

**'The Last Mission'**

Like the whole military concept of the Vietnam war, the mission of the Joint Casualties Resolution Center, if not too

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little, is definitely too late. (INTERNATIONAL, April 9). Anyone who thinks that he is going to find anyone or anything at a crash site in the jungle doesn't know the country or the people.

I commanded the first active rescue unit for Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. If we didn't get to a crash site within 48 hours, the enemy or natives had carried off most of the plane, and animals had carried off what was left of the bodies. The statement of Major General James that "We're going to scramble the bushes for a bracelet, a ring or anything..." tells the story. It shows how naive the general is. Also, that he may have looked down on the jungle but he has never been there.

In my fourteen months of leading ground teams into crash sites, we never recovered one live crew member that didn't use a chute, or one whole body that went down with the plane. I have brought them out in everything from a body bag to my helmet liner.

I know that making public the above casualty data would grieve the loved ones of the missing, but it's about time that someone burst the bubbles that Defense Department personnel keep blowing, which keep alive the hopes of the loved ones of the MIA's.

A. W. SAUNDERS SR.  
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)

Sonora, Texas