



21<sup>st</sup> SOS USAF  
NKP THAILAND

In Memory of:  
Jim Kays, Larry Froehlich, George  
McMullen, Robert Weldon, Rich  
Vandegerer, Woody Rumbaugh  
and Dick Brims







**21<sup>st</sup> SOS Pilots and Flight Mechanics  
Taken before the "action"**





One of our 10 CH-53s

# Nakhon Phanom AB Northeastern Thailand



View from Officer's Quarters

Officer's Open Mess







View from the air

Officer's Quarters



Jim Kays



Dave Greer and Rob Rakitis



Mike Lackey







Ron Vickroy and ??

Dusty- 21<sup>st</sup> SOS Mascot

Our Mascot "Dusty"





John Lucas, Don Shoppelry, John Schramm, Joe Miano  
and others





I don't know, what did we step in?



John Lucas

John Schramm

Dick Brims





21<sup>st</sup> SOS Officer's Hooch

Rob Rakitis



Denny Danielson

??

Don Shoppelry





Lt Col Hintz



John Lucas

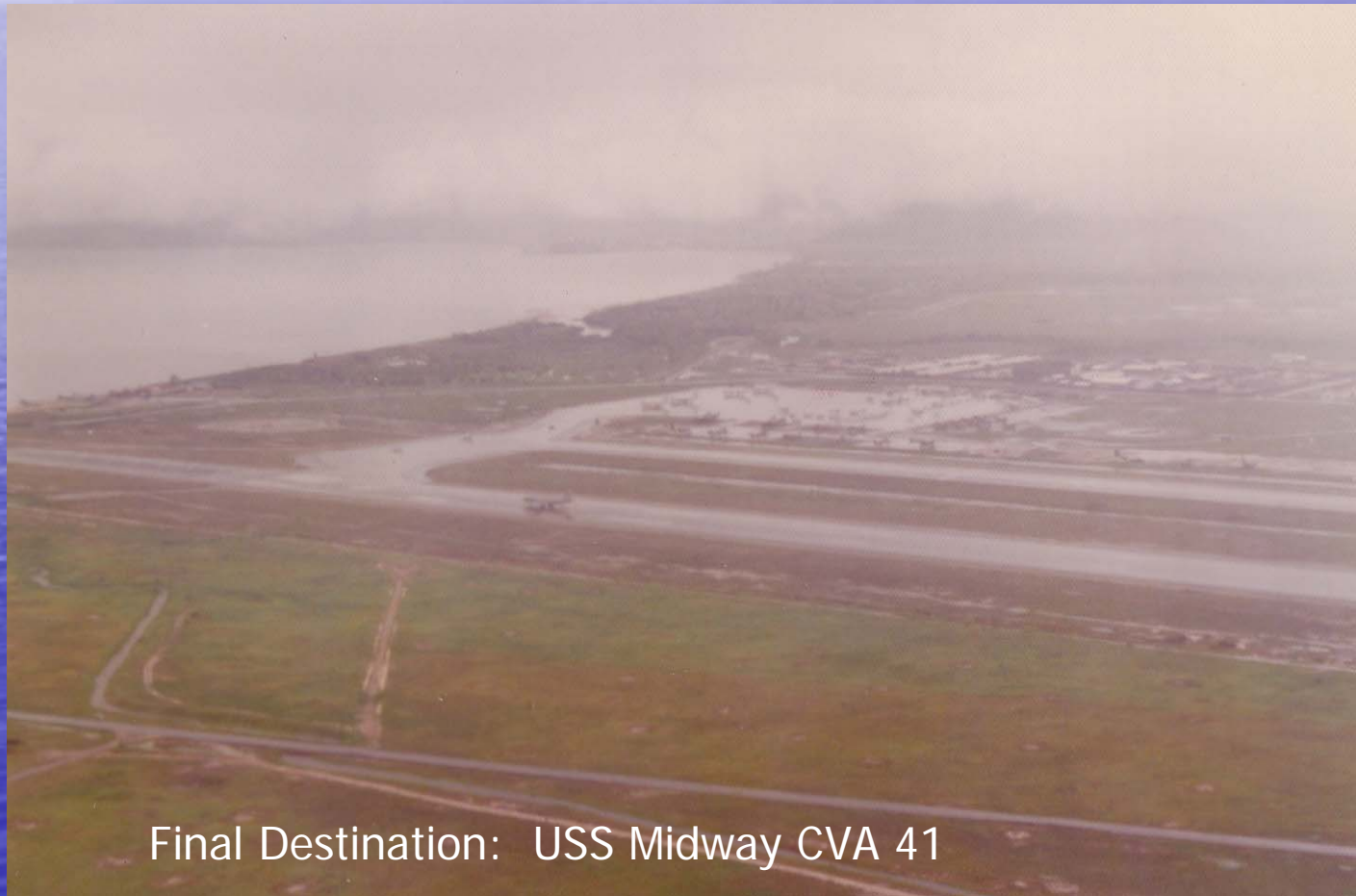
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# Off to Utapao AB for the Saigon Evacuation



Final Destination: USS Midway CVA 41



Ahoy! USS Midway









Safe on Deck USS Midway







Dave Lykens



Lt Col Denham and Denny Danielson



John Lucas







The deck was crowded with our non-blade fold 53s!!





We let the Navy fly a little too!



Is this one still flying?

USS Midway South China Sea







Crowded fore deck, Guess who's UH-1s?





Resupply at Sea - UNREP



Coming home after the Saigon Evacuation







Vietnamese UH-1s on the USS Midway, these are the lucky ones, a lot were pushed overboard, including a CH-47



Vietnamese UH-1s, nose to tail





Rich Vandegeer

Jim Kays

Joe Miano

Dick Brims

Dave Greer

Mark Kuno?



Lynn Riley

Jim Kays





Back to Utapao, now we have to move F-5s and A-37s the hard way!













OOPS!

F5 Low Rider







# Mayaguez Operation

- No Pictures until we landed short of Utapao due to loss of fuel and a hydraulic failure.

**KNIFE 31**



**Rich      Howard      Randy      JD**





Sgt Harston    Maj Corson    Col Goodall







Post Mayageuz operation,  
landed short of Utapao  
due to lack of fuel

Didn't take long for the  
crowd to gather







Knife 52 waiting for fuel

Don McDowell







Fuel is arriving,  
thanks to another  
one of our crews







Fuel has arrived

We really all took our turns pumping







**Rob Rakitis making sure those Flight Engineers, TSgt Bill Dunbar and SSgt Don McDowell get the fuel in fast!**



Rakitis taking a break



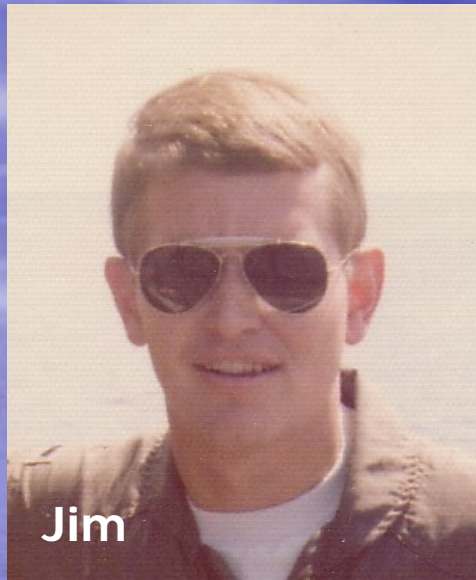
Returned to Utapao via HH-43



Remember our fallen comrades -  
Always



\*killed at Nellis AFB 1986



Jim



Rich



Dick



No pictures

- Larry
- George
- Robert
- Woody







**NEVER FORGET!**





# *The End*



*In honor of all those who served and are serving now in distant corners of the world to protect our freedom and the freedom of others. Their selflessness shall not be forgotten.*