

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
DET 10, 38th ARRS (MAC)
APO 96320

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Det 10, 38th ARRS

15 Sep 66

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report (No. 10-38-19-14 Sep 66)

TO: 3rd ARRG (RGRC)

Det 10, 38th ARRS was notified at 1358 Local on 14 Sep 66 by IV DASC that an US ARMY HU-1 helicopter (call sign "Cigar Smoke") was down approximately 13 miles north of Binh Thuy AB. They did not have the coordinates but instructed us to contact PADDY CONTROL after becoming airborne for further instructions. PEDRO 39, the primary alert helicopter, scrambled at 1400 Local. PEDRO 91, secondary alert helicopter, was airborne at 1403 Local. Crews as follows:

PEDRO 39

RCC: Capt Robert D. Vespico
CP: Capt Alma L. Williams
HM: A2C Terry M. Dicken, Jr.
RS: A2C Michael P. Benno

PEDRO 91

RCC: 1/1t John M. Armstrong
CP: Major Charles R. Kay
HM: A1C Malcom G. Aldridge
RS: A1C Patrick J. Geisler

PADDY CONTROL was contacted immediately by both helicopters and coordinates WS 567440 were received as the crash site. Armed HU-1's were scrambled from Vinh Long AB by PADDY CONTROL to give us air cover. An AC-47 was also in the area to support the rescue operation.

PEDRO 91 was the first to locate the downed aircraft and advised PEDRO 39 of the location. PEDRO 91 recovered three of the survivors and PEDRO 39 recovered the remaining five survivors. Hostile ground fire encountered during the recovery operations but neither helicopter received any hits. PADDY CONTROL was advised to contact the US ARMY for aircraft and personnel to secure the downed aircraft until it could be recovered. PEDRO 39 and 91 landed at Binh Thuy AB at 1435 Local and the survivors released. Communications with the downed aircraft were non-existent.

Robert D. Vespico
ROBERT D. VESPICO, Capt, USAF
RESCUE CREW COMMANDER

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