

Cooper, C. Richard (Coop), 1st Platoon

3 October 1945 - 25 November 1968

Arlington Nat'l Cemetery, VA

First Lieutenant C. Richard Cooper of Greenburg, Pennsylvania was born on October 3, 1945. He was killed in jet training on November 25, 1968.

Coop was laid to rest at Arlington Nat'l Cemetery.

USMC Resume:

The Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 1st Platoon, Jun-Nov 1967

Pensacola FL Flight School

Personal Reflections about Coop:

From Andy Solum, 17 Apr 2015: We had already successfully completed a three or four flight spin syllabus in the T2B and were flying the airplane pretty aggressively in the gunnery pattern. I think Cooper was number three or four in a five plane air to air gunnery flight. The fifth plane was the tractor, towing the target banner. The flight was led by a student, Dave Wilbur. Strangely enough our Dave Wilbur was the only student in that flight who survived/lived through flight training. There were some squids in the flight also, who were killed later in training flying the F-9.

Completing the air to air gunnery training flight, the flight was descending to NAS Pensacola to 1000 feet or so to enter the overhead break. Cooper under ran the flight, continued to descend and hit the water. Someone in the flight observed his descent, called him on the guard frequency and told him to pull up, but got no response. It was not unusual for us to stop monitoring or turn off guard as the USAF seemed to use it as "Air Force Common" and cluttered up the freq. So it was suspected that he was not monitoring the guard channel, hence the lack of response. I'm sure he was looking up at the flight when he hit the water.