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FROM: Det 7, 38th ARRSq, APO 96337

10 Oct 1966

Subject: Mission Narrative Report

TO: 3rd ARRGp, APO 96307

At approximately 1100, 8 October 1966, we were notified of a downed aircraft on the 345° radial at 37 miles from channel 37. We topped off the firebird and were airborne at 1105. After airborne we were notified by tower that the crash site was 030/13 mi from channel 37. We changed heading and followed two Marine H-46's who were heading for the site. We conducted a search after our arrival over the crash site, sighting no survivors. We were aided in our search by the two H-46's, one H-34 and a UH-1B. The seas were moderate and the weather was high overcast. Crown Charlie arrived approximately 15 minutes later and received a beeper in the vicinity of a small group of Vietnamese sampans 3-5 miles from our position. We proceeded toward the sampans and began receiving a strong beeper signal. We got a visual sighting on the Radar Operator riding in the stern of a sampan. We hovered over the sampan and hoisted the RO aboard. Upon questioning the RO we found his pilot to be in another sampan approximately 1/4 to 3/4 miles away. We sighted the second pilot and hoisted him from the sampan to the helicopter. The only difficulty encountered occurred during the first pickup. The sampan the RO was on was proceeding at 5-10 knots and was headed crosswind. Also the RO experienced some difficulty getting onto the forest penetrator. Both the pilot and the radar observer were in excellent shape.

David R. Stevenson

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Rescue Crew Commander