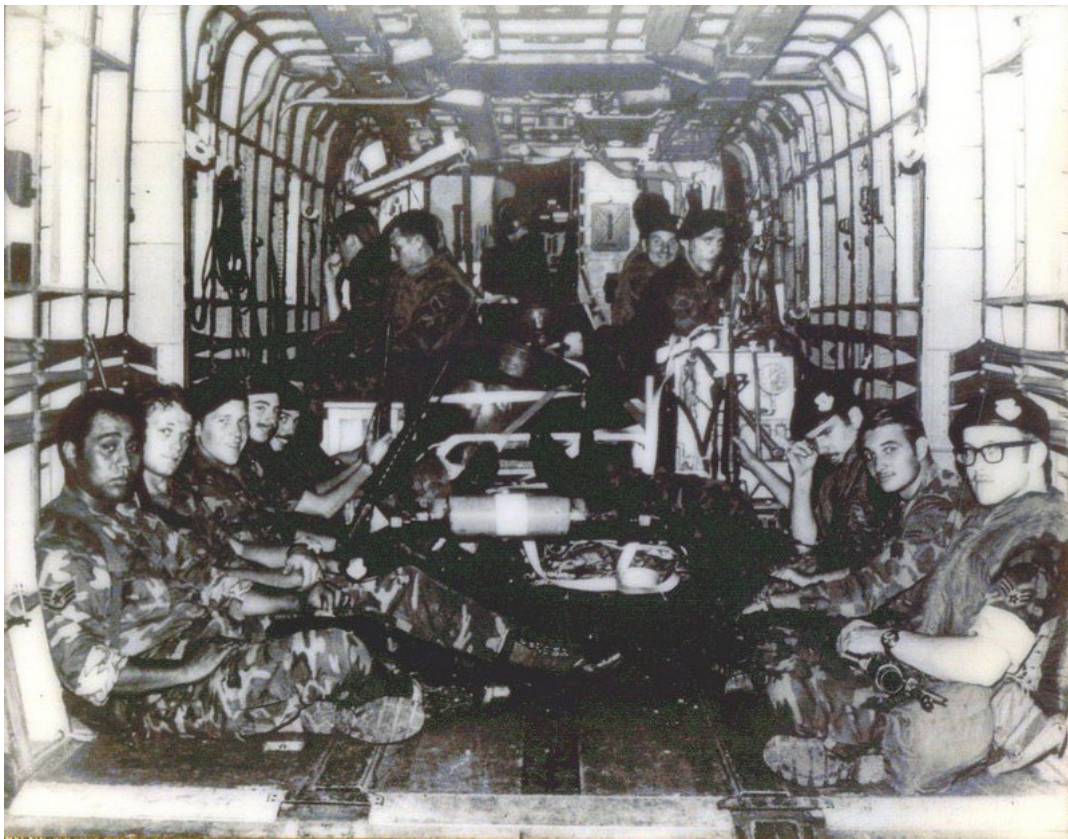


Nakhon Phanom (NKP) CH-53 Crash Victims – May 13, 1975

The names of the 18 Security Policemen and four crew members killed when their CH-53 crashed during the Mayaguez rescue attempt:

On May 13, at 2030 local time, 16 Sikorsky CH-53Cs took off from RTAFB Nakhon Phanom. Shortly after take off, one of the helicopters, Serial Number 68-10933 from the 21st SOS, 56th SPS, fell out of formation, crashed and exploded on impact. All 22 aboard, including four crew, 18 USAF security police and one linguist, were killed in the crash. Other CH-53s landed nearby, but exploding ammunition and burning fuel hindered all rescue attempts. The CH-53 crashed in the Phannanikhom District, 35 miles west of Nakhon Phanom. Officially, the CH-53C was on a routine training mission, but all 22 killed in the crash were awarded the Bronze Star posthumously.



A Note from the Virtual Wall

The 56th Security Police Squadron, part of the 56th Special Operations Wing at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, was tasked with providing support during the MAYAGUEZ incident in 1975. The Security Police were to be flown from Nakhon Phanom to U-Tapao RTAFB, Thailand, aboard a CH-53 helicopter (hull number 68-1033) belonging to the 21st Special Operations Squadron. However, the helicopter crashed approximately 330 miles NE of Bangkok on the Thai-Laotian border, and all aboard were killed.

- **21st SOS aircrew:**
 - Capt James G. Kays, Atlanta, GA
 - 1stLt Laurence E. Froehlich, Sodus, MI
 - TSgt George E. McMullen, Oxford, CA
 - Sgt Robert P. Weldon, Kansas City, KS

- **56th Security Police Squadron:**
 - Sgt Jimmy P. Black, Daphne, AL
 - Sgt Bobby G. Collums, Helena, AZ
 - SSgt Gerald A. Coyle, Bentleyville, PA
 - Sgt Thomas D. Dwyer, Middlebury, CT
 - Sgt Bob W. Ford, Seminole, TX
 - Sgt Gerald W. Fritz, Junction, TX (K-9) (*)
 - TSgt Jackie D. Glenn, Seymour, MO
 - Sgt Darrell L. Hamlin, Iowa City, IA
 - Sgt Gregory L. Hankamer, San Pedro, CA
 - Sgt David A. Higgs, Spokane, WA
 - SSgt Faleagafula Ilaoa, San Francisco, CA (K-9)
 - Sgt Michael D. Lane, Jacksonville, FL
 - Sgt Dennis W. London, Sparks, NV (K-9)
 - Sgt Robert P. Mathias, Granada Hills, CA
 - Sgt William R. McKelvey, Philadelphia, PA
 - Amn Edgar C. Moran II, Pittsburgh, PA
 - Sgt Tommy R. Nealis, Mount Sterling, KY
 - Sgt Robert W. Ross, Cypress, CA

* Malmstrom AFB MWD kennels named in honor of Sergeant Gerald W. Fritz who lost his life in that helicopter crash.