

inspected for damage. The inspection revealed two bullet holes in the cabin safety net webbing, shell fragment holes in the co-pilot's wind screen, a ricochet mark on the cabin door, and a bullet hole in the center floodlight. Oil levels were normal and no fuel leaks were detected. It was decided to return to Bien Hoa and not to attempt the recovery of the second man, who was not seriously wounded. The flight to Bien Hoa was routine and the mission was terminated upon landing at 1845 hours. None of the crewmembers were injured, although shell fragments did pierce the pararescueman's ballistic helmet and strike his neck. It is recommended that the semi-rigid litter be used only when an ARRS crewmember is on the ground to accomplish the loading.

CREWMEMBERS

Major James F. Okonek	RCC
Major John V. Lepko	CP
TSgt Donald S. Kearton	FE
Sgt Charles F. Salome	RS

P 5

Mission 6-38-7-3 February 68

At 1225 hours on 3 February, Pedro 95 responded to a request to evacuate an injured man from the east perimeter of Bien Hoa Air Base. Upon arrival at the injured man's location, it was discovered he had stepped on a mine and had suffered a serious leg wound. An Army officer among those with the injured man indicated it was safe to land and directed the pilot to a specific location about twenty yards away. He then guided the flight engineer and

the pararescueman to the injured man via a precise dogleg route. The man was treated by the pararescueman and then loaded onto a litter. Four of the men started towards the helicopter with the litter, utilizing the previously traveled route; another man followed behind. They had gone but a few yards when the last man turned and ran back as if he had forgotten something. When he was only six or eight feet from the others, he detonated a second mine which completely destroyed his right foot. The explosion caused the others to be knocked to the ground and injured three of them. Only the pararescueman was uninjured. The men were instructed to remain in place and that they would be hoisted from the area by the helicopter. Enroute to the rescue pad to pick up another hoist operator, ambulances were summoned and another Pedro requested. Upon return to the mine field, the most seriously wounded man was picked up in a semi-rigid litter and flown immediately to the nearby ambulances. A second man was then lifted aboard and quickly delivered to an ambulance. At 1248 hours Pedro 97 arrived and hoisted two men aboard utilizing the forest penetrator. Pedro 95 then recovered the remaining two men, also using the penetrator. Three of the injured were in critical condition and had been brought to the rescue pad by ambulance. They were promptly evacuated to the 93rd Evacuation Hospital by Pedro 95. The mission was terminated upon final landing at Bien Hoa at 1335 hours. A total of seven non-combat saves credited to ARRS.

CREWMEMBERS

Pedro 95

Major James F. Okonek RCC

Major John V. Lepko CP

A1C Glen N. Chafey FE

Sgt Roland C. Schmidt RS

PS

SSgt James B. Reed FE

Pedro 97

Capt Charles W. Burridge RCC

Major Andrew E. Kralj CP

SSgt Hurshell H. Gough RS

Sgt Larry B. Russell RS

SAFETY OF OPERATION -

Throughout the period of this report, this unit maintained the highest degree of safety possible in all areas of operation.

The elimination of existing ground hazards, the use of a weapons clearing barrel along with strict firearm discipline, and complete use and adherence to checklists resulted in a zero rate for ground, firearm and flying operations.

Det 6 38 ARRS PJ Daily Log
June 1967 - March 1971

3 Feb

608

* Schmitt on First: Gear checked; 12:25 Scrambled - Eod Troop stepped on mine, Army personell indicated was safe to land, we did. After loading patient on litter we proceeded to chopper but another person stepped on a mine injuring himself and ^{1 other} men. We then hoisted 3 patients + 2 others then FE + PJ. Then med Evaced patients to 93rd;