

33rd ARRS, Jan - Mar 1966

CREW	RCC	Lt Col Robert E. Freshwater
	CP	Captain John H. Williams
	NAV	Captain Roger J. Coslett
	RO	SSgt George F. Goode
	FM	SSgt William K. Warren
	PJ	ALC Thomas F. Bradley

(3) Mission 1-3-7-3 February 1966. 1 sortie. HU-16. An attempt was made to rescue two downed Navy pilots. While on orbit over the Gulf of Tonkin the HU-16 crew was alerted that a battle damaged U.S. Navy jet aircraft crashed into the sea approximately one mile from the North Vietnam shore. The HU-16 was vectored to the distress area by the controlling Navy destroyer. Upon reaching the distress area a search was initiated under intense ground fire. The HU-16 proceeded further to the south to search another area. The ground fire became so intense that the HU-16 was forced to turn seaward. During the turn, green marker dye was spotted off the right wing. The HU-16 proceeded towards the dye and spotted four small fishing boats racing for shore. After making a pass over the vessels it was determined the downed pilots had been captured. The aircraft commander ordered approaching RESCAP fighters to strafe ahead of the boats and attempt to keep them from reaching the beach. The HU-16 and the fighter aircraft received such heavy ground fire that two nearby Navy destroyers shelled the shore in attempt to get the four vessels to turn back toward the sea. Both attempts failed. The search mission was terminated after two hours searching amidst continuous and intense hostile small arms, machine gun, and shore battery fire. After landing, the HU-16 crew found their aircraft (51-7144) had suffered battle damage from .30 and .50 calibre rounds.

CREW	RCC	Lt Col Anthony Saenz Jr.
	CP	Captain Daniel J. Bigelow
	NAV	1st Lt Richard E. Reno
	FM	TSgt Warren R. Prouty
	RO	ALC Anthony S. Yocabet
	PJ	SSgt Dudley R. Peckinpugh

(4) Mission 1-3-13-25 February 1966. At 1715 local time 25 February 1966 an HU-16 orbiting over the Gulf of Tonkin received a report that an ALE had picked up a beeper 140 miles south of the HU-16's position. The aircraft commander turned the HU-16 southward and because of sea conditions requested a helicopter be launched from one of the carriers in the area. At 1807 local the HU-16 crew spotted the ALE circling above one man in a life raft approximately 5 miles ahead. The HU-16 was flying at 200 feet, because of low cloud bases, when a flare passed in front of the aircraft. The HU-16 spotted survivor #2 in a

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life raft and dropped smoke. A second smoke was dropped to mark the exact spot. At this time a C-3A chopper was arriving on the scene. The chopper recovered #1 and #2 survivors. The HU-16 crew continued the search because they were advised it was a B-66 with six people aboard that had gone down. The navigator eventually picked up beeper to the left, turned 90 degrees left and survivor #3 was spotted in an LPU. A smoke bomb was dropped to mark location of #3 survivor. As the chopper was rescuing #3 survivor a Navy P-3A pilot advised he had seen a raft but lost it. The HU-16 made an electronics run and survivor #4 was spotted on the first pass. Smoke was dropped and the chopper moved in position to make its 4th pick-up. Survivor #5 was spotted by the ALE but visual contact was lost. The HU-16 made another electronics run, #5 survivor was spotted in an LPU. Smoke was dropped again to mark location. Survivor #5 was picked up at 1850 local. Search was continued for survivor #6 until 2010 local before the HU-16 had to return to "home base". The missing man was the last one to leave the aircraft (maybe he didn't). The HU-16 received no damage.

CREW	RCC	Captain Gary L. Nelson
	CP	Captain Frank J. Linseinsen
	NAV	1st Lt Lynn E. Martinson
	RO	ALC James C. Davis
	FM	TSgt Lyle E. Martinie
	PJ	A2C Jerry L. Coy

(5) Mission #1-3-18-14 March 1966. 1 sortie. An HU-16 on orbit over the Gulf of Tonkin was notified that an F-4C crew had been downed by hostile gunfire. There were two survivors in the water and the HU-16 crew proceeded to and landed for a water pick-up. The HU-16 was drawing heavy fire from shore batteries as the first F-4C pilot was being pulled aboard. The Albatross was hit by artillery fire and immediately burst into flame. The crew abandoned the HU-16 and the two survivors were picked up by U.S. Navy helicopters. Two HU-16 crewmen were killed by the artillery burst and/or resulting explosion. The F-4C pilots, Captain Bryant and Major Peerson, received back injuries. The pilot and copilot of the HU-16 escaped unhurt. The navigator and Flight Mechanic sustained serious injuries and were evacuated to U.S. Naval vessels for medical treatment.

CREW	RCC	Captain David P. Westenbarger
	CP	1st Lt Walter E. Hall
	NAV	Captain Donald S. Price(Wounded in Action)
	RO	ALC Robert L. Hilton (Killed in Action)
	FM	SSgt Clyde W. Jackson III(Wounded in Action).
	PJ	ALC James E. Pleiman (Killed in Action)

1966
DET 1-3-13-25 Feb

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(C) USAF RB-66 was reported down in the Gulf of Tonkin south of 1700N. HU-16 located one survivor and while descending to make the pick-up spotted several others in the area. The HU-16 advised that several different men were in sight and requested that USN helicopter should make pick-up so he could mark location of survivors he had spotted. The team work on this operation resulted in five of the six crew members recovered. The sixth man had not been confirmed successfully leaving the aircraft.

DET 1-3-14-1 Mar

(C) USN F-4B reported missing in the Gulf of Tonkin. HU-16, fighter aircraft and Navy Destroyers were diverted to the area. Area with a radius of 60 miles of the last known position was searched but negative leads were obtained. USN requested mission be suspended.

DET 1-3-15-1 Mar

(C) USN A-4E reported down in North Vietnam. All rescue aircraft on the scene reported heavy ground fire from the immediate area of the suspected downed man. Numerous junks near the area and heavy ground fire left little doubt that the pilot had been captured if he got out of the aircraft safely.

DET 1-3-16-9 Mar

(C) USN F-4C was downed by ground fire in the Gulf of Tonkin two miles off the coast of North Vietnam. An HU-16 landed and was in the process of making a pick-up when it took a direct hit from mortar fired off the coast. The HU-16 caught fire and sank almost immediately. Two crew members were reported killed by the mortar and the remaining four evacuated the aircraft. USN helicopters recovered the two Navy pilots and four of the HU-16 crew members. Destroyers and fighters in the area reported ground fire from shore imple-ments was extremely heavy and accurate.

DET 1-3-19-20 Mar

(C) USN F-4B crashed in the Gulf of Tonkin. Two good chutes were observed. One chute landed 75 yards off the coast of North Vietnam and the pilot was reported captured. The second chute landed 1000 yards off the coast and the man was recovered by USN helicopter.

DET 1-3-20-24 Mar

(C) Pilot of USAF F-105 went down off the coast of North Vietnam. Wingman reported negative chute sighting and that the aircraft went down in the vicinity of numerous junks. Heavy ground fire from the shore was reported. Mission was suspended.

DET 2-3-2-11 Jan

(U) USAF F-105 pilot ejected over Laos. A good chute was sighted and voice contact with the downed pilot was established. HH-3 made a hoist pick-up of the pilot who was in good condition. A1E and F-105 were used to suppress ground fire.

DET 2-3-3-16 Jan

(U) USAF F-4C crew ejected over Laos. Voice contact was established with one of the pilots. Hoist pick-up was made on this man. Trees in the area were 150 to 200 feet high. HH-3 circled the area in an attempt to make visual contact with the second crewman. Contact was made and he was recovered 10 minutes later.

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