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NARRATIVE OF RESCUE MISSION

On 28 October 1965, two HH-43F helicopters departed Nakhon Phanom Air Base to locate and recover two pilots whose jet aircraft had been shot down while on a mission over North Vietnam. Immediately upon reaching the area, the lead helicopter checked in with the HU-16 which was directing the operation, and received vectors to one of the downed pilots chute. While "Pedro 1" (lead helicopter) proceeded with the recovery of the downed pilot, the HU-16 spotted the second parachute and directed "Pedro 2" to the area. Pedro 2 made three low passes over the immediate area before the second survivor was sighted. The distressed pilot was standing in elephant grass approximately twelve feet tall, with 100 feet trees surrounding him. The hoist was lowered and the survivor was brought safely into the helicopter. The pilot had to exceed the torque limitations of his aircraft in order to be able to maintain his precarious hovering position over the tall trees. While leaving the area, Pedro 2 was fired upon by hostile forces, but was able to escape undamaged. Enroute back to Nakhon Phanom, the flight mechanic did an outstanding job of administering first aid to the rescued pilot who had suffered several cuts and burns. The only paramedic on the scene was in the lead helicopter, Pedro 1.

Crew Members "Pedro 1":

RCC Capt Donald R. Berdeaux
CP Capt William R. Uhl
HM A/1C Lyle J. Tadewald
PJ A/1C Harry W. Birtel

Crew Members "Pedro 2"

RCC Capt Charles E. McMillan
CP Capt Charles P. Rush
HM A/2C Andrew C. Paparella

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10. 38-1027-13 Oct 65 (S). Maj James Randell was making a second pass on the bridge he had just bombed in North Vietnam for assessment when he encountered an emergency and was forced to eject. His wingman notified the HC-34 pilot on precautionary orbit of the bailout. The HC-34 proceeded toward the bailout scene and requested that the CH-3C, and A1E's be scrambled. Maj Randell had landed in a valley near a village. He began climbing a nearby hill, and at this time saw two men with rifles coming toward his position. Upon reaching the top of the hill he made contact with his flight via radio. Upon being told that the helicopter would require one hour to arrive at his location he requested that the orbiting aircraft leave his immediate area so as not to compromise his position. The helicopter made one low pass upon arrival and drew ground fire. Maj Randell directed the A1E's to his position and they suppressed the ground fire for the CH-3C. Due to a hoist malfunction, the helicopter had to land to pick up the survivor. The high shrubbery resulted in damage to the rotor tips of the CH-3C; however, an uneventful return journey followed. The pilot of the CH-3C was Capt Jerry W. Jennings.

11. 38-1035-22 Oct 65 (U), Capt Melvin C. Elliot was on a strafing mission against VC forces attacking the Plei Me Camp in South Vietnam when he was forced to bailout. His bailout took place at approximately 0100H, and he landed 200 meters from the perimeter of the camp. A large VC force that had the camp surrounded, were located between Capt Elliot and the camp perimeter. Capt Elliot made radio contact with both his wingman and the camp. A patrol that was sent out to locate him ran into heavy opposition and was forced to return. After daylight additional patrols were dispatched, but all failed to make contact with the survivor. That evening an Army Helicopter attempted to make the pickup but was driven off by heavy automatic weapons fire. Two HH-43's were sent from Bien Hoa to be in place at Pleiku for a first light attempt the following morning. The plan was for two fighter aircraft to make strikes in the vicinity, followed immediately by two more fighters laying smoke and the two HH-43's coming in to make the pickup. However, during the night it became necessary for Capt Elliot to change his hiding place due to increased VC activity in his immediate area. Later that morning Capt Elliot transmitted his new location, and the HH-43's along with armed UH-1B's proceeded to the area and made the pickup. The pilot of the HH-43 making the pickup, Capt Dale Potter, flew the survivor to Pleiku.

12. 38-1073-28 Oct 65 (S). A USN F-4B crewed by Lt Cmdr A. M. Lindsey and Lt Robert W. Cooper encountered difficulty while on a mission over Laos and ejected. His wingman notified the prepositioned HU-16, that in turn notified the ECC at Udorn AB, Thailand. Two A1E's and one HC-34 were scrambled from Udorn AB, and two HH-43's took off from Nakhon Phanom. While SAR Force was enroute, a Navy A1H that had been diverted into the area picked up an emergency beacon, and shortly thereafter sighted two chutes. Each of the two HH-43's picked up one crewmember, as the two had landed about one mile apart. The pilots of the two HH-43's, Capt Bureaux and Capt McMillian, flew the survivors to Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. 17

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MISSIONSRESCUERSLOCATIONSSURVIVORS

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>		<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>
38-959-22 Sep	Capt Richardson	HU-16B	1700N - 10715E	Capt Tuong	VNAF	A1H
38-968-24 Sep	Maj Hollfelder	HU-16B	1708N - 10758E	Capt Graves	USAF	F4C
				Lt Nolan		
6-38-820-24 Sep	Capt Layman	HH-43F	5 NM E. Bein Hoa	Maj Barbena	USAF	F-100
6-38-898-5 Oct	Capt Murden	HH-43F	8 NM E. Bien Hoa	2 Soldiers	USA	
	Capt Nadler			5 Soldiers	USA	
6-38-929-9 Oct	Capt Cook	HH-43F	10 NM W. Bien Hoa	2 Soldiers	USA	
	Capt Potter			1 Soldier	USA	
38-1027-13 Oct	Capt Jennings	HH-3	2132N - 10317E	Maj Randall	USAF	F-105
38-1055-22 Oct	Capt Porter	HH-43F	37 NM SSW Pleiku	Maj Elliot	USAF	A1E
7-38-642-23 Oct	Capt Cunningham	HH-43F	12 NM W. DaNang	2 Marines	USMC	
38-1073-28 Oct	Capt Burdeaux	HH-43F	1635N - 10624E	LCDR Lindsey	USN	F-4B
	Capt McMillan	HH-43F	1635N - 10624E	LT Cooper	USN	F-4B
38-1084-1 Nov	Capt Westenbarger	HU-16B	2051N - 10729E	Capt Huggins	USAF	RF-101
38-1088-1 Nov		HH-3	1803N - 10540E	LCDR Wheat	USN	A4C
38-1110-6 Nov		HH-3	2029N - 10527E	2 Navy	USN	SH3
6-38-1047-6 Nov	Capt Murden	HH-43F	1104N - 10703E	1 Australian	Aust	
38-1111-7 Nov	Lt Kirby	HU-16B	1953N - 10614E	LCDR Wask	USN	A4C
38-1114-8 Nov*	Capt Henningson	HH-43B	1108N - 10657E	20 Soldiers	USA	
	Capt Nadler					
38-1138-17 Nov	Capt Richardson	HU-16B	1913N - 10748E	CDR Chew	USN	F8E
38-1141-18 Nov	Capt Reiderick	HH-43B	1814N - 10532E	Capt Mahaffey	USAF	F-105
38-1150-20 Nov	Capt Keesler	HH-43B	1113N - 10643E	2 Soldiers	USA	
7-38-671-21 Nov	Capt Graham	HH-43F	1 NM S. DaNang	Lt Rucker	USAF	C-123
				A1C Kelly		

* Recovered on 9 November

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