

HIST JAN - MAR 1968

The pilot immediately ejected. Position at this time was approximately 11 miles ENE of Ubon. The FSK was positioned between the runway and parallel taxiway, and Pedro 70 proceeded toward the smoke column from the aircraft crash. Chase plane reported good chute. Chute was sighted 8 miles out. Pilot and chute were observed descending into trees. After the pilot was located, recovery was effected using forest penetrator. The helicopter hovered approximately 2 feet off the ground, and a crewmember jumped out and recovered the pilot's chute and survival kit. Pickup was made at 1120L. Departure for the base was at 1125L. After returning to base the pilot was released to medical authorities at 1130L. The pilot was uninjured. FSK was recovered and returned to the rescue ramp at 1140L.

Crewmembers

RCC	Capt Bobby L Meadows
RCCP	Capt Arthur C Plunkett
MT	Sgt James M Payne
RS	Sgt David J Meade
RS	Sgt Daniel L Dieter

4. 03-29 February 1968. Det 3, 38th ARRS was alerted by Ubon Tower via the primary crash net at 0055Z, that an F-4D (Buick 4) was inbound to the field with hydraulic problems. The HH-43B scrambled with the FSK. Shortly after takeoff, the tower advised

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that the F-4D crew would attempt a controlled bailout. The FSK was off loaded and the HH-43B proceeded to the bailout area. At 0111Z the bailout was initiated at 16,000 feet and shortly thereafter one parachute was sighted. A landing was made in an open field and the pilot was assisted to the helicopter. He had no apparent injuries. A search was then initiated for the co-pilot. No contact was made until some orange smoke was sighted. The HH-43B landed at 0212Z near the smoke and the medic and flight engineer dispatched to search for the co-pilot. His body was found in a heavily wooded area and death appeared to be the result of a parachute failure. The smoke was assumed to have been initiated by a local civilian. A takeoff with the two F-4D crewmembers aboard was made at 0225Z and they were released to medical authorities at 0233Z. The mission was terminated at 0235Z. No emergency beepers were heard at any time but voice contact was established for a short period with the pilot.

Crewmembers

RCC	1st Lt John R Bland Jr
RCCP	Capt Clarence L Hansell
MT	Sgt James M Payne
FE	Sgt George W Tefferteller Jr