

VHPA Member Instructions

**The VPHA Memorial Map is
dedicated to those who gave up
their tomorrows so we can enjoy
our todays.**

The VPHA Memorial Map would not exist without the extensive database that Gary Roush and his volunteers have collected over 38 years. Gary started collecting data at the request of then VHPA President Mike Law in 1986. Gary and his family vacationed in Florida but during bad weather they would visit the Army Aviation Museum at Ft Rucker where Gary would collect data. Through contacts with various service members and interested civilians, the database has grown. Years of filing thousands of Freedom of Information Act requests (FOIA) and incorporating that data into the VHPA database. Building the VHPA database is what took the real effort over the years. Remember that computers were just beginning to be used in the 1960s so much of the original information collected and recorded by the VHPA volunteers is no longer available. Most of the material had to be hand copies into the VHPA database from the other sources.

This Memorial Map is only trying to illustrate this hard work recorded by Gary and his volunteers.

VHPA lists 2169 pilots or copilots as being killed in Vietnam. As part of the database for this map, each one of these members was located by latitude and longitude. The database was then sorted by incident number which resulted in 1520 incidents being identified for this Memorial Map. The data is organized chronologically into 9 files that vary in size. The files follow the time increments used by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) to help anyone looking for veterans. The time increments for this map are viewed by using the Chronology Legend and include:

17 February 1960 thru 13 August 1966
15 August 1966 thru 16 September 1967
17 September 1967 thru 4 April 1968
5 April 1968 thru 7 December 1968
12 December 1968 thru 21 June 1969
24 June 1969 thru 5 January 1970
8 January 1970 thru 8 July 1970
11 July 1970 thru 19 April 1971
23 April 1971 thru 15 May 1975

Under each of the time increments, units are identified by one of the types of military unit they represent. These types also help people understand what types of military units were important in a given area. The types of units include:

- 1.) 1st Aviation Brigade (1969-1973) for support of US and allied forces lacking their own aviation units. (Green helicopter)
- 2.) 1st Cavalry (1965-1973) for finding and fighting Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units. (Yellow horse)

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- 3.) Infantry Units what had their own helicopter support, sometimes called cavalry. (Blue hiker)
- 4.) Airborne Units that sometimes had their own helicopter support units called cavalry. (Orange eagle)
- 5.) Marine Corp Units who operated along the coast and the numerous inland waterways. (Red flag)
- 6.) Air Force Units including those operating over Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam. (Purple jet)
- 7.) US Naval Forces operating along the coast of North and South Vietnam and the inland waterways of South Vietnam. (Gray ship)
- 8.) Other Units such as transportation, medical, and Special Operations Group for units not included in the seven groups above. (Black star)

As you zoom in or get closer to an individual icon, it will be identified by the unit's name and the date of the incident.

If you click on any incident, an incident report will appear that will include the following information:
Icon

Coordinates as Latitude and longitude

Math date used for calculating date ranges when developing this map

Unit MSGR or military coordinates

Model helicopter involved

Tail Number of the helicopter involved

Unit

Short summary including incident number

Pilots and Copilots killed in this incident

Crew killed in this incident (often blank)

Passengers killed in this incident (if over 10, may contain only last names)

VHPA Incident Report URL

Unit History from internet findings. The sometimes don't work.

Heading or Chronology group

Text Date for developing this map

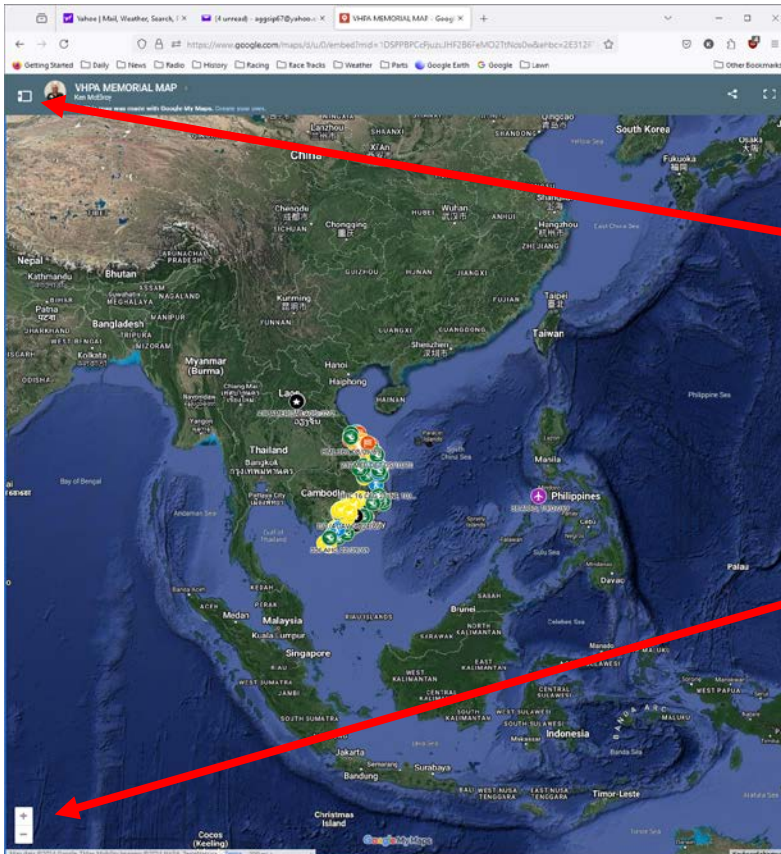
Incident Number

Message requesting more information if you have any.

URL to the incident location in Google Earth

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When you first open the VHPA Memorial Map it will look something like this. There are two options to consider with this screen, 1) making the screen view larger or smaller, or 2) adding the Chronology Legend if it is not present.



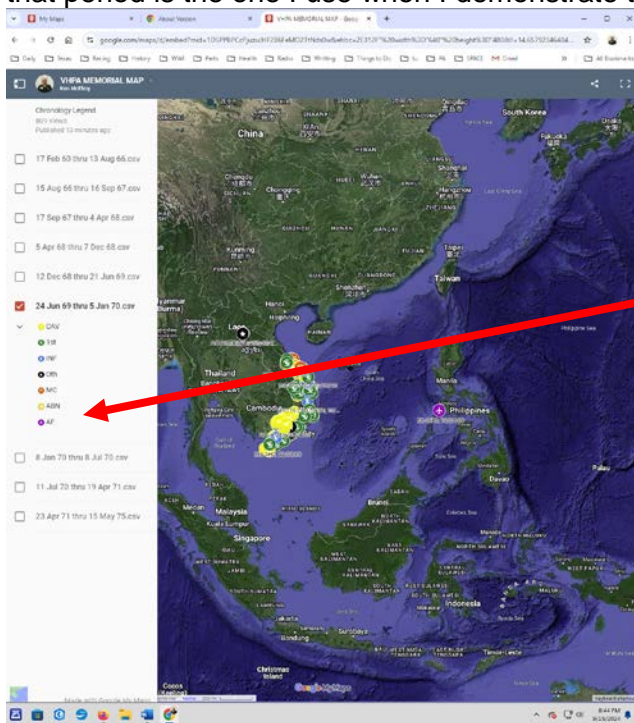
2. Click on this symbol in the upper left corner to view the Chronology Legend which is explained below.

1.) You can use the “+” or “-“ icons to make the map view larger or smaller. You can also use the wheel on top of your mouse to make the map view larger or smaller. You can use your mouse to reposition the map view on your screen. These two icons will be covered over by the Chronology Legend (Just close the Legend to see them again.)

There is too much data to show all the data on the screen at one time, so the incidents have been grouped into nine layers according to their chronology. Thus, the first entry on the Chronology Legend will be for the time period from 17 February 1960 thru 13 August 1966. There are nine groupings of time which do not overlap, will vary in the amount of time for each layer, but will correspond with the time increments used for the various sections of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (Wall).

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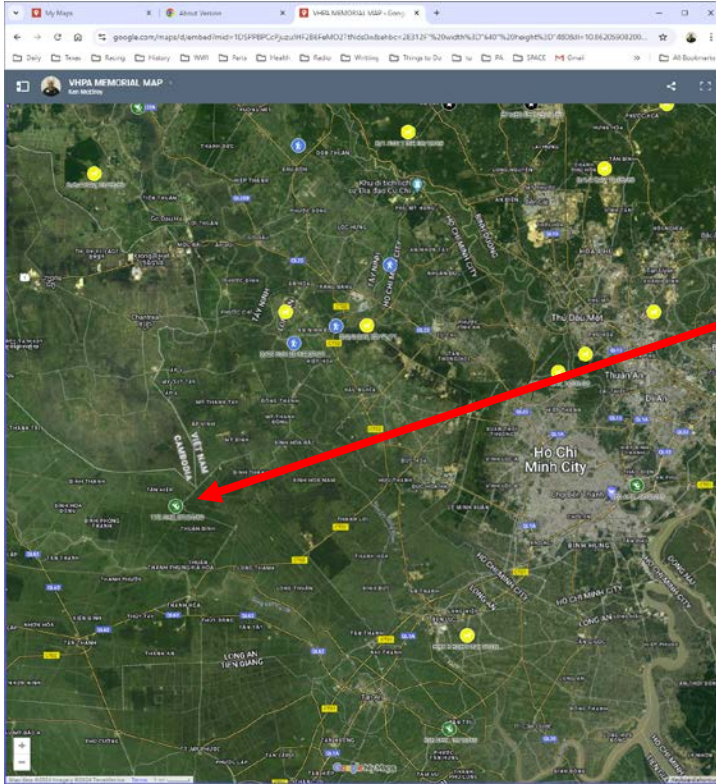
When you open the Memorial Map Chronology Legend one or more of the nine Chronology Legend time periods may be open. I will usually leave the “24 Jun 69 thru 5 Jan 70” time period open since that period is the one I use when I demonstrate the Memorial Map.



This time period has the following types of units represented:
1st Aviation Brigade (Green helicopter)
1st Cavalry (Yellow horse)
Infantry Units (Blue hiker)
Airborne Units (Orange eagle)
Marine Corp Units (Red flag)
Air Force Units (Purple jet)
Other Units (Black star)

Now close the Chronology Legend so you can see the “+” icon to make the map larger and use the mouse to reposition the map as needed. I concentrate the map on the area west of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

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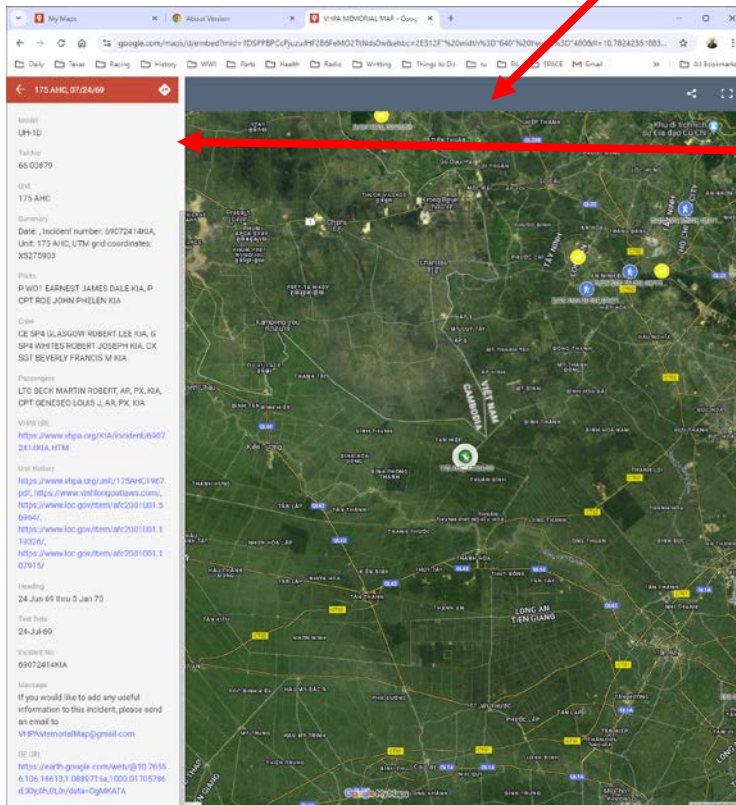
I want to focus on the green helicopter just south of the “Parrot’s Beak” labeled 175 AHC, 10/24/69. I want to click on this icon so I can see the incident report.

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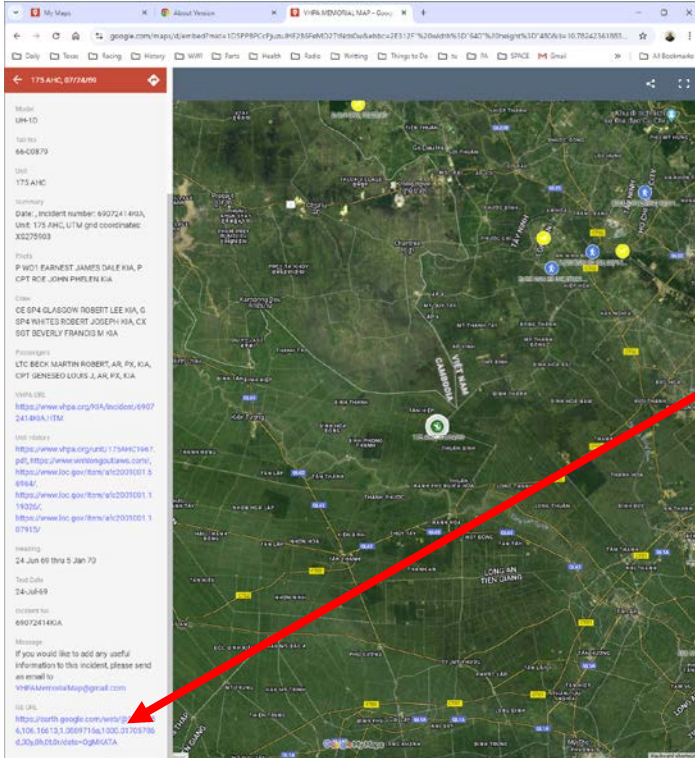
The green incident marker now has a white halo around it and it has been repositioned to the center of the screen.

In this case, the Incident Report covers up the Chronology Legend. In this case two pilots, three crew, and two passengers were killed. If all of your Incident Report is not show, use the slider bar on the right side of the report to show the lower portion of the report

The “+” and “-” icons are covered up by the Incident Report, when you close this Report, the icons will reappear.



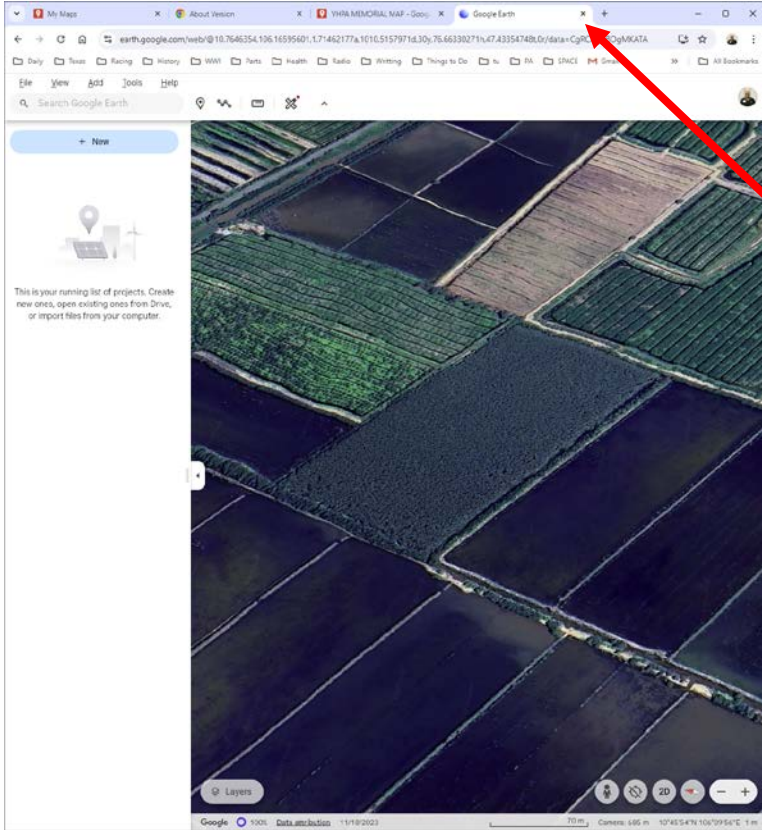
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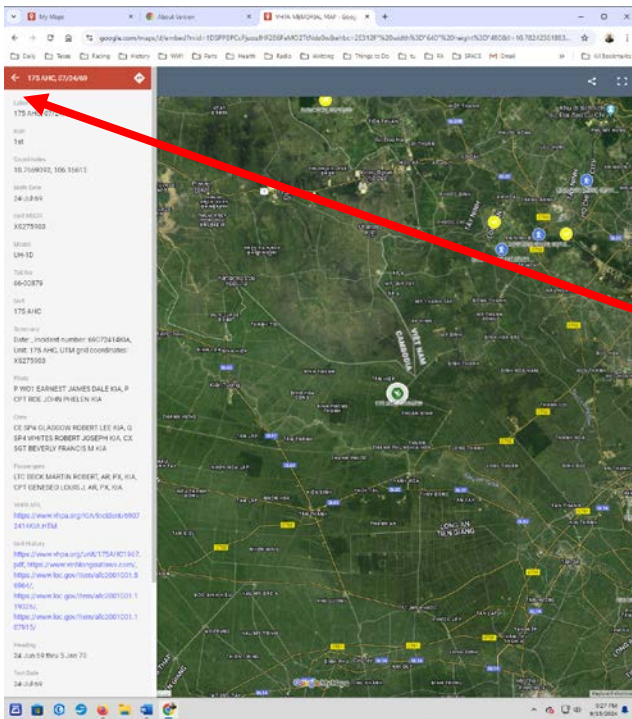
At the bottom of any Incident Report is the URL for the Google Earth location for this incident. Click on that IIR!

Google Earth will open at the location of the incident. You can use your mouse to zoom in and to tilt the location to see elevation changes. This may take some practice as each mouse is a little different. To return to the Memorial Map just click to close the Google Earth view. This incident was in the delta where it is perfectly flat for 30 miles so it does not show elevation changes.

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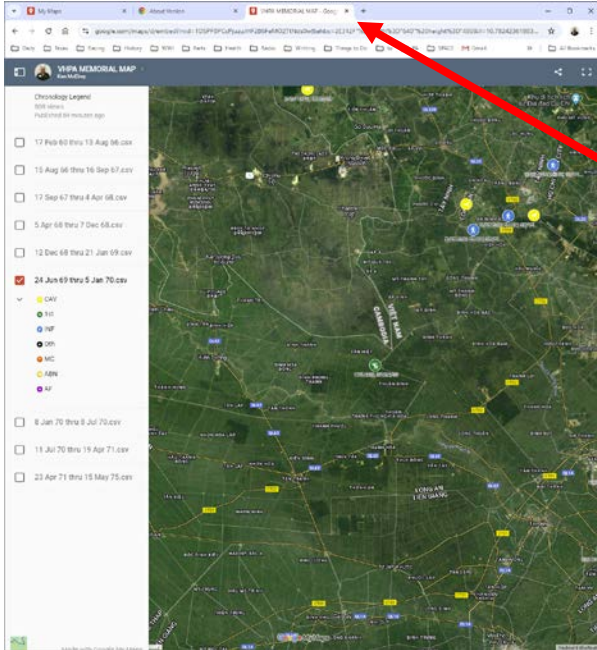


To return to the Memorial Map, close the Google Earth window by clicking on the "x" for the Google Earth tab.



To close and Incident Report, click on the "back arrow" on the left side of the Incident Report red heading.

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To exit the Memorial Map click on the "X" for the Map tab

If you find corrections that need to be made to the Memorial Map, send an email to VHPAMemorialMap@gmail.com.