

Mar. 16, 1970 EC121 Crash at Đà Nẵng

**NAVAL
CRYPTOLOGIC
HISTORY:**

**March 16, 1970
Nine crew survive crash of VQ-1
23 Dead.
EC-121 at Đà Nẵng, Vietnam**



A B&W looking toward the Navy AWACS EC-121 crash that crashed into the baseball field next to the power plant. March 16, 1970
[Bob Kuzmicki photo]



Another view of the crash
[Bob Kuzmicki photo]

Rent the NBC Archive news video of this incident at:

Headline: Vietnam / Plane Crash / Rice(Studio) United States spy plane kills 22 in Đà Nẵng crash. Vietnam rice on black market
REPORTER: Chet Huntley

(Loc Hoi, South Vietnam) Vietnam farmers hoarding rice to raise price; VC, black market buying much of government rice; rice shortage creating dissatisfaction with South Vietnam leaders
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Courtesy of http://www.navyct.com/d_biglook.shtml

16 March 1970
EC-121 Crash - Đà Nẵng Air Base, RVN
Memorial Site

(Below photos, and many others can be viewed at the Memorial Site link)

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1970

22 Killed In S. Viet As U.S. Spy Plane Crashes

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By ROBERT SULLIVAN
 DA NANG, Vietnam (UPI) — A U.S. Navy EC121 spy plane with 31 crewmen aboard faltered today during its landing approach and crashed in flames into a hangar, killing 22 of them. The remaining nine crewmen and two U. S. Air Force men in the hangar were injured. The four-propeller aircraft slammed into the building and burst into flames. A \$2.9 million F4 Phantom fighter-bomber inside was destroyed.

with electronics equipment for its aerial reconnaissance mission, were U. S. Navy men. The plane, a converted Constellation, carried no bombs or weapons. "Mechanical Failure" Military authorities attributed the crash to a "mechanical failure." The craft broke in two on impact. Only the white tail section and part of the fuselage were distinguishable amid the scattered wreckage. Debris from the plane heavily damaged a nearby hut used as

a makeshift snack bar for mechanics on alert status at the Da Nang Air Base on South Vietnam's northern coast. It was one of the worst air mishaps of the Vietnam war involving American troops. The heaviest toll of American lives was recorded on Jan. 25, 1966, when a C123 transport plane crashed near An Khe, 240 miles northeast of Saigon, killing 46 U. S. servicemen. On Oct. 21, 1968, an Air Force C47 transport en route from Saigon to Da Nang crashed near Ban Me Thuot, 157 miles northwest of the capital, killing all 24 U. S. servicemen aboard. U. S. spokesmen said the EC121 crashed about 300 yards east of the runway at 11:30 a.m. near a busy road leading to a large American mess hall. Some of the wreckage ripped

into a backstop on a softball field near the hangar, but the field was deserted. Miss Costly Aircraft The plane also missed a row of revetments concealing sleek, multi-million dollar jet aircraft. The EC121 carries a 31-man crew, all skilled technicians needed to operate radar equipment and other listening devices aboard the converted Constellation. U. S. spokesmen refused to discuss where the plane had been flying Monday. Military sources said the EC121 is used on aerial spying missions, listening in on guerrilla radio activity or plotting North Vietnamese radar positions. North Korean jets shot down an identical plane with 31 crewmen aboard last April 15 off the North Korean coast.

The BC-121 below is similar to the aircraft in the above story. A photo did not accompany this story.



by Jack Peterson and Gerald W. Martin

Det- of Crash: **David (Dave) S. Branks**

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