

KIA Locations		
Name	Lat/Long	Narrative
ALLEN, Joseph Ebert (Joe) Plt Cmdr D/1/5 24 May 1968	N 16.308030, E 107.760640 48Q YD95000500	Joe arrived in Vietnam on 11 Feb 1968 and was killed in action on 24 May 1968 by hostile small arms fire during an Operation Houston II night engagement 12 KM south-southeast of the Phu Bai airfield—Thua Thien Province.
BARNES, Robert Crozier Jr. (Rob) Plt Cmdr B Company, 1st Recon 30 May 1968	N 16.135330, E108.023240 49P AT81608620	Rob arrived in Vietnam on 27 Jan 1968 and was killed in action by hostile gunfire on 30 May 1968. He was with Recon Team Aldbrook, 13 KM SW of Hai Van Bridge. A nine-man recon patrol led by 2ndLt Barnes was inserted into Elephant Valley at 0900 26 May and spent the next four days observing enemy activities in the patrol area. The patrol was in their extract LZ when they came under fire from an estimated 40 VC, resulting in 1 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIA. [Cpl Muguel Garcia] "I remember the patrol. I remember the stream of water. I remember the weapon as it took aim at us. I remember the roar as the enemy mag was emptied. I remember seeing you. I remember loading you on the chopper as we gave fire and recieved it." The incident occurred in Quang Nam Province.
CROSS, Herbert Terrell (Terry) Plt Cmdr A/1/7 8 Apr 1968	N 15.970090, E 108.157320 49P AT95706770	Terry arrived in Vietnam on January 23, 1968 and was killed in action on 8 Apr 1968 as a result of multi fragmentation wounds. While on a patrol along the Song Yen River in near the village of La Chau in Hieu Duc District Quang Nam Province, an anti- personnel mine was detonated resulting in the death of three Marines and one who was wounded. Following the explosion the enemy opened fire, which was returned and continued until a reaction squad arrived forcing the VC to withdraw. 2dLt Cross was one of the casualties.
DeCRAENE, Alan Charles (Allan) CH-46D pilot HMM-161, MAG-16 16 Feb 1970	N 16.360789, E 107.905707	On 16 February 1970, Alan and the crew of a CH-46D med-evac aircraft was flying a night time emergency blood resupply mission from the Marble Mountain Air Facility to the USS REPOSE off of Quang Tri. Encountering inadvertant IFR flying conditions, the aircraft crashed into the side of a hill top killing all aboard. The hill was on the coast just off of the waterline about 13.5 miles E-SE of the Phu Bai airfield.
ECKENRODE, David John (Dave) PltCmdr Bravo Co, 7th Engineer Bn 21 Jul 1968	N 15.917350, E 108.269130 49P BT07606170	According to the 7th Engineers S-1 log for July 1968 2ndLt Eckenrode died when he tripped a booby-trap made from a 105mm artillery shell near Hoi An, Quang Nam Province. From Jules Selden: Dave Eckenrode's platoon was working in the field when he tripped the booby trap. "Doc" Groulx, the corpsman, was on him immediately, but could not save him.
GATES, Albert Henry Jr. (Al) CH-46 Pilot HMM-263, MAG-15 7 Mar 1970	N 16.322200, E 107.974720 48Q ZD09160677	On 7 March 1970, a HMM-263 frag order was for a CH-46D to chase a Huey that was coming down from up north. The Huey was carrying a heavy who was attending a Change of Command Ceremony in the Da Nang area. Capt Al Gates and his crew got the job. The flight ended in an accident killing all but the gunner. According to the sole surviving crew member, they were flying in "really bad" WX, chasing the Huey when they went inadvertent IFR and crashed into the water about 500 yards off the beach.He also told us that even though he couldn't be sure, he thought he remembered a loud noise coming from the rear of the a/c and both pilots looking back into the cabin just before impact.
GIBSON, Carl Reed (Carl) FO 3/12 30 Apr 1968	N 16.830330, E 107.116670 48Q YD25546199	Carl arrived in Vietnam on 18 April 1968 and was a 0801 artillery Forward Observer with the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Force. He served in support of BLT (Battalion Landing Team) 2/4. "The Battle of Dai Do was known as Tet II and involved three Regiments/major elements of the 320th NVA Division which was trying to overrun the major supply bases at Dong Ha and Quang Tri. Success would have undermined the entire DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) defenses" according to the Commanding Officer of BLT 2/4, then Lt. Col William Weise. "Second Lieutenant Gibson participated and died in the Battle of Dai Do as an artillery FO providing much needed artillery fire support for the Marine infantrymen".
HAGEN, John Robert (Bob) AO (Inf) O-1 Birddog, VMO-6 06 May 1969	N 16.623020, E 106.590481 48Q XD69643853	Bob arrived in DaNang in January 1968 during TET '68 and was given a platoon in G/2/9, mainly along Highway 9, Ca Lu etc., not surprising anyone getting a Silver Star in April '68, and, equally not surprisingly, two Purple Hearts along the way. For the latter he was taken out of the field and brought to Dong Ha for an administrative job, I think, at Division. He hated it and he made everyone's life miserable until ultimately the powers that be approved his request to be an AO in a teeny O1G Bird Dog with VMO-6. Prophetically, on 6 May 68 his observation plane was lost.

<p>LASLIE, Joseph Taylor (Joe) Plt Cmdr 2/E/2/4 26 May 1968</p>	<p>N 16.914850, E 107.139100 48Q YD27837137</p>	<p>Starting on April 30 and ending around May 3, 1968, 2/4 was engaged in the fierce Battle of Dai Do. 2/4 suffered 80 dead and 256 that were wounded and evacuated. Most of the Platoon Leaders in E Company (E/2/4) were casualties which resulted in Joe being transferred from the battalion motor transportation attachment to E/2/4 as a Platoon Leader of the 2nd platoon. In late May, some NVA were observed near a village called Nhi Ha (2), and Joe was assigned to lead a less than platoon sized patrol through the Nhi Ha (2) village. There the NVA sprang an ambush on the platoons as they encountered a battalion of the 320th NVA Regiment. On May 25, 1968, 2ndLt Joe Laslie, in the point element at the head of the patrol, was killed almost immediately.</p>
<p>MUIR, James (Jim) Plt Cmdr D/1/4. 19 May 1968</p>	<p>N 16.909720, E 106.980000</p>	<p>A patrol ran into trouble outside Con Thien the morning of 19 May 1968 and Delta sent out reinforcements. They too, got pinned down. First Plt. sat in the trenches listening to the ensuing battle. They needed more help so our XO, Lt. Muir led us out. There was an NVA recoilless rifle firing rounds at us. Everytime it would crank a round at us, my plt. would jump into the trench, Mr. Muir stayed in the open and after this happened a couple of times the Lt. said "Those Marines out there need our help." After that, we followed him out to the battle, double-time, ignoring the incoming rounds. He put us on line once we got out there and on his command we all opened up at once. All Hell broke loose. It was during this time that he was shot.</p>
<p>PEARSON, Thomas Rickard Jr. (Tom) Plt Cmdr 3/H/2/9, 3rdMarDiv. 23 Jan 1968</p>	<p>N 16.754720, E 106.930600 48Q YD05795342</p>	<p>Tom arrived in Vietnam in January 1968 and was assigned a Platoon Commander 3/H/2/9. Died on 23 January 1968 at the age of 22 due to a mortar, rocket, or artillery incident at Camp Carroll, Quang Tri Province. The irony: he was playing basketball at the time.</p>
<p>RANSTEAD, James Terrance (Terry) Plt Cmdr G/2/3 3rd MarDiv. 22 Jan 1968</p>	<p>N15.950779, E108.160471 49P AT94506570</p>	<p>Terry arrived in Vietnam 31 December 1967 and was assigned to G/2/3. On 22 January 1968 Terry was on a combat patrol at Quang Nam 5 kilometers south southeast of Tuy Loan Bridge when a mine was tripped killing him.</p>
<p>ROSS, William Gray (Bill) Plt Cmdr I/3/5 15 Jun 1968</p>	<p>N 15.848154, E 108.121328 48P XC20194547</p>	<p>Platoon Commander I/3/5. Ross died on June 15, 1968 at the age of 23 in or around Quang Nam in South Vietnam during Operation MAMELUKE THRUST. Circumstances of his death are attributed to: "Died through hostile action" On 14 June 3rd Battalion 5th Marines deployed from the An Hoa Combat Base into the Arizona Territory. As Company I advanced it was hit by PAVN mortar fire which killed most of the command, the Company Executive Officer 1LT Joseph Campbell though seriously wounded himself took command and arranged for defensive fire and medevac helicopters before dying of his wounds. This was later thought to be a friendly fire incident.</p>
<p>SPINDLER, John Gates (John) Plt Cmdr 2/G/2/3 21 Apr 1968</p>	<p>N 16.675506, E 106.859580 49P XD92704430</p>	<p>Operation Scotland II commenced on 16 April 1968 as Marines at Khe Sanh broke the siege and started attacking enemy units still in the area. Lt. Spindler's platoon was deployed to a blocking position on top of Hill 691 (Grid XD927443). By sometime after 0800, most of the munitions are staged in a large stack. Lt. Spindler is standing very close to the stack as a few last items are brought in and added to the pile. At that instant, two incoming rounds impact with at least one striking directly on the pile of staged munitions causing it all to detonate. When the smoke clears, the bodies of three other Marines in the vicinity of the munitions cache are located, but there is no sign of the lieutenant. No certain evidence of him is found, only fragments of what might be his helmet, flak jacket, etc.</p>
<p>WRIGHT, Henry Arthur (Hank) Plt Cmdr D/1/7 06 Feb 1968</p>	<p>N 15.950880, E 108.192020 49P AT99393553</p>	<p>On February 6 at approximately 08:45 CAP B-4 located in the hamlet of La Chau became engaged with an enemy force and requested assistance. Company D, nearby on Hill 47 deployed a two squad reaction force supported by an M48A1 Tank to the scene of the fire fight. Approaching La Chau the tank struck a mine becoming disabled as the Marines began to receive heavy automatic weapons fire, B-40 rockets were fired at the tank setting it ablaze. Lt. Wright was mortally wounded while leading a platoon to the relief of a company under attack. He led an attack against heavily entrenched enemy positions and was mortally wounded while directing covering fire for the evacuation of other wounded Marines. During the action he carried his wounded radioman to safety and tended him until the arrival of a corpsman.</p>