

FROM: Det 6, 38th Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Sq, APO US FORCES 96227

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report of a Save

2 Mar 66

TO: 3rd Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Group (JSARRC), APO US FORCES 96307

1. Mission Number: 6-38-41-1 Mar 66.
2. SAR Alerted by: 173rd Airborne Brigade.
3. SAR Aircraft Used: 2 HH-43F helicopters.

Crewmembers of recovery aircraft were:

RCC Capt Ronald L. Bachman
 CP Capt Charles P. Nadler
 HM ALC Thomas S. Story
 RS ALC Henry J. O'Beirne

Lake Stevens, Wash
 Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Miami, Fla
 Dublin, Ireland

Crewmembers of the top cover aircraft were:

RCC Capt Dale L. Potter
 CP Capt Raymond L. Murden
 HM TSgt Kenneth L. Perkins
 RS ALC William H. Pitsenbarger

Joseph, Oregon
 Varnville, S.C.
 Lexington, Ky.
 Piqua, Ohio

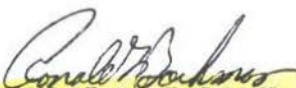
4. Reaction time from initial notification to pick up: 0:33.
5. CAP assistance: None.
6. Area and type of pick up: 100+ ft jungle growth, hoist pick up.
7. Survivor located by coordinates and smoke grenades.
8. Survivors name: Sgt Larry Whiting, A-1/503, 173rd Airborne Brigade.
9. Summary of Events:

At 1147 hours, 1 March 1966, Det 6, 38th ARRS was alerted by the 173rd Airborne Brigade for the medical evacuation of an Army wounded from 1053 N 10703 E, 13 miles ESE of Bien Hoa AB, RVN. Two HH-43F helicopters were scrambled from Bien Hoa at 1155 hours. While enroute to the site we attempted contact with "Dumbo Uptake" on FM. When contact was made it was learned that "Dumbo Uptake" was not the operation that had the wounded. However, upon arrival at the designated area, Pedro 73, the lead aircraft spotted green

smoke. As this was an area that we had previously operated in and was secure, a low pass was flown on the site to check the area. US Army personnel were observed carrying a litter patient. The stokes litter was lowered approximately 100 feet to the jungle floor and the patient was secured. As the patient was hoisted toward the helicopter it started to spin. The closer it approached the helicopter, the faster the litter would spin. All attempts to stop the rotation failed. The rotational velocity was estimated to be approximately 60 RPM. The rotation was finally stopped by allowing the stokes litter to contact the bear paw. The shock of this impact caused severe pain for the patient. It is the opinion of the personnel of this detachment that the spin is caused by the construction of the hoist cable. Previously problems with the hoist have occurred when cable twist caused a loop to form in the cable causing fraying and broken strands thereby rendering the cable unusable. The cable has been UR'ed before and a UR and OHR will again be submitted.

The patient was evacuated to the 93rd Med Evac Hospital at Bien Hoa at 1235 hours. His injuries consisted of a severed right leg below the knee.

No ground fire was encountered, weather was clear and 15. There was some difficulty with communications in that the initial frequencies obtained were for the wrong operation. However, the accuracy of coordinates for the location allowed the pickup to occur with out communications. Communications was established with the ground party just after the pickup was completed.


RONALD L. BACHMAN, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander