



Service Member

SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT EUGENE SIMMONS

Conflict

Service

Status

Date of Identification

Current Country of Loss

Home of Record*

VIETNAM WAR

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Accounted For

05/26/1988

LAOS

NY

*Home of record is the city and/or state where the service member joined the service. This may not be the same location as where the service member was from.

On May 26, 1988, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC, now DPAA) identified the remains of Senior Master Sergeant Robert Eugene Simmons, missing from the Vietnam War. Senior Master Sergeant Simmons entered the U.S. Air Force from New York and was a member of the 16th Special Operations Squadron. On March 29, 1972, he was a crew member aboard an AC-130A gunship (tail number 55-0044, nicknamed "Prometheus") that took off from Ubon Airfield, Thailand, on a night reconnaissance mission to targets east of Savannakhet in southern Laos. The aircraft was shot down by enemy surface-to-air missiles, killing SMSgt Simmons and the other crew members. Search and rescue efforts were curtailed due to heavy enemy activity, and no remains could be recovered at that time. Between 1986 and 2006, a U.S./Laotian team excavated the crash site in Savannakhet Province and recovered human remains and artifacts. Investigators were able to identify SMSgt Simmons among the remains recovered. Senior Master Sergeant Simmons is memorialized in the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

