

*Copy to Vandenberg
20 OCT 65
Rugie*

FROM: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Squadron, APO US Forces 96227

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report

7 Oct 1965

TO: Hq Pacific Air Rescue Center (DOARO), APO US Forces 96553

1. Mission number 6-38ARS-898-5 Oct 65.
2. SAR alerted by 38ARSq
3. SAR aircraft used: 2 HH-43F's. All crewmembers from Det 6, 38ARSq.

PRIMARY ALERT CREW

RCC Capt Raymond L. Murden
CP Capt Dale L. Pötter
HM TSgt Kenneth L. Perkins
RS A2C Richard O. Steinert

SECONDARY ALERT CREW

RCC Capt Charles P. Nadler
CP 1/Lt Joseph T. Connell
HM TSgt Richard A. Common
RS SSgt Leon Fullwood

4. Reaction time from initial notification to pickup of first load of casualties: 20 Minutes.
5. CAP assistance: Two Army UH-1B armed helicopters, 2 USAF A-1E's and one USAF Forward Air Controller in O-1F.
6. Area and type of pickup: 8 nautical miles northeast of Bien Hoa AB in dense jungle terrain in war zone "D" (11 05N - 106 53E).
7. Signalling equipment used: Smoke grenades.
8. Survivors names not available.
9. Summary of events:

At 1535L 5 Oct 65, 38th Air Rescue Squadron SARCC called informing us that the Army had thirty one casualties eight miles northeast of Bien Hoa AB. Primary and secondary alert HH-43F helicopters scrambled at 1540L. The third alert crew was called in to provide LER coverage while primary and secondary alert crews were on the mission.

Bien Hoa tower informed us that there was artillery firing in the northeast quadrant from Bien Hoa. We requested that artillery fire be stopped. We circled just north of the runway for approximately five minutes until tower informed us that the artillery fire had ceased. An

escort of two armed UH-1B helicopters scrambled from Tan Son Nhut AB as requested by 38th SARCC.

We were led to the site by an Air Force Forward Air Controller in an O-1F. As we approached the site we were joined by the armed Hueys. Personnel on the ground used smoke grenades to mark their location. They had blasted a small clearing from the dense jungle. The trees in the area were 125 to 150 feet high. The floor of the clearing was strewn with felled trees and stumps. Army UH-1B medical evacuation helicopters had evaluated the clearing and determined that it was too small for them to get into.

From initial evaluation of the clearing it appeared that it would be necessary to recover the casualties by using the hoist and stokes litter. I decided to descend as far as possible into the chimney like opening to reduce the length of hoist pickups. As we descended it was determined that we would be able to descend all the way to the ground. The landing was accomplished by straddling stumps and maneuvering the helicopter to avoid the many felled trees. The UHF/VHF antenna under the front of the helicopter was touching a stump in front and the bottom of the vertical stabilizers were resting on limbs of felled trees.

The diameter of the clearing was so small that on the first approach of each H-43, during the vertical descent into the clearing at about 75 feet, the rotor blades contacted light foliage. Three crew members, TSgt Perkins, TSgt Cannon and SSgt Fullwood remained at the site to assist with the wounded, enlarge the clearing, improve the landing area and direct the landings. Two chain saws were flown in on a subsequent sortie.

During the course of the mission we learned that the casualties were from "A" Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade and that the casualties had been suffered during the previous four hours in a battle with the Viet Cong 600 meters from the clearing. While operating at the site there were several explosions nearby of unknown origin. During one climbout the primary alert H-43 was thirty feet above the ground when it was blown several feet rearward by the concussion of an explosion.

The primary alert H-43 made six trips from the site to the Third Field Hospital and the secondary alert H-43 made three round trips. There was a total of eighteen landings, sixteen of which were on unprepared area. Total sorties: 18. Total flying time 4:30. Sorties and time of assisting aircraft unknown.

Inspection of the H-43's after completion of the mission revealed no damage. Green streaks were found on the outer portion of the right rotor blades of both H-43's caused by blades striking foliage. There was no damage to the blades.

10. Comments:

See mission report number 6-38ARS-898-5 for casualty information.

The day after the mission I called the three medical agencies that treated the casualties to obtain information to determine the number of saves. Third Surgical Hospital said that there were seven positive saves.

Raymond L Muden

RAYMOND L. MUDEN, Capt., USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

CO: 35th Air Rescue Squadron, APO US Forces 96227

W/C: Mission Narrative Report

7 Oct 1965

TO: Hq Pacific Air Rescue Center (35ARS), APO US Forces 96523

1. Mission number 6-35ARS-532-3 Oct 65.

2. SAR alerted by 35ARS.

3. SAR aircraft used: 2 HH-43P's. All crewmembers from Oct 6, 35ARS.

PRIMARY ALERT CREW

HCC Capt Raymond L. Borden

CP Capt Dale L. Potter

SE Tgt Kenneth L. Perkins

ES A2C Richard O. Steinert

SECONDARY ALERT CREW

HCC Capt Charles P. Radler

CP 1/Lt Joseph T. Connell

SE Tgt Richard A. Cannon

ES S2gt Leon Fullwood

4. Reaction time from initial notification to pickup of first load of casualties: 20 Minutes.

5. CAP assistance: Two Army UH-1B armed helicopters, 2 USAF A-1E's and one USAF Forward Air Controller in C-12.

6. Area and type of pickup: 8 nautical miles northeast of Bien Hoa AB in dense jungle terrain in war zone "B" (11 05N - 106 53E).

7. Signalling equipment used: Smoke grenades.

8. Survivors names not available.

9. Summary of events:

At 1535L 5 Oct 65, 35th Air Rescue Squadron 35ARS called informing us that the Army had thirty one casualties eight miles northeast of Bien Hoa AB. Primary and secondary alert HH-43P helicopters scrambled at 1540L. The third alert crew was called in to provide LOR coverage while primary and secondary alert crews were on the mission.

Bien Hoa tower informed us that there was artillery firing in the northeast quadrant from Bien Hoa. We requested that artillery fire be stopped. We circled just north of the runway for approximately five minutes until tower informed us that the artillery fire had ceased. An

ORIGINATOR (Typed Name and Grade)

ACTION AGENCY

PHONE NUMBER

TYPIST'S INITIALS

DATE PREPARED

21

☐ Return to action agency for signature if checked.

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PREVIOUS EDITIONS MAY BE USED

COORDINATION SHEET

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escort of two armed UH-1B helicopters scrambled from Tan Son Nhut AB as requested by 36th SARCC.

We were led to the site by an Air Force Forward Air Controller in an O-1F. As we approached the site we were joined by the armed Hueys. Personnel on the ground used smoke grenades to mark their location. They had blasted a small clearing from the dense jungle. The trees in the area were 125 to 150 feet high. The floor of the clearing was strewn with felled trees and stumps. Army UH-1B medical evacuation helicopters had evaluated the clearing and determined that it was too small for them to get into.

From initial evaluation of the clearing it appeared that it would be necessary to recover the casualties by using the hoist and stokes litter. I decided to descend as far as possible into the chimney like opening to reduce the length of hoist pickups. As we descended it was determined that we would be able to descend all the way to the ground. The landing was accomplished by straddling stumps and maneuvering the helicopter to avoid the many felled trees. The UHF/VHF antenna under the front of the helicopter was touching a stump in front and the bottom of the vertical stabilizers were resting on limbs of felled trees.

The diameter of the clearing was so small that on the first approach of each H-43, during the vertical descent into the clearing at about 75 feet, the rotor blades contacted light foliage. Three crew members, 1st Lt Perkins, 1st Lt Cannon and SSgt Pullwood remained at the site to assist with the hoisted, enlarge the clearing, improve the landing area and direct the landings. Two chain saws were flown in on a subsequent sortie.

During the course of the mission we learned that the casualties were from "A" Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade and that the casualties had been suffered during the previous four hours in a battle with the Viet Cong 600 meters from the clearing. While operating at the site there were several explosions nearby of unknown origin. During one climbout the primary alert H-43 was thirty feet above the ground when it was blown several feet rearward by the concussion of an explosion.

The primary alert H-43 made six trips from the site to the Third Field Hospital and the secondary alert H-43 made three round trips. There was a total of eighteen landings, sixteen of which were on unprepared area. Total sorties: 12. Total flying time 4:50. Sorties and time of assisting aircraft unknown.

Inspection of the H-43's after completion of the mission revealed no damage. Green streaks were found on the outer portion of the right rotor blades of both H-43's caused by blades striking foliage. There was no damage to the blades.

10. Comments:

See mission report number 6-3443-838-5 for casualty information.

The day after the mission I called the three medical agencies that treated the casualties to obtain information to determine the number of saves. Third Surgical Hospital said that there were seven positive saves.

RAYMOND L. MURPHY, Capt., USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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ARSH-65

MISSIONSRESCUERSLOCATIONSSURVIVORSNameAircraftNameServiceAircraft

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

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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206

SECRET

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