

FROM: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Sq, APO San Francisco 96227

8 Dec 65

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report

TO: Hq Air Rescue Service, Orlando AFB, Fla 32813

1. Mission Number: 6-1059-7 Dec 65.
2. SAR Alerted By: Bien Hoa Control Tower.
3. SAR Aircraft Used 2 HH-43F.

Members of Rescue Helicopter Were:

RCC: Captain Maurice G. Kessler	Det 6, 38th ARS
CP 1st Lt Mark C. Schibler	Det 6, 38th ARS
HM TSgt Richard E. Cannon	Det 6, 38th ARS
RS SSgt Leon Fullwood	Det 6, 38th ARS

Crew Members of Cover HH-43F Were:

RCC Captain Harold D. Salem	Det 6, 38th ARS
CP Captain Dale L. Potter	Det 6, 38th ARS
HM ALC Gerald C. Hammond Jr.	Det 6, 38th ARS
RS ALC William H. Pitsenbarger	Det 6, 38th ARS

4. Reaction time from initial notification to pick-up: 0:09.
5. CAP assistance: 1 A-1E.
6. Area and type of pick-up: Land, coordinates: 1054 N - 10648 E.
7. No signaling equipment used to locate survivor.
8. Survivors name: Captain Rexford T. O'Connor, Assigned Hq
2nd Air Division, Tan Son Nhut, RVN.
9. Summary of Events: At 1745L we were advised by Bien Hoa tower that a O-1E aircraft had crashed to the SE at about 45 NM. Since this was beyond normal range with reduced fuel load required for LER alert, immediate re-fueling was requested. The 38th SARCC was advised and top cover requested. 38th SARCC advised that Paris control had the downed pilot's position at approximately 200° at 45NM. While awaiting fuel at approximately 1749L Bien Hoa tower advised that an A-1E pilot had sighted the crashed O-1E 4 miles Southwest of Bien Hoa AB. Both HH-43F's were scrambled at 1750L and arrived over the crashed O-1E at 1754L. The A-1E was circling the crash. The uninjured pilot was picked up at 1754L and returned to Bien Hoa at 1759L. The O-1E pilot stated that he had contacted Paris control during descent after his engine failed and had given his position as "4 to 5" miles southwest of Bien Hoa. The pilot also stated that unidentified Vietnamese began approaching him after he crashed but left immediately when the A-1E approached overhead.

10. Comments: Interpretation of the "4 to 5 miles" as "45 miles" delayed our T.O. by approximately 4 minutes. Whenever possible, recommend pilot's be briefed on the strong possibility of misinterpretation when distances are given in this manner.



MAURICE G. KESSLER
Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

Cy to: PARC, 38ARS

ROUTE	COORDINATES TIME & CLEAR ANCE
CONOR	
V/C	
C/S	

FROM: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Sq, APO San Francisco 96227

8 Dec 65

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report

TO: Hq Air Rescue Service, Orlando AFB, FLA 32813

1. Mission Number: 6-1039-7 Dec 65.
2. SAR Alerted By: Bien Hoa Central Tower.
3. SAR Aircraft Used 2 HH-43P.

Members of Rescue Helicopter Were:

RCC	Captain Maurice G. Kessler	Det 6, 38th ARS
CP	1st Lt Mark C. Schibler	Det 6, 38th ARS
HM	TSGT Richard E. Conner	Det 6, 38th ARS
RS	SSgt Leon Pullwood	Det 6, 38th ARS

Crew Members of Cover HH-43P Were:

RCC	Captain Harold D. Salem	Det 6, 38th ARS
CP	Captain Dale L. Potter	Det 6, 38th ARS
HM	ALC Gerald C. Pearson Jr.	Det 6, 38th ARS
RS	ALC William H. Pitsenbarger	Det 6, 38th ARS

4. Reaction time from initial notification to pick-up: 0:09.
5. CAP assistance: 1 A-1E.
6. Area and type of pick-up: Land, coordinates: 1051 N - 10648 E.
7. No signaling equipment used to locate survivors.
8. Survivors name: Captain Rarford T. O'Connor, Assigned Hq 2nd Air Division, Tan Son Nhut, RVN.

9. Summary of Events: At 1745L we were advised by Bien Hoa tower that a C-12 aircraft had crashed to the SE at about 45 NM. Since this was beyond normal range with reduced fuel load required for IER alert, immediate re-fueling was requested. The 38th SARCC was advised and top cover requested. 38th SARCC advised that Paris control had the downed pilot's position at approximately 200° at 45NM. While awaiting fuel at approximately 1749L Bien Hoa tower advised that an A-1E pilot had sighted the crashed C-12 4 miles Southwest of Bien Hoa AB. Both HH-43P's were scrambled at 1750L and arrived over the crashed C-12 at 1754L. The A-1E was circling the crash. The uninjured pilot was picked up at 1754L and returned to Bien Hoa at 1759L. The C-12 pilot stated that he had contacted Paris control during descent after his engine failed and had given his position as "4 to 5" miles southwest of Bien Hoa. The pilot also stated that unidentified Vietnamese began approaching him after he crashed but left immediately when the A-1E approached overhead.

ORIGINATOR (Typed Name and Grade)

ACTION AGENCY

PHONE NUMBER

TYPIST'S INITIALS

DATE PREPARED

DECLASSIFIED

10. Comments: Interpretation of the "4 to 5 miles" as "4.5 miles" delayed our T.O. by approximately 4 minutes. Whenever possible, recommend pilot's be briefed on the strong possibility of misinterpretation when distances are given in this manner.

MAURICE O. KESSLER
Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

to: FARC, 30AB8

DECLASSIFIED

ARSH-65

ARSH-65
A 8311-8

SECRET

<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>
38-1167-26 Nov		HH-43B	30NM SW Tan Son Nhut	6 Soldiers	USA	UH1B
38-1174-28 Nov	Maj Higginson	HU-16B	20 NM NE Thanh Hoa	LTJG Harrington	USN	F8E
9-38-1-28 Nov	Capt McFarlane	HH-43F	1403N - 10802E		USAF	F4C
	Capt Hill	HH-43F	5 NM NE Pleiku		USAF	F4C
38-1188-2 Dec	Capt Murden	HH-43F	1139N - 10632E	LTJG Schmikt	USN	F4B
				LTJG Potter	USN	F4B
6-38-1059-7 Dec	Capt Kessler	HH-43F	1054N - 10648E	Capt O'Conner	USAF	01E
7-38-682-13 Dec	Lt Brown	HH-43F	1528N - 10740E	MSgt Forrester	USMC	UH1B
38-1220-15 Dec		HU-16B	2040N - 10724E		USAF	F-105
6-38-1065-19 Dec		HH-43F	1039N - 10711E	1 Soldier	USA	
38-1236-20 Dec	Maj Dewitt	HU-16B	2055N - 10715E	Capt Ruffo	USAF	F-105
38-1239-21 Dec	Capt Butera	HH-3	1752N - 10543E	Capt Sullivan	USAF	F-105
6-38-1068-21 Dec	Capt Nadler	HH-43F	1044N - 10704E	1 Soldier	USA	
7-38-681-29 Dec		HH-43F	1537N - 10815E	1 Pilot	USMC	HE1E
				4 Marines		

RESULTS

DECLASSIFIED