

FROM: Det 9, 38ARRSq(38-9/Capt Butler/2824)

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative 9-38-20 - 6 Oct 67

TO: 3rd ARRGp(RGRC)

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9 October 1967

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1. Det 9 was alerted by the Det operations UHF radio, Holloway Tower called on gaurd that a helicopter had crashed on take-off from Holloway, approximately 3 miles southeast of Pleiku AB (1400L).
2. At 1401, Pedro 56 was airborne with firefighters, FSK and a pararescueman.
3. Upon reaching the crash scene, large explosions were taking place as the aircraft was a UH1C gunship fully fueled and armed. Pedro 56 circled until the violent explosions had diminished and made an approach to the scene. Holloway tower could not furnish any information regarding the crew so the FSK, firefighters and PJ were dispatched. There were continous explosions and tower advised that two rockets hadn't gone off yet. The Det firemen extinguished most of the fire while Pedro 56 provided cooling air. The crashed aircraft was in a mine field just outside the perimeter fence and EOD personnel were disconnecting the electrical wiring during the fire fight. Holloway aircraft were being evacuated from the field and at least one adjacent aircraft was damaged by flying debris. FSK agent ran out and white hot magnesium was still flaring up so fire fighters were instructed by public address to back off and Holloway water trucks took control of small fires, expended and unexpended ammunition scattered all around the scene.
4. Pedro 56 then landed and the pararescueman and Holloway medics had a Vietnamese fireman prepared for med evac. He had been injured by exploding debris, quite seriously. Pedro 56 took him to the 18th Surgical Hospital and returned for the co-pilot who was being splinted for a broken arm and deep gash in his right thigh. The co-pilot was med evacuated to the 18th Surgical Hospital. The pararescueman treated both patients on route to the hospital.
5. Pedro 56 then returned to Holloway to retrieve FSK, hoses and firefighters.
6. Pedro 56's crew members were:

Capt Jack V. Butler	RCC	Det 9, 38ARRSq
Capt Robert L. Osborne	RCCP	"
A2C David R. Berrio	PJ	"
A1C Eric W. Nielson	RS	"
A1C Felipe A. Quiroz	RS	"

Det 9, 38ARRS Hist, Jan - Mar 68

SAFETY OF OPERATION

On 13 March aircraft HH-43F serial number 63-9717 suffered a control rod bearing failure while on a training flight. The failure occurred while Major Robert W. Hastings, the training pilot, was performing a 90 degree autorotation landing. The failure caused the aircraft to become nearly uncontrollable, however Captain Billy J. Johnson, the instructor pilot, assumed control and was able to land the aircraft with no injury to the crew. The nature of the failure caused the rotor blades to strike each other in flight, causing extensive damage to the rotor system. Captain Johnson received a "well done" message from General Wilson, deputy commander of Military Airlift Command, for his superior airmanship while dealing with this inflight emergency.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During this quarter Sgt David R. Berrio was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force near Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam on 24 Nov 1967 (SO G-591, 23 Feb 1968, Hq 7AF). Sgt Berrio was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in an aerial flight at Camp Holloway, Republic of Vietnam on 6 Oct 1967 (SO G-338, 30 Jan 1968, Hq 7AF). Sgt Felipe A. Quiroz was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Camp Holloway, Republic of Vietnam on 7 Oct 1967 (SO G-636, 27 Feb 1968, Hq 7AF), and he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism