

HEISKELL, LUCIUS LAMAR

Name: Lucius Lamar Heiskell
 Rank/Branch: Major/US Air Force
 Unit: 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Airfield, Thailand
 Date of Birth: 06 February 1940
 Home of Record: Memphis, TN
 Date of Loss: 06 Feb 1967
 Country of Loss: North Vietnam
 Loss Coordinates: [174600N 1054800E \(WE847643\)](#)
[Click coordinates to view maps](#)
 Status in 1973: Missing in Action
 Category: 2
 Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: [O-1F "Birddog"](#)
 Other Personnel In Incident: Patrick H. Wood, Richard A. Kibbey and Donald J. Hall (missing); Dwayne Hackney (rescued)



REMARKS:

SYNOPSIS: The low, slow and vulnerable Cessna O-1F Birddog Forward Air Control (FAC) aircraft were inherited by the Air Force from the Army when the Army lost command of this fixed-wing observation fleet during 1965. The aircraft itself usually only carried white phosphorous target marker rockets that were mounted beneath the wings. The aircrews, however, carried their own personal weapons that added a limited degree of armament to this daring little aircraft. The Birddog was not only vulnerable to enemy ground fire, it was also at risk of being accidentally hit by friendly fire because its shape and speed helped it blend into its surroundings. Later in the war, the Birddog's upper wing was painted white or orange to emphasize the slow-moving FAC's position to friendly strike aircraft.

On 6 February 1967, then Capt. Lucius L. Heiskell was the pilot of an O-1F aircraft, call sign "Nail 65," that was the lead