Pacific Stars & Stripes
Thursday, October 29, 1964

AF Grad Was 1st To Be Killed in Action

TOKYO (S&S)—F' t Lt. Valmore Bourque, who was among the eight Air Force men killed when a C-123 transport was downed Saturday in Vietnam, was the first graduate of the Air Force Academy to be killed in action.

He was also the first cadet sworn into the Cadet Wing in Colorado. Theoretically, all 306 members of the historic first class to enter the Academy were sworn in during the official dedication ceremony on the afternoon of July 11, 1959. Actually, they were sworn in singly or in small groups as they began cadet life earlier that day.

Bourque, a native of South Hadley Falls, Mass., showed up at about 4:30 a.m. on dedication day and was greeted by M/Sgt. Earl Lynes, administrative noncommissioned officer in charge for the commandant of cadets.

Bourque later admitted that the possibility of being the first Air Force Academy cadet had occurred to him, just as it had occurred to Lynes that some bright young man might get that idea and make an appearance long before the official 6 a.m. reporting time given to all new cadets in travel orders.

After a cursory check by the medics and the signing of a few documents, Bourque was sworn in at 6:10 a.m.