

FROM: Det 6, 38th ARRS, APO 96227

13 January 1968

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report (6-38-1-11 Jan 68)

TO: 38th ARRS *SP*

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1. At 0751Z (1551L), 11 Jan 68, Bien Hoa tower observed a VNAF F-5 crash on departure two miles east of Bien Hoa AB, RVN. Det 6, 38th ARRS was immediately notified via the primary crash alarm. Pedro 95 was airborne at 0753Z (1553L) with the FSK, two firefighters, and a pararescueman aboard. Pedro 77 was airborne at 0754Z (1554L) with a flight engineer and pararescueman. Both Pedro aircraft arrived on scene at 0756Z (1556L). The F-5 had crashed into a town, and a two block area parallel to the main highway through town was on fire. No parachute had been observed by witnesses in the Bien Hoa tower. No other rescue vehicles of any type had arrived at the crash scene prior to the arrival of the two Det 6 Pedro helicopters.

2. The FSK was placed on a street adjacent to the wreckage, the most intense fire area, and the three crewmen of Pedro 95 were offloaded and instructed to assist as necessary. The pararescueman carried an ARC-59 radio; continuous radio contact was maintained between the ground team and both Pedro helicopters. (SAR UHF frequency 252.8). Pedro 95 took off immediately after landing the rescue crew, and a request for firefighting equipment, along with routing instructions, was passed to Bien Hoa tower. At 0800Z (1600L), the ground team requested the pickup of two civilian casualties and Pedro 77 landed in a church courtyard to make the pickup. First aid and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation were administered to the casualties enroute to the nearby 93rd Medical Evacuation Hospital.

3. At 0804Z (1604L), the ground team reported the remains of the VNAF F-5 pilot had been located. They were instructed to continue to assist as necessary. At this time, six to eight fire trucks arrived on scene and the fire was soon brought under control. At 0805Z (1605L), two US Army medevac UH-1 helicopters arrived and were instructed to land nearby for possible air evac of additional casualties. The Army evacuated two seriously burned civilians shortly thereafter. At 0825Z (1625L), the ground team was picked up by Pedro 95 from the church courtyard and arrangements were made for the FSK to be returned to Bien Hoa by surface vehicle. One of the firemen from Pedro 95, assisted by two Army ground firefighters, discovered two uninjured children in a flaming building and removed them to safety. Four civilian casualties were taken to the 93rd Medical Evacuation by ambulance. Three deceased, including the pilot, were observed by the Det 6 rescue personnel. The total dead is expected to be much greater. At 0826Z (1626L), there was no further need for the Pedro aircraft at the crash site, and both returned to Bien Hoa AB. The mission was closed at 0830Z (1630L). Flights were flown shortly thereafter in support of the accident investigation and BOD teams.

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4. A total of two sorties and one hour and twenty five minutes were flown by the Det 6 helicopters. The amount flown by the Army UH-1's is unknown. Four non-combat saves are credited to ARRS and two to the US Army. The Det 6 crews involved are as follows:

Pedro 95

RCC Major James F. Okonek
CP Lt Col Robert J. Kavanagh
RS Billy J. Hackler, SSgt
RS SSgt Robert A. Brown
RS Sgt Charles F. Salome

Pedro 77

RCC Captain Charles W. Burrige
CP Captain Sheridan K. Hawk
FE Glen W. Chafey, A1C
RS A1C Gunther Bahrenburg ?

FOR THE COMMANDER

Charles W. Burrige, USAF
For JAMES F. OKONEK, Major, USAF
Operations Officer



11 Jan 68

Sgt SALOME assumed 1st ALERT 0700.
ALL GEAR OK. 1-ACR at 1551.
F-5 crashed ON TAKE-OFF, IN THE
TOWN OF DONG-LOCH. SALOME ON
GROUND WITH FIREMEN. SALOME FOUND
2 BURN PATIENTS, & BOUGHT IN THE
2ND PEDRO WITH BAHRENBURG ON BOARD.
2ND PEDRO, MED-EVAC'ED PATIENTS TO
93ED MED-BTN. SALOME & FIREMEN FOUND
PILOTS BODY, & WRECKAGE OF PLANE, WITHIN
A 25 FT. RADIUS OF EACH OTHER. HELPED
WITH THE ^{WRECKAGE} BURN CASE ON THE GROUND. TWO
OTHER CASUALTIES ON THE DEATH LIST, WERE
CIVILIANS. EXPEND FSK & RETURNED TO
BASE.

~~Sgt SALOME~~ THE 2ND CREW OF
Capt Burridge (RCL) Capt. HOWE (CP)
AIC Chateau (FE) AIC Bahrenburg (RS)
landed in village at 1625 for