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MISSION NARRATIVE: Det 10, 38th ARRSq (#10-38-60, 25 Dec 67)

On 25 Dec 67, at 0656Z, Det 10, 38th ARRSq was notified by Navy Operations that a river patrol boat (PER) crew member had been wounded. They gave the PER's location as 09 degrees 52 minutes north, 106 degrees 00 minutes east. Navy Operations also stated they were scrambling "Seawolf 76, a flight of two armed UH-1B's to provide cover. Pedro 91 was airborne at 0702Z and Pedro 39 at 0710Z. Contact was established with Paddy Control who provided flight following throughout the mission. Pedro 91 arrived on scene at 0722Z. Seawolf 76 arrived at the same time. Pedro 39 remained at altitude while 91 went in for the hoist pick up, which was completed at 0723Z. The PER crew member had received multiple shrapnel wounds in the legs and had several bones broken in his left foot. Pedro 91 departed for Dong Tam 3rd Field Hospital and Pedro 39 returned to Binh Thuy. Enroute to Dong Tam, the paramedic redressed the patient's wounds. In the process the paramedic found severe arterial bleed on the left foot which was also broken. After dressing the wounds, he applied a pneumatic splint. The splint worked extremely well as it not only immobilized the foot but also stopped the bleeding. Pedro 91 landed at Dong Tam at 0753Z. The patient was off loaded and the aircraft refueled. Pedro 91 departed Dong Tam at 0810Z and terminated at Binh Thuy at 0840Z. No ground fire was encountered, one combat save.

inf:
ASG

CREWS: (All Assigned to Det 10, 38th ARRSq)

Pedro 91 - RCC Capt Thomas D. Precious
RCCP Capt William P. Shea
FE TSgt Dean S. Aaron
PJ Sgt Ronald K. Sholes

Pedro 39 - RCC Laurence W. Conover, Capt
RCCP Albert E. Tollefsen, Capt
FE Charles H. Herring, SSgt
PJ Gary G. Harold, Sgt

Laurence W. Conover
LAURENCE W. CONOVER, Captain, USAF
Acting Commander

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AF Rescue Team Race Into Delta To Save Seaman

BINH THUY—A recent combat rescue of an injured U.S. Navy man in the Mekong Delta has raised to 45 the number of injured removed from areas of combat to a medical facility by members of Detachment 10,

38th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Binh Thuy AB.

This rescue was made after a U.S. Navy river patrol boat crewman was injured some 25 miles southeast of Can Tho on the Bassac River.

Two HH-43 Huskie helicopters were launched from Binh Thuy and the injured man was taken to the Dong Tam (U.S. Army) hospital, 50 miles northeast of Can Tho.

During the one and one-half hour flight, the helicopter, commanded by Capt. Thomas D. Pracious, 29, Elum, Wash., had landed on the dock of a Landing Ship Tank (LST), vessel to pick up the victim, who had been transferred aboard from the combat boat.

Minutes later the Huskie was back at Binh Thuy to refuel and pick up Capt. Charles A. Caton, 29, Tucumcari, N. Mex., flight surgeon, who administered medical care while the helicopter continued on to Dong Tam Hospital.

Heavy ground fire and artillery was active in the area where the rescue was made. A pair of U.S. Navy armed HU-1 helicopters provided low cover while the Detachment 10 helicopters withdrew the injured sailor.

A second Binh Thuy HH-43 circled overhead and provided high cover, with Maj. Harold Pickering, 37, Tiverton, R.I., Detachment 10 commander, at the controls.