

## CARL LEONARD RADTKE

Class 9-67

is honored on Panel 30W, Row 15 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** CARL LEONARD RADTKE  
**Wall Name:** CARL L RADTKE  
**Date of Birth:** 7/7/1942  
**Date of Casualty:** 3/2/1969  
**Home of Record:** NEWHALL  
**County of Record:** LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**State:** CA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** KIEN HOA



On 2 March 1969 an enemy mortar shell hit the 191st Assault Helicopter Company's operations center, killing 1LT Radtke and five other men, including the Company Commander.

### Classmates FAOCS 9-67

Those of us who had the privilege of serving with you will never forget your sacrifice for us, the people of the United States, & the Republic of Vietnam. We salute you now & always. Be at peace with God.

Posted by: David L.  
Relationship: We served together  
September 27, 2008

Carl is buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Orange, CA.

## ***A Note from The Virtual Wall***

In 1969 the base at Dong Tam, just west of My Tho City on the Mekong River, was home to the 9th Infantry Division, parts of the Navy's riverine forces, a port facility, and a variety of supporting forces, including the 191st Assault Helicopter Company. Because it was a target-rich environment, the Dong Tam complex attracted more than its share of mortar and rocket attacks. On 02 March 1969 a mortar shell hit the 191st AHC's operations center, killing six men:

MAJ John A. Petric, Cleveland, OH, Company Commander

1LT Dennis S. Coker, Monroe, GA

**1LT Carl L. Radtke, Newhall, CA, Admin Officer**

SP5 Robert L. Heinmiller, Fresno, CA

SP4 Carl S. Douglas, Sanford, NC

SP4 George R. Lovellette, Urbana, IL

The 191st AHC's Historical Notes for March 1969 describes the incident as follows:

"On the night of 1 March 1969 a tragedy struck the 191st. During the initial barrage of a mortar and rocket attack, the 191st Flight Operations Office took a direct hit. Killed were MAJ Petric Commanding Officer, LT Radtke Admin Officer, LT Coker Aircraft Commander, SP5 Heinmiller a crew chief on guard duty, SP4 Lovellett a gunner also on guard duty, and SP4 Douglas an operations radio operator. LT LaSalle an operations officer was seriously wounded suffering the loss of an eye. SP4 Ayers, on flight line guard at the time, was hit by shrapnel from an exploding rocket and suffered multiple fractures of his left leg."

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots' Association database contains the following entry from a member of the 191st:

"They were all killed when a mortar round dropped into our Flight Operations building one night after a lull following several other incoming rounds directed toward the airfield. During the lull, several folks ventured out of the bunker to survey the damage and they then congregated in Flt Opns after taking a look around. One of the next rounds got 7 folks. ... It was a terrible night."

- Roger Stickney, October 1998 -"

The casualty database places this loss in Kien Hoa Province, but it was not; the Dong Tam complex was on the north side of the Mekong River in Dinh Tuong Province. SP4 Douglas's record also indicates death by gunshot, but that's incorrect as well.



**From www.flyarmy.org**

**RADTKE CARL LEONARD**

Name: 1LT Carl Leonard Radtke  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 03/02/1969 while performing the duty of Pilot.  
Age at death: 26.7  
Date of Birth: 07/07/1942  
Home City: Newhall, CA  
Service: FA branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: 191 AHC  
Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade  
Flight class: 68-2  
Service: FA branch of the U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 30W-015  
Short Summary: Ground casualty  
Service number: O5425777  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 2120 = 21 Administrative Officer  
Primary cause: Ground Casualty  
Compliment cause: artillery or mortar  
Started Tour: 05/04/1968  
"Official" listing: ground casualty  
Length of service: 08  
Location: Kien Hoa Province IV Corps.

Additional information about this casualty:

They were ALL killed when a mortar round dropped into our Flt Opns building one night after a lull following several other incoming rounds directed toward the airfield. During the lull, several folks ventured out of the bunker to survey the damage and they then congregated in Flt Opns after taking a look around. One of the next rounds got 7 folks. This website mentions 6 (3 were enlisted guys), but I recall there was another (I couldn't possibly recall who that could have been). It was a terrible night. A guy who would know is John D. Falcon (then a CPT). He is listed in the Directory as a nonmember. He was our XO and had the duty to deal with the ugly scene. Roger Stickney , October 1998  
Reason: artillery or rocket  
Casualty type: Hostile - killed  
married male U.S. citizen  
Race: Caucasian  
Religion: Roman Catholic  
The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.  
Category of casualty as defined by the Army: battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army Military class: officer  
This record was last updated on 05/25/1998  
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association – www.vhpa.org

## **Incident 69030202.KIA**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter tail number

Date: 03/02/1969

Incident number: 69030202.KIA

Unit: 191 AHC

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:  
War Story as related by a witness. Also: 191 AHC UNIT HISTORY ()

### Crew Members:

CE SP5 HEINMILLER ROBERT LYNN KIA

G SP4 LOVELLETTE GEORGE RONALD KIA

**P 1LT RADTKE CARL LEONARD KIA**

P 1LT COKER DENNIS SANDERS KIA

P MAJ PETRIC JOHN ANTHONY KIA

### Passengers and/or other participants:

SP4 DOUGLAS CARL SCOTT, AR, PX, KIA

### War Story:

From HISTORICAL NOTES, Organization and Command, 191st Assault Helicopter Company, Commanding Officer - MAJ Erwin A. Schmidt, First Sergeant - 1SG Robert L. Williamson, 31 March 1969: On the night of 1 March 1969 a tragedy struck the 191st. During the initial barrage of a mortar and rocket attack, the 191st Flight Operations Office took a direct hit. Killed were MAJ Petric Commanding Officer, LT Radtke Admin Officer, LT Coker Aircraft Commander, SP5 Heinmiller a crew chief on guard duty, SP4 Lovellett a gunner also on guard duty, and SP4 Douglas an operations radio operator. LT LaSalle an operations officer was seriously wounded suffering the loss of an eye. SP4 Ayers, on flight line guard at the time, was hit by shrapnel from an exploding rocket and suffered multiple fractures of his left leg

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association – [www.vhpa.org](http://www.vhpa.org)