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MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Lt James N Spangler

On 1 October 1973 I took a telephone vote of the Executive Committee regarding whether or not the name of Lt James N Spangler should be inscribed on the War Memorial. General Clark had talked with General John C Meyer, Commander of SAC, about the situation and was told by General Meyer that the mission on which Spangler was killed was in direct support of the combat effort in SEA. General Meyer therefore felt that after reviewing the criteria for placing names on the war memorial that Spangler would indeed qualify. This information was substantiated in General Meyer's letter to General Clark, dated 1 October 1973. The membership of the Executive Committee voted as follows:

Roe	-	Yes
Metcalf	-	Yes
Cole	-	Yes
Brush	-	Yes
Strom	-	Yes
Fryer	-	Yes
Davis	-	Not Available
Viotti	-	Not Available
Homburg	-	Not Available

The telephone vote was required in order to have Spangler's name inscribed on the War Memorial for Homecoming '73.

FREDERICK L METCALF
Capt, USAF
Executive Secretary
Association of Graduates

1 Atch
Ltr fm SAC Commander,
1 Oct 73

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA, 68113

1 OCT 1973

Lieutenant General A. P. Clark
Headquarters United States Air Force Academy
USAF Academy, CO 80840

Dear Bub

I am very sorry that your Association of Graduates has not been able to get the information on First Lieutenant James N. Spangler. The information regarding the mission in which Lieutenant Spangler participated is still classified. However, according to the criteria listed in your letter, we can state that Lieutenant Spangler was killed on a mission that was involved in direct support of our combat effort in SEAsia. The listing of his name on the War Memorial appears to us to be justified.

Once again, I am sorry you didn't get the information sooner. If there is any more I can do for you, please contact me.

Sincerely

JOHN C. MEYER, General, USAF
Commander in Chief

CSU/Capt Metcalf/2067/fbw
6 Sep 73

10 SEP 1973

General John C. Meyer
CINC, SAC
Offutt AFB Nb 68113

Dear John:

Our Association of Graduates needs your assistance in a matter of some importance to them. The Executive Committee of the Association has been trying for a long period of time to determine if a former SAC aircrew member's name should appear on the War Memorial located at the Academy. The officer's name is Lt. James N. Spangler, [redacted].

Spangler was killed in the crash of a KC-135 at Kadena AB on 19 May 1966. The question the Committee has unsuccessfully tried to answer through correspondence with Hq SAC (DPSP) is whether the mission on which he was killed involved direct support of our combat effort in Southeast Asia. The mission was classified and will apparently remain so for the next 10 to 15 years.

The criteria for listing an officer's name on the War Memorial are as follows:

a. Those graduates killed by direct hostile action;

b. Those graduates killed within an area of conflict as the result of an incident which is in direct support of the activities therein;

c. Those graduates killed outside an area of conflict while directly supporting the activities within that area of conflict will be considered on an individual basis.

Can you suggest some way whereby the above question can be answered to the Committee's satisfaction?

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in resolving this issue.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

A. P. CLARK, Lt General, USAF
Superintendent

STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)		TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)
1	CSE	Coord	Dalgaon 6 Sept 73	6			
2	CS	Coord	Nelson 7 Sept	7			
3	SUPT	Sig		8			
4				9			
5				10			

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE	SYMBOL	PHONE	TYPIST'S INIT.	SUSPENSE DATE
Captain Metcalf	CSU	4513	fbw	

SUBJECT	DATE
Letter to SAC Commander on Deceased Graduate	6 Sep 73

SUMMARY

1. I am enclosing a letter for the Superintendent's signature to the Commander of SAC on an issue of importance to the Association of Graduates. For several years I have tried to resolve a question of whether the name of Lt. James N. Spangler, Class of 1964, should be inscribed on the War Memorial (correspondence attached). The mission on which Spangler was killed was classified and will remain so for 10 to 15 years.

2. We have found through experience that we simply cannot give the criteria to other people to determine if an individual qualifies for listing on the War Memorial. Too often a unit commander or a personnel type will adopt a very broad definition and say that almost any mission is in direct support of combat efforts in SEA. But, we must draw a line somewhere. Thus, we always seek information about the mission on which a graduate was killed and make the decision ourselves according to the established criteria. This may not be possible in Spangler's case. However, perhaps, General Meyer can suggest a different approach to this specific problem at hand.

RECOMMENDATION

3. Signature by Superintendent. Dispatch.

2 Atch
1. Ltr to CINC, SAC
2. Previous Correspondence on Lt. Spangler

*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE:1973 725-126/350 1-3

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA, 68113

REPLY TO ATTN OF: DPSP

13 June 1973

SUBJECT: Casualty Information (Your Ltr, 4 Jun 73)

TO: USAFA (CSU)

1. The type of information you have requested is not available in SAC Personal Affairs. Our responsibilities are insuring that deaths are reported, next of kin notified, and insuring that the next of kin are assisted in applying for benefits for which they may be eligible.

2. The Directorate of Operations (SAC/DOSG) was contacted in an effort to obtain the information you require. DOSG advises that the information pertaining to the mission wherein Lt Spangler became deceased is still classified and will remain so for the next ten or fifteen years. DOSG did advise, however, that its fairly safe to assume that the mission of Lt Spangler's aircraft was to refuel aircraft which were directly involved in our war effort. Assume is all that Personal Affairs can do since we do not have access to the information you desire.

Dorothy L Stewart

DOROTHY L. STEWART, Capt, USAF
Chief, Personal Affairs Division
Directorate of Personnel Services, DCS/P

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Spangler '64

CSU 1 June 1973

Casualty Information

SAC (DPSP)

1. On 24 July 1969 I wrote your office requesting a description of the mission on which Lt James N Spangler was killed. On 30 July your office replied that the mission was classified and that you could not provide such information. I have enclosed copies of my letter and your reply. At the Alumni Homecoming this fall at the Academy, we want to honor all of the graduates who have died in SEA. The ceremony will be centered around the War Memorial; therefore, we wish to insure that all graduates who are entitled to be listed on the memorial are so listed.

2. With the passage of four years, I wonder if it is now possible for you to give us a brief description of the mission on which Lt Spangler was killed. At the minimum, could you inform us as to whether the mission of Lt Spangler's aircraft was to refuel aircraft which were directly involved in our war effort at the time. If that was the case then Lt Spangler's name should appear on the War Memorial.

3. Thank you for your assistance.

FREDERICK L. METCALF
Capt, USAF
Alumni Secretary

2 Atch
1. CSU Ltr, 24 Jul 69
2. DPSP Ltr, 30 Jul 69

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA, 68113

REPLY TO ATTN OF: DPSP

30 July 1969

SUBJECT: Casualty Information - Lt James N. Spangler (Your Ltr, 24 Jul 69)

TO: USAFA (CSAG)

Files maintained at Hq SAC (DOSDF), pertaining to the mission wherein Lt James N. Spangler was killed, are classified. The only information we can provide is that it was a standard refueling mission.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Ruth A. Griffith

RUTH A. GRIFFITH, Major, USAF
Chief, Personal Affairs Division
Directorate of Personnel Services, DCS/P

CSAG 24 July 1969

Casualty Information, Lt James N Spangler (DPSP Ltr, 11 July 1969)

HqSAC (DPSP/Maj Griffith)
Offutt

1. I want to thank you for your expeditious replies to my 20 June 1969 letter. As you can well understand, it is important that we always understand completely the circumstances of death of graduates who are listed on the War Memorial. Otherwise, we may wrongly omit the name of a graduate and offend his family. Therefore, can I ask you to forward us a short description of the mission that Lt Spangler was flying at the time of his death?

2. Again, thank you for your assistance.

FREDERICK L. METCALF, Capt, USAF
Alumni Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA, 68113

REPLY TO ATTN OF: DPSP

11 July 1969

SUBJECT: Casualty Information - Lt James N. Spangler (Your Ltr, 20 Jun 69)

TO: USAFA (CSAG)

Information contained in records maintained at HQ SAC (DOSDF) reveals that Lt James N. Spangler was killed on a mission wherein direct support was given to our war effort.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Ruth A. Griffith

RUTH A. GRIFFITH, Major, USAF
Chief, Personal Affairs Division
Directorate of Personnel Services, DCS/P

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA, 68113

REPLY TO ATTN OF: DPSP

30 June 1969

SUBJECT: Casualty Information - Lt James N. Spangler (Your Ltr, 20 Jun 69)

TO: USAFA (CSAG)

Request information pertaining to Lt James N. Spangler is not available in records maintained at this headquarters. Your query has been referred to USAFMPC (AFPMSCA).

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Ruth A. Griffith

RUTH A. GRIFFITH, Major, USAF
Chief, Personal Affairs Division
Directorate of Personnel Services, DCS/P

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CSAG 20 June 1969

Casualty Information, Lt James N Spangler

Hq SAC
Offutt AFB Nb 68113

1. I am writing this letter to obtain information on a somewhat unusual subject. Therefore, please refer this letter to the appropriate office that can provide the information. The USAF Academy Association of Graduate is sponsoring the construction of a War Memorial at the Academy. The names of graduates who die while directly supporting the war effort in Vietnam will be listed on the memorial. The specific criteria for listing names is:

a. Those graduates killed by direct hostile action;

b. Those graduates killed within an area of conflict as the result of an incident which is in direct support of the activities therein;

c. Those graduates killed outside an area of conflict while directly supporting the activities within that area of conflict will be considered on an individual basis by the Board of Directors of the Association of Graduates.

2. On 19 May 1966, Lt James N Spangler was killed in an aircraft accident while on a TDY assignment to Kadena AB. The official casualty report states that he died while on a training mission. My question is: was Lt Spangler's mission purely a training mission, or was he involved in a mission wherein direct support was given to our war effort? By "direct," I mean was his KC-135 aircraft refueling other aircraft which were directly involved in the war effort?

3. Any assistance that you can provide in clarifying the above question will certainly be appreciated.

FREDERICK L METCALF, Capt, USAF
Alumni Secretary

5. War Memorial

'69

15 May 1969

Cpt Joseph E Driscoll
1415 N Oak #203
Arlington Va 22209

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 69.

With regard to the placing of the name of Lt. James N. Spangler on the War Memorial the information that we have would indicate that the type of mission he was on at the time of death would not qualify him under the criteria. The mission was that of a routine training flight out of Kadena AB.

The intent of the criteria is to memorialize graduates who die while in direct support - on a combat mission - of operations against an enemy. For Jim to be listed, his mission would have to have been one in which aircraft involved in combat operations were being refueled. Please let us know if an important item of information is being overlooked.

The acknowledgement of Dick Mathew's contribution on the plaque before the War Memorial was felt by the Executive Committee not to be compromising the intent of the Memorial.

It would only state that he conceived the idea, being careful to not associate his name with those graduates who we are memorializing.

Initially, my position was the same as yours on this question; however, after a little more time mulling it over, I came to agree that, even though the line of differentiation is thin, it is there.

Again, thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK L METCALF
Capt, USAF
Executive Secretary