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MISSION NARRATIVE

CROWN 02

7 JULY 67

Twenty-one minutes after returning to orbit (0741) from a successful SAR effort, CROWN 02 received a call from BUCKSKIN (F-105 IRON HAND) who had received a beeper signal. He had pin-pointed the location as 045/132 CH 51. He had voice contact on GUARD with the downed man (call sign WILD THRUSH) who said he was being pressed and wanted help.

ETA 0925.
SANDYs 1,2,3,&4 were scrambled from CH 86 (0749)/with SANDYs 5,6,7,&8 on cockpit alert. JOLLY GREENs 37 and 55 were on cockpit alert at CH 89.

At 0753 JOLLY GREENs 29 and 25 were scrambled from CH 109. Their ETA was 0840 with BINGO at 1030. They were advised to hold for the SANDYs.

CROWN 02 established an orbit overhead Ch 89.

Between 0755 and 0805 several more possible positions were offered, with the final position being 080/49 Ch 77 and 270/36 Ch 109.

COMPRESS was unable to find out who WILD THRUSH was and advised CROWN not to commit any friendly forces until further information was established.

COMPRESS (0818) advised that there was a possible SAM threat in the area.

While the SANDYs and JOLLY GREENs were enroute, CROWN set up a fighter rescap, using BUCKSKIN, WARHAWK (F-105) and MISTY (F-100) flights, alternating them off tankers from the Blue Anchor. Other fighters had been diverted from the Strike Force and were on the way.

At 0823 JG 37 and 55 were airborne from CH 89 and were to hold on the 110/55 from CH 89.

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WILD THRUSH repeatedly requested that we contact COVEY on 45.5 FM for help. As the HC-130 P does not have FM we had no way of doing this at the time. There were some FACs on the way, however, who could do/ what he requested. At this time it was established that WILD THRUSH was a FAC. He mentioned again that he was in a hurry to get out and was in trouble.

AT 0850 ZORRO 43 & 42 called and said they would be on scene in 30 minutes and could stay for one hour. They were passed on to SANDY lead.

At 0858 JG 25 & 29 went to CH 85 to refuel.

SANDYs 5 & 6 were launched and proceeded toward the area. SANDYs 3 & 4 joined JG 37 and 55 in their safe orbit.

At 0913 SANDY 01 became the On Scene Commander and began working with NAIL 33/68. Voice contact with WILD THRUSH was lost.

At 0934 we were advised that the SANDYs could use the JOLLYs whenever necessary.

Rescap (fighter) at this point was abundant. CROWN 02 was working flights of 105's on and off tankers in the Blue, Tan and Brown Anchors, in anticipation of FACing them into the area before using the JOLLYs. CROWN 05 was sending the strike force over to CROWN02 after they had come off tanker. Because there was a limited number of tankers, the fighters were cut down to four flights, all others being sent home. Those kept were THRUSH, FINCH, GUNNER, and BARRACUDA.

At 0945 COVER 50 began working with SANDY LEAD to find the man and get him out. They searched until finally, at 1008, voice contact was re-established. At this time it was discovered that WILD THRUSH was a ground party in trouble and they needed to be airlifted out. The first report was 22 persons.

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CROWN 02 requested to use the SANDYs for fire suppression and let the JOLLYs make the pick-up at 1011.

COVEY 50 had three BUTTERFLIES enroute and wanted to use the SANDYs.

COMPRESS advised to move the JOLLYs closer and told the SANDYs that it was a free-shoot area.

At 1036 the BUTTERFLIES arrived and began to make the pick-up. ~~XXXXXXXX~~
BLUECHIP advised at 1038 that we could use the JOLLYs.

All jet fighters and tankers were RTB'd at 1045.

Two BUTTERFLIES made the pick-up. One took six persons and the other five. Two men did not survive the incident and were not airlifted out. Apparently thirteen was the actual number in the party.

At 1046 the JOLLYs and the SANDYs were pulled out of the area and RTB'd. SANDYs 1,2,3,&4 had expended their ordinance in the area to protect the ground party. There was no hostile ground fire at any time.

CROWN 02 returned to orbit CH 86 and RTB'd after the JOLLY's were across the FENCE.

ROGER F. ARNDT
1/Lt USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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