

October 5, 1968

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pate,

Enclosed is a picture that was on a roll of film my husband took at Ulbon. I thought that it might be of some of the crew & that Gary might be in it. I would like for you to have it anyway and tell me if Gary or anyone you recognize is in it. From left to right, #1 is Tom Mitchell, my husband, and #8 is Lt. Col. Mason.

It has taken me a long time to write you. I realize that distance in circumstances like these makes things even worse. But please know I have thought about you.

As of the middle of Aug. I left Okinawa to come back to the States. I visited with both folks and then set out to find a place to live. Rentals are very hard to find here - especially when you want a puppy. But I found both an apt. & a puppy and someday I hope our furniture will arrive! Know that it is hard to live not knowing what happened. But someday we will know and I hope to meet Gary then.

If there is ever anything that I can do, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Norma Mitchell

22 May 1968

Mr & Mrs Loyd K. Pate  
Route 1  
Brooks, Georgia

It is with deep personal concern that I officially inform you that your son, Staff Sergeant Gary Pate, is missing in action in South East Asia. On 22 May 1968, he was a crew member on board a C-130 aircraft on an operational mission. During the mission contact with his aircraft was lost. All attempts to establish communications were negative. Sergeant Pate may have been captured.

For his welfare it is recommended that in reply to questions from persons other than your immediate family, you give only his name, grade, service number, and date of birth. This is the information he must provide if captured. Please be assured new information received will be furnished you immediately.

Your son's Commander is writing you a letter which will contain all the known circumstances concerning the incident. Pending further information he will be listed officially as missing in action. If you have questions you may call my personal representative at area code 512 652-3505. Please accept my sincere sympathy.



BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE E. McCORD  
Military Personnel Center  
Headquarters, United States Air Force

MRS DORIS J. PATE  
ROUTE 1  
BROOKS, GEORGIA 30205

REFERENCE IS MADE TO OUR PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS PERTAINING TO THE MISSING IN ACTION STATUS OF YOUR SON, MASTER SERGEANT GARY PATE. IT IS WITH DEEPEST REGRET THAT I OFFICIALLY INFORM YOU THAT HIS STATUS HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM MISSING IN ACTION TO KILLED IN ACTION. THIS CHANGE IN STATUS IS THE RESULT OF A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO YOUR SON'S MISSING IN ACTION STATUS COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INFORMATION FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING DEBRIEFING OF RETURNED PRISONERS, WHICH WOULD INDICATE HIS SURVIVAL. ACCORDINGLY, AN OFFICIAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE TO TERMINATE HIS MISSING IN ACTION STATUS BY A PRESUMPTIVE FINDING OF DEATH. PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW, THE PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RECORDED AS 9 JANUARY 1975. YOU WILL RECEIVE A LETTER FROM ME WHICH WILL CONTAIN ALL THE KNOWN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INCIDENT. EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO SECURE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION WHICH MAY LEAD TO THE RECOVERY OF HIS REMAINS. IF YOU DESIRE, THE MORTUARY BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, USAF, WASHINGTON, D.C., WILL ASSIST YOU IN ARRANGING A MEMORIAL SERVICE. YOU MAY CALL THEM COLLECT AT AREA CODE 202-325-9330. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE SYMPATHY.

MAJOR GENERAL T.R. MCNEIL  
ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, PERSONNEL, MILITARY PERSONNEL  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE