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FROM: Det 6, 38th ARRS, APO 96227

6 November 1967

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report (6-38-59-29 Oct 67)

TO: 38th ARRS

1. This mission (Mission Number 6-38-59-29) is a combat save involving the recovery of Captain Garet L. Nenner. Captain Nenner was forced down by engine failure in his OLE in the hostile southern mountainous region of Two Corps. The rescue was accomplished by the crews and HH-43F helicopters of Det 6, 38th ARRS Bien Hoa Air Base, RVN. At 0630Z (1430L), 29 Oct 67, Bien Hoa tower reported to Det 6 receiving a MAY DAY transmitted by Walt 72 stating he was "going down" 5 miles west of Bao Loc. Bao Loc was known to be a small out-post 60 miles NE of Bien Hoa. Third Group JSARC and Three Corps Direct Air Support Center were alerted and stated they knew nothing of the MAY DAY. At 0645Z all necessary preparations were completed, and Pedro 97 and 95 were scrambled. Rescue Combat Air Patrol, Forward Airborne Controller support and Army gunships were requested through III DASC, and they forwarded the request to II DASC, as Bao Loc is located in II Corps.
2. Enroute Pedro 97 and 95 maintained contact with III DASC and the call signs and frequencies of the CAP and FAC (Walt 20) were obtained. No further details were available while enroute. Just prior to arrival in the area, communications were established between Walt 20 and the Pedro flight. It was learned at that time that immediately after the crash of the OLE, a Army aircraft in the area had had contact with the pilot of Walt 72, and that since that time (a period of one hour and 15 minutes) there had been only faint beeper signals. During this same period, a heavy rain shower had passed through the area. The Army aircraft that had contact with Walt 72 had not obtained the pilot's condition or location. The Pedro flight was able to home in on Walt 20 (on the ARN-25 UHF Homer) and fly directly from their enroute position to the area being searched. Upon arrival (0740Z), on-scene command was assumed by Pedro 97; the immediate area was divided up for search by the aircraft on scene and all aircraft were instructed to maintain radio silence and a listening watch on 243.0 MC. Weak beeper signals were received, but no bearings could be obtained. At 0805Z, Walt 20 reported that an Army aircraft with whom he was in contact had sighted the wreckage, but could not see any sign of the pilot. Immediately after that Pedro 97 sighted the wreckage and voice contact with the downed pilot was established. He reported he was not injured and was hidden a short distance from the wreckage (position YT 9985 or 11°37'N, 107°43'E). The wreckage was located in a jungle clearing (previously farmed area) on a steep mountain side at the 2800 foot level. The downed pilot was asked for his exact position, and he responded by firing a flare and igniting a MARK-13 smoke signal. His position was at the high side of the clearing in high jungle growth. As Pedro 95 and the support aircraft circled over head, Pedro 97 made an approach over the OLE

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wreckage. At 100 feet altitude, the OLE pilot was observed running into the clearing. The jungle penetrator was lowered from a 40 foot hover, and the pilot was quickly brought aboard the helicopter. The time was then 0820Z (1620), one hour and 50 minutes after the MAY DAY was transmitted.

3. The Pedro flight and light aircraft departed the area for Bao Loc and the Rescue CAP F4C aircraft returned to Cam Rahn Bay. The Pedro flight landed at Bao Loc at 0830Z, returning the OLE pilot to his home base. The mission was closed upon arrival of Pedro 95 and 97 at Bien Hoa AB RVN at 0950Z (1750L). There was no ground fire observed by any of the rescue aircraft. No hostile forces were seen. The downed pilot reported he could hear people working (pounding) in the nearby jungle. There were dwellings and farm plots throughout the area. This area is classified insecure and hostile. A total of 4 sorties and 5+30 hours were flown by the Det 6, HH-43F aircraft. The rescue crews effecting the recovery consisted of:

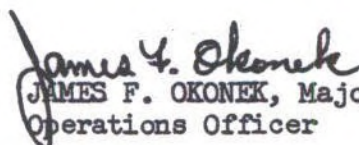
Low Bird Pedro 97

RCC Major James F. Okonek
CP Major Lawrence W. Heflin
FE SSgt Richard D. Almond
RS Sgt Roger A. Porter

High Bird Pedro 95

RCC Capt James A. Darden
CP 1/Lt Jon C. Long
FE SSgt Donald S. Kearton
RS A1C Terrence A. Treutel

FOR THE COMMANDER


JAMES F. OKONEK, Major, USAF
Operations Officer