

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. Peckinpaugh

(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