

## REMARKS FROM THE TOWER:

Fifty years ago today, we lost a hero...

*"Sijan! My name is Lance Peter Sijan!"*...That is all the North Vietnamese would ever get out of him.

So today we remember that hero – a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country – our country.

You know his story. His dedication to our freedom...to our cherished democracy...through more than 50 missions in Vietnam at a mere 25 years old.

You know of his bravery and strength in evading capture for 46 days and escaping briefly once he was captured despite his extensive injuries that would have debilitated the average soldier.

You know about his courage to follow the letter of the code of conduct in combat and in capture even though the torture would not stop.

And you know of his "extraordinary heroism and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty at the cost of his life" as noted by President Gerald Ford when awarding Capt. Sijan the Medal of Honor on 4 March, 1976.

Fifty years ago today, Capt. Lance P. Sijan breathed his last breath on this earth. So, let us continue to honor him by keeping his legacy alive – not just here at the Academy where his conduct continues to be an inspiration to future officers and leaders of this country. But throughout our country by making sure that all

Americans also know his story of courage, bravery, dedication, patriotism and ultimate sacrifice - FOR THEM – for us.

So, I want you to each get out your phones right now! I want you to go to Facebook dot com slash Team Sijan and “like” their page – right now! That’s an order! I’ll wait while you do this right now...*(pull out your own phone and do the same...)*

*PAUSE*

I want you to share that page and posts about Lance’s story from the Team Sijan page and the Academy page with all of your followers and encourage them to do the same! We need to do our part in helping America know and remember Lance’s story.

America needs to see what a real hero looks like.

We know what a real hero looks like....so for us, following noon mess, there will be a “Missing Man Formation” to honor that hero.

Additionally, CS21 – Lance’s former squad – will host an open house to display some of Lance’s personal memorabilia. I encourage you each to stop by and pay tribute.

At 2300 your presence will be expected at Taps as a final gesture to Capt. Sijan because we must never forget!...

*“Sijan! My name is Lance Peter Sijan!”*