

Statement of Mark Woodhull, C130-A Combat Loadmaster

As part of Operation Volant Oak, I was involved in the Jonestown operation at Howard AFB in November 1978. My military career spanned from 1972 to 1998. I am a retired USAF CMSgt. I was a SSgt combat loadmaster on a C-130A at the time. My fellow USAF aircrew brothers and I received the Humanitarian Service Medal for our involvement.

Now, in 2018, I'm still haunted by Jonestown as are many of our fellow veterans. Why? Because as warriors, we saw lots of death and destruction during the Vietnam War. One gets numb to death after awhile and one learns not to fear death. But Jonestown was not a war. We found 918 dead people with numerous children among the dead. It didn't make sense to many of us. We understand war intimately. But we were all horrified by the senselessness of Jonestown and the unnecessary death of so many Americans.