

# **HC-7 RESCUE 106<sup>(1)</sup>      19-Jun-1972 (Monday)<sup>(11)</sup>**

HH-3A Sikorsky Seaking helo    Det 110    Big Mother    # 67 <sup>(7)</sup>  
    Combat Day <sup>(2)</sup>

79 miles off North Vietnam coast

<b>Pilot – LCDR</b>	<b>Frank C. Koch</b>
<b>Co-pilot - LT</b>	<b>Richard R. Budd</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> crew – AN</b>	<b>Michael R. Plamondon</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> crew – AEAN</b>	<b>Gary M. Tremel</b>

F-4J Phantom 157273 (NH-107) (Black Lion 107) VF-213 (Black Lions), USN,  
    USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63)

## **Lt    Ronald J. Laib**

A section of Phantoms was flying a BARCAP mission over Hon Nieu island near Vinh during a dawn attack on a merchant ship. Lt Cdr Cash was jinking at 1,000 feet in an attempt to throw the anti-aircraft gunners off their aim when his aircraft was hit by 23mm flak. The port wing caught fire and fuel streamed from the aircraft as Lt Cdr Cash headed out to sea towards his carrier. About 100 miles out to sea the pilot eventually lost control as the hydraulic system began to fail completely. The crew ejected safely and were quickly picked up by a Navy helicopter. Lt Cdr Cash and his NFO. <sup>(5)</sup>

0717 F-4 side number 107 received battle damage, returning to the ship. 0728 LCDR Roy Cash Jr. and LT Ronald Laib the pilot and RIO of F-4 aircraft #107 ejected and the aircraft impacted in the water 3000 yards astern of the ship. 0736 the pilot and RIO have been recovered by helicopters #60 and #67 respectively. 0740 LCDR CASH and LT LAIB returned to the ship with no apparent injuries. 0744 resumed launching aircraft. <sup>(11)</sup>

A. – BM 67 - Pilot Koch, copilot Budd, 1<sup>st</sup> crewman Plamondon, 2<sup>nd</sup> crewman Tremel successfully rescued LT Ron Laib VF-213 RIO.

B. – BM 60 - Pilot Peterson, copilot Young, 1<sup>st</sup> crewman McCarthy, 2<sup>nd</sup> crewman Gaynor successfully rescued LCDR Roy Cash VF-213 Pilot. <sup>(8)</sup>



- 1) Numbering as per HC-7 Rescue Log (accumulative rescue number)
- 2) HC-7 Rescue Log
- 3) HC-7 Det 110 Rescue report – NONE
- 4) Map – Goggle Earth
- 5) "Vietnam - Air Losses" By: Chris Hobson (with permission)
- 6) Unclassified Accident Report – B-3-64
- 7) Naval Aviation News – August 1972
- 8) Confidential Message – Combat Rescue Report
- 10) HC-7 History collection; Ron Milam – Historian
- 11) USS Kitty Hawk – Deck Log – Monday 19 June 1972

(Compiled / written by: Ron Milam, HC-7 Historian - HC-7, 2-1969 to 7-1970, Det 108 & 113)