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FROM: Det 7, 38 ARRS

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (1-3-122 12 August 1967)

TO: 3rd ARRGp

1. We were notified by Queen (RCC) of an F-4C coming into DaNang AB with battle damage. The primary alert crew was airborne approximately four minutes after notification with the FSK and entered the Northeast orbit pattern. We contacted Panama (GCI) and monitored the flight progress. The F-4C pilot had hydraulic problems from battle damage and was trying every means to get his gear down. After orbiting for thirty minutes we elected to land and take on fuel as it appeared a possible bailout might occur. During the refueling the para-rescue specialist was notified to stand by at the ramp in case he was needed. I then took off and orbited without the FSK as the runway was foamed and fire trucks were standing by on all sides. The F-4C aircraft commander then decided to make a pass over the runway. He had his left main gear down and wanted to try to jar the remaining gear down. This proved unsuccessful and as he turned out of traffic he decided to bail out. He asked if any rescue helicopters were close by and we informed him we were just off to his left. They flew out East of Monkey Mountain and at approximately 5,000 feet both pilots ejected. We watched the descent and talked to the rear seat pilot who was using his survival radio. Some encouragement was given and a reminder to get free of the parachute prior to the hoist pickup. We planned our approach on the rear seat pilot but noted the aircraft commander was falling much faster and oscillating badly during the descent and appeared to be injured. We turned in toward him and as he entered the water saw he was in good condition and getting out of his parachute harness. A hoist pickup was completed on both pilots using the rescue device and they were returned to DaNang AB.

2. Weather was no factor in the rescue mission. Crew coordination throughout the entire mission was outstanding. Communications with all agencies was satisfactory.

3. Crew members were: Captain Robert S. Michelsen, RCC; Captain Donald D. Sams, CP; SSgt. Willard E. Barrow, RS; SSgt. Daniel M. Palmer, FE; A2C David A. Helton, RS.


ROBERT S. MICHELSEN, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander