

Statement of SSgt Joseph F. Oates, Regarding Da Nang AB, 1 July 1965

At approximately 0125 hrs. on 1 July 1965 while on SAT Team #1 (SSgt. Joseph F. Oates, 23 ABGp (SLE), A1C Chism, Douglas, and A2C Allen, Jack E., both of the 476 TAC FTR Sqn. (SLE). Was notified by C.S.C. on the radio of a incident in the 102 area on the south end of the taxi way. The SAT Team #1 being on Post #14 Rocket Storage proceeded to the area, it took approx. 1 ½ to 2 min. to arrive at the scene. I, SSgt Oates (NCOIC SAT Team) posted A1C Chism approx. 600 yards up from the scene to keep the area clear. A2C Allen and myself (SSgt Oates) then proceeded down to Post #1 about 10 yards we were stopped by a unknown airman who said there were about 35 or 40 men (U.S.) in the area, so we, SSgt Oates and A2C Allen proceeded to transport the men from the area the first we took out about 10 men out and drop them at the 123 area and then went back into the 102 area to look for more personnel and also A2C Handy and SSgt Jensen, A2C Wilkins (A.P.s on duty) who could not be accounted for at this time approx. 0132 hr. a unknown Army Maj. Pulled up with a jeep full of men (about 5 or 6) who he (Maj) got in the 102 area. Myself (SSgt Oates) and A2C Allen and the Maj. Went back to get more men out I (SSgt Oates) put A2C Handy in the truck with about 10 more airman who was pick up. We then (myself and the Maj) went to Post #1 and found the body of SSgt Jensen under the right rear of the truck. At this time a unknown Capt. Pulled up with a jeep while the Maj and Capt put SSgt Jensen on the hood I (SSgt Oates) acted as a cover. We then left the area, and sent SSgt Jensen and A2C Handy to the Hosp. At about 0135 hr. I (SSgt Oates) made contact with Lt. King (APDO) at the mobile command post and informed him of the situation. We could not account for A2C Wilkins but we could not go back in the area by order of the Col.

At 0300 Lt. King, SSgt Spanner, SSgt Oates and about 8 A.P.s proceed back to the 102 area with the Fire Dept. to search for A2C Wilkins. His weapon was found in a ditch about 10 min. later we found A2C Wilkins and TSgt Solvin 509 FIS in the Marine area to the southwest of the 102 area.

On the first run into the 102 area we (SSgt Oates and A2C Allen) heard small arms fire but we made no contact with the V.C. We SAT Team did not fire back as we were too busy getting the men out of the area.

This is to the best of my knowledge.

SSgt Joseph F. Oates