

Aircraft Accident Investigation Report
H-F & H-31 Accident
at L-54, Laos
2 February 1967

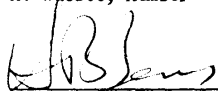
Approval and submission of this report
is hereby made by the following members
of the Field Head Office Aircraft Accident
Review Board:



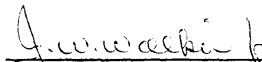
T. L. Boyd, Chairman



A. Wueste, Member



H. P. Bevans, Member



J. W. Walker, Jr., Member

July 80

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT CHECKLIST AND INDEX

(Place in applicable column for each tab letter)

Tab Letter	Description	Not Applicable	Applicable Not Attached	At-attached	No Forms Attached
A	LOCAL BOARD REPORT			X	1
B	TEAM MEMORANDUM			X	1
C	SAFE FORM 2	X			
D	SAFE FORM 4			X	2
E	SAFE FORM 3	X			
F	CREW STATEMENTS			X	2
G	PASSENGER STATEMENTS	X			
H	WITNESS STATEMENTS	X			
I	ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING REPORTS	X			
J	WEATHER REPORTS	X			
K	DAMAGE REPORTS			X	2
L	FLIGHT REPORTS AND RECORDS			X	4
M	MAINTENANCE RECORDS	X			
N	AEROMEDICAL REPORT	X			
O	DIAGRAMS (Sketches, Maps, Physical Evidence at Scene)	X			
P	PHOTOGRAPHS & NEGATIVES (Negatives with Original Only)			X	6
Q	ADDITIONAL DATA	X			
R	MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS	X			
REMARKS:					

NARRATIVE REPORT

At approximately 0105L on 2 February 1967, H-7 and H-31 were destroyed by unfriendly forces while parked in a designated parking area at Luang Prabang (L-54) airport, Laos.

According to the pilots, whose statements are attached, the USAID customer arrived at their hotel, which is located in town, at approximately 0130. He stated that the airfield was under attack by unfriendly elements which had infiltrated into the northern portion of the airstrip where both of the UH-34s were parked adjacent to a number of RLAF aircraft.

According to all available information, the attack began at approximately 0035L and the fire fight lasted approximately 15 minutes. During the time of the attack both helicopters plus 6 RLAF aircraft were completely destroyed by direct hits from rocket launchers and automatic weapons fire. There were no injuries to Air America personnel.

Subsequent to the completion of their daily missions, Captain I. R. Gram, PIC of H-7, and Captain J. J. Cooney, PIC of H-31, parked their aircraft at the normal helicopter parking area which is designated and is approximately 150 yards from the fixed wing area located at the north end of the field. After the aircraft were properly secured the crews went downtown for the night. Since Luang Prabang (L-54) is one of the larger cities of Laos and considered to be an area of complete security, no crew members remained with the aircraft. This was fortunate, because anyone who may have been in the immediate area of the aircraft would have been seriously injured or killed during the attack.

The attack was well planned and executed and was a complete surprise to all concerned. It appears that the sole object of the mission was the destruction of aircraft.

Original Signed by
Earl W. Knight
Capt. E. W. Knight


O. G. Alexander


R. M. Collins

ACCIDENT REPORT

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DESCRIBE SPECIFIC PART IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL TO IDENTIFY IT POSITIVELY. GIVE MAKE, MODEL, AND SERIAL NUMBER. ALSO TOTAL HOURS AND HOURS SINCE OVERHAUL:

N/A

15. PERSONNEL INVOLVED

N/A

A. NAME _____ REF. NO. _____ DEPARTMENT _____

NATURE OF INJURY _____

DISPOSITION _____

B. NAME _____ REF. NO. _____ DEPARTMENT _____

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DISPOSITION _____

16. WHAT IS YOUR ANALYSIS OF CAUSE

Deliberate destruction by unfriendly military force.

17. CORRECTIVE ACTION BEING TAKEN TO PRECLUDE FUTURE SIMILAR ACCIDENTS.

Immediate action is an improvement in security arrangements at L54.

DISTRIBUTION: VICE PRESIDENT, TECHNICAL SERVICES (3) CHIEF, PLANNING (AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT ONLY) SECTION MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT SAFETY ENGINEER TREASURER CONTROLLER SAFETY DIVISION (ALL OCCURRENCES) ACCIDENT FOLDERS (AIRCRAFT ONLY) FILE	NAME OF REPORTER	Original Signed by Earl W. Knight Earl W. Knight
	TITLE	MF/RW UDN
	DATE REPORTED	9 February 1967

ACCIDENT REPORT

This Report is to be submitted against all accidents involving damage to aircraft or equipment.

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CHIEF, PLANNING (AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT ONLY)		TITLE	
SECTION MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT		MF/RW UDN	
SAFETY ENGINEER		DATE REPORTED	
TREASURER CONTROLLER		9 February 1967	
SAFETY DIVISION (ALL OCCURRENCES)			
ACCIDENT FOLDERS (AIRCRAFT ONLY)			
FILE			

STATEMENT

4 February 1967

At 0130 hours on 2 February the USAID customer at L-34 arrived at the hotel in town to transport the crews of H-F and H-31 to the airfield in order to attempt evacuation of the helicopters as the field was under attack. Upon arrival at the USAID headquarters information was received from the field that the two helicopters and 6 other aircraft had been destroyed by fire as a result of hostile action. The PIC of H-F proceeded to the field to confirm aircraft damage while the PIC of H-31 remained by the radio. PIC of H-F returned and confirmed the aircraft destroyed. This information was in turn relayed to Udorn.

First hand reports from L-34 customers stated that the attack came from the North end of the runway at 0035 2 February and the ensuing fire-fight lasted about 15 minutes. During this time the enemy moved into positions and by use of rocket launchers and automatic weapons destroyed the aircraft.

No crew personnel were involved in the attack or injured. The customers at L-34 stated that the aircraft had been destroyed in the initial 15 minutes of the attack by direct hits from enemy rocket launchers.

The Air America aircraft were parked in the normal helicopter parking area as designated which is roughly 150 yards from the fixed wing parking area.

I. R. Gram
I. R. Gram
PIC / H-F

S T A T E M E N T

4 February 1967

At approximately 1:30 A.M. 2 February 1967 I was awakened by two USAID customers. They said the airfield was under attack and they wanted to take the crews to the airfield to evacuate the aircraft. We stopped at the USAID headquarters and decided that rather than everyone going to the airfield in view of the unknown situation existing there, Capt. Gram would confirm what we'd heard at USAID headquarters (that the two helicopters had burned) and I would stand by the radio as had been requested by Tango. While on the radio with Tango, Capt. Gram returned with confirmation of destruction of both aircraft. The information was passed to Tango as well as verification of safety of all personnel and a customer request for replacement ASAP.

We were informed the following morning that the aircraft had been hit by rocket launcher and small arms at close range and the aircraft burned immediately. Within several hundred yards 6 other aircraft had also been destroyed.

John J. Cooney
John J. Cooney
PIC 1/E-34

31

MEMORANDUM

TO : MFS DATE: 7 February 1967
FROM : S/QC RLF. NO. SQG-UDN-67-037
SUBJECT : Damage Report - UH-34D, H-31, BUONO 1A8057

I. BACKGROUND

1. Date : 2 February 1967
2. Location : L-54
3. Pilot : J. Cocney
4. Cause of Damage: Helicopter was fired upon with rockets and small fire arms.

II. EXTENT OF DAMAGE

Fire destroyed helicopter with the exception of the tail pylon and part of the tail cone.

MBW/nn
cc: SAM/H
File

Melzer B. Woodward
Melzer B. Woodward
Superintendent of Quality Control