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FROM: Det 9, 38th ARRSq (Captain Tyree/4184)

28 September 1966

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative 9-38-28-26 September 1966

13Z

TO: 3rd ARRGp (RGOS)
AFO 96307

1. Base Operations notified Det 9, 38ARRS that the Army had a med-evac mission that they wanted us to take. The request was from "Doctor Control", located about 10 NM SW of Pleiku AB at an Army helicopter area. Initial notification was at 2015L, interrupting a local training flight in progress. Initial report was that there were two Army personnel, each having broken backs. Det 9 was contacted because a hoist recovery was necessary. Our instructions were to proceed to Doctor Control for a briefing. Both aircraft were being readied for the mission and the secondary crew was notified.

2. Both helicopters departed for Doc Control at 2030L. Arriving at Doc Control, we were briefed the pickup was 32NM southwest of Pleiku in the Ia Drang valley. Both crews were briefed, maps were marked, and departure commenced. We found out there was only one injured man, having both legs broken along with hip and back injuries. Weather at Pleiku at initial launch was 4000' scattered, high thin overcast, seven miles in haze. Enroute to the pickup site a broken layer at an estimated 10,000' was encountered. Spooky 23 an AC-47 flare/gun ship joined us as we departed Doc Control and gave us RESCORT throughout the mission.

3. Radio contact was made with the ground party (sorry holder 30) as soon as we were in the immediate area. He got a visual sighting on us and vectored us over his location, which was marked with flashlights. A modified landing site evaluation was made and an approach was initiated. On final approach, I called for flares at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to our right rear. Spooky 23 complied and the area was lighted for the hover operation. However, helicopter flood lights were necessary to keep clear of the trees and to affect the hoist operation. The pickup site was located atop a small, pinnacle-like hill with extremely steep sides. A2C Roy E. Kelsey, our Pararescueman requested permission to be lowered to the ground as the injured man was tied in a makeshift litter that could not be hoisted. He was lowered by forrest penetrator and carried a semi-rigid litter down with him. After Airman Kelsey was put on the ground, I departed the pickup point to orbit the area while the litter loading was being done. On climbout, ground fire was reported by the AC-47 and later confirmed by Airman Kelsey who said he and part of the ground party heard it. No hits were taken. Since friendly elements were also scattered throughout the area, the AC-47 was not able to fire on the opposing forces; the AC-47 had no references and could not be sure of the exact location of the ground fire.

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4. The ground party radioed that the patient was ready, and another approach was made. The helicopter mechanic found it difficult to slide the semi-rigid litter into the helicopter. The litter does not slide as easily over the helicopter mechanics seat as does the stokes litter. If we have to use the semi-rigid litter again, we will first remove the seat. Note: The semi-rigid litter was taken as we were briefed for two patients with broken backs; the second HH-43F had DSAS problems and I wanted the primary helicopter to make both pickups, which is extremely difficult with stokes litters. No other difficulties were encountered, and Airman Kelsey was quickly retrieved. Departure was made over a different route.

5. The return to Oleiku was uneventful, with spooky monitoring navigation. The injured man was taken to the 18th Surgical Hospital at Oleiku.

6. The pickup crew consisted of:

RCC - Captain Dale R. Tyree
CP - Captain Fredrik M. Bergold
HM - A2C William L. Houghtaling
RS - A2C Roy E. Kelsey

Dale R. Tyree
DALE R. TYREE, Captain, USAF
Commander

ROLL CALL



4 Copter Crewmen Rescued in Jungle

By TOM QUINN

SAIGON—An Air Force helicopter crew Thursday and Friday rescued four crewmen of a downed Army chopper 83 miles northwest of Pleiku.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Allen Stokes, of Det. 9, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Sq., was lowered by cable 150 feet through the foliage and

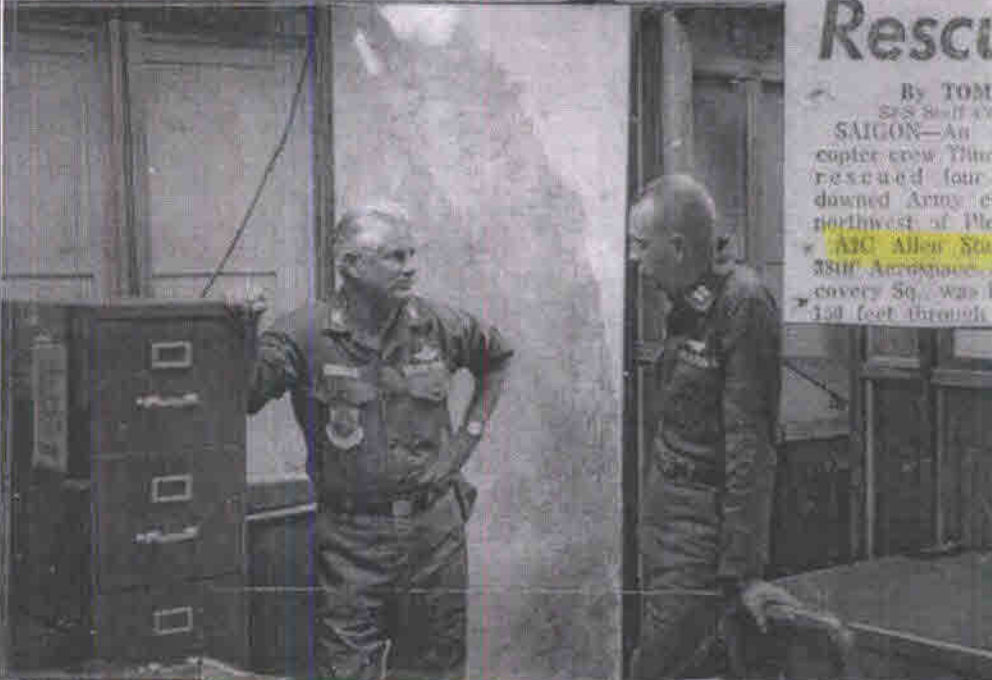
found two of the survivors of the wrecked helicopter. Both were in shock and one had a broken leg.

The two were lifted out of the jungle and flown to a hospital while the search continued for the chopper and the two other crewmen.

During the night an Air Force Dragonship, Skyraider and flare ship circled the area in a night long vigil to keep the Viet Cong from reaching the wrecked chopper.

Friday morning Stokes and paratrooper Staff Sgt. George Shipper found the wreckage with two Army crewmen trapped inside. Both were seriously injured.

After the night was part of the search, the two Army crewmen were rescued and flown to Pleiku Air Force Hospital.



AFC KELSEY AFTER ANOTHER SAVE.



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