

## UNIT HISTORY

### 38 ARRS Local Base Rescue Section

1. Period of history - 1 April 1967 to 30 June 1967.
2. Assignment - 38th Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Squadron, Local Base Rescue Section Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam.
3. OIC - Major Richard H. Smith.
4. Mission - To operate and maintain search and rescue equipment to accomplish Local Base Rescue and/or Aircrew Recovery missions as directed; provide a capability for prompt recovery of personnel involved in aircraft/missile accidents, incidents, or similar occurrences on, or in the vicinity of, an air base, including the suppression of fires, to evacuate personnel.
5. Resources:
  - a. Personnel:
    - (1) Authorized - 6 officers and 13 airmen.
    - (2) Assigned - 6 officers and 13 airmen.
  - b. Aircraft - 2 HH-43B's, serial numbers 59-1571 and 62-4515.
6. Summary of maintenance performed - During this period three phase inspections were conducted on the two assigned HH-43B helicopters. The most extensive maintenance work output occurred during April. An aircraft incident, resulting from engine failure necessitated the replacement of the right hand rotor blades, both rotor hubs, the engine, the right main strut, and the right auxiliary strut. Several man hours were spent on minor sheet metal and body repair work which resulted from the incident. Due to the lack of readily available rotor system parts this unit experienced the high NORS rate of 26% with a resulting low OR rate of 68% for April. May saw no improvement on NORS or OR rates. Lack of parts for the damaged helicopter forced the NORS rate up to a high of 37.5% and the OR rate to 50.0%. Another blade change was necessary, due to damage occurring to one blade, and added increased man hours expended as unscheduled maintenance. Near the end of May both aircraft were in very good maintenance condition. During June the NORS rate dropped to 2% with a high 95.4% OR rate. Maintenance was very light, with the only major item being the change of a blade flap damaged by a bird strike.
7. Summary of operational achievements: 2 APR 67
  - a. Intercept Mission - 4 sorties/0 + 30. The alert crew was advised by JSARC at 1455Z 2 Apr 67 that a USAF F-102 had flamed out 20 miles Southeast of Tan Son Nhut. The aircraft was configured for an Aircrew

Recovery mission and was airborne in three minutes. At a point just south of the perimeter of the base, the crew overheard a radio transmission on guard that the emergency aircraft was in a flameout pattern for Tan Son Nhut. The RCC elected then to return to launch point for the FSK and two Rescue Specialists who were not part of the crew launched for aircrew recovery. By this time the F-102 was on base leg of the flame out pattern, and the RCC elected to intercept without the fire suppression kit. The aircraft landed fast and long, went through both runway arresting barriers, and broke up 100 feet past a ditch near the far end of the runway 07R. There was no fire. The copilot, medical technician, and two firemen helped the F-102 pilot break the canopy and escape from his aircraft. The pilot, apparently uninjured, was taken to base operations.

b. Aircrew Recovery Mission - 6 sorties/3 + 30. The alert crew was advised by JSARC at 0230Z 5 Apr 67 that a crewmember fell from Hades 33, a USAF C-123, on departure from Tan Son Nhut Runway 25, climbing out on a heading of 222°. The alert aircraft, airborne on a training mission, responded to the search area almost immediately and the secondary aircraft launched shortly afterwards. Joined by two Army Hueys (UH-1's), the aircraft began a creeping line search. Soon, the C-123 side door was located, and a more concentrated search of the immediate area was made for the body. While the alert aircraft was refueling, the secondary aircraft crew located and recovered the body.

c. Recovery Mission - 6 sorties/0 + 25. The alert crew was notified by Central Security Control that two Vietnamese, one injured by a mine explosion, were trapped in a mine field at the east perimeter of Tan Son Nhut. The alert crew launched in Pedro 79 and arrived on the scene at 0908Z 17 Apr 67. The MA-1 basket was lowered to the survivors and the uninjured man loaded the injured man into the basket. After transporting the injured man to safety, the crew returned and hoisted the uninjured man into the aircraft using the forest penetrator. Both were released to a Vietnamese ambulance at the scene.

d. Recovery Mission - 2 sorties/0 + 20. The fire station notified the alert crew at 1340Z 22 May 67 that a Vietnamese boy was trapped in a mine field on the east perimeter of Tan Son Nhut. The crew launched in Pedro 46 and recovered the boy from the mine field using the MA-1 basket. The Medical Technician was lowered in the basket and pulled the boy into it. The boy, had tripped on an anti-personnel mine which severed his right foot and inflicted multiple scrapnel wounds. The boy was turned over to hospital personnel for treatment at Tan Son Nhut.

e. Search and Recovery - 5 sorties/3 + 00. At 1320Z 22 Jun 67 the alert crew was notified that an airborne aircraft had seen a mid-air collision 3 miles east of Tan Son Nhut. Pedro 46 was launched with normal