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Mission 9-38-31-29 October 1966. This was a heli-

copter mission for the medical evacuation of wounded

U.S. Army soldiers from a point near Pleiku AB, Vietnam. Captain Carlton P. Vermeys was departing the pickup point with three wounded soldiers when his helicopter, HH-43F 62-4511, was struck and downed by hostile fire. Of this four-man crew from the Detachment 9, 38th ARRSq, two escaped serious injury, one was seriously injured, and one was killed at the time the helicopter crashed. A2C Francis D. Rice, , helicopter mechanic, died in the crash,²⁶ while 2nd Lt George H. Bonnell, III, copilot, was severely injured in the crash and died on 12 November in the hospital at Clark AB, Philippines.

From 1 July to 31 December 1966, ARRS had the total of nine men lost -- seven missing and two killed.

Personnel Manning

Hq MAC requested that ARRS make an evaluation of a regulation proposed by USAF for the purpose of standardizing personnel functions at major command and intermediate command headquarters. The DCS for Personnel, who made the evaluation, stated that, while the regulation would

26. A2C Rice was killed at 2250 hours local time, 28 Oct 66 according to the casualty report. Since mission reports are based on Greenwich Mean Time, the mission occurred on 29 Oct 1966.

ARRSH-67/1

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
28 29 Oct	Det 9, 38th ARRSq	HH-43F, 62-4511	1 killed; 1 injured, died later
29 Nov	Det 5, 38th ARRSq	HH-3E, 64-14231	

29 DEC 1966

Release No. 12-29-66

PLEIKU RESCUE DETACHMENT SETS OUTSTANDING RECORD

Although its first permanently assigned personnel reported for duty less than a year ago, in Jan 1966, Detachment 9 of the 38th ARRSq has already established one of Southeast Asia's most outstanding records.

By the end of October the detachment had made a total of 92 combat pickups, of which 60 were logged as combat saves. (Two of these saves were made in November 1965 as temporary duty (TDY) personnel were setting up the unit.

This total represents one fifth of all combat saves logged in SEA during the first ten months of 1966. It is even more remarkable when it is noted that Det 9 has operated with only two HH-43F helicopters and an average of six pilots, four crew chiefs, and four pararescue specialists during this period.

Operations 'Hawthorne', 'Paul Revere II' and 'Paul Revere IV', all waged in Vietnam's Central Highlands, presented the busiest operational challenges to the unit.

During Hawthorne, 25 members of the 101st Airborne Division and one North Vietnamese were retrieved from the battlefield. This required seven night sorties, five of which were flown by Capt. Lawrence F. Marcum, Somerset Kentucky.

Two day sorties were flown during the operation by Capt. Darrell A. Lowery, Tecumseh, Michigan, who made the pickup of the captured North Vietnamese soldier.

Two other sorties were flown into the area in an effort to extract the wounded of the company of Army Capt. Bill Carpenter, but heavy .50 cal fire prevented the hovering that was necessary.

During 'Paul Revere II' the detachment was called on to assist the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the evacuation of wounded. With the aid of ground radar, Capt Fredrik M. Bergold, Cincinnati Ohio, led a flight of two helicopters into the hostile and fog shrouded Chu Pong Mountain area to evacuate two wounded soldiers.

A short time later, in August, Capt. Richard L. Cardwell, Pendleton, Oregon., led two helicopters into the same area to evacuate five wounded soldiers. This was another minimum weather rescue that required instrument flying.

In late October, the 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions made heavy contact near the Cambodian border west of Plei Djereng, and Paul Revere IV was underway, with Det 9 again called upon to make battlefield pickups.

On a night mission Capt. Carlton P. Verneys, Berkeley, California, and crew began hoisting the wounded through a canopied jungle with some trees growing to 150 ft. As the hoist was lowered the fourth time, the helicopter was hit by ground fire and crashed into the jungle. Three wounded that had been hoisted from the jungle and the crew chief were lost in the fiery crash.

The second helicopter pilot that night because 29 OCT 66 pickup of the pilot and co-
1st Lt. Michael E. Davis, but the following morning
area and retrieve the pair w were able to get into the
the copilot later died at the Clark AB Hospital, P.I. from his severe in-
juries. d only slight injuries, but

That afternoon the detachment's second helicopter, flown by Capt. Dale R. Tyree, Nashville Tennessee, detachment commander, evacuated six personnel from the jungle. On the last sortie of the day this helicopter was also seriously hit by .50 cal fire, but made it to a forward operating area for

a forced landing.

This helicopter was returned to Pleiku AB in November by Chinook helicopter, and the detachment maintenance personnel replaced components and patched damage done by eight 50 cal. hits and the forced landing.

This was the third time a helicopter had been rebuilt during the year by these maintenance men under the supervision of SMSgt Elton L. Tisdale, Chandler, Arizona.

Capt Tyree strongly praises these maintenance personnel.

"Our missions usually come in big bunches," he says, "and these men always had our two choppers available when most needed."

The detachment had flown 329 missions through the end of October. Of these 252 were local base rescue, 22 aircrew recovery, 13 medical evacuation, and 42 base support. The two helicopters logged 608 hours of which 205 were in combat, and the incommision rate averaged 91%.

The small unit's members have individually received to date 14 Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Airman's Medals, 21 Air Medals, two AF Commendation Medals, and five purple hearts. Several other awards, including four Silver Stars, are pending.

Additionally, in the past four months that the new fast growing Pleiku AB has conducted an Airman of the Month program, members of Det 9 have twice been selected for this honor.

This detachment is setting an outstanding record as its talents are de-

38 ARRS
Full

3909

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PP RUMNTB
DE RUMSBJ 19A 2110125
ZNR UUUUU
P 300124Z
X 3D-ARRG TXN AB RVN
TO DET 9 38 ARRS PLEIKU AB RVN
BT

UNCLAS RGCO 01108 JULY 66. PERSONAL BALL TO TYREE.
MY CONGRATULATION FOR A FINE RESCUE OF THE DONED HEUY CREW ON
28 (PLUS 29) JUQ. YOU HAVE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED YOUR SUPERB ABILITY
TO COORDINATE AND COMPLETE UCOMPLEX MISSION. KEEP UP THE
EXCELLENT WORK.

BT

TNA-17CPAB3632CRPB557

RR RUMNTB

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202092 NOV 66

PARRC NICKAM AFB HAWAII

RUMNTB/DET 9 38 ARRS PLEIKU AB VIETNAM

FO RUMSBJ/38 ARRS TAN SON NHUT AFLD VIETNAM

MSBJ/74 -4440 5-, 9, ,75 -176 ;835,-.

30403-/ARRS ORLANDO AFB FLA

CLAS E F T O PRCCO 01906 NOV 66

PERSONAL COL SMITH TO CAPT TYREE, LT DAVIS AND CREWS.

CONGRATULATIONS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES 23 OCT 66. EXCEPT IT
ALPHA SHIP, TEAMWORK ; 3495. DISPLAYED DURING MEDICAL EVACUATION
MISSION OF DOWNED HH-43F CREW AND U. S. ARMY COMBAT CASUALTIES
REFLECTS MISSION DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM FINEST TRADITION
UTROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SERVICE. WELL DONE ALL PARTICIPANTS.
BT

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PEDRO 42 DOWNED ON 22 OCT 66

PEDRO 56 DOWNED 29 OCT 66

William H. Pitsenbarger was the first airman to be awarded the Air Force Cross posthumously. The Air Force Sergeants Association presents an annual award for valor in his honor.

The Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service is legendary for heroism in peace and war. No one better exemplifies its motto, "That Others May Live," than Bill Pitsenbarger. He descended voluntarily into the hell of a jungle firefight with valor as his only shield--and valor was his epitaph.

First appeared in October 1983 issue.

Tail No.: 62-4511 Model: HH-43 Date of Loss: 28 Oct 66 Unit: 38th ARRS, Pleiku
Country of Loss: SVN Call Sign: Pedro 42

Co-Pilot: George H. (Spike) Bonnell (12E-62)
Position Unk: Francis D. Rice (11E-124)

Notes: Aircraft crashed while attempting to take off from base on a medical evacuation mission.

Tail No: 65-12779 Model: HH-3E Date of Loss: 6 Feb 67 Unit: 38th ARRS
Country of Loss: NVN Call Sign: Jolly Green 05

Pilot: Patrick H. Wood (15E-1)
Co-Pilot: Richard A. Kibbey (14E-129)
Flight Engineer: Donald J. Hall (14E-129)

Notes: Helicopter was hit by ground fire while flying SAR for NAIL 65; crash site located atop 900 meter karst.

Additional Notes: Shot down 6 Feb 67 on his first mission flying an HH3E Jolly Green Giant rescue chopper. They just picked up a downed pilot and were leaving the area when they were hit with AA. The pararescueman, Duane Hackney was rescued shortly after winning the AF Cross for his efforts and eventually became a Chief Master Sergeant in the Security Police. He retired from a squadron which I commanded. Three others and my dad were MIA from that flight. Lucius Heiskell, Donald Hall, and the other pilot were listed as missing in action and still are (I can't remember the pilots name, I'll send it later). He left behind my mom, me 45, brothers David 37 and John 32 and sister 44. Mom died eleven years later of a broken heart. She never remarried and only found contentment the last year of her life when the AF had a final determination board to settle life insurance and give finality that she really needed. She didn't want to let go, but had given up all hope. We miss them both and remember them with fondness and much love. They were perfect parents like June and Ward Clever. Thanks Lt. Col. Richard A. Kibbey Jr., USAF Tuesday, January 26, 1999

Tail No.: Model: HH-3E Date of Loss: 16Feb 67 Unit: 37th ARRS, Quang Tri
Country of Loss: Laos Call Sign: Jolly Green 56

Pilot: Angelo Pullara (15E-50)

Notes: Low Jolly Green was Jolly Green 56. High Jolly was Jolly Green 07. Attempted rescue of F-100 pilot Dusty 71. Dusty 82 was orbiting overhead 'till JG arrived. Location given as 045/19 off channel 72. Also given as XC8752 and later as coordinates 1555-10645.

59-1587	8 Jul 66	38th ARRS Tan Son Nhut	SVN	unknown					
59-1590	27 Jun 69	41st ARRS Phan Rang	SVN	PEDRO 92	J. Gammon	W. Mcoll	Pomerpleu	H. Jones	
60-0278	10 Jul 69	38th ARRS Utapao	unknown	unknown					
60-0282	7 Aug 69	38th ARRS Tuy Hoa	SVN	PEDRO 24	Wohnick	Brittingh			
62-4510	20 Sep 65	Det 1, 38th ARRS, NKP	NVN	DUTCHY 41	Thomas J. Curtis	Duane W. Martin	William A. Robinson	Arthur N. Black	
62-4511	28 Oct 66	38th ARRS Pleiku	SVN	PEDRO 42	C. Vermeys	George H. Spike Bonnell	Frances D. Rice (unknown position)		
62-4525	7 Feb 68	Det 9, 38th ARRS Pleiku	SVN	PEDRO 56	Francis B. Gilligan	Lester M. Jiggins	Jose G. Abara	Davis R. Berrio	
63-9711	21 May 67	38th ARRS Bien Hoa	SVN	PEDRO 73	D.L. Wiest	Rielly	H.H. Ewton	R.S. Loud	

Ground loss, hit by a r

Crashed during SAR fo
Capt J. Casper pilot/re
helicopter, possibly du
injuries to crew.

Listed in USAF loss list
in SAR log.

Ferry mission to Cam I
restarts failed, crashed

The helo was participa
ESSEX 04, an F-105D
Forby, who was captu
was hit by ground fire
the crew were capture
evaded and made his
captured by the Pathe
1966, Lt Martin, along
Dengler, Air America c
Chinese National, and
from the Houay Het Pi
Laos. Martin and Deng
17 days before Lt Mar
machete wielding villa
five days later.

Aircraft crashed while
from base on a medic

Assisting in the recove
downed Army helicopt
ground fire near Kont
ten seconds later; the
crewmembers survive

Aircraft was flying resc
F-100D, Capt Lindber
by ground fire and lan
later destroyed on the