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Mission Narrative 1-3-200

22 Dec 87

At 0721Z Hillsboro advised Crown 5 that Whale 47-2 (F-4's) was down at 150/29/89 and Covey 236(0-2) reported two good chutes. Jolly Green 07 and 28 were launched from 89 with an ETA of 0810Z. Postscript 149(Navy 1-4's) were directed to area for possible cover. Covey 236 stated he was in voice contact with backseater and marine gunships were in area. Covey 14 then came on scene and began to FAC the fighters in on gun positions. At 0805Z Covey 236 reported that Eagle claw(A marine gunship) had picked up backseater but had no contact with other pilot. At this time 9 flts. of CAP were overhead with two flts. of Hobo's. Covey 14 began directing air strikes on ground fire away from downed plane. 5 flits. dropped bombs. Sandies 5-8 arrived on scene and took command and began search for second pilot with no results. 0850Z all sets were released because 8 A-1E's were in area with 2+30 playtime. Covey 14 and 236, Sandies 5 and 6 made an extensive search of area with no results. Backseater then was asked if he ever saw or talked to other pilot, he said they were very low and he never saw other pilot and he was only in chute for approx 10 sec. before hitting ground. Covey 236 reported both chuts had been destroyed by fireball of plane after it hit. At 0930Z all forces were RB'd with no result on pilot. Co-pilot was taken to Chan 85 and was unharmed. Jolly Green's 07 and 28 were never used and held in safe area. They RTB'd and gave an ETA of 1000Z to Chan 94. Crown 5 gave a well done to all A/C and returned to orbit.

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