

MISSION NARRATIVE: Det 10, 38th ARPS, Mission 70-31-36, 22 August 1967

At 0452Z Det 10, 38th ARPS was notified by Binh Tuy Tower that "Bumard 02", USAF F-100, had crashed at 9 Degree 35 Minutes North, 104 Degree 57 Minutes East. "Bumard 01" had voice contact with the pilot who had ejected and was uninjured. Pilot was not having difficulties, had good inflation of his water wings and had established voice communications with his survival radio. At 0500Z Padre 39 was notified by Det 1, 679th TAC Central Sq, Paddy Central that a HU-4D, "Dustoff 87", had been diverted and was 25 NM from the downed pilot. Padre 39 queried Dustoff 87 as to whether he was equipped with hoist and rescue devices. Dustoff 87 replied that he was equipped to make water pickups. Both Padre 39 and 91 continued enroute to scene. At 15 NM from pilot, Padre 39 was informed that the Dustoff had made pickup and was returning to the coast for transfer of pilot to a Padre for return to Binh Tuy. At this time Padre 91 made contact with Bumard 01 which was copying the downed pilot and learned that pickup had not been made as yet and it seemed they were using a rope trying to pull the pilot into the helicopter. At this time efforts were made to terminate the recovery efforts of Dustoff in favor of Padre 91 which was now on scene. Radio contact with Dustoff could not be made and Bumard 01 informed that the pilot had managed to climb up on one of the skids and was onboard. Transfer of pilot was made at 1600 G1a to Padre 39. Pilot stated in debriefing that he had tried to wave the Dustoff away after the first attempted pickup with the rope. He also stated one of the Army crew members had entered the water to assist him but the Army man could not get his water wings inflated and Capt Canterbury had to hold him above water, put the rope around him, and help them get him back into the helicopter. At this time he tried to use his radio to tell them to leave as he knew a Padre was on its way and he would wait. The Dustoff would not leave and as the down wash was causing him difficulty in the water he decided to try once more to board the helicopter. A successful pickup was effected. Mission was terminated at 0645L. One combat save. Negative ground fire.

CREW: (All assigned to Det 10, 38th ARPS)

Padre 39. RCC - Capt Donald E Van Meter
 ROCP - William F Shea, Capt
 RS - 1st Lt Ronald E Shales
 FE - 1st Lt Larry E Hawkins

Padre 91. RCC - Major Harold Pickering
 ROCP - 1st Lt Granville B Goss III
 RS - 1st Lt Clyde E Ross
 FE - 1st Lt William L Crawford

HAROLD PICKERING, Major, USAF
 Commander

Copy to 38th ARPS