

**KEVIN O'BRIEN****Class 31A-67**

is honored on Panel 35W, Row 61 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** KEVIN O'BRIEN  
**Wall Name:** KEVIN O'BRIEN  
**Date of Birth:** 8/30/1946  
**Date of Casualty:** 1/09/1969  
**Home of Record:** FARMINGVILLE  
**State:** NY  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** MAJ  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** QUANG TRI



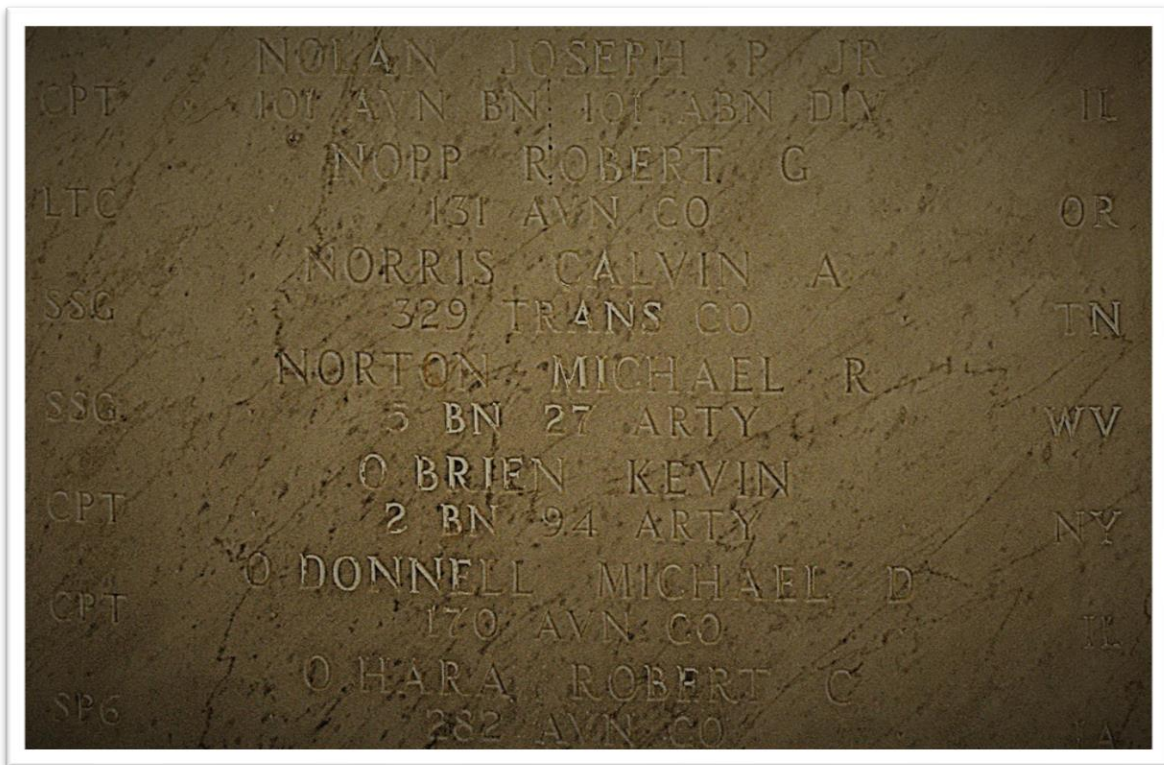
Captain O'Brien was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery Regiment. 108th Artillery Group. On January 9, 1969, he was the observer in a Cessna Bird Dog Observation Aircraft (O-1G) on a visual reconnaissance mission over the Khe Sanh area of South Vietnam. After completing the mission, the aircraft was headed back to Phu Bai when bad weather hit, and contact was lost. He was promoted to Major while in MIA status and declared Dead on March 7, 1979. His remains were not recovered.

**The Final Mission of 1LT Kevin O'Brien posted by W. Killian on June 29, 2014**

On January 9, 1969, CAPT Hugh M. Byrd Jr., pilot, and 1LT Kevin O'Brien, observer, were on a visual reconnaissance mission over the Khe Sanh area of South Vietnam in an O-1G Bird Dog aircraft, tail #51-5059. Byrd's aircraft flew from the 200th Aviation Company, 212th Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade. O'Brien's job as observer from HHB, 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery, was to identify artillery targets. The plane diverted to assist a reconnaissance team that was in enemy contact in the Khe Sanh area. After aiding the team and being relieved by another aircraft, Byrd headed his plane back to Phu Bai.

The weather was bad, and the pilot reported at 1940 hours that that he was lost, and the weather was worsening. The aircraft was not equipped to fly instrument in meteorological conditions. Dong Ha and other radar controllers tried to get a fix on the Bird Dog, and were able to maintain constant radio contact, but were able only to get an imprecise location. Based on the direction the aircraft told them it was flying, the radar station advised it to climb because of mountains in the area. No further transmissions

were heard. Numerous searches were initiated following the disappearance of the aircraft but were broken off after a few days due to weather conditions. When searches were resumed when the weather cleared, they failed to locate any wreckage. Byrd and O'Brien were declared Missing in Action. In August 1975, in the presumed crash area, a refugee reported seeing 2 downed U.S. aircraft which he described as one F-5 jet and one L-19 (O-1). He was told that two Americans on the L-19 were killed and buried one kilometer from the crash. The Army feels this report could possibly relate to Byrd and O'Brien.



***Kevin's name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.***