

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM: 370

27 December 1967

SUBJECT: MISSION NARRATIVE REPORT (1-3-201, 25 Dec 67) (U)

TO: 37C *loc*
3rd ARRGp (JSARC)
IN TURN

1. (U) This report is submitted IAW ARRSI 55-2/3 ARRGp Sup 1 dated 15 June 1967.

2. (C) At 0235Z Jolly Greens 10 and 27 were scrambled from Khe Sanh and instructed to proceed to a point 275°/50/Ch 94. A Marine F-9, callsign Fur Britches 170, was reported down in that area and two good chutes had been spotted. JGs 10 and 27 arrived in the area at 0305Z and entered an orbit until Sandy Flight (4 A-1Es) arrived on scene at 0320Z. The survivors' position could not be pinpointed because of a solid undercast that could not be penetrated, but voice contact was established at 0335Z. At 0355Z, JG 10 found a hole but could not get below the overcast because a safe altitude could not be maintained while remaining VFR. At 0400Z, Covey 040, an O-2, succeeded in getting below the undercast in the area of the survivors and five minutes later received heavy groundfire which wounded the pilot. Sandys 5 and 6 escorted Covey 040 to Khe Sanh. At 0500Z, the survivors' position was accurately pinpointed. Sandy 5 led JG 10 through a hole in the undercast to the survivors' position while JG 27 remained at altitude. The first survivor was picked up at 0515Z and the second survivor was picked up at 0520Z, approximately 400 yards from the first survivor. Survivors' position was 240°/25/Ch 69. Hobo 33 and wingman (A-1Es) escorted JG 10 back to Dai Lang, where JG 10 landed at 0605Z. JG 27 proceeded back to Khe Sanh, arriving at 0552Z. No ground fire was encountered by the Jolly Greens. Crew coordination and discipline were excellent and no communications problems were encountered.

3. (C) The names of the survivors were Major George W. Fritsch, USMC, and Captain Allan D. Smiley, USMC.

4. (U) Crewmembers of Jolly Greens:

JOLLY GREEN 10 (Low)

RCC Major Joe B. Green
RCCP Capt Jerry D. Clearman
FE Sgt James A. Bowers
RS Sgt James D. Locker

JOLLY GREEN 27 (High)

RCC Capt Fred H. Otte
RCCP Capt Paul D. Ashley
FE SSgt Elmer L. Holden
RS Sgt Vincent E. Deets

Joe B. Green
JOE B. GREEN, Major, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS. 7 FEB 1977
DECLASSIFIED ON _____

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ptch 1

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Mission Narrative 1-3-201

25 Dec 67

1. Furbritches 170(TF-9) with two sob was downed by ground fire at approximate position 230.26/CH69(130/45/CH85). The pilots ejected and landed in the mountains, in heavy foliage, a few hundred meters apart. They had ejected in the clouds, ~~xxx~~ had not seen each other land, and did not know their relative positions. Both came up on beeper, and later on voice. Both talked calmly on their radios considering their circumstances) and were able to help the Sandys find them by listening for aircraft and then reporting the direction of the sound. Due to dense foliage and low clouds they were unable to identify any landmarks to aid in locating them. One of them had an injured hand, and the other was unharmed. One of them was requested to authenticate which he did, and then identified the voice of the other survivor.
2. Wenn directed Crown 1 to proceed to the crash site at 0216Z, and Crown 1 arrived at 0254Z. Crown tracked in on two strong beeper signals, one from each of the survivors. An almost continuous cloud deck with tops at 8000 ft and bases 1500 ft to 2500 ft in the mountain valleys completely covered the area. The cook tracker and the two UHF homers differed somewhat, as is normal at latitude, and possibly the two simultaneous beeper signals degraded their accuracy. Crown, flying above the clouds, located the survivors within a small area centered around 122/42/CH85. Crown did not get voice contact until 0336Z. Probable cause of delay was that even though one survivor might turn off his beeper to talk or listen, the other survivors beeper blocked voice. A low pass over them might have alerted them to turn off their beepers at the same time, but the cloud cover prevented this.
3. Jolley Green 10/27 arrived at 0334Z and held clear, Sandys 5/6/8 arrived at 0352Z and began looking for holes in the cloud cover.
4. Covey 040(FAC O-2) let down thru hole and was hit by ground fire at 0408Z. He was wounded in the neck, but was safely led out by Sandy 5. He recovered at CH85. Black Tempest, flying near Covey 040 when he was hit, climbed up and got an approximate Tacan position of 138/27/CH85 for the ground fire.
5. The Sandys worked their way back in under the clouds close enough to get voice contact at 0403Z. Because of the weather, terrain, and jungle, it wasn't until 0438Z that Sandy felt he was close enough to tell Furbritches to fire a smoke signal. Sandy spotted the smoke, and called in Jolly Green 10/27, two Sandys rendezvoused with them to escort them in. It took much longer than normal to get back in because of the weather.
6. Once they got on scene, Jolly Green 10 quickly recovered to first man at 0521Z. Hobo 33/34 escorted Jolly Green 10 to Danang, and all forces were released from the SAR.
7. Aircraft in the area under Crown control were; Lovebug 505(2 F-8) Held high and dry from 0245Z until release by Crown at 0345Z when the Sandys arrived. Ringneck 506(2 F-8) Same as Lovebug 505. Hostage 4-2(Gunships) Held above clouds 0330Z until 0430Z, RTB to refuel and return. Hobo 33/34(A-1) Held 0345Z until pickup. Covey 040(O-2 FAC)-searched with Sandy until hit at 0408Z. Black Tempest was hit and provided location of ground fire. Trail 34 (FAC)-attempted to search under the clouds but was unable to find hole. Big 04(FAC)-same as Trail 34. Scarface 4-1(Gunship)-dispatched by Plutcrat after Hostage flight departure. Pick up was made before arrival on scene. Sandy 5/6/7/8 - 0352Z until pickup. Jolly Green 10/27- 0334Z until pickup.

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~