

DEFENCE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

POW/MIA UPDATE ACCOUNTED FOR

JAN. 1, 2023, TO JUNE 23,2023

WORLD WAR II

U.S. Army – 1

U.S. Marines – 1

U.S. Navy – 4            USS OKLAHOMA – 3            USS ENTERPRISE - 1

U.S. Army Air Corps – 3

Total – 9

SOUTH KOREAN WAR

U.S. Army – 2

NORTH KOREAN WAR

U.S. Army – 1

VIETNAM WAR

U.S. Air Force – 2

Col. Ernest Leo De Sesoto – Aircraft commander

Capt. Fredrick Mervyn Hall – Navigator

PROGRESS IN VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA

Of the remaining still unaccounted for in Vietnam, 470, Laos – 287 and Cambodia - 48 “non-recoverable” category. This information means that we have conclusive evidence that the individual perished due to rigorous investigation but do not believe it possible to recover his remains. On rare occasions, new leads can arise that bring a case back to active status.



## PERSONNEL PROFILE



### Service Member

COL ERNEST LEO DESOTO

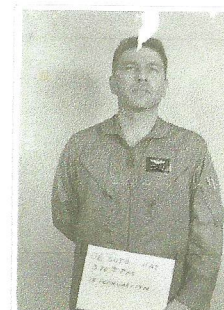
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[Member Profiles](#)



Conflict **VIETNAM WAR**  
Service **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**  
Status **Accounted For**

Date of Identification **03/23/2023**



Col ERNEST LEO  
DESOTO

Unit 390 TFS  
Historical Country of Loss  
South Vietnam  
Current Country of Loss  
Vietnam  
Home of Record CA

On March 23, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Colonel Ernest Leo De Soto, missing from the Vietnam War.

Colonel De Soto, who joined the U.S. Air Force from California, was a member of the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On April 12, 1969, he was the aircraft commander on an F-4D Phantom II (tail number 66-8766) that took off from Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam. This Phantom II was part of a two-plane strike mission over Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. During the mission, while flying through cloud cover, the Phantom II crashed into a mountain ridge. Search and rescue efforts were launched, but there were no signs that either crew member survived the crash, and ground searches were prevented by heavy enemy presence in the area. In May 1995, a joint team located the crash site. Due to considerable unexploded ordnance at the site, coupled with harsh weather and helicopter access issues, the site was not successfully excavated until March 2021. From March through June 2021, Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons recovery teams recovered human remains, life support equipment, and other material evidence associated with the missing aircraft. Laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available confirmed the identity of remains belonging to Col De Soto.

Colonel De Soto is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

**If you are a family member of this service member, [you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.](#)**



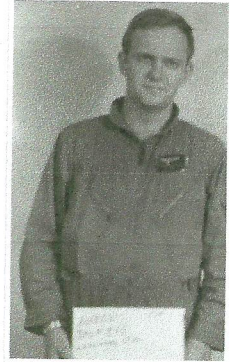
PERSONNEL PROFILE



Service Member

CAPT FREDRICK MERVYN HALL

[Return to Service](#)  
[Member Profiles](#)



Capt FREDRICK MERVYN HALL

Unit 390 TFS  
Historical Country of Loss: South Vietnam  
Current Country of Loss: Vietnam  
Home of Record NC

Conflict VIETNAM WAR  
Service UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
Status Accounted For

Date of Identification 03/23/2023

On March 23, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Captain Frederick Mervyn Hall, missing from the Vietnam War.

Captain Hall, who joined the U.S. Air Force from North Carolina, was a member of the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On April 12, 1969, he was the navigator on an F-4D Phantom II (tail number 66-8766) that took off from Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam. This Phantom II was part of a two-plane strike mission over Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. During the mission, while flying through cloud cover, the Phantom II crashed into a mountain ridge. Search and rescue efforts were launched, but there were no signs that either crew member survived the crash, and ground searches were prevented by heavy enemy presence in the area. In May 1995, a joint team located the crash site. Due to considerable unexploded ordnance at the site, coupled with harsh weather and helicopter access issues, the site was not successfully excavated until March 2021. From March through June 2021, Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons recovery teams recovered human remains, life support equipment, and other material evidence associated with the missing aircraft. Laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available confirmed the identity of remains belonging to Capt Hall.

Captain Hall is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

**If you are a family member of this service member, [you may contact your casualty office representative to learn more about your service member.](#)**

Location of Loss

Retrieving Map Image

WORLD WAR II

FACTS AND FIGURES

DATES DEC. 7, 1941, TO DEC. 31, 1946

LOCATION - GLOBAL

Total missing - 73,699

Accounted for – 1,478

Unaccounted for – 72,221

KOREAN WAR

FACTS AND FIGURES

DATES JUNE 27, 1950, TO JULY 27, 1953

LOCATIONS - KOREAN PENINLULA

Total missing – 8157

Accounted for – 658

Unaccounted for – 7,499

VIETNAM WAR

FACTS AND FIGUES

DATES JULY 8, 1959, TO MAY 15, 1975

LOCATIONS - NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA

Total missing – 2641

Accounted for – 1,062

Unaccounted for – 1,579

COLD WAR

DATES AND FIGURES

DATES SEP. 2, 1945, TO AUG. 15, 1991

LOCATIONS – SOVIET UNION, YUGOSLAVIA, HUNGARY, EAST GERMANY, NORTH  
KOREA, ALBANIA, AND CHINA

Total missing – 128

Accounted for – 2

Total unaccounted for – 126

IRAQ AND LIBYA

FACTS AND FIGURES

DATES APRIL 15, 1986 TO PRESENT

LOCATIONS – IRAQ, THE PERSIAN GULF, AND LIBYA

Total listed as MIA or body not recovered - 6

