

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

Betton's remains found

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By BULLETIN STAFF REPORTS -

The remains of Lt. Ryan Kenneth Betton, who was killed in a naval plane crash in August, have been found and will be returned to Henry County for burial.

Tommy Slaughter, the father of Betton's wife, Andrea, said Wednesday that the family was notified last Wednesday that the military had found part of a cockpit with a body in it.

"We got word yesterday (Tuesday) that it was Ryan," Slaughter said.

Betton, 31, was declared dead Aug. 17 after a search for an E-2C Hawkeye turboprop radar plane that crashed 4 1/2 seconds after catapulting from the USS Harry S. Truman during a training exercise off the coast of North Carolina on Aug. 15.

Betton was the senior officer on the flight. Two other men also were on the plane died when it went down in about 3,000 feet of water, officials said at the time.

Slaughter said Betton's body will be returned here and a graveside service will be held Saturday at Roselawn Burial Park.

"The family was hoping he got out and that kind of thing. This puts an end to that twinkle of hope. I think it will provide closure," Slaughter added.

Betton, formerly of Collinsville, graduated from Fieldale-Collinsville High School and Virginia Military Institute. He and his wife had a son.



Lt. Ryan Betton