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NARRATIVE OF RESCUE MISSION

On 18 November 1965, two rescue HH-43 helicopters, "Pedro 1" and "Pedro 2" were scrambled from Nakhon Phanom Air Base to pick up a pilot who had bailed out of his F-105 after it had been severely damaged by hostile fire. The downed pilot's position had been plotted as being dangerously close to confirmed concentrations of hostile anti-aircraft emplacements, and in the same area that an HH-43 helicopter had been shot down while attempting a rescue operation in September 1965. Enroute to the area, Pedro 1 and 2 encountered weather and rain of such intensity that portions of the rubber covering was peeled off the rotor blades of Pedro 1. Positive contact with the downed pilot had not been established when the Pedros arrived on the scene. A search was initiated by both helicopters and the general area was thoroughly explored for fifteen minutes. An emergency "beeper" tone was suddenly heard by Pedro 1 and voice contact was established between the downed pilot and the helicopter. A flare from the distressed crewman revealed his exact position to Pedro 2, who directed Pedro 1 to the spot. The helicopter was brought to a perfect hover over the pilot who was tangled in a dense mass of limbs and vines. With the aid of the hoist, and after five minutes of maintaining a motionless hover, the pilot was brought safely into the helicopter, and the return trip was started. As Pedro 1 moved away, there was an unidentified movement in some bushes nearby. It was thought that the movement might have been made by some natives, but there was no ground fire encountered and the departure was executed safely. Both helicopters returned safely to Nakhon Phanom Air Base.

Crew Members "Pedro 1"

RCC Capt John B. Reiderich
CP 1/LT Charles R. Sweet
HM A/2C Charles E. Veasey
PJ A/1C Harry W. Birtel

Crew Members "Pedro 2"

RCC 1/LT Frederick T. Dykes
CP 1/LT Kenneth G. Griffis
HM A/2C Philip D. Carlson

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20. DET PROV FIRST-1-14 Nov 65 (U). Capt Pfadenhauer, the pilot of a HH-43B, out on a base support mission, noticed a crowd on the beach waving and trying to attract his attention. After landing he learned that an airman had been pulled out of the water, and was being administered artificial respiration. Leaving his two crewmembers, 1st Lt Theodore S. Cochran, and TSgt Eddie Hagerman, to take over the first aid treatment of the still unconscious victim, the pilot flew to the base to pick up a doctor. By the time he returned to the incident scene with the doctor, the two crewmembers had revived the victim. Upon the doctor's recommendation they evacuated the survivor directly to the US Army hospital at Nha Trang. ²²

21. 38ARS-1138-17 Nov 65 (U). The P8E piloted by Commander Robert Chew Jr, was hit by ground fire while running on a target in North Vietnam. He turned out to sea and ejected off the coast. The HU-16 piloted by Capt David Richardson had been relieved at the orbit station and was proceeding to Danang when he monitored the emergency call. He was vectored into the survivors position by Commander Chew's wingman. Following the pick up the survivor was taken to Danang AB.

22. 38ARS-1141-18 Nov 65 (S). Captain Larry Mahaffey's F-105 was hit by ground fire over North Vietnam. He turned towards the mountains and ejected when he lost control of the aircraft. He landed in trees 100 feet high, and made no attempt to reach the ground. The HC-54 on prepositioned orbit headed toward the bail out scene and two HH-43's were scrambled from Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. The downed pilot made contact with RESCAP aircraft utilizing his URC-10 radio. The helicopters had difficulty finding the pilot due to the dense foliage, but the survivor fired several pen flares which were spotted by the helicopter crew. The forest penetrator was lowered, and the uninjured pilot recovered and taken to Nakhon Phanom by the HH-43 pilot, Capt John B. Reiderick. ²³

23. DET 7-671-21 Nov 65 (U). On 21 Nov 65 a C-123 crashed one mile short of the runway at Danang AB. The LBR crew scrambled, and were directed into the crash scene by the control tower operator. The landing at the incident site was hampered by gusty winds, heavy rain, and darkness. It was necessary for the helicopters to land in a mine field to pick up two of the most seriously injured crewmembers. The flight to the hospital was a busy one for the rescue technician, A1C Michael D. Leonard, as both survivors, A1C Michael J. Kelly and A1C Kirby R. Whellern, were in shock. A1C Kelly's injuries were so painful that he had to be held down while the recusitube was held in his mouth. The hospital was unlighted and obscured by clouds and rain, but a successful landing was made. The HH-43F crew commanded by Capt Alva C. Graham had indeed surmounted many obstacles in saving the lives of the two survivors.

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<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>RESCUERS</u>		<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>SURVIVORS</u>		
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>		<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>
38-959-22 Sep	Capt Richardson	HU-16B	1700N - 10716E	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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