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DET 2-3-13-19 Feb

(U) USAF F-105 pilot on strike mission in Laos was forced to bail out. A good chute was observed by wingman. Heavy ground fire was reported in the area and weather prevented fighter aircraft from striking at the ground positions. HH-3C used forest penetrator to lift pilot out of the area while the HH-3C crew members returned enemy fire using personal M-16's. The helicopter took several hits during the rescue operation and escort aircraft reported that anti-aircraft bursts made the helicopter look as if it was in a cotton field.

DET 2-3-14-20 Feb

(U) USAF F-4C was hit by ground fire while on a gunnery pass in Laos. Wingman saw two good chutes but visual contact on the ground was lost due to darkness. A first light hoist pick-up was made by HH-3C. The men were on the side of a steep slope, so steep that the rotor blade clearance was only two to three feet.

DET 2-3-16-24 Feb

(U) USMC F-4B crew ejected over Laos. SAR aircraft arrived on the scene but could not establish contact with either crew member. After searching for about an hour one crew member was located and recovered. A short time later the second chute was spotted but no pilot. The paramedic was lowered to the ground and located the injured crew member who was lifted with the aid of a stokes litter.

DET 2-3-17-26 Feb

(U) USAF F-105 on a strike mission in Laos was forced down by ground fire. Voice contact was established and HH-3C made a hoist pick-up.

DET 2-3-18-27 Feb

(C) USAF F-105 pilot returning from a bombing mission in North Vietnam was forced to eject from his aircraft near the Thailand border. An HH-3C was dispatched, landed and picked up the uninjured pilot.

DET 2-3-20-1 Mar

(U) False Mission.

DET 2-3-20-1 Mar

(C) USAF F-105 on strike mission in Laos burst into flames. The pilot was recovered by HH-3C helicopter. Later investigation indicated a mid-air collision between the F-105 and a FAC aircraft. No wreckage was ever located and the pilot of the FAC aircraft is reported as missing.

DET 2-3-21-7 Mar

(U) USAF F-105 on strike pass in Laos was forced down. The pilot was recovered by HH-3C and reported in good condition. Rescue aircraft received several hits from ground fire during the operation.

DET 2-3-22-7 Mar

(C) Two USAF RF-101's were forced down in North Vietnam. Aircraft were reported to have exploded in the air and search aircraft were unable to make any visual or electronic contact with the pilots. No chutes were observed and the mission was suspended.

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