

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS

MISSIONS/SAVES

Detachment 8, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron flew 661 intercept missions during the past quarter and was called on to fly 264 missions in support of the 12th Combat Support Group, the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, and other units of the Cam Ranh Bay Air Base vicinity. During the quarter, the Detachment had four false missions for a total of 855 intercept, support, and false missions.¹

Five combat and five non-combat saves were credited to the Detachment during the October through December 1967 period.

On 5 November 1967 at 0752 local, the alert crew commanded by Captain Eugene H. Boortz was notified by the 12th USAF Security Police Squadron that a converted tractor trailer used to carry Vietnamese workers had overturned three miles west of the base injuring 83 persons. Moments later, Pedro 48 was scrambled to the scene of the accident. The Flight Engineer, Sergeant Larry E. Lancaster, and the Medical Technician, Senior Master Sergeant Talmadge D. Anderson, were deployed to assist the doctor arriving on the scene. The doctor requested that two critically injured Vietnamese be air evacuated to the 12th USAF Hospital, Cam Ranh Bay Air Base. The patients, names unknown, were delivered to awaiting attendants.²

On 8 December Cam Ranh Tower notified the Detachment alert crew commanded by Major Armand J. Fiola that it had observed a helicopter crash. At 2250 local, Pedro 04 was airborne and proceeding to the crash site. The burning wreckage was located five miles west of the base in an extremely hostile area. A survivor was observed approximately 30 feet from the wreckage. The Medical Technician, Staff Sergeant George S. Armstrong, was lowered by hoist. Sergeant Armstrong indicated that an immediate evacuation be made. Disregarding exploding ammunition and flying shrapnel, the medical attendant calmly attended the survivor's wounds. The patient and medic were hoisted aboard the aircraft and the patient, SP-4 Richard E. Pratt, evacuated to awaiting attendants at the 12th USAF Hospital.³

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1. ARRS Monthly Mission Report, Oct - Dec 1967
 2. Mission Number 8-38-28-05 Nov 67
 3. Mission Number 8-38-29-07 Dec 67