

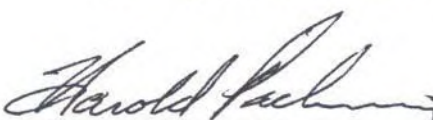
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MISSION NARRATIVE REPORT: Det 10, 38th ARRSq (10-38-47, 9 Nov 67)

Det 10, 38th ARRSq was notified at 0805Z by US Navy Operations Center Binh Thuy that four River Patrol Boats (PBR's) had been engaged by hostile forces resulting in one killed in action (KIA) and three wounded in action (WIA). They requested a medical evacuation and advised that a flight of US Navy helicopters were being dispatched for suppressive fire cover. Rendezvous was to be at a safe area on the Bassac River. Pedro 91 was airborne at 0810Z and arrived on the scene at 0830Z. Three mid-stream pick-ups were made from "Handlash Echo". The first crew member believed seriously wounded was picked up by stokes litter, but proved to be KIA. The second member with a broken right ankle was recovered at 0835Z by hoist. The third man sustained a wound in the right side of his neck and was recovered by hoist at 0840Z. The pararescueman aboard Pedro 91 discovered a shrapnel fragment lodged in the neck wound of the third man and applied first aid. Pedro 91 arrived at the Dong Tam Hospital at 0910Z where the patients received advanced medical treatment. Pedro 91 refueled and departed immediately for home station arriving at 1015Z. Gunship helicopters were requested by Navy Operations at the time of initial notification in accordance previously developed procedures and four helicopters were on the scene at Pedro's arrival. The pick-ups were accomplished in mid-stream while "Seawolves" 15, 16, 76 and 77 utilized a tight orbit around the pick-up area firing into the river banks. Additional cover was provided by two PBR's on the scene during recovery operations. Light hostile fire was encountered but no aircraft hits were sustained. FM radios were a major factor in achievement of the pick-ups and excellent fire coverage. Two combat saves, light ground fire encountered.

CREW: Pedro 91 (All assigned to Det 10, 38th ARRSq)

RCC - Major Harold Pickering
RCCP - Capt Albert E Tollefsen
FE - SSgt William L Crawford
PJ - Sgt Gary G Harold


HAROLD PICKERING, Major, USAF
Commander

Saves in 11 Days

Combat Rescues in 'Lucky' Streak

BINH THUY, Vietnam (OD)—Our elevens is the success story told by members of Det. 10, 38th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Binh Thuy, AB. Eleven members of the unit flew to perform combat saves in an 11-day period.

The unusual "11" story started when a crew was called from Binh Thuy to pick up a pair of U.S. Navy men who had been injured by ground fire while on a river patrol.

Eleven days later the unit was again called upon to pick up another U.S. Navy man after he had received a combat

injury. In between, the unit made eight other combat saves.

Crew members among those of the first pick-up were Maj. Harold Pickering, commander, Det. 10, 38th ARRS; Capt. Albert E. Tolleisen, 27, Rancho Cordova, Calif., pilot; S. Sgt. William L. Crawford, 29, Republic, Pa., flight engineer, and Sgt. Gary G. Harold, 21, Hyndman, Pa., pararescueman.

Other crew members involved in the 11 rescue saves in eleven days included Capt. Laurence W. Conover, 33, San Francisco, and Capt. Donald E. Van Meter, 29, Lawton, Okla., rescue crew

commanders. Capt. William J. Haugen, 26, Dayton, Ohio, pilot; Sgt. Larry E. Hawkins, 26, Nashville, Tenn., and Sgt. James A. Crawford, 21, Garland, Tex., flight engineers. Airman 1.C. James L. Parks, 19, Sarasota, Fla., and Airman 1.C. Ronald K. Sholes, 20, Jacksonville, Fla., pararescuemen.

Third of the 11 saves was accomplished as Det. 10 helicopter landed in a rice paddy and a wounded U.S. Navy boarded the HH-43 Huskie rescue helicopter for delivery to the Dong Tam hospital. A crew flew two missions to

make three combat saves five days later. Two injured U.S. Navy men were picked up from a moving boat on the first mission of the day and a U.S. Army member was picked up on the second mission of the day.

Five days later another U.S. Navy member was picked up after he had received combat injuries.

Three injured Vietnamese Army (ARVN) members were picked up the next day and less than an hour later the detachment completed its eleventh.

Det. 10, 38th ARRS, had 9 combat saves in 1967.