Lt. Dan'. On August 13, I will be in Maryland for the burial of Joe Blickenstaff, Jr. who was with Dan when they were shot down and killed. Joe will be buried next to his Father who passed last year. Hope to hear from someone in the family. Thanks, John E. 'Lili' Liljegren P.S. No one could pronounce my last name so everyone just called me Lili.

Posted by: John Liljegren  
Relationship: We served together  
July 31, 2011

### **From the Virtual Wall**

Every year at Christmas time I think about Dan.  
We shared the same "Hootch" and our rooms were next door to each other.  
Know that you are remembered and missed. Regards,  
Tim Butler  
White 8  
19 Dec 2002

### **Loss of a friend**

Knew Dan well, we flew together. The day before a mission was planned and I had a queasy feeling about it - felt they (enemy) were there and building strength. During the mission briefing I was shocked to see that Dan had pulled this mission and who his cover was. Repeatedly stressed the danger involved on this one. We were in constant communication all during that mission, every minute of it. The ensuing scramble, recovery and memorial service left a hole in me. That day I lost a friend, a man I respected and on that day I was Air Ops. Until Fiddler's Green, my Brother!

Joe Clemons  
Friend  
KY., USA  
May 26, 2005

### **I remember Him as an outstanding pilot**

Nothing I could do! Lt. Coombs was a Pilot for Aero Scouts. We followed foot prints from a LOACH (light observation helicopter). Scouts flew left seat - the pilot right seat, we had an M60 hanging in the door way and a Mini-gun bolted to the outside just under and aft of left seat. We had an assortment of weapons, grenades of all sorts, M79 grenade launcher etc. My pilot and I ran low on fuel and the 20 min. warning light come on so we radioed for a replacement 10 mins later we saw Lt. Coombs and his scout Blickenstaff coming from the horizon. They called on radio and we told them there was a large number of enemy in this giant stand of bamboo and they had heavy guns. They let us know they understood and we were off to fire support base Bandit for fuel. Just as I got the nozzle in and started to pump, my pilot waved for me to plug in my intercom and told me Blick and Coombs were down and out of sight of the Cobra that was circling at 1000 ft so back we went. We found a column of smoke and flew right to it. The Loach was fully engulfed in flames. Blick and Coombs were motionless. That is when something in me cracked and in the hearts of many that knew them better then I and loved them as a father or mother, son, or sister or lover. I have always remembered Blick and Lt. Coombs and always will I regret not writing this sooner.

Frank Green  
He was one of the few scout pilots  
1236 S. 89th E. Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74112  
May 5, 2002

### **A Note from The Virtual Wall**

Two men of the Air Cav Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry, died when their OH-6A light observation helicopter (tail number 69-15963) was hit by enemy fire, crashed, and burned:

1LT Dan L. F. Coombs III, pilot

SP5 Joseph W. Blickenstaff, Jr, observer



**Dan is buried at Johnson County Chapel and Memorial Gardens, Overland Park, Kansas  
Plot: Old Rugged Cross, Lot 133, Section C, Space 3**

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**COOMBS DAN L F III**

Name: 1LT Dan L. F. Coombs III

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 12/19/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.7

Date of Birth: 04/01/1947

Home City: Overland Park, KS

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

Unit: ACT/11 ACR

Major organization: 11th Armored Cavalry

Flight class: 70-10

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

The Wall location: 06W-132

Short Summary: Shot down north of Phu Loi.

Aircraft: OH-6A tail number 69-15963

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 6124

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: vehicular accident

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 06/13/1970

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

The initial status of this person was: no previous report

Length of service: \*

Location: Binh Duong Province III Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Protestant - no denominational preference

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

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

## **Helicopter OH-6A 69-15963**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 69-15963

The Army purchased this helicopter 0170

Total flight hours at this point: 00000421

Date: 12/19/1970

Incident number: 70121930.KIA

Unit: ACT/11 ACR

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

This was a Recon mission for Unarmed Recon

While Enroute this helicopter was at Level Flight at UNK feet and UNK knots.

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YT002368

Count of hits was not possible because the helicopter burned or exploded.

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in size.

causing an Explosion.

Systems damaged were: UNK

Casualties = 02 DOI . .

The helicopter Crashed. Aircraft Destroyed.

Both mission and flight capability were terminated.

Burned

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:

Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Survivability/Vulnerability

Information Analysis Center Helicopter database. Also: OPERA, LNNF, CASRP, FM385

(Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Casualty Report. )

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

**P 1LT COOMBS DAN L F III KIA**

OB SP5 BLICKENSTAFF JOSEPH W JR KIA

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998