

UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM: RCC

17 February 1968

SUBJ: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-6, 14 Feb 68)

TO: 10-38C *RES*

38C

3 ARRGF (JSARC)

1. (U) This report is submitted IAW ARRSM 55-2/3rd ARRGF Sup 1, dtd 15 June 67.
2. (C) At 1333Z, 14 Feb 68, Pedro 91 received a MAYDAY distress call from Dustoff 82, an Army medical evacuation helicopter. Pedro 91 at the time was returning to Binh Thuy from an aborted mission involving another downed helicopter crew that had already been picked up. Dustoff 82 placed his position at 5 miles SW of Can Tho near some burning huts. The helicopter had landed near the burning village and picked up one wounded when it received ground fire. It immediately took off but warning lights and loss of oil pressure forced it to land one quarter mile from its original take off point. Spooky 82 had dropped flares over the burning village immediately prior to the arrival of Pedro 91 and Seawolf 76, a flight of two Navy armed helicopters. Seawolf spotted a blinking strobe light and made a pass to verify that it was the downed helicopter while Pedro 91 set up a landing pattern. Pedro 91 landed in a flooded rice paddy next to the downed chopper and unloaded the patient and crewmembers. Pedro 91 remained on the ground for five minutes due to the difficulty encountered in transporting the litter patient through the deep water and in loading the litter patient and six personnel in the small cabin. In the meantime Seawolf, which was providing cover, spotted personnel moving in the tree line about 200 yards from the crash site and immediately began laying down suppression fire. It was not observed whether Seawolf received any return fire. Pedro 91 took off at 1345Z and returned to Binh Thuy where the litter patient was released to the 632 CSG Hospital. Weather was CAVOK with full moon, winds 120/5. Radio chatter on Paddy Control (radar) frequency was so extensive that Pedro 91 only maintained a listening watch. Pedro 91 arrived in the area at 1338Z and landed at 1340Z after Seawolf had visually confirmed the crash site. To minimize the possibility of hostile ground fire landing lights were not utilized until approaching a hover. Although Pedro 91 landed as close to the downed aircraft as possible there was some difficulty in transporting the litter patient through the water and the high grass. Because of the crowded conditions (six personnel and one litter patient) in the cabin there was no attempt to close the armored doors. The full moon allowed a blackout takeoff at 1345Z and a termination landing was made at home station at 1350Z. The crew of the Dustoff aircraft had no injuries and were released to another aircraft which returned them to their home base. Five combat saves recorded. 0+20 flying time recorded. Negative ground fire encountered.
3. (C) The names of the survivors are: Richard Levy, WO 1-AC; Rex E. Starr, 1st Lt-P; Michael W. Hoover-CE; Geoffrey Robinson, MC, 82nd Med Det; Willie L. Koonce, PFC, B Co., 3rd Bat., 47th Infantry, 9th Division.
4. (U) Crewmembers of Pedro:

PEDRO 91

RCC Capt Laurence W. Conover

FE TSgt Kenneth H. Hogan

Laurence W. Conover
LAURENCE W. CONOVER, Capt., USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year interval
Declassified after 12 years