

AIRCRAFT HISTORY

The detachment started out in this quarter with two HH-43F's assigned even though the detachment was authorized three aircraft. On 1 April, HH-43B 59-1569 was ferried to Detachment 10, 38th ARRS to supplement that detachment since their two aircraft were damaged in a mortar attack.

HH-43F #63-9711 was shot down by enemy ground fire on 21 May 1967 while participating in a rescue mission. The aircraft was being hovered over a parachute at the time the enemy opened fire with automatic weapons.

Two days after the loss of 711, HH-43B 59-1569 was flown back to the detachment from Detachment 10 in order to provide this organization with a second aircraft.

The 10th of June saw both of the detachment's aircraft depart this station on a mission that took two days to complete. Shortly after their departure, an aircraft from the 38th LBR was loaned to us so that this base would continue to have a LBR facility.

MISSION HISTORY

This detachment participated in 14 Aircrew Recovery Missions and 232 Local Base Rescue Missions during the period of this report. The following are brief resumes of some of the more interesting missions:

a. On 1 May 1967, two UH-1's collided approximately 10 miles South-East of Bien Hoa. Two fire suppression kits were utilized to put out the resultant fires.

b. After the mortar attack on this base on the night of 12 May, the detachment acted as the casualty staging area for the base. A total of 22 patients were evacuated by helicopters, 11 of them by detachment aircraft.

c. An F-100 pilot bailed out of his aircraft 8 miles South of the base on 14 May. As the pilot was descending in his chute, our rescue crew was constantly circling him. The pilot was retrieved within minutes of touching the ground.

-d. A crew was scrambled on 21 May on what was reported as a F-100 bail-out. As the helicopter was brought to a hover over the opened parachute, enemy automatic weapons fire hit the aft end of the engine causing the engine to fail. The aircraft was successfully landed and the crew was retrieved by an Army gunship. Darkness arrived before ground parties could secure the area so the Commanding Army General ordered the aircraft destroyed.