

FROM: Det 9, 38 ARRSq(9-380/Maj Smith/2822)

7 Dec 1967

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative 9-38-24 - 24 Nov 67

TO: 3 ARRGp (3JSARC)

1. While monitoring the detachment UHF radio a distress call on guard channel was heard. The report was that a truck convoy had been ambushed and five trucks were observed burning. A request for fire suppression was made, so Pedro 56 scrambled with the firemen, pararescueman, and FSK. After arriving at the scene, several trucks were observed burning and ammunition was exploding and scattering shrapnel and debris in all directions. Pedro 56 orbited until the on-scene frequency was passed and contact was made with Headhunter 46, a FAC in the area. He advised that if we could land, there were wounded that needed evacuation to the 71st Evac Hospital.

2. Pedro 56 landed the FSK on the road near a burning truck and then landed in front of the kit on the road approximately 700 feet from the exploding ammunition trucks. The firefighters and pararescueman departed the aircraft to locate wounded personnel. A fireman, Sgt Courts reported back to the aircraft that there were wounded near the exploding trucks, but that they couldn't get to them while the ammunition was still going off. Sgt Courts was directed to use the FSK to extinguish the still burning trucks. As this was being accomplished, Airman Berrio and the other fireman, Sgt Quiroz, were approaching the helicopter with 2 wounded Army personnel. They were loaded on and taken to 71st Evac Hospital at Pleiku. As Pedro 56 was in route to the hospital, word was passed to scramble the secondary aircraft and crew to assist in transporting the wounded. Pedro 74 picked up 2 Army wounded while Pedro 56 landed at the rescue area and refueled. Pedro 56 returned to the scene and picked up one Army wounded and Pedro 74 picked up 2 wounded NVA prisoners. Pedro 56 then picked up one wounded NVA prisoner and 1 US KIA. Pedro 56 landed at 1300 and Pedro 74 returned to the scene and picked up the fireman and the FSK. Pedro 74 landed at 1305.

3. During all approaches and landings at the scene ammunition was exploding from the burning trucks and shrapnel and debris were scattered over a large area. Also occasional ground fire was heard and both firemen and pararescueman had to find cover because of sniping.

4. During debriefing it was learned that the pararescueman, Airman Berrio had advanced to a jeep and tank where he asked if there were any wounded. An Army Captain stated that there were plenty of wounded lying near the exploding trucks, but that no one was to go near until the explosions subsided. Airman Berrio then stated "that if they waited, that there might not be any wounded." He then asked for 3 volunteers and they

crawled up toward the burning trucks. As they found wounded, they carried them back to the helicopter for evacuation.

5. The only minor problem encountered was the pararescue medical kit was not designed for a large number of casualties and as a result Airman Berrio ran out of field dressings and had to use large 4 x 4 gauze.

6. Crew members:

Pedro 56

Maj	Richard A. Smith	RCC
Lt Col	Harold O. Hoppe	RCCP
Sgt	Garland Courts	RS
Sgt	Felipe A. Quiroz	RS
A1C	David R. Berrio	PJ

Pedro 74

Capt Keith H. Ricks	RCC
Capt Robert L. Osborne	RCCP
Sgt Jose G. Abara	FE
Sgt Wayne A. Baguio	PJ

Harold O. Hoppe
HAROLD O. HOPPE, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

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

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PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

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