

DONAHUE, MORGAN JEFFERSON



Name: Morgan Jefferson Donahue

Rank/Branch: O2/US Air Force

Unit: 606th Special Operations Squadron, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand

Date of Birth: 02 May 1944

Home City of Record: Alexandria VA (family in FL & CT)

Date of Loss: 13 December 1968

Country of Loss: Laos

Loss Coordinates: 170100N 1055900E (XD055824)

Status (In 1973): Missing In Action

Category: 2

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: C123K

Other Personnel in Incident: On C123K: Douglas Dailey; John Albright; Joseph Fanning; Samuel Walker; Fred L. Clarke (all missing); On B57B: Thomas W. Dugan; Francis J. McGouldrick (all missing)

REMARKS: MID AIR COL-1 PARA OBS

Source: Compiled from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S.

Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK 2017.

SYNOPSIS: On December 13, 1968, the crew of a C123K was dispatched from Nakhon Phanom Airfield located in northern Thailand near the border of Laos on an operational mission over Laos. The C123 was assigned night patrol missions along the Ho Chi Minh trail. Flying low at 2000-3000 feet, the job of the seven man crew was to spot enemy truck convoys on the trail and to light up the trails for accompanying B57 bombers which were flying overhead.

The crew on this particular mission included the pilot(name unknown);

11/2011

Hi

I read that the pilot was Lt. Tom Turner (you include; pilot name unknown)

Source: Vietnam Journal 2; The Dogs of War; author, Don Lomax

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1Lt. Joseph P. Fanning, co-pilot; 1Lt. John S. Albright, navigator; 1Lt. Morgan J. Donahue, navigator; SSgt. Samuel F. Walker, SSgt. Douglas V. Dailey, TSgt. Fred L. Clarke, crewmembers. At 0330 hours, as the aircraft was flying about 30 miles southwest of the Ban Karai Pass in Laos, the crew of the C123 were jolted by a blow on the top of their plane in the after section. An overhead B57 that had been called in for an air strike had collided with the control plane. The C123 lost power and went out of control. The pilot, stunned by a blow to the head, lost consciousness.

The plane did not fall straight to the ground, but drifted lazily to the ground in a flat spin which lasted several minutes. When the pilot regained consciousness, he noted that the co-pilot (Fanning) and navigator (Donahue) were gone. Donahue's station was in the underbelly of the plane where, lying on his stomach, he directed an infrared detection device through an open hatch. The pilot parachuted out, landed in a treetop where he remained until rescued at dawn. On the way down, he saw another chute below him, but, because of the dark, was unable to determine who the crew member was.

Intelligence reports after the incident indicate that Donahue, at least, safely reached the ground near Tchepone, but suffered a broken leg. A refugee who escaped captivity in Laos in 1974 reported having observed an American prisoner brought to the caves near Tchepone, where he was held, in the period between 1968 and 1970. This American was later moved to another location unknown to the refugee.

Several reports referring to "Moe-gan" and others describing Donahue as the American called the "animal doctor" were received over the years since war's end. In June and August, 1987, the Donahue family was given intelligence reports tracking Morgan's movements from a POW camp in Kham Kuet, Khammouane Province, Laos in the spring of 1987 to another camp in the Boualapha District of the same province in August 1987. These reports were mere WEEKS old, yet the U.S. marked them "routine". One of them gave Morgan's aircraft type and serial number, which turned out to be, instead of the serial number of the aircraft, Morgan's father's ZIP CODE. Morgan's family believes this is clearly a signal to them from Morgan.

The crew of the C123K are among nearly 600 Americans who disappeared in Laos. Many of these men were alive on the ground. The Lao admitted holding American prisoners but these men were never negotiated for. Where are they? Are they alive? Imagine the torture the Donahue family endures knowing Morgan is alive, yet helpless to do anything to help him. What are we doing to help bring them home?

John S. Albright II and Morgan J. Donahue graduated in 1967 from the United States Air Force Academy

Date: Fri, 12 Jul 2002 07:42:44 -0400
From: "Lynn O'Shea" <lynnpowmia@prodigy.net>
Subject: Very Sad News

We've Lost A True Friend

The National Alliance of Families mourns the passing of Col. Vincent J. "Budd" Donahue, father of POW/MIA Morgan J. Donahue, on July 10th. Col. Donahue or "Budd" as he told everyone to call him was a stalwart in the effort to bring our live POWs home and learn the truth about the missing. From the day Morgan went down, he never relented. He pursued every lead, making numerous trips to Southeast Asia. He fought both the Lao and U.S. governments, in his efforts to bring his son home. Neither government could stop his relentless efforts. In the end, it was illness that robbed him of his ability to continue the fight.

A memorial service will be held at the Chapel of Love at Florida Memorial Gardens, 5950 South U.S. Highway 1, Rockledge, Florida 32935, on Saturday July 13th, at 11:00. All are welcome.

Those wishing to send cards or notes of condolences can send them to Mrs. Donahue at 7 Willow Green Drive, Cocoa Beach, FL, 32931.

Personal Note from Lynn O'Shea - One of the first families members I got to know, when I started in this issue, were Budd and Shirley Donahue. Budd Donahue was a man on a mission. He was a fountain of knowledge on the POW/MIA issue and its players. He truly left no stone unturned in his effort to bring home a live POW.

Whenever I was in Florida visiting my relatives, the Donahue's would invite me to their home, for lunch or dinner. They would talk about their sons, one missing the other doing everything he could to find his brother. We'd laugh and sometimes we'd cry. I'm going to remember the laughter....

Budd Donahue was the true definition of an officer and a gentleman. He served his country well, in and out of uniform, and he deserved better from it.

To his wife Shirley and son Jeff, we offer our most sincere condolences.

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Florida Today

VINCENT DONAHUE

COCOA BEACH -- Vincent J. "Budd" Donahue, 84, of Cocoa Beach passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2002. A long time resident of Florida, he was a 30 year veteran of the United States Air Force. Following his retirement from the U. S. A. F., he spent 20 years as Director of Security for the Air Force Eastern Missile Test Range at Cape Kennedy Air Force Station and Patrick AFB.

01/2015

<http://jcdonahue24.com/>

JEFFREY DONAHUE

The Search for Morgan Jefferson Donahue

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**Subject:**Jeff Donahue

**Date:**Fri, 14 Apr 2017 21:23:44 -0400

**From:**Kathleen SHEMELEY <pow.mia.ctfmm@gmail.com>

Dear Friends,

It is with great sorrow I must tell you that Jeff Donahue died on April 12, 2017. Jeff had been battling brain cancer for the past three years. After the cancer first appeared, he fought valiantly with the support of his wife, Gail, by his side and was so proud to be in remission. Jeff also helped others gain a positive outlook by sharing his thoughts and experiences as they struggled with cancer. Last October the cancerous tumors reappeared. When we last spoke in December, his voice was strong as he tried to articulate his thoughts and feelings. Please remember Gail and Jeff in your thoughts and prayers. Services will be private.

Kathy SHEMELEY