

MICHAEL S LANE

CLASS 15-66

is honored on Panel 37E, Row 38 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: MICHAEL S LANE
Wall Name: MICHAEL S LANE
Date of Birth: 8/7/1943
Date of Casualty: 2/5/1968
Home of Record: LANCASTER
State: SC
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: BINH DINH



1LT Lane served with Company A, 227th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter), 1st Cavalry Division. He was the pilot of a UH-1H helicopter that crashed into a revetment and burned while taking off in IFR conditions from LZ English.

From www.flyarmy.org

After takeoff, pilot had visual difficulty. Aircraft was seen descending in an excessive bank. Aircraft struck shower stall and impacted with the ground, cart wheeled, smashed into building, skidded up hill, and burned.

War Story:

We were flying quite a few missions in support of the 1/50th Mech at the time. I drew the same mission the next day. The mission involved reporting to the 1/50th position at 1st light and as they were located 30 Min. away to the south we had to take off before 1st light. The weather was generally clear but there was a definite nip in the air before the sun came up. You could see stars from the ground but on takeoff you would fly into a thin cloud layer at about 100 ft that was 100 to 200 feet thick. If you took off with the landing light on you would go into a sudden whiteout as soon as you entered the cloud layer. My ship took off shortly after. We went IFR, I got on the instruments and continued the climb, and they didn't. We didn't know they had crashed until we got back around noon. When you broke out on top you could see the fog layers quite distinctly. We called flight ops and told them to warn any subsequent flights of the problem.

LANE MICHAEL S

Name: 1LT Michael S. Lane

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 02/05/1968 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 24.5

Date of Birth: 08/07/1943

Home City: Lancaster, SC

Service: AT branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: A/227 AHB 1 CAV

Major organization: 1st Cavalry Division

Flight class: 67-16

Service: AT branch of the U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 37E-038

Short Summary: Assigned to fly C&C for 1/50 Mech Bn Co. Tried to leave LZ English in bad weather. Instrument T/O caused crash into revetment W/Morley

Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 66-16695

Service number: O5420619

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)

Primary cause: A/C Accident WX

Compliment cause: fire or burns

Started Tour: 11/05/1967

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

Length of service: 03

Location: Binh Dinh Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died while missing

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Presbyterian

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel:

active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 08/20/1995

Helicopter UH-1D 66-16695

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1D tail number 66-16695

The Army purchased this helicopter 0867

Total flight hours at this point: 00000401

Date: 02/05/1968

Incident number: 680205221ACD Accident case number: 680205221 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: A/227 AVN

The station for this helicopter was An Khe in South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: BS862001

Number killed in accident = 4 . . Injured = 0 . . Passengers = 0

costing 514554

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database. Also: OPERA (Operations Report.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P 1LT LANE MICHAEL S KIA

P WO1 MORLEY JEFFREY PAUL KIA

CE SP5 KING LEE RAY KIA

G SGT HEIMAN JOSEPH EDWARD KIA