

DAVID ROSCOE SMITH**Class 3-66**

is honored on Panel 29W, Line 56 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: DAVID ROSCOE SMITH
Wall Name: DAVID R SMITH
Date of Birth: 11/02/1939
Date of Casualty: 3/16/1969
Home of Record: DAYTON
State: OHIO
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: THUA THIEN



CPT Smith was declared missing in action while serving with Command Aircraft Company, 210th Aviation Battalion, 12th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade as pilot of a U21A Aircraft.

On 16 March 1969, Captain Charles Barnes, co-pilot and Captain David R. Smith, aircraft commander were aboard a U21A aircraft which departed Long Trahn, North Army Airfield, South Vietnam. The aircraft made two stops, one at Long Binh and the other at Qui Nhon. At Qui Nhon the plane picked up the following passengers: SP4 Michael Batt, Major Marvin L. Foster and PFC Raymond Bobe.

The aircraft resumed its journey north toward Hue/Phu Bai where it was scheduled to land. During this portion of the mission, the aircraft was required to revert from visual to instrument flight rules because of the low cloud ceilings, poor visibility and rain showers in the area. The aircraft was picked up by radio and radar; however, contact was lost during the approach pattern. After loss of contact, all standard emergency radio frequencies were utilized, but radio contact with the aircraft could not be regained.

Da Nang Air/Sea rescue was also notified, but initial efforts were limited to a communications search because of the bad weather. The aircraft was never located. Based on a replotted flight plan, the indicated last known location for this aircraft was approximately one kilometer west of Truoi Mountain, Quang Nam Da Nang (formerly Tuan Thien Province) Province, South Vietnam.

Combat search and rescue units scoured the area, both land and sea, for the next eight days but did not find the missing aircraft.

CPT Smith was declared Dead and his body not recovered on October 15, 1973. In 1988 and 1989, the Vietnamese government turned over to U.S. specialists several boxes of human remains, including identification tags for CPT Smith. The technology at the time failed to yield an identification of the remains. Also, in 1989, a Vietnamese refugee in the Philippines was interviewed, and turned over human remains.

U.S. specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted seven investigations between 1993 and 1999, to include interviews with Vietnamese nationals who claimed to have knowledge of the crash. Then in April and May of 2000, a JPAC team excavated an area about 25 miles northwest of Da Nang, where they found aircraft debris and human remains.

JPAC scientists and Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory specialists used mitochondrial DNA as one of the forensic tools to help identify the remains.

On June 15, 2005 The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of four U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War had been identified on April 5, 2005 and were being returned to their families for burial. Cpt Smith was one of the four.



First Tour in Vietnam -1967



His name was inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. His remains were later recovered on April 7, 1988 and identified on April 5, 2005 and finally returned to his family. David is buried in Dayton National Cemetery.

