

NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

#3

0465

PRIORITY
P: 240656Z SEP 66
FM USS CORAL SEA

TO NAVAVSAFCEN

INFO CNO

COMNAVIAIRPAC

COMFAIRMAHAR

COMFAIRWESTPAC

COMCAIRWING TWO

FITRON ONE TWO ONE

NAV PLANT REPO ST LOUIS

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5U.S.C 5532

Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 22 MAR 2019 Authority: EO 13526

Declassify: X Deny in Full:

Declassify in Part:

Reason:

MDR: 19-M-0502

WS

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ATTN: FIELD SER, HQR NAV PLANT REPO

FITRON TWO ONE

COMBAT AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT (U)

A - OPNAV INST. P 3750.6E

1. F4B / 152973 / VF-21 / 4-66A

2. 21 SEP 1966 0040 (H) VICINITY 105-48E LONG AND 19-14N LAT.

3. 3T2

4. ALFA

5. LCDR BAUDER IN SUNDOWN 101 AND HIS WINGMAN SUNDOWN 106 WERE FLYING NIGHT ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM.

SUNDOWN 101 BRIEFED TO APPROACH THE FIRST TARGET HEADING NORTHWEST AT 4,000 FEET WITH SUNDOWN 106 IN FIVE MILE TRAIL. SUNDOWN 101 WAS TO DROP HIS FLARES AND MAKE A 360 DEGREES TURN IN THE TARGET AREA TO CALL FLAK OR SAM'S WHILE SUNDOWN 106 MADE A BOHBING RUN. SUNDOWN 106 WAS THEN BRIEFED TO PULL STRAIGHT AHEAD OFF TARGET AND PROCEED FORTY-FIVE SECONDS UP THE ASSIGNED RECCE ROUTE TO DROP FLARES ON TARGET NUMBER TWO. SUNDOWN 101 WAS TO FALL IN THE TRAIL POSITION AND BOMB THE SECOND TARGET. SUNDOWN 106 BOMBED THE FIRST TARGET AS BRIEFED BUT DUE TO AN OFFSET TURN IN HEADIN; (ABOUT 270 DEGREES) HE ELECTED TO REVERSE COURSE TO THE PORT AND THEN BACK TO STARBOARD TO ESTABLISH PROPER NORTHWEST TRACK TO THE SECOND TARGET.

WHILE 106 WAS DELAYING IN THE TARGET AREA SUNDOWN 101 ASKED HOW HE WAS DOING. SUNDOWN 106 REPORTED HIS POSITION IN THE REVERSAL, AND RECEIVED A PARTIAL

09(8)/PERS(1) ... COQ

3N(4) 00(2) 09(1) 09B1L(1) 03(1) 30(5) 33(8) 34(2) 47(5) 50(16)

51(1) 53(5) 56(3) 07(1) 72(3) 92(2) 007(4) 008(1) FP(5)

BPR(1) JAQ(5) MED(9) +UNSN(1)

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REPLY THAT SOUNDED LIKE "WHAT", HEARING NOTHING FURTHER, SUNDOWN 106 CONTINUED TO THE NEXT TARGET AND DROPPED HIS FLARES. HE THEN MADE A 180 DEGREES TURN AND ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT 101. THIS AND ALL SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. KNFAT THIS TIME AN E2A ON STATION OFF SHORE REPORTED ABRUPT LOSS OF RADAR CONTACT WITH 101.

IT APPEARS MOST PROBABLE THAT SUNDOWN 101 WENT DOWN IN THE VICINITY OF THE FLARES. HIS TURN TO MANEUVER ON A TRAIL POSITION ON 106 PROBABLY CARRIED 101 OVER THE WATER, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF THE AIRPLANE IMPACTED ON THE WATER OR LAND. SUNDOWN 106 DID NOT OBSERVE ENEMY FIRE OR SAM'S, NOR DID HE SEE 101 IMPACT. FLARES IN THE TARGET AREA COULD WELL HAVE MASKED OBSERVATION OF GUNFIRE OR THE CRASH ITSELF.

6. PILOT: JAMES REGINALD BAUDER, LCDR, 560038/1310, USN, ACTIVE UNKNOWN

7. CREWMEMBER: JAMES BURTON MILLS, LTJG, 571748/1325, USNR, ACV UNKNOWN

8. WIFE OF LCDR BAUDER: SARAH HARTSFIELD BAUDER
4491 BERNICK DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92117

FATHER OF LTJG MILLS: EDMUND CLIFTON MILLS
5009 LAGUNA
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

9. NA

10. MISHAP IS THE RESULT OF DIRECT ENEMY ACTION, GP-4.

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