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

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report

9 Oct 1965

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

1. Mission Number: 6-38ARS-929-9 Oct 65.
2. SAR alerted by 173rd AB.
3. SAR aircraft used: 2 HH-43F's. All crewmembers from Det 6, 38th ARS.

PRIMARY ALERT CREW:

RCC Capt Darvan E. Cook
CP Maj William T. Hayes Jr.
HM TSgt Domenick J. Cocuzzi
RS ALC William H. Pitsenbarger

SECONDARY ALERT CREW:

RCC Capt Dale E. Potter
CP Capt Raymond L. Murden
HM TSgt Kenneth L. Perkins
RS SSgt George E. Schipper

4. Reaction time from initial notification to pick-up of first casualty: 50 minutes.
5. CAP assistance: Two Army UH-1B armed helicopters.
6. Area and type of pick-up: 18 nautical miles northeast of Bien Hoa AB in secondary growth jungle in war zone (D). (11° 07' N 106° 33' E).
7. Signalling equipment used: Smoke grenades.
8. Survivors names not available.
9. Summary of events:

At 1345L, 9 Oct 65, the 173rd AB called us to evacuate some wounded personnel from the jungle south of Ben Cat. The clearings they were in were too small for the army helicopters to land. Both HH-43's were airborne in 10 minutes and 20 minutes later landed at an army forward control site. There we picked up an army captain to show us where to go and 2 armed UH-1B's for escort. We proceeded to the evacuation sites which were marked by ground personnel with smoke grenades. The jungle growth was about 20' high but very

dense, so the hoist was used with the stokes litter. The armed UH-1B's circled continually during the pick-ups. In all, 3 hoist pick-ups were made. Two were made by the primary crew and both casualties airlifted to the forward army site. The secondary made one pick-up and transported him to the 173rd Field Hospital near Bien Hoa AB. Six (6) sorties, four (4) plus 40 hours.

DARVAN E. COOK, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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28. 38ARS-1236-20 Dec 65 (C). Capt. John Ruffo was forced to eject from his F-105 after being hit by ground fire. He landed in a bay about one half mile off the North Vietnamese coast, and approximately the same distance from several islands. The survivor came under small arms fire from both the islands and the mainland. His day flare was spotted by the HU-16 crew which immediately water landed. The rescue technician jumped into the water and aided the survivor aboard. There was intense ground fire directed at the HU-16 at this time, and there were also numerous junks in the area. In order to take off, the HU-16 pilot, Major William Devitt, had to thread his way through the junks, and between two islands. As most of the fire seemed to be coming from the islands he directed RESCAP aircraft to bomb them, and as this was in progress the HU-16 took off. Immediately following take off the rescue technician, SSgt Dudley Peckingspaugh, treated the survivor for burns and shock, he was transferred to the waiting ambulance upon landing at Danang.

29. 38ARS-1239-21 Dec 65 (S). The HC-54 on prepositioned orbit was notified by a F-105 that his wingman had ejected over North Vietnam. As the HC-54 headed toward the incident site, two HH-3's were scrambled from Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, along with A1E escort. The A1E's spotted the chute and a pen flare while the HH-3's were hovering above the clouds at 5000 feet. After looking without success for a hole to let down through, the HH-3 pilot, Capt Butera, asked the A1E pilot to give radio steers so as to place them over a valley. They entered the clouds at 5000 feet and did not break out until they were less than 1000 feet above the terrain. Soon after, the chute was spotted, and the helicopter came to a hover over the side of a mountain covered by trees 60 feet high. The hoist was lowered and the pilot recovered. Due to the terrain a straight ahead take off was necessary although this meant flying directly over a village. Two bursts of automatic weapons fire were aimed at the HH-3 as it passed over the village. The two A1E's immediately returned the fire successfully suppressing it. The survivor was taken to Udorn AB, Thailand. 25

30. Flying activities for mission listed in paragraphs 3 through 29.

<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SORTIES(ARS)</u>	<u>OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>TYPES AND NR</u> <u>ARS ACFT LOST</u>	<u>ARS MENWIA,</u> <u>KIA, MIA</u>
6-898-50Oct 65	18	31 Btl Cas*		
6-929-90Oct 65	6	3 Btl Cas*		
33-1027-12Oct 65	6	1 F105 Pilot ✓		
39-1055-22Oct 65	2	1 A1E Pilot		
38-1073-28Oct 65	4	2 F-48 Crew ✓		
38-1081-30Oct 65	9	7 UH1B crew		
38-172-1 Nov 65	1	13 P2V Crew and Pax		
38-1084-1 Nov 65	2	1 RF101 Pilot ✓		
38-1088-1 Nov 65	4	1 A4C Pilot		

25 Append 5 page 15

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ACTIVITY	COORDINATING FROM CLEAR DATE
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TO: Hq Pacific Air Rescue Center (DARO), APO US Forces 96553

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ORIGINATOR (Typed Name and Grade)

ACTION AGENCY

PHONE NUMBER

TYPIST'S INITIALS

DATE PREPARED

19

☐ Return to action agency for signature if checked

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COORDINATION SHEET

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DARVAN E. COOK, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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ARSH-65

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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