

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

At approximately 0125 hours, 1 July 1965, while on SAT Team-1 (SSgt. Joseph F. Oates, 23 ABG (SLE), A1C Chism, Douglas, A2C Allen, Jack E., and both of the 476 TAC FTR Sqn. (SLE)), we were notified by Central Security Control radio of an Incident in the F-102 area on the South end of the taxiway.

SAT Team-1, being at Post #14 (Rocket Storage), proceeded to the area and took about 1 ½ to 2 min. to arrive at the scene.

I (SSgt Oates, NCOIC SAT Team) posted A1C Chism about 600 yards up from the scene to keep the area clear. A2C Allen and myself proceeded down to Post-1, in 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 proceeded to transport those men from the area.

The first time we took out about ten men and dropped them at the C-123 area. On the first run into the 102 area we heard small arms fire, but we made no contact with the V.C. We in the SAT Team did not fire back as we were too busy getting the men out of the area.

We then went back into the F-102 area to look for more crew personnel, and also APs A2C Handy, SSgt Jensen, and A2C Wilkins, who were on duty Air Police and could not be accounted for at this time.

About 0132 hours, a unknown Army Maj. Pulled up with a jeep full of men (about 5 or 6) who he got in the 102 area. Then myself, A2C Allen, and the Maj. then went back to get more men out.

A2C Handy found us in the truck, with about 10 more airman who was picked up. We then left the area and sent SSgt Jensen and A2C Handy to the Hosp.

Me 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, and the Maj and Capt put SSgt Jensen's body on the jeep's hood, and I acted as a cover. We then left the area, and sent SSgt Jensen and A2C Handy to the Hospital.

About 0135 hours, I 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 APs proceeded back to the 102 area with the Fire Department to search for AP A2C [Carl J.] Wilkins*. His weapon was found in a ditch. About 10 minutes later we found A2C Wilkins and TSgt Solvin, 509 FIS, in the Marine area to the southwest of the 102 area.

This is to the best of my knowledge.

SSgt Joseph F. Oates

* See FIOA: [http://www.vspa.com/pdf/usaf-historical-research-agency-\(foia-act\)-\(1\)-23rd-abg-jul-1965-1966-jan.pdf](http://www.vspa.com/pdf/usaf-historical-research-agency-(foia-act)-(1)-23rd-abg-jul-1965-1966-jan.pdf)