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FROM: DET 11, 38ARRSQ, APO 96316

SUBJECT: Narrative Report Mission No. 11-38-2-23 Nov 1966 (u)

TO: 3rd ARRG

3 December 1966

1.(u) Tuy Hoa tower called Detachment 11 at 1545 local and stated, "An Army O-1E Bird Dog aircraft crashed at coordinates BQ6477". Immediately thereafter 3rd ARRG JSARC called and requested that the Detachment obtain Army gunship escort and attempt to make pickup of O-1E crew at coordinates BQ6477. The Army Tactical Operations Center was contacted and coordinates verified. HUB Gunships were taking off at that time. Crash site was located in extremely hostile area. It was not known whether aircraft crashed because of mechanical failure or because of ground fire. HH-43D (Pedro 46) was airborne at 1600 local. Enroute, PEDRO 46 contacted O-1E (BORON 03) that had witnessed crash and was circling in the area. Boron 03 had VHF contact with survivors. Both were in good condition. Survivors would not attempt to mark position until Pedro 46 was in the area. Pedro 46 arrived crash coordinates at 1635 local. Numerous Army helicopters and O-1E aircraft were circling in area. Contacting survivors through BORON 03 was difficult because of extensive chatter on UHF guard channel. The survivors ignited a smoke grenade. Smoke filtered up through the heavy jungle canopy and gave an excellent reference. The helicopter was hovered over a few broken branches in the tops of the trees, but the aircraft wreckage was not visible. After two or three minutes one of the survivors was spotted. The helicopter was lowered into a depression in the trees and two hoist pickups were made using the forest penetrator. Pickups were completed at approximately 1645 local. The survivors were scratched and bruised but otherwise in good condition. The helicopter transmission chip detector light illuminated during the flight to home station. A precautionary landing was made at Tuy Hoa North Army Base and the survivors released to their own organization. After maintenance, Pedro 46 returned to home base.

2.(c) The survivors emergency radios were inoperative. The downed aircraft VHF radio was used for communication with rescue aircraft. Search and recovery could have been more effective if Pedro 46 had FM or VHF radios. 9/21

Edmund W. Fischbeck Jr.

EDMUND W. FISCHBECK JR, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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3d ARRGp Hist, Oct-Dec 66

The briefing included the following information. A 15 man team located in a certain area were reported to have been surrounded by unfriendly forces. The Briefer had detailed maps and pictures of the area. Jolly Green's 36 and 53, Sandy's 5, 6, 7, and 8 departed home base at 0835Z. Sandy's 5 and 6 proceeded directly to the area to try and locate the ground party while Sandy's 7 and 8 escorted the Jolly Green's. Sandy's 5 and 6 arrived in the search area at 0915Z and located the signal panel almost immediately. Jolly Green's 36 and 53, Sandy's 7 and 8 arrived at 0925Z. Sandy 5 reported that he had made several low passes over the area and had not received any ground fire nor had he spotted the friendly ground party. Jolly Green 36 descended into the area and made a thorough low recon. The party was finally sighted at this time. The ground party had cleared an area on top of a small hill that was slightly larger than the helicopter, so it was decided that Jolly Green 36 would attempt a landing. As soon as 36 landed the people started to get aboard, however, it took 5 minutes to get all of them aboard because some of them were down the steep hill and had to climb to the landing site. At 0935Z all forces departed the area. Jolly Green's 36 and 53, Sandy's 7 and 8 returned to home base landing 1030Z. The weather during the entire mission was clear with 10 miles visibility. The coordination between all forces was excellent. As a result the mission was quickly and successfully accomplished.

Det 11-38-2-23 Nov (RCC Narrative)

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