

FROM: Det 6, 38th ARRS, APO 96227

9 October 1967

SUBJECT: Narrative Report (Mission Number 6-38-55-2 Oct 67)

TO: 3ARRGp (JSARC) APO 96307

1. This mission involved the recovery of a MACV team member from a 3500 foot level of a steep mountain side, located 61 miles northeast of Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam (11°17'N 107°48'E)

2. Two HH-43B helicopters from Det 6, 38th ARRS had been in this same area throughout the morning on an aircrew recovery mission involving the crash of a US Army L-19 aircraft (Ref mission #6-38-55-2 Oct 67). The L-19 had been downed by hostile ground fire. A twenty man MACV team had been landed one-half mile north of the crashed L-19 immediately after the crash. They were to attempt rescue or to secure the area against hostile ground forces so that an air rescue could be accomplished. The remains of the L-19 crew were recovered by the Det 6, 38th ARRS helicopters.

3. At 1320L, five minutes prior to the arrival of the helicopters back at Bien Hoa Air Base, word was received at Det 6 from 3rd ARRGp JSARC that a member of the MACV team had been injured and that an air-recovery would be necessary.

4. Because of mechanical difficulties with one of the two Det 6 HH-43's, an HH-43 from Det 14, 38th ARRS Tan Son Nhut AB RVN, was alerted to assist Det 6 on this mission. After refueling at Bien Hoa AB, Pedro 79 (Det 14) and Pedro 97 (Det 6) departed for the area at 1420L. To facilitate communications between the rescue helicopters and the MACV team, an AF FAC aircraft (Walt 72, 21st TASS at Bao Loc AB, RVN) was secured. The 155th Aviation Battalion furnished two UH-1 gunships for cover.

5. The man had suffered a compound fracture of the leg. His location on the mountain was such that he could not be moved. Movement was additionally restricted by the presence of unfriendly ground forces in the vicinity.

6. Enroute to the area, instructions from Pedro 99 were passed, through Walt 72 to the MACV team, concerning splinting of the leg and loading of the man into the stokes litter that would be lowered from the rescue helicopter.

7. At 1505L the rescue helicopters reached the area and the exact location of the man was immediately determined by a smoke signal; the man was in a deep ravine at the base of a nearly vertical cliff. A high hover close to the cliff allowed for lowering of the stokes litter into the ravine, and the man was quickly loaded by other members of the MACV team. The pick up was accomplished at 1510L. The injured man was flown directly to the 93rd Army Field Hospital at Long Binh, RVN and released to them at 1610L.

Both helicopters landed at Bien Hoa AB at 1620L, terminating the mission.

8. Weather delayed departure from Bien Hoa for ten minutes but had no detrimental effect after that. A total of three sorties and 3+25 hours were flown. The rescue crews consisted of:

Low Bird

RCC James F. Okonek Major	Det 6, 38th ARRS
CP Sheridan K. Hawk Captain	Det 6, 38th ARRS
FE Richard D. Almond SSgt	Det 6, 38th ARRS
RS Roger A. Porter ALC	Det 6, 38th ARRS

High Bird

RCC Charles W. Burrige Captain	Det 6, 38th ARRS
CP Joseph K. Dennis Captain	Det 14, 38th ARRS
FE Donald S. Kearton II SSgt	Det 6, 38th ARRS
FE Walter H. Westbrook ALC	Det 14, 38th ARRS
RS Terrence Treutel A2C	Det 6, 38th ARRS

James F. Okonek

JAMES F. OKONEK, Major, USAF
Operation Officer

Narrative Mission Report

(6-38-56-2 Oct 67)

1. This mission involved the recovery of a MACV team member from a steep mountain side 61 miles northeast of Bien Hoa. Two HH-43's from Detachment 6 had been in this same area throughout the morning on an aircrew recovery mission involving the crash of an Army L-19 aircraft (mission 6-38-55-2 Oct 67). The L-19 had been downed by hostile fire and a twenty man MACV team had been landed one-half mile north of the crash immediately afterwards. They were to attempt rescue or to secure the area against hostile ground forces so that an air rescue could be accomplished.
2. At 1320L, five minutes prior to the arrival of the helicopters at Bien Hoa, the Joint Search and Rescue Center advised a member of the MACV team had been injured and an air recovery would be necessary. Due to mechanical difficulties with one of the HH-43's, an HH-43 from Detachment 14, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, was alerted to assist in the recovery. After refueling at Bien Hoa, Pedro 97 and Pedro 79 (Det 14) departed for the area at 1425L. To facilitate communications between the helicopters and the ground party, an Air Force Forward Air Controller was secured. Cover was supplied by two Army gunships.
3. The man had suffered a compound fracture of the leg. His location on the mountain was such that he could not be moved due to terrain and the presence of unfriendly ground forces in the vicinity. Enroute to the area, instructions were passed from Pedro 79 through the FAC to the MACV team concerning the splinting of the leg and loading of the man into

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the litter that would be lowered from the helicopter.

4. At 1505L, the rescue helicopters reached the area and the exact location of the man was immediately determined by a smoke signal. He was in a deep ravine at the base of a nearly vertical cliff. A high hover close to the cliff allowed the litter to be lowered into the ravine. The man was quickly loaded by other team members and he was raised into the helicopter at 1510L. The injured man was flown directly to the Army's 93rd Field Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh, arriving there at 1610L. Both helicopters terminated the mission upon landing at Bien Hoa at 1620L.

CREWMEMBERS

PEDRO 97

Major	James F. Okonek	RCC	Det 6
Captain	Sheriden K. Hawk	CP	Det 6
SSgt	Richard D. Almond	FE	Det 6
A1C	Roger A. Porter	RS	Det 6

PEDRO 79

Captain	Charles W. Burrridge	RCC	Det 6
Captain	Joseph K. Dennis	CP	Det 14
SSgt	Donald S. Kearton	FE	Det 6
A1C	Walter H. Westbrook	FE	Det 14
A2C	Terrence A. Treutel	RS	Det 6

VICTIM

Sp4 Marion R. Smith