



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

HOSKEN, JOHN CHARLES '66

On 24 March 1970 CW3 John C Hosken was the pilot of a UH1H (Huey) helicopter on an emergency extraction of a long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) in Cambodia. The LRRP was in heavy contact with the enemy and required immediate extraction. The LRRP was aboard the helicopter and the helicopter was ascending when it was struck by enemy fire. After flying another 300 meters, it was struck by enemy fire again and exploded. At the time of the incident, enemy ground forces precluded recovery and evacuation operations. Aerial search and rescue efforts were initiated, however, there was no sign of life at the crash site.

In January of 1994, a joint search team interviewed a Vietnamese who reported that in April 1993 while searching for aluminum, he located a crash site in Cambodia. In January of 1998, a joint search team entered the area of the crash site and this time they were successful in locating the aircraft. The remains of all of the crew and team members were recovered, along with dog tags, weapons and other personal effects. A group funeral service was conducted at the Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia, on 19 August 2001, with interment at Arlington National Cemetery following the funeral service. There was one casket containing the remains of some of the three LRRP team members and of the three aircraft crewmen.

CW3 Hosken posthumously received the Distinguished Flying Cross for this daring rescue attempt. His other individual awards include the Bronze Star, Air Medal (eighth awards) and the Purple Heart.

At Augusta three years: Swim team (3 years), JV Football Team (2 years), Varsity Football Team (1 year), Track Team (1 year), Lacrosse Team (1 year) JV Basketball Team (2 years) and the Privilege List (3 years).

(2001 Fall Bayonet)

On 24 March 1970, RT Pennsylvania, MACVSOG OP-35 from CCC consisting of three U.S. and five Indigenous long-range reconnaissance patrol members were being extracted while under heavy enemy contact by a UH-1H helicopter flown by members of the 170th Aviation Company, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. Immediately following the extraction, Major Michael D. O'Donnell transmitted that he had the entire

eight man team on board and was departing the area. As the aircraft began its ascent, there was an explosion in the aircraft. The helicopter continued for about 300 meters when another explosion caused the aircraft to crash. Aerial search and rescue efforts were initiated, however, there was no sign of life at the crash site.

In January of 1994, a joint search team interviewed Le Thanh Minh of Kontum. Minh reported that in April 1993 while searching for aluminum, he located a crash site in Cambodia. He stated he found human remains, three dog tags, a first aid kit and a rucksack. He also heard that people from Laos had discovered a watch, a gold ring and an AR15. He further indicated that the crash site was spread over a 100 meter area. He stated that the tail section of the aircraft was visible and engraved with the number "262". He gave the dog tags to the team, two were Berman Ganoe, Jr. and one belonged to John C. Hosken, (both crew members of the Huey). In January of 1998, a joint search team entered the area of the crash site and this time they were successful in locating the aircraft. The remains of all of the crew and team members were recovered, along with dog tags, weapons and other personal effects. After many years, the brave men of Bikini Red Three and RT Pennsylvania were on their way home.

At 1300 hours, 16 August 2001, A group funeral service was conducted at the Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia the for:

Michael D. O'Donnell - Major, Aircraft Commander, 170th Aviation Company.

John C. Hosken, CWO-3, Pilot, 170th Aviation Company.

Jerry L. Pool, Captain, RT Pennsylvania - "One-Zero".

John A. Boronski, SFC, RT Pennsylvania - "One-One".

Gary A. Harned, SFC, RT Pennsylvania - "One-Two"

Berman Ganoe, Jr., SSG, Door Gunner, 170th Aviation Company.

Rudy M. Becerra, SSG, Crew Chief, 170th Aviation Company.

Interment at Arlington National Cemetery followed the funeral service. There was one casket containing the remains of some of the above honored men. There were some family members who elected to have their loved ones remains interred near their homes of record. For instance, SSG Rudy Becerra's family is having him interred at Greenlawn Cemetery in Rosenberg, Texas with full military honors on Sunday, 19 August 2001 at 1400 hours.

Family members of both the aircraft crew and RT Pennsylvania participated in the services with full military honors. Seven National colors were presented to family members in a very somber interment service. Rudy M. Becerra, SSG, Crew Chief, 170th Aviation Company, will be buried tomorrow in Rosenberg, TX.

Rich Cunnare wrote:

I have copied this from the Heli-vets Net. It explains what John was doing at the time he was killed fighting for his country. I know from personal experience that the 170th had the cream of the crop flying a mission so full of peril many of the surviving members suffer greatly from the physical damage Post Traumatic Stress Disorder--but they have all kept their minds sharp and take great pride in their history. Read the following message and take great pride that we had such a classmate.)