

FROM: Det 7, 38 ARRSq

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report Number 1-3-48, 25 July 66.

TO: 3rd ARRGp (RGRC)

1. Pedro alert was notified by Cigar control at 0945L that a Marine H-34 had crashed 11 miles North East of Dong Ha, RVN. Pedro 96 and 95 launched at 0950 and proceeded to the crash area. I contacted Bird Dog 35, who was directing an air strike in the area, to help direct me into the area. Bird Dog 35 located the wreckage and guided me in by means of my UHF homer. We were exposed to ground fire while enroute. We were at about 4000 feet at this time and were not hit.

2. When arriving over the scene, we noticed that a Marine H-34 and HU-1 helicopter were flying in low circles over the crash site. We contacted them on guard channel and they advised us that there was no enemy ground fire and asked us to pick up 2 pilots and one deceased crew member from the crashed H-34.

3. We made an approach to the area and lowered our Para-rescue man to the ground. He contacted us on an FM radio and indicated that I would probably be able to hover low enough to pick up the 2 pilots. I was able to pick-up the two pilots by hovering very low, but because of the nearness of trees and hampered by gusty winds, I elected to use the hoist to pick up the body.

4. Communications during the hovering work became saturated and I had my co-pilot turn off all radios except for my interphone so that I could hear my hoist operator.

5. After all the H-34 crew members were picked up, we hoisted out para-rescue man back aboard and flew back to Dong Ha where the H-34 crew members were transferred to a Marine helicopter and flown back to their carrier.

6. Factors affecting rescue were:

a. Weather during entire mission was VFR, but winds were very gusty, at about 15 to 20 knots. I had to haver crosswind because of the trees and the slope of the hill.

b. Communications became saturated while I was hovering and I had to have all communications turned off except for interphone during the pick-up. However, communications with the FAC Bird Dog 35, Pedro 95 and Cigar were satisfactory during the entire mission. There was some confusion over which frequency we were to operate on and finally ended up on a Marine tactical frequency called Button Silver.

c. Enemy Action: Enroute to the crash site we encountered enemy ground fire but picked up no hits. There was no hostile fire during the pick-up portion of the mission.

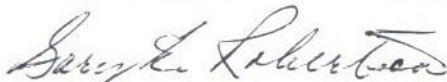
7. Specific facts of the Rescue were:

- a. Type Aircraft: U.S. Marine H-34 helicopter.
- b. Coordinates: 1654N/10656E (within DMZ)
- c. Time of pick-up: 0220Z
- d. Total time from scramble till all crew members were picked up: 0+35
- e. Personnel involved: Three (two pilots, one deceased crew member)

8. Crew Members:

RCC: Capt Gary E. Robertson
CP: 1st Lt Frederick D. Gregory
HM: SSgt David L. Lancaster
RS: ALC Albert W. Foster

9. The Pedro crew expresses their thanks to Bird Dog 35 and to Cigar for their assistance and cooperation in affecting this recovery.



GARY E. ROBERTSON, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

Copy to:
Det 1, 3ARRGP