

MISSION NARRATIVE: Det 10, 38th ARRSq, Mission 10-38-16, 10 Mar 68

On the 10th of Mar 68 at 1120Z (1920L) Det 10 38th ARRS was notified by Navy Operations Binh Thuy, that river patrol boat, call sign Druid India, had encountered enemy fire and one man required immediate evacuation because of a critical head wound. Position of the PBR was 15 miles SE of Binh Thuy AB on the Mekong River. The Pedro crew scrambled from quarters at 1130Z and rendezvoused with the UH-1D cover aircraft and Druid India at 1150Z. Hostile ground fire was being directed at the rescue and cover aircraft from the north bank of the river, but no hits were taken. The PBR was instructed to proceed into the wind at midstream and that a litter would be lowered to them while they were underway. With precise instructions from the paramedic, a moving hover was maintained over the boat while the litter was lowered and then retrieved. The entire pickup operation was accomplished in six minutes. Altitude reference was afforded by reflection of the aircraft flood lights off the water while position could be maintained only from hoist operation instruction since no part of the boat was visible to the pilot or co-pilot. Cooperation from the cover aircraft and boat crew was excellent. The wounded man was treated for shock and his wounds were dressed enroute to the hospital. Bleeding was controlled. The 45 mile flight to Dong Tam hospital was completed at 1230Z, 10 Mar 68 where the patient was released to the hospital care. Termination landing at Binh Thuy accomplished at 1310Z. Two sorties for 1+40 hours flown by Det 10, 38th ARRS. One combat save.

CREWS: (All assigned to Det 10, 38th ARRSq) PEDRO 39

RCC	Maj James F. Okonek
RCCP	Capt Leslie E. Johnson
FE	Sgt Archelans Whitehead
RS	A1C Larry D. Nicholson

JAMES F. OKONEK, Major, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

FROM: 380

11 Mar 68

SUBJ: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-16, 10 Mar 68)

TO: 10-38C
38C OMM
3rd ARRGp (JSARC)
IN TURN

(38)

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CWB/25
4/25

1. This report is submitted IAW ARRSM 55-2/3rd ARRGp Sup 1 dated 15 Jun 67.

2. On the 10th of Mar 68 at 1120Z (1920L) Det 10 38th ARRS was notified by Navy Operations Binh Thuy, that river patrol boat, call sign Druid India, has encountered enemy fire and one man required immediate evacuation because of a critical head wound. Position of the PBR was 15 miles SE of Binh Thuy AB on the Mekong River. The Pedro crew scrambled from quarters at 1130Z and rendezvoused with the UH-1D cover aircraft and Druid India at 1150Z. Hostile ground fire was being directed at the rescue and cover aircraft from the north bank of the river, but no hits were taken. The PBR was instructed to proceed into the wind at midstream and that a litter would be lowered to them while they were under way. With precise instructions from the paramedic, a moving hover was maintained over the boat while the litter was lowered and then retrieved. The entire pickup operation was accomplished in six minutes. Attitude reference was afforded by reflection of the aircraft flood lights off the water while position could be maintained only from hoist operation instruction since no part of the boat was visible to the pilot or co-pilot. Cooperation from the cover aircraft and boat crew was excellent. The wounded man was treated for shock and his wounds were dressed enroute to the hospital. Bleeding was controlled. The 45 mile flight to Dong Tam hospital was completed at 1230Z, 10 Mar 68 where the patient was released to the hospital care. Termination landing at Binh Thuy accomplished at 1310Z. Two sorties for 1+40 hours flown by Det 10, 38th ARRS. One combat save.

3. The name of the survivor was: J.C. Kline, GMG 2, River Section 535 RVN.

4. Crewmembers of Pedro:

Pedro 39

RCC Maj James F. Okonek
RCCP Capt Leslie E. Johnson
FE Sgt Archelaus Whitehead
RS A1C Larry D. Nicholson

James F. Okonek
JAMES F. OKONEK, Major, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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