



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

CAPT Paul Lloyd Milius United States Navy

Drafted into the Navy at the end of WWII, Capt Milius' experience with naval aviation prompted him to attain his college degree and reenter the Navy as a pilot in 1950. His first assignment was with Airborne Early Warning Squadron TWO flying Lockheed Constellation aircraft. He transitioned to anti-submarine warfare flying both the P-2V and S-2 aircraft. In late 1967, he volunteered for the newly established observation squadron SIX-SEVEN flying modified P-2Vs, specifically outfitted for ground reconnaissance missions.

On February 27, 1968, Navy Capt. Paul L. Milius departed his base at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand (NKP) in an OP2E Neptune on an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos. Aboard were eight crew members assigned, plus Milius, the pilot. The Neptune had precise navigational equipment and accurate optical bombsights to place seismic or acoustic devices within a few yards of the desired point.

Milius was over his assigned target in Khammouane Province, Laos, about 15 miles southwest of the Ban Karai Pass, and was delivering ordnance on the target when the aircraft was struck by suspected anti-aircraft artillery. A projectile struck the underside of the aircraft and exploded in the radar well. The Avionics Technician assigned to the aircraft, was struck by fragments of the projectile and began bleeding profusely. The radar well burst into flames, filling the flight deck area of the aircraft with dense, acrid smoke. Capt Milius ordered the crew to bail out and remained in the cockpit as they departed.

Seven crewmembers safely exited the aircraft, and were subsequently rescued by Search and Rescue forces. The injured Technician was not believed to have exited the aircraft, and was believed to have died. Capt Milius was not rescued nor were his remains ever recovered. The Bombardier/Third Pilot, who was rescued, indicated that Milius was sitting at the after-station hatch and bailed out just prior to his own departure to the aircraft, but SAR efforts failed to locate and rescue him. In 1978, CAPT Milius was awarded the Navy Cross.

Navy Cross Citation: The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Captain [then Commander] Paul Lloyd Milius, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism on 27 February 1968 as an Aircraft Commander in Observation Squadron SIXTY SEVEN (VO-67).

DDG-69, USS MILIUS, is named in his honor. The ships motto: "Alii Prae Me" (Others before me).