



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet CALLSIGN "APPLE 1"

Before it was converted from an HH-53, the MH-53M (serial number 68-10357) on display took part in the Son Tay Raid -- one of the most famous combat actions of the Southeast Asia War. Flown by Lt. Col. Warner A. Britton under the callsign "Apple 1," it carried the mission's "command element" on the mission to rescue American prisoners of war thought to be held at the Son Tay prison near Hanoi, North Vietnam.



On the night of Nov. 20-21, 1970, American assault teams made the dangerous flight to North Vietnam, and this helicopter mistakenly offloaded its assault forces at an enemy base about 500 yards from the prison. The assault team became engaged in firefight with the enemy before Apple 1 could return to pick up the team. Remarkably, the Americans took no casualties.

Apple 1's aircrew was decorated for their efforts: Lt. Col. Warner A. Britton received the Air Force Cross; Maj. Alfred C. Montem, MSgt. Harold W. Harvey, MSgt. Maurice F. Tasker and SSgt. Jon K. Hoberg received the Silver Star.

The [Son Tay Raid](#) exhibit in the museum's [Modern Flight Gallery](#) features more information about the famous combat action.