

DAVID LINWOOD MATHIS**Class 37A-67**

is honored on Panel 13W, Row 113 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: DAVID LINWOOD MATHIS
Wall Name: DAVID L MATHIS
Date of Birth: 9/03/1945
Date of Casualty: 3/11/1970
Home of Record: EAST TALLASSEE
State: AL
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: LAM DONG



CPT Mathis was killed while serving with D Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, I Field Force, US Army Vietnam.

From a researcher, Mark Sullivan, Alexander City, Alabama (20 Jan 2005):

Captain Mathis (known as 'Pete' to his friends) had earned his wings at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in 1969 and arrived in Vietnam at the end of October of that year. Although qualified as a helicopter pilot, his training was that of an Aircraft Maintenance Officer who headed up the crews that worked tirelessly to keep the birds in the air.

On 11 March 1970, Pete and crew chief SP4 Terry Steiner climbed aboard an AH-1G gunship (tail number 67-15671) to take it up in preparation of a planned maintenance it was scheduled for. There were no known problems with the helicopter, and it was routine for Captain Mathis to take them up and get a feel of its overall operation.

He had just finished firing the guns for a second time when something went wrong. Eyewitnesses remember seeing the gunship tuck violently, then start to recover, when it went out of control and dove straight down. The impact and subsequent explosion had killed both men immediately.

An immediate investigation was initiated, and it became clear that the main rotor had departed the aircraft in flight - and as it left the helicopter it impacted with the tail rotor blades, causing a total loss of control. The resulting impact and devastation of the aircraft eliminated any further investigation to the actual cause, and subsequent research into previous maintenance updates provided no further clues.



David is buried in Carrville Cemetery, East Tallassee, Alabama