

FROM: 1-37C

SUBJ: Mission Narrative Report (2-3-08, 17 Jan 68)(U)

TO: 1-37C
3rd ARRGp (JSARC)
IN TURN

Downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL

35 MAR 1971 IAW AFR 205-2
(Date)

28 JAN 1968

1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARRSN 55-2/3ARRGp Supl 1, dated 15 June 1967.

2. (S) On 16 Jan 68 two F4C crews (Hanger 1 and 2) ejected near Mi Gia Pass, North Vietnam. Hanger 2s crew was rescued the same day. Darkness and a low overcast prevented the recovery of either Hanger 1 pilots. On 17 January two efforts were made to recover Hanger 1 but weather precluded a recovery. Both survivors indicated they had an approximate 2000 foot cloud base over their position (the tops of this cloud layer were 5000-6000 feet MSL). Sandy 5 penetrated the overcast to conduct a visual search. His last radio transmission stated he had broken out below the overcast over a river, a road and a populated area; he said the tops of the surrounding terrain were in the clouds and he could not hear Hanger 1 on UHF Guard. Hanger 1 said he then heard a large number of hostile weapons open fire, and this was the last he heard from Sandy 5. Sandy 6 penetrated to look for Sandy 5 and Hanger 1 but was unsuccessful and recommended that further SAR efforts wait for more favorable weather.

3. (S) On 18 Jan 68 Jolly Green 09(L) and 37(H) were scrambled at 0445Z and proceeded to an orbit point of 070/65/89. The survivor's position was given as 062/82/89 (17°58'N, 105°55'E). Sandys 5A and 6 flew directly to the area, while Sandys 7 and 8 escorted the Jolly Greens. Arrival time in orbit was 1230Z. Sandys 5A and 6 were getting considerable antiaircraft and automatic weapons fire from gun positions to the north, east and west of the survivors. Misty 21 aided them in directing the high performance strikes of Gunfighter, Maverick, Schlitz, and Roman flights. At 0627Z Sandy 5A called in Jolly Green 09 escorted by Sandys 7 and 8. Jolly Green 37 remained at the orbit point. Once in the area, Jolly Green 09 flew to an unpopulated and heavily wooded area about one mile south of the survivor at tree-top level, putting a ridge between the helicopter and the hostile weapons. At this time a 50 caliber machine gun site fired on Sandy 5A from a hill overlooking the survivor. He expended all his resources, used all of Sandy 6s resources, called in several high performance aircraft and finally used Sandy 7 and 8 before the weapon was silenced. At 0700Z Sandy 5A called in Jolly Green 09 for the pickup. Hanger 1As chute was not visible, and Jolly Green 09 requested a flare to identify his position. The flight engineer and pararescue specialist spotted the smoke and vectored the helicopter in over it. Due to the high trees, steep slope, dense jungle undergrowth, and diffusion of smoke the survivor himself was not visible. Another smoke flare was requested. The flight engineer requested that the helicopter turn 180° and he directed it over the second flare, spotted the survivor, and lowered the penetrator. As the survivor indicated he was ready to be hoisted, the

1-370-S-68-10

Cy 1 of 9 cys

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GROUP 4
68-AD-432
DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFY AFTER 12 YEARS

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

pararescue specialist saw ground fire coming from the left side of the helicopter. Using the M-60 machine gun, one belt of ammunition (250 rounds) was sufficient to suppress the fire. With Hanger 1A on board, a hovering low level search was made to locate Hanger 1B. Radio contact with this pilot had been lost earlier that morning and when no smoke, voice or visual contact was made after approximately 5 minutes of low level search, Sandy 5A recommended all SAR forces leave the area. Jolly Green 09 and a Sandy aircraft departed the area at 0720Z, rejoined with Jolly Green 37 and returned to Channel 89, landing at 0820Z. Sandy 6 received battle damage of suspected 12.5mm variety in the mid-fuselage section. Radio discipline was better than average with Crown 4 doing an excellent job. However, the SAR effort on Preview 01 was definitely overloading UHF Guard, and HF frequencies.

4. (U) The name of the survivor was: Scott B. Stovin, Captain, Da Nang.
5. (U) Crewmembers of the Jolly Greens were:

JOLLY GREEN 09(L)

RCC Capt Henry C. Conant
RCCP Capt George W. Greer
FE SSgt Don E. Cole
RS Sgt Patrick F. Allaire

JOLLY GREEN 37(H)

RCC Capt David A. Richardson
RCCP Capt Ronald McKinley
FE TSgt Jarvis E. Peele
FE Sgt Jules C. Smith

Henry C. Conant
HENRY C. CONANT, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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2

ARDC # 680460

GROUP 4
DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFY AFTER 12 YEARS

~~SECRET~~

60

Mission Narrative 2-3-08

17 January 1968

On an RTB Crown one assumed station for Crown five due to engine failure. At 0740Z Cricked Control advised that the weather in the area of downed crew of Hangar 1 was clearing and it was clear enough to attempt a rescue.

At 0755Z Jolly Green 03 and 27, Sandys 5A, 6, 8, 8 were scrambled. Sandys 5A and 6 were given border clearance while Sandy 7, 8, Jolly reens 03, 37 were held at the border, awaiting the recommendation of Sandy 5A to proceed to the scene.

Sandy 5A recommended we have some high performance aircraft for flak suppression. Gunfighter flight was scrambled along with Locust and Hudson flights were vectored to the area. Sandy 5A advised that the immediate area of Hangar 1 was still overcast with no means of getting beneath the overcast. Hangar 1 Bravo was contacted and he said he was surrounded by enemy and it was overcast in his position. Sandy 5A recommended we RTB our forces until the weather cleared. They were RTB at 0905Z. While in the area Sandy 5A and 6 conducted an electronic search in the area for Sandy 5 with negative results.

John W. Mirick
Mirick, John W. Maj, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

CP	Goode, raymond T.	Lt Col
NN	Zertuche, Leopoldo	1/Lt
RO	Hoffman, James L.	SSgt
FE	Coughlin, Donald W.	TSgt
FE	Suiter, Harold S.	TSgt
LM	Powers, William H.	TSgt

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69

Mission Narrative 2-3-08

59
17 January 1968

On 17 Jan, Crown 4 resumed the SAR effort for Hangar 1, an aircraft down on the previous day with two POB. The location of the SAR was approximately 068/81 from channel 89.

Because the weather in the area was overcast, the SAR did not begin until 1000H. At this time, Misty 11 was over the scene and established voice communication with both survivors. When Misty 11 arrived on scene, he reported the weather overcast with one large break in the clouds. One survivor estimated the ceiling in his area at 2-4 thousand feet.

Sandy 5 and 6 arrived on scene at 1045H. After numerous communications with the survivors which were relayed by Misty 11 because the Sandys were not receiving, Sandy 5 said that the area was workable. Jolly Green 09 and 37 were then cleared across the border with Sandy 7 and 8 as escort.

At 1115H, Torpedo 3 flight arrived on scene and provided communications in place of Misty 11. During this time, Sandy 5 and 6 were working to pinpoint the survivors and to get below the clouds.

Sandy 6 reported seeing Sandy 5 working below the clouds. Sometime between 1100 and 1130 Sandy 5 made his last radio contact with the rest of the SAR forces. Because he had been having some difficulty receiving and transmitting because of his low altitude and possibly his equipment, the rest of the SAR forces were not concerned by the lack of communication until 10-15 minutes after Sandy 5 was last heard. Repeated attempts to raise Sandy 5 on all SAR frequencies were unsuccessful. Sandy 6 said that the last time he saw Sandy 5 was at grid 900 750 or about the 067/74 mi ~~SW~~ CH89.

At 1215 the weather in the area began to deteriorate and the SAR forces were given an RTB. Gunfighter flight which had just arrived on scene conducted an electronic search for Sandy 5 until 1230H. He also advised the survivors from Hangar 1 that the SAR would be resumed later.

Note: Hangar 1 Alpha, the front seater, correctly answered his personnel authenticators. Hangar 1 Brave was not asked the questions.

John T. May, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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35-68-0013

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Mission Narrative 2-3-68

18 January 1968

During the morning of 18 Jan, constant weather recon was kept in the Hangar 1 SAR scene, the 062/82 miles from channel 89. Until 1200, the scene was overcast. At 1200, Vespa flight reported breaks in the overcast. Shortly there after, Misty 21 reported that one survivor had him in sight and he recommended that the SAR forces be launched.

The SAR forces were launched at 1250. Jolly Green 09 and 37, and Sandy 5A, 6, 7 and 8 departed channel 89. They arrived at the border at 1330. Sandy 5A and 6 continued into the SAR area. Sandy 5A and Misty 21 spotted the chutes of both survivors and had communications with both of them. The survivors correctly authenticated their personal authenticators. All SAR forces were cleared across the border.

At approximately 1400, Sandy 5A began to receive ground fire from a 37mm position on a hill. Before the SAR force moved into the area of the survivors, Sandy 5A directed strikes against the gun position. He used Gunfighter 1, 2, 3, and 4: Schlitz: and Maverick flights. Misty 21 also made strafing passes.

At 1445 the SAR forces moved in. Hangar 1 Alphs was picked up by Jolly Green 09 at 1510 at WE9788. Attempts to contact Bravo to have him release smoke were unsuccessful. Sandy 5A reported that a communication from Hangar Bravee was received in which Bravo stated that unfriendlies were within 20 meters of his position and that he was destroying his radio. Because of the ground fire in the area (Sandy 6 was hit at 1505) the SAR forces pulled out. Misty 21 continued efforts to contact Bravo with negative results.

John T. May, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

RCC May
P Purvis
N Hannan
RO Roloff
FE Hogan
FE Nowland
Im Scanlon

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39-68-0016

2nd MISSION
DOWNED 16th
RESCUED 18th

Pacific Stars and Stripes information for 37 ARRS

For date 680122

1-4 MSN

DOWNED

16th AN 64

HANDLER 1 ATE
RESCUED 18th AN 64

37 ARRS was a US Air Force unit

Primary service involved, US Air Force

Quang Nam Province, I Corps, South Vietnam

Location, Da Nang

DATE PUBLISHED

Description: Monday 22 Jan 68 - 3 Pilots Saved in Daring Rescues Over N. Viet SAIGON (UPI) - For Maj. Charles E. Lewis, of Dennison, Texas and 1st Lt. Jack L. Kelly, 27, of Pawnee, Okla., it was a short wait after being downed over North Vietnam before being rescued. But for Capt. Scott B. Stovin, 29, of Milwaukee, Wis., it was a long wait. The three were aboard two F4 Phantom jets downed by unknown causes over the Southern Panhandle of North Vietnam earlier this week. "I didn't think they'd make it to us in time," said Lewis. "There was heavy overcast when we went down and it was getting late. We had to wait just a little more than an hour before they found us." The helicopter rescue of Lewis was swift and without complications. But his fellow pilot was hanging in a tree, unable to free himself of the parachute harness. Sgt. Peter S. Harding, 21, of Foxboro, Mass., was lowered from the hovering chopper, 45 miles west northwest of Dong Hoi to cut Kelly loose. The pilot of the Jolly Green Giant helicopter, Capt. Robert S. Greer, 35, Enid, Okla., said, "both of the pilots were downed in dense jungle. We were lucky there were both on a ridge-like section of a hill." The other pilot wasn't found so quickly. The following day the helicopters, and the planes that fly cover for them, "Sandys," were back scouting the panhandle for him and his copilot. The copilot still is missing but probably dead or captured. It wasn't until the third day they found the third man, in hazardous terrain, 60 miles northwest of Dong Hoi. The lead Sandy pilot, Col. Ralph S. Hoggart, 43, Mount Pleasant, Penn., made a pass over Stovin. Automatic weapons fire opened up on his propeller driven ship. "The gun emplacement fired a little early and gave away its position before it could cause the mission real trouble," said Capt. Donald Miles, 28, Cleburne, Tex., a second Sandy pilot. When the guns were silenced, the Jolly Green Giants moved in. The jungle penetrator was lowered by S. Sgt. Don E. Cole, 29, Union City, Tenn., as Capt. Henry C. Conant, 27, Luckey, Okla., held the chopper over Stovin's position. "The undergrowth was heavy and there was elephant grass all around," said Sgt. Patrick F. Allaire, 21, Mason, Mich. When Stovin was hoisted up, the North Vietnamese opened up on the chopper. "I was looking out the door when I saw a tracer passing right over us," the pararescue man said, "I also saw a couple of puffs of smoke coming from what I took to be a gunner's position and I opened up on it. I don't know if I hit him or just scared him, but we didn't get any more fire from that direction."

Comments: MAJ Lewis, Charles E., jet pilot; 1LT Kelley, Jack L., jet pilot; ; CPT Stovin, Scott B., jet pilot; ; SGT Harding, Peter S., pararescue; ; CPT Greer, Robert S., pilot; ; COL Hoggart, Ralph S., Sandy pilot; ; CPT Miles, Donald; Sandy pilot; ; SSG Cole, Don E., pararescue; ; CPT Conant, Henry C., pilot; ; SGT Allaire, Patrick F., gunner;

PJ

The source for this information was 6801PSS.MGL from paper source documents supplied by Les Hines

Please send additions or corrections to:

DET 137 ARR

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SUMMARY TABLE OF RESCUES

DATE	RESCUE NUMBER	SURVIVOR	TYPE AIRCRAFT	SERVICE	LOCATION	JOLLY GREEN CREW	UNDER ENEMY FIRE
3 Jan	218	Maj Pattee	T28	USAF	Laos	Maj Ferrell Lt Sichterman Sgt Grau AIC Taylor	No
6 Jan	219	Capt Brownlee	F-105	USAF	Thailand	Capt Walker Capt Canfield Sgt Otero Sgt Boles	No
6 Jan	220	Maj Gustafson 76th Mission 2nd pickup	F-105	USAF	Thailand	Lt Platt Capt Greer Sgt Keyes Sgt Lombard	No
16 Jan	221 222	Maj Lewis Lt Kelly	F4	USAF	NVN	Capt Greer Capt Canfield Sgt Warmack Sgt Harding	No
18 Jan	223	Capt Stovin	F4 HANGER 01	USAF	NVN	Capt Conant Capt Greer Sgt Cole Sgt Allaire	Yes
28 Jan	224	Capt Brown	T28	USAF	Laos	Capt Otsini Capt Greer Sgt Warmack Sgt Harding	No
2 Feb	225 226 227	Lt JG Jacobs AP2 Forbski AT1 Arntzen	P2V	USN	Laos	Lt Platt Maj Williams Sgt Keyes Sgt Boles	No
27 Feb	228	AP1 Gonzales	P2V	USN	Laos	Capt Walker Maj Washington Sgt Parker Sgt Harding	Yes

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Atch 1

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History - Det 1, 40th ARRSq, Jan - Mar 68

CHRONOLOGY

1968

- 3 Jan - Rescue of Zorro 11 by Jolly Green 20(#218).
- 6 Jan - Rescue of Boswell 3 by Jolly Green 16 and 36(#219, #220).
- 10 Jan - Det 1 visited by Col Freshwater, Vice Commander, 3rd ARRGp.
- 12 Jan - Medical evacuation from L-85 by Jolly Green 17.
- 15 Jan - Jolly Green 20 crashed while on Prevue 1 mission in North Vietnam.
- 16 Jan - Rescue of Hangar 2 by Jolly Green 16(#221, #222).
- 17 Jan - Crew of Jolly Green 20 rescued by Jolly Green 71 of Det 2, 37 ARRS.
- 18 Jan - Rescue of Hangar 1A by Jolly Green 09(#223).
- 23-24 Jan - Maj Orsini briefed the 553rd Reconnaissance Squadron at Korat RTAFB on SAR mission.
- 25 Jan - Det 1 visited by Col Emil Beaudry, Vice Commander ARRS, Col William Musick, Deputy Commander Material, ARRS, and Col Paul E. Leske, Commander, 3rd ARRGp.
- 26 Jan - Col Beaudry presented Silver Stars to 1Lt Privette and Sgt McComb.
- 11, 12, 13 Feb - Maj Orsini briefed 388th Tactical Fighter Wing at Korat RTAFB on SAR mission.
- 27 Feb - Rescue of Sophomore 50 by Jolly Green 37 and 20. (#225-#228). 37 ARRS also took part and rescued three other crew members.
- 28 Feb - Rescue of Bear 1 by Jolly Green 36(#229). This was the 1000th combat rescue made by 3rd ARRGp.
- 29 Feb - The crew of Jolly Green 36, Maj Oderman, Capt Greer, Sgt Berry, and Sgt Duffy went to Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, for interviews on the 1000th rescue. They were interviewed by the major television networks, for a UPI newspaper story and USAF hometown news releases, and appeared at the Saigon daily Armed Forces briefing for reporters.
- 2-3 Mar - Maj Orsini, Capt Walker, Capt Holt, Lt Platt, and SSgt Keyes interviewed for a National Geographic Magazine article of rescue in SEA.

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veteran profile

THE VIRTUAL WALL

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ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE

ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE was born on September 14, 1925 and joined the Armed Forces while in MILWAUKEE, WI.

He served as a 1115J in the Air force, 602 FS, and attained the rank of COL/O6. He began a tour of duty on January 17, 1968.

ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE is listed as Missing in Action.



You can find ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Panel 34E, Row 65.

Remembrances

The following remembrances have been left at The Virtual Wall for ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE:

T
T
T IN REMEMBRANCE OF THIS HERO
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE WHOSE NAME SHALL LIVE
FOREVER MORE

Posted by CLAY MARSTON,
BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCHER -
AFC

T
T
T If I should die...remembrances for
COL. Robert F. Wilke, USAF...a
fine Air Force pilot who won the
DFC.

Posted by ,

[post a remembrance](#)

[name rubbings](#)

Common Ground

Want to locate profiles of others on The Wall who share commonalities with ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE?

Follow the links below:

Last Name: WILKE
City: MILWAUKEE
State: WI
Tour Start: 1/17/68
Occupation Code: 1115
Branch of Service: AIR
FORCE
Unit: 602 FS
Rank / Pay Grade: COL

remembrances
THE VIRTUAL WALL

post a
remembrance
search for
remembrances
view all
remembrances
name rubbings
?

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF THIS HERO OF THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE WHOSE NAME SHALL LIVE FOREVER MORE**Posted for: ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE:

COLONEL

ROBERT FREDERICK WILKE

was a posthumous recipient of the

AIR FORCE CROSS

////////--MIA--\\\\\\\\\\

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN
NOR SHALL YOU EVER BE

Posted By:
CLAY MARSTON
cmarston@inerlog.com
Tuesday, August 03, 1999
Relationship: BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCHER - AFC

my wall +

Add this
Remembrance
to My Virtual Wall

edit this remembrance

I posted this Remembrance and I'd
like to edit it

remove this remembrance

I posted this
Remembrance and I'd
like to remove it

799	7 Jan 1968	RF-4C	SVN	Smith H. W.	Capt	KIA		Bifulchi C. L.	1Lt	MIA
800	9 Jan 1968	F-4D	LAOS	Green N. M.	LtCol	MIA		Irsch W. C.	1Lt	KIA
801	10 Jan 1968	F-4D	NVN	Hall K. N.	Capt	POW (returned)		Hopper E. P. Jr	1Lt	MIA
802	14 Jan 1968	F-105D	NVN	Horne S. H.	Maj	MIA				
803	14 Jan 1968	O-1G	SVN	Trisko W. H.	1Lt	Rescued	USAF Helo			
804	14 Jan 1968	EB-66C	NVN	Mercer P. H.	Maj			Terrell I. D.	Maj	POW (retur
805	16 Jan 1968	F-4C	NVN	Lewis C. E.	Maj	Rescued	USAF Helo	Kelley J. L.	1Lt	Rescued
806	16 Jan 1968	F-4C	NVN	Stovin S. B.	Capt	Rescued		Moe T. N.	1Lt	POW (retur
807	17 Jan 1968	O-2	SVN	Beach S. F. Jr	Capt	KIA		u	u	KIA
808	17 Jan 1968	A-1H	NVN	Wilke R. F.	LtCol	MIA				
809	18 Jan 1968	F-4D	NVN	Simonet K. A.	Maj	POW (returned)		Smith W. O.	1Lt	POW (retur
810	18 Jan 1968	F-4D	NVN	Hinckley R. B.	Capt	POW (returned)		Jones R. C.	1Lt	POW (retur
811	20 Jan 1968	F-4C	NVN	Holley T. S.	Capt	MIA		Ketterer J. A.	1Lt	MIA
812	27 Jan 1968	F-4C	Sea	Phillips R. W.	Maj	Rescued	USAF Helo	Core B. R.	1Lt	Rescued
813	3 Feb 1968	F-102A	u	Wiggins W. L.	1Lt	MIA				
814	4 Feb 1968	RF-4C	LAOS	Potter W. T.	1Lt	KIA		Edgar R. J.	1Lt	KIA
815	4 Feb 1968	F-105D	NVN	Lasiter C. W.	Capt	POW (returned)				
816	8 Feb 1968	F-4D	LAOS	Dorsett T. K. Jr	Capt	Rescued	USAF Helo	Corder J. A.	Capt	Rescued
817	8 Feb 1968	A-1H	LAOS	Lapham R. G.	Maj	KIA				
818	12 Feb 1968	A-1H	LAOS	Kimminau P. F.	Capt	Rescued	AA Helo			
819	14 Feb 1968	F-105D	NVN	Elliot R. M.	Capt	MIA				
820	14 Feb 1968	F-100D	SVN	Lewis J. K.	Capt	Rescued	USAF Helo			
821	14 Feb 1968	AC-47	SVN	Waldron K. M. Jr	LtCol	KIA		Quill E. B. Jr	Capt	KIA
822	15 Feb 1968	F-4D	NVN	Carpenter J. V.	Capt	POW		Writer L. D.	Capt	POW (retur

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Mission Narrative 2-3-08

17 January 1968

On an RTB Crown one assumed station for Crown five due to engine failure. At 0740Z Cricked Control advised that the weather in the area of downed crew of Hangar 1 was clearing and it was clear enough to attempt a rescue.

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Mirick, John W. Maj, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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59
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John T. May, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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35-68-0013

NOT ASSIGNED

SECRET

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Mission Narrative 2-3-68

18 January 1968

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John T. May, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

RCC May
P Purvis
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RO Roloff
FE Hogan
FE Nowland
Im Scanlon

SECRET

38-68-0016