

FROM: Det 2, 37ARRS/Captain Cayler/2687

2 November 1967

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative (2-3-81, 23 Oct 67)

TO: Det 2, 37ARRS (Operations) *Kay*
Det 2, 37ARRS (COMMANDER) *CWA*
3rd ARRG (RGRC) APO S.F. 96222

1. This report is submitted in accordance with AFRSM 55-2, 3rd ARRG Supplement 1, dated 15 June 1967.

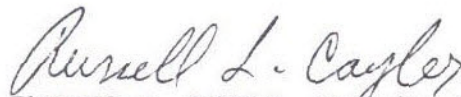
2. Quid 13, an HH-53B, was scrambled at 0915 on the 23rd of October 1967 to assist in the recovery of the survivors of two F-105s at 215/82 of the Udorn RTAFB TACAN. Enroute to the area the crew of Quid 13 contacted Compress on UHF for further instructions. They were then turned over to Crown 1. The TACAN broke lock before they reached the area, and Crown vectored them the remaining distance. Crown advised that they had contact with one survivor, Wildcat 1, who stated that he had a broken arm and leg, and was badly tangled in the underbrush. No contact had been established with Wildcat 2. At 1000 Quid 13 arrived at the crash site. Crown had marked the area with smoke flare, and some smoke was visible from the wreckage of the two aircraft. Crown also had the exact location of the two survivors. Quid 13 was vectored to the nearest survivor, Wildcat 1, and elected to send down two (2) Para-Rescue men because of the difficult terrain and severe injuries to the pilot. The pilot was able to ignite a smoke flare to further identify his exact position. The pilot was located about one fourth of the way up the gentle slope of a small ridge. The terrain had high trees and a low layer of heavy underbrush. The PJs were lowered about 30 yards down slope in a small clearing. When they reached the pilot, they found him still in the seat, with the seat belt fastened. The extended arms of the forest penetrator became entangled in the underbrush, causing some difficulty as it was being raised. Quid 13 hovered in the area for a few minutes waiting for a report from the ground party. When it became apparent that they would be longer on the ground, the helicopter circled the area to reduce fuel consumption. Communications with the ground party were hampered by the signal from the survivor's emergency beacon. The PJs could not shut the beacon off until they could clear the pilot of the brush and the ejection seat. By this time Jolly Green 09 and Pedro 33 had arrived on the scene, and Jolly Green 09 recovered the other pilot. The ground party did not want to move the survivor any more than was necessary, so the stokes litter was lowered directly to their position, which was again marked by smoke. As they were cutting the pilot free, Crown advised that Pedro 33 would leave a Flight Surgeon in a clearing for them to pick up. After getting the Flight Surgeon on board, Quid 13 returned to the site to recover the survivor and the two PJs. At 1130 they departed the crash area for Korat AB, the closest base to that position. Enroute to Korat, a Chip Detector Light was observed on Number 2 engine. All other cockpit indications were normal. This helicopter had a history of electrical problems in the Chip Detector System, and since it was essential to get the survivor to a hospital, the RCC decided to keep the engine in operation.

Crown escorted them to the base as a precautionary measure. Quid 13 arrived at Korat AB at 1200, a normal landing was made, and an ambulance was on hand to pick up the injured pilot. The return trip to Udorn RTAFB was uneventful. Radio discipline was good during all phases of the mission.

3. The survivor was Major E. B. Freeman, USAF.

4. Crew of Quid 13:

- a. Captain Russell L. Cayler, RCC.
- b. 1st Lt Joseph A. Panza Jr., RCCP.
- c. Sgt Gene A. Sellers, FE.
- d. MSgt Howard T. Favour, RS.
- e. Sgt Alan N. Thompson, RS.


RUSSELL L. CAYLER, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS

Detachment 2 has come into its own under the direction of Lt. Colonel James M. Dixon, Commander and Lt. Colonel Garland A. York, Operations Officer. During this reporting period the HH-53Bs have been put to limited combat use due to a low operational rate and a high NORS rate. This interval saw some experimenting in new rescue procedures. Crew qualifications were completed in aerial refueling, hoist work, and minigun training.¹

On 23 October 1967 the first rescue by an HH-53B was accomplished. At 0915 on that day Captain Russell L. Cayler and crew were alerted to assist in the recovery of two downed F-105 pilots who had suffered a mid-air collision southwest of Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand; however, upon arrival at the crash scene, the crew learned that only one of the pilots survived the crash. The survivor, Major E. B. Freeman USAF, had suffered a broken leg, a broken arm and multiple lacerations during the accident and subsequent bailout. His lap belt did not open and the seat did not fall away from him after ejection. His chute did deploy, however. Showing great professionalism Master Sergeant Howard T. Favour and Sergeant Alan N. Thompson skillfully cut the ejection seat away from the injured pilot and gently placed him in a stokes litter with minimum pain being experienced by the pilot. He was then hoisted into the HH-53B and taken to Korat RTAFB for hospitalization.

1. TAB 2. Report of Unit Activities, part C. Operations paragraphs (3) and (4).

, part C. Operations

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SUMMARY TABLE OF RESCUES

1967

DATE	RESCUE NO.	SURVIVOR	CREW ACFT	SERVICE	LOCATION	JOLLY GREEN CREW
2 Oct	203	Maj Miller	RF4C	USAF	Laos	Maj Haynes Lt Barton
2 Oct	204	Maj Brown	RF4C	USAF	Laos	SSgt Androsky A2C Taylor
3 Oct	205	Maj Moore	F4C	USAF	Laos	Capt Etzel Capt Hall
3 Oct	206	Maj Gulbrandson	F4C	USAF	Laos	SSgt Zerbe Sgt Brabboni
23 Oct	207	Capt McLean (Deceased)	F105	USAF	Thailand	Maj Haynes Lt Platt SSgt Keyes Sgt Smith
26 Oct	208	Lt Sanchi	T28	RTAF	Laos	Maj Haynes Lt Platt
26 Oct	209	Unknown	T28	RTAF	Laos	Sgt Allen Sgt Duffy
5 Nov	210	Capt Sparks	F105	USAF	North Vietnam	Capt Walker Lt Col Lowe MSGT Boles TSgt Smith
8 Nov	211	Capt Gordon	F4	USAF	North Vietnam	Capt Richardson Lt Barton SSgt Brooks Sgt Lombard
11 Nov	212	Maj Griffith	A1E	USAF	Laos	Lt Platt Lt Sichterman SSgt Negrette A1C Taylor
18 Nov	213	Lt Col Reed	F105	USAF	Laos	Capt Richardson Lt Privette SSgt Warmack A1C Taylor
20 Nov	214	Lt Col Scholtz	RF4	USAF	North Vietnam	Lt Col Britton Maj Wells
20 Nov	215	Capt Simenero	RF4	USAF	North Vietnam	SSgt Androsky Sgt Duffy
29 Dec	216	Capt Altman	F4	USAF	Laos	Capt Etzel Maj Wells
29 Dec	217	Capt Coburn	F4	USAF	Laos	SSgt Thacker Sgt Sowell

HISTORY DET 1 37 ARRS 1 OCT - 31 DEC 67

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