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

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (Mission 6-38-102-29 Jun 66) 1 Jul 66

TO: 3rd Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Group, (JSARC), APO 96307

1. At 1700 hours 29 June 66, 3rd JSARC notified Det 6, 38th ARRS to scramble their alert HH-43F's to 10723E 1053N to make stokes litter pickup of 17 Army wounded. 3rd JSARC indicated they would try to obtain cover aircraft for the operation. At 1710 hours two HH-43F's, Pedro 73 and 74 departed Bien Hoa en-route to the pickup location. Arriving in the area, attempts to make contact on frequencies given by JSARC failed. Contact was made on guard channel with numerous Army UH-1B's that were flying in the pickup area. Once contact was made UHF and FM frequencies for use during the mission were established. Once communications were established the ground party released purple smoke to identify their location. Pedro 73 went into the zone and proceeded to make the first pickup while hovering at about 140 feet over high dense jungle. To expedite the operation a plan was made for the HH-43's to make the hoist pickup's and transfer the patients to slick HU-1B's at an unsecure LZ approximately 3/4 mile east of the pickup site. There were about 6 UH-1B's at the site; all of them slicks. No armed cover was available until the pickups were half completed at which time a flight of two armed UH-1B's arrived on the scene. They were requested by the rescue aircraft (Army and Air Force) at the mission site. Pedro 73, completing the first pickup moved to the transfer LZ and switched the patient to a waiting UH-1B. Only 1 patient was picked up the first time as his injuries prevented him from being shifted from the stokes to a folding litter. By this time Pedro 74 was over the pickup site and proceeded to pickup two more wounded. Pedro 73 on the first pickup received ground fire as the helicopter was departing the pickup site. The departure route was changed on subsequent pickups. Pickups continued with patient transfers made to UH-1B's at the LZ until on the 7th transfer ground fire was encountered from the edge of the clearing. On the next pickups Pedro 73 and 74 took the patients direct to the aid station at Zuan Loc. While at Zuan Loc both rescue helicopters refueled. Returning to the site all remaining pickups were completed with the last two made after dark. All pickups were made with the stokes litter with the exception of one. This one was made with the forest penetrator. The mission was performed under conditions of total insecurity. On the third pickup Pedro 73 used M16 fire out the rear of the chopper to quiet movement in the trees 50 meters to the rear. Fifteen sorties were flown for 6:20 flying time with fifteen combat saves/other.

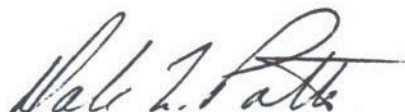
2. Crew members were:

Pedro 73

RCC	Captain Dale L. Potter
CP	Captain Harold D. Salem
HM	A1C Gerald C. Hammond Jr.
RS	A2C Gordon C. Thayer

Pedro 74

RCC	Major Maurice G. Kessler
CP	Captain Karl G. King
HM	A1C Alexander Montgomery
RS	SSgt Henry J. O'Beirne



DALE L. POTTER, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander