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At 1625L we were climbing to FL240 after refueling Jolly Green 29 when we heard Dream Hour 46, a FAC, talking to a Black Ace about a downed pilot. We overheard on guard that the position was 350°/15NM Channel 109. Black Ace 175-1 an F-4 was down and the pilots' chutes landed in a "T" shaped gully that ran east-west. At 1636 Dream Hour said one pilot was captured by North Vietnamese Army and he thought the second pilot was 200 meters on the north side of the gully. We headed south when we first heard Dream Hour searching for the pilots.

When we got close enough for good UHF contact we requested all forces come up 364.2, SAR primary. By this time other aircraft were on the scene. They were Gladiator 1, 2, Huey gunships, Packard, 2F4's, Oxford, 2F4's, Buckshot 2F4's, Silver, 3F100's, Hope Gate 1-0 a FAC and Covey 62 a FAC.

At 1650 Dream Hour 46 had to leave for fuel and would return. Hopegate 1-0 and Covey 26, two FAC's, made numerous sweeps down the gully without sighting the second survivor. Jolly Greens 03 and 07, from Cigar, had positioned themselves feet wet until either voice or visual contact with the second survivor was made. Lockets 502 and 506, ALH8s, were released for our control by Proud Fox and were enroute.

All jet fighters except Packard and Chain 02 and 19, A-4s, were sent to 282.8 and held high to cycle off tankers Tan Anchors 52 and 53. Packard and Chain were held low to act as rescap in case the survivor was located.

Nail 20 and 74 also joined the search. At 1711 what was thought to be a mirror flash proved to be a reflection from a piece of metal on the ground. At 1715 Dream Hour 46 returned and after numerous passes saw no sign of the survivor.

Boulder Blue and Holly Green 612, A-3 tankers, were headed south to be used as tankers after Tan 52 and 53 were Bingo; also Tan 55 was on the way. At 1711 the gunships, Gladiator 1, 2 RTB for fuel. At 1726 Dream Hour 46 thought he saw smoke but it proved not to be the survivor. There were numerous people on the ground and the search aircraft were receiving small arms and some 37MM fire.

At 1745 Dream Hour 46 thought that further efforts would have no positive results.

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Queen asked us our opinion and we concurred with Dream Hour. All the forces were released to their Tactical Control agencies at 1745 local except the Jolly Greens 07 and 03 who continued to hold feet wet, and we held at 170 North.

Up until 1700L cuts were being made on a beeper in the gully area but no voice contact was ever established. The weather was good and moderate small arms and some 37MM was encountered. Once we assumed control of the mission and got everyone on UHF SAR primary and secondary, the radio discipline was good.

At 1804 Queen RTB the Jolly Greens and we RTB at 1830.

RCC*Eichorst
PLT*Delony
NAV*Howard
RO*Ward
FE*Puryear
FE*Ortiz
LM*Jones

DOUGLAS W. EICHORST, Capt, USAF
RCC, Crown 5

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