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Hanoi Names

Three Dead U.S. Pilots

Washington

Hanoi released the names of three American pilots yesterday who it said were killed when their planes were shot down over North Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese announcement said that the men were listed as missing by the United States and that the names were released out of humanitarian concern for the families concerned.

A check at the Pentagon, however, indicated two of the men are already listed as killed in action.

North Vietnam identified the pilots as Major Jesse Taylor Jr., Major Crosley James Fitton and Captain Ronald Dwight Perry.

The Pentagon said Taylor was from Long Beach, Fitton from Universal City, Tex., and Perry from Gallatin, Tenn.

Pentagon records showed that Taylor and Fitton already are listed as killed in action.

The Pentagon listed Taylor as killed in action on Nov. 17, 1965, when he was shot down over North Vietnam.

Fitton was shot down Feb. 29, 1968. He originally was listed as missing, but U.S. military officials changed his status to killed in action on Nov. 15, 1973, after evidence showed the chances of his survival to be near zero.

Perry went down over North Vietnam on Dec. 21, 1972, and was still listed as missing in action by the Pentagon.

The North Vietnamese said the information on the three Americans was relayed to Senator Edward M. Kennedy by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh.

It was the first time Hanoi has given any information on the status of missing American servicemen since early 1973.

The news agency said Trinh recently answered a letter from Senator Kennedy regarding the search for information about those who are still regarded as missing.

Associated Press