



Norman Northrup Cunningham Co D-1

Norm has enjoyed every field of cadet endeavor, whether it be academic or athletic. He came to us from U.C.L.A. and continued his education at West Point in an exemplary and typically hard-working style. Norm has been outstanding in both skiing and tennis; he possesses all the characteristics of a good future officer of who D-1 can be proud.

Born – 24 Oct 1937, Van Nuys, CA.

To USMA – Came from Van Nuys, CA. Appointed by California 22nd.

Died – 24 Sep 1968 (age 30), Killed in an Air Accident, Vietnam. Buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, CA.

Military Awards – Bronze Star Medal, 15 Air Medals, National Order of Vietnam.

Schooling – Army Language School, Armor Advanced Course.

Family - Wife – Norm was not married.

Contact – Marvin Cunningham (brother), and Gwendolyn Cunningham McDaniel (sister).

Norm served on active duty in the Army (Armor and then Aviation) for 7 years until his untimely death in 1968 at the rank of Major. His first assignment was with the 70th Armor and Headquarters of the 24th Division in Germany. He then served at Fort Knox training recruits. Before going to Vietnam the first time, he studied Vietnamese at the Monterey Language School. He spent the first half of his tour as an advisor in the MACV program and the second half as a liaison officer. On returning, he asked for flight training, which he had desired for some time. This was granted, and he spent a period at Fort Rucker and another at Hunter Army Air Field learning to fly helicopters. He was then assigned to Fort Knox until the Advanced Officer Training Course started in April 1969. After arriving there, he decided that that duty did not appeal to him and managed to get his orders changed for a second tour in Vietnam where he was assigned to the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. On 24 September 1968, Norm was on a reconnaissance flight in a fixed-wing plane piloted by an Air Force officer. The plane did not return, and his body was found two months later.

Norm's devotion to the Army, to West Point, and to his comrades was always exemplary. This devotion showed in his R.O.T.C. leadership even before he arrived at the Academy in 1957. Our loss of Norm at an early age deprived us of many years of good fellowship, but we remember him well as the outstanding soldier that he was and for his devotion to our defense mission.

Footnote – Norm's last Commander, Colonel George S. Patton (son of General George S. Patton, Jr., the famous World War II general) wrote – "Norman was an outstanding soldier, a professional in every sense of the word. His loyal service and devotion to duty have set an example for all men of this command."