



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

IN REPLY REFER TO
MSPA-1-6-wah
3040
22 Jan 1976

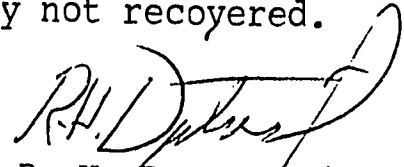
From: Hearing Officer
To: Senior Member, Review Board for Recommending Con-
tinuation or Change of Status of Missing, Missing
in Action or Captured/Detained Personnel

Subj: Review and collection of information concerning the
status of Staff Sergeant David W. ERICKSON,
DATA, U. S. Marine Corps, missing in action

Ref: (a) Department of Navy Regulations for Holding Hearings
pursuant to the Missing Persons Act dated 28Mar74.
(b) Head, Personal Affairs Branch ltr dated 5Aug74
(c) Disclosure of Decision from Mrs. Lyla E. Erickson
dated 15Jan76
(d) Disclosure of Decision from Mr. Arland W. Erickson
dated 9Jan76

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), a review
of Staff Sergeant Erickson's records was conducted on January
22, 1976.

2. Based on the information in Staff Sergeant Erickson's
case file and Memorandum for the Record INTC-WHP-wfh over
3461 dated January 9, 1976, it is recommended that the status
of Staff Sergeant Erickson be changed from missing in action
to killed in action, body not recovered.


R. H. DIETRICH
Maj USMC


MSPA-1-6-wah
3040
27 JAN 1976

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Senior Member, Missing and Captured
Review Board's ltr MSPA-1-6-wah dtd 27 JAN 1976

From: Head, Personal Affairs Branch
To: Missing and Captured Personnel Unit

Subj: Determination of death; case of Staff Sergeant
David W. ERICKSON, DATA, U. S. Marine
Corps, missing in action

1. Concur with the recommendation in paragraph 1 of the
basic letter.


ROY L. BELLI
Col USMC



A SUMMARY OF THE INCIDENT

Staff Sergeant ERICKSON (then a Private First Class) and two other Marines were reported missing on March 16, 1968, when they failed to return from a boating trip near the Ha Dong Bridge, 15 miles south of Danang. For four days preceding their disappearance, the three Marines had been taking the boat out for a few hours each day. Shortly after the three Marines departed in the boat, three muffled explosions were heard in the direction where they were boating. A fire team was sent to search for the three Marines, but met with negative results. Another larger patrol searched along the river but could find no trace of the missing Marines. On March 21, 1968, a body of one of the Marines who was with Staff Sergeant ERICKSON was discovered floating in the river.

No information to supplement that contained in the initial investigation of disappearance, summarized above, has been derived from the intelligence debriefings of repatriated prisoners of war or from any other source concerning Staff Sergeant ERICKSON.

ROUGH DD 1300

The exact date and place of SSGT Erickson's death are not known. The following is a brief description of the facts in SSGT Erickson's case including the basis for the conclusion that he is dead. On 16Mar68 SSGT Erickson (then a Private First Class) and two other Marines were using a boat for recreational purposes on a river near the Ha Dong Bridge, 15 miles south of Danang, Republic of Vietnam. Three muffled explosions were heard in the vicinity where he and two other Marines were boating. An intensive search of the area where they were boating failed to reveal any trace of the missing Marines. A later search recovered one Marine's body floating in the river. No information to supplement the above, which indicates that SSGT Erickson survived after 16Mar68 has been received. On the basis of the foregoing, the absence of information from all sources that he survived, and the elapse of time without indication of survival, it was determined that SSGT Erickson is dead. This finding of death was made by me as designee of the Secretary of the Navy under Title 37, U. S. Code Section 555 on 25 Feb 1976. Accordingly, continuance of Marine Corps pay and allowances under Chapter 10, Title 37, U. S. Code terminates on that date.

The proposed action concerning the subject individual has been coordinated with the PW/MIA Task Force.



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IN REPLY REFER TO
MSPA-1-6-wah
3040
27 JAN 1976

128

PW/MIA Task Force

From: Senior Member, Missing and Captured Review Board
To: Head, Personal Affairs Branch

Subj: Determination of death; case of Staff Sergeant
David W. ERICKSON, DADP, U. S. Marine
Corps, missing in action

Ref: (a) 37 U. S. Code 555
(b) SECNAV ltr file JAG:11:WJG:z over A3-1(1) of
16Feb45 and file A18 (3009) of 20Jul42
(c) CMC ltr Ser MC 1132648 of 5Oct49, approved by
SECNAV on 11Oct49
(d) Hd, PersAffBr ltr MSPA-1-6-wah dtd 20Oct75
(e) Hearing Officer ltr MSPA-1-6-wah dtd 22Jan76
(f) Captain Bartlett's ltr DLB/jjm over 5800
of 7Apr68

1. A careful review of all available data regarding the circumstances surrounding the casualty status of the subject named Marine has been made. From analysis of the evidence, it is the opinion of the Missing and Captured Review Board that sufficient data is available to warrant a change in status from missing to deceased. References (a) through (f) were reviewed this date and contain the information upon which this opinion is based. Accordingly, it is recommended that his status be changed to deceased.

MATT J. MARSHALL
Major USMC
Senior Member

WILLIAM H. WHITE
Major USMC
Member

TERRELL L. DULANEY
Captain USMC
Member





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

IN REPLY REFER TO
MSPA-1-6-wah
3040
4 FEB 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subj: Change of status from MIA to KIA (BNR)

1. After careful review of all available information, a change of status from missing in action to killed in action in the case of the below listed Marine is considered appropriate:

Staff Sergeant David W. ERICKSON, DATA, USMC

2. Mrs. Lyla E. Erickson and Mr. Arland W. Erickson, the parents of Staff Sergeant David W. ERICKSON, DATA, USMC, have waived all their rights as established by current Department of the Navy Regulations, and requested that a preliminary review be held as soon as possible. An informal review was held on January 22, 1976, with the concurrence of Mrs. Lyla E. Erickson and Mr. Arland W. Erickson.

3. Coordination has been effected with the Department of Defense PW/MIA Task Force.

4. A summary of the incident is attached. Your concurrence in the change of status is requested.

18 FEB 1976

APPROVED *J. William Middendorf II*

J. William Middendorf II

Secretary of the Navy

Robert H. Barrow
ROBERT H. BARROW
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR MANPOWER

27 February 1976

1. USA PERSONNEL:

No additions or changes.

2. USN PERSONNEL:

For NVN: Change from MM to O:

YARBROUGH, William P. CDR

19 Jan 67

3. USAF PERSONNEL:

No additions or changes.

4. USMC PERSONNEL:

a. For NVN: Change from MM to XX:

PEACOCK, John R. II Capt

12 Oct 72

b. For SVN: Change from MM to XX:

ERICKSON, David W. SSgt

16 Mar 68

5. CIVILIANS:

No additions or changes.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380			
REPORT OF CASUALTY		1. REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE 3466A-68 FINAL JAS/vfg #2	2. DATE PREPARED 9Mar76
3. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Social Security Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization), (MOS/NJC) ERICKSON David Wayne DATA /0351 SSGT USMC PERSONNEL UNIT HQMC MISSING & CAPTURED			
4. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE b. COMMENCED TOUR DATE: 16Feb68			
c. STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KIA <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING IN ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTURED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER KIA (BNR) (Specify)			
d. DATE: *(see remarks) e. PLACE: *(see remarks)			
f. CAUSE & CIRCUMSTANCES *(see remarks)			
5. a. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 24Feb50 Santa Ana CA	b. RACE Cau	c. SEX M	d. RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE P
6. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME 28Jun67 Minneapolis MN Minneapolis Hennepin MN			
7a. PAY GRADE E-6	b. BASIC PAY FDP 20.00 HFP 65.00	c. INCENTIVE/ADDITIONAL PAY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	d. CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER
8. DUTY STATUS ACTIVE: On duty			
9. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)		DATE OF RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA FORM: 14Mar68	
Mrs Lyla E Erickson DATA		Footnotes Moth 1	
Mr Arlund W Erickson DATA		Fath	
10. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	11. REPORTING COMMAND AGENCY AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT 1ST END ON SENIOR MEMBER MIS&CPTD REVIEW BD's ltr MSPA-1-6-wah dtd 27JAN76		
12. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Minneapolis Hennepin MN			
13. REMARKS *The exact date and place of SSGT Erickson's death are not known. The following is a brief description of the facts in SSGT Erickson's case including the basis for the conclusion that he is dead. On 16Mar68 SSGT Erickson (then a Private First Class) and two other Marines were using a boat for recreational purposes on a river near the Ha Dong Bridge, 15 miles south of Danang, Republic of Vietnam. Three muffled explosions were heard in the vicinity where he and two other Marines were boating. An intensive search of the area where they were boating failed to reveal any trace of			

DD FORM 1300
FEB 73

J. N. LYONNAIS
Captain, U. S. Marine Corps
Assistant Head, Casualty Section
By direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps

REPLACES DD FORM 1300, 1 MAR 60, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380			
REPORT OF CASUALTY		1. REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE 3466A-68 FINAL JAS/vfg #3	2. DATE PREPARED 9Mar76
3. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Social Security Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization), (MOS/NJC) ERICKSON David Wayne DATA /0351 SSGT USMC PERSONNEL UNIT HQMC MISSING & CAPTURED			
4. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE b. COMMENCED TOUR DATE:			
c. STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KIA <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING IN ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTURED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER KIA (BNR) (Specify)			
d. DATE: e. PLACE:			
f. CAUSE & CIRCUMSTANCES			
5. a. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH	b. RACE	c. SEX	d. RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE
6. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME			
7a. PAY GRADE	b. BASIC PAY	c. INCENTIVE/ADDITIONAL PAY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	d. CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER
8. DUTY STATUS			
9. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)		DATE OF RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA FORM:	
10. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		11. REPORTING COMMAND AGENCY AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT	
12. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
13. REMARKS Item #13 Continued *the missing Marines. A later search recovered one Marine's body floating in the river. No information to supplement the above, which indicates that SSGT Erickson survived after 16Mar68 has been received. On the basis of the foregoing, the absence of information from all sources that he survived, and the elapse of time without indication of survival, it was determined that SSGT Erickson is dead. This finding of death was made by me as designee of the Secretary of the Navy under Title 37, U. S. Code 555 on 25Feb76. Accordingly, continuance of Marine Corps pay and allowances under Chapter 10, Title 37, U. S. Code terminates on that date.			
FOOTNOTES: 1. Adult next of kin. 2. Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child—as designated on record of emergency data. 3. Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances—as designated on record of emergency data.			
14. DISTRIBUTION B	15. SIGNATURE ELEMENT J. N. LYONNAIS USMC HEAD PERSONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS		

DD FORM 1300
FEB 73

REPLACES DD FORM 1300, 1 MAR 60, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

WU INFOMASTER

HQ MC WSH B

016859C056 1349EST

001 XV USGOVT PD GWA 090175 WASHINGTON DC 25 FEBRUARY 1976
PMS MRS. Lyla E. ERICKSON /DO NOT DELIVER BETWEEN 10PM AND 6AM
LOCAL TIME/ DATA

I DEEPLY REGRET TO CONFIRM THAT THE STATUS OF YOUR SON,
STAFF SERGEANT DAVID W. ERICKSON, USMC, HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM
MISSING IN ACTION TO DECEASED. THE EXACT DATE AND PLACE OF
STAFF SERGEANT ERICKSON'S DEATH ARE NOT KNOWN. BASED ON A REVIEW
OF YOUR SON'S CASE AND THE LACK OF INFORMATION THAT HE SURVIVED
AFTER 16 MARCH 1968, IT IS PRESUMED THAT HE IS DECEASED. ON
BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS I EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT
CONDOLENCES IN YOUR BEREAVEMENT.

LOUIS H. WILSON, GENERAL, USMC, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

ACCEPTED
00001

1-PC

RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL—30¢ (plus postage)

SENT TO	Mrs. Lyla E. Erickson	POSTMARK OR DATE
STREET AND NO.	DATA	JAN 6 1976
P.O. STATE AND ZIP CODE	DATA	
OPTIONAL SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL FEES		
RETURN RECEIPT SERVICES	1. Shows to whom and date delivered With delivery to addressee only	15¢ 65¢
	2. Shows to whom, date and where delivered With delivery to addressee only	35¢ 85¢
	DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY	50¢
	SPECIAL DELIVERY (extra fee required)	

PS Form 3800 Apr. 1971 NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED— (See other side)
NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL GPO: 1972 O - 460-743

No. 794 80

WU INFOMASTER

HQ MC WSH B

017025C056 1352EST

002 XV USGOVT PD GWA 090175 WASHINGTON DC 25 FEBRUARY 1976
PMS MR. ARLAND W. ERICKSON /DO NOT DELIVER BETWEEN 10PM AND 6AM
LOCAL TIME/ DATA

I DEEPLY REGRET TO CONFIRM THAT THE STATUS OF YOUR SON,
STAFF SERGEANT DAVID W. ERICKSON, USMC, HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM
MISSING IN ACTION TO DECEASED. THE EXACT DATE AND PLACE OF
STAFF SERGEANT ERICKSON'S DEATH ARE NOT KNOWN. BASED ON A
REVIEW OF YOUR SON'S CASE AND THE LACK OF INFORMATION THAT HE
SURVIVED AFTER 16 MARCH 1968, IT IS PRESUMED THAT HE IS DECEASED.
ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS I EXTEND OUR
HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES IN YOUR BEREAVEMENT.

LOUIS H. WILSON, GENERAL, USMC, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

ACCEPTED
00002

1-PC

002 XV USGOVT PD GWA 090175 WASHINGTON DC 25 FEBRUARY 1976
PMS MR. ARLAND W. ERICKSON /DO NOT DELIVER BETWEEN 10PM AND 6AM
LOCAL TIME/ DATA

I DEEPLY REGRET TO CONFIRM THAT THE STATUS OF YOUR SON,
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ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS I EXTEND OUR
HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES IN YOUR BEREAVEMENT.

LOUIS H. WILSON, GENERAL, USMC, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

MSPA-1-5-elw
1770
MAR 18 1976

Mrs. Lyla E. Erickson

DATA

Dear Mrs. Erickson:

This is in further reference to the change of status of your son, Staff Sergeant David W. Erickson, U. S. Marine Corps.

Although it may be difficult at a time like this to lend one's self to the completion of forms and administrative details relating to the death of a loved one, such things are necessary in settling the affairs of your son and are required at your earliest convenience.

I am enclosing an Information Booklet which explains certain rights and benefits to which you may be entitled because of your son's service. Also enclosed are five copies of the Report of Casualty which are to be utilized for any purpose requiring proof of death. The Report of Casualty is widely accepted by government agencies as well as those private and commercial institutes or agencies requiring proof of death for the purpose of settling the affairs of a deceased Marine.

In the near future an officer of the Marine Corps, representing the Commandant, will call on you and deliver applicable forms and advise and assist you in their proper completion and submission as appropriate.

Please be assured of my sympathy in the loss of your beloved son.

Sincerely,

G. J. DELONG

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Head, Personal Affairs Branch

By direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Encl:

- (1) Information Booklet
- (2) Report of Casualty (5)

MSPA-1-5-elw
1770
MAR 18 1976

Mr. Arlund W. Erickson

DATA

Dear Mr. Erickson:

This is in further reference to the change of status of your son, Staff Sergeant David W. Erickson, U. S. Marine Corps.

Although it may be difficult at a time like this to lend one's self to the completion of forms and administrative details relating to the death of a loved one, such things are necessary in settling the affairs of your son and are required at your earliest convenience.

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Sincerely,

G. J. DELONG

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Head, Personal Affairs Branch

By direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Encl:

- (1) Information Booklet
- (2) Report of Casualty (5)