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FROM: Det 7, 38th ARRS (Capt George R. Andrews, 6541)

13 March 1968

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (7-38-4, 12 March 1968)

TO: Det Cmdr Det 7, 38th ARRS *WC*

3 JSARC

IN TURN

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CUB/04

1. (U) This report is submitted IAW ARRS 55-2/3rd ARRG Sup 1, dtd 15 Jun 67.

2. (C) One combat save, one USN accredited to ARRS. Pedro 69 was scrambled at 1330 L to intercept a Navy F-8, Firefighter 208, and to search for 207, his wingman, who had ejected a short time before. Firefighter 208 and 207 hit the top of the mountain at Son Tra, RVN. 208 managed to bring his damaged aircraft under control and subsequently landed at DaNang AB, with the aid of an AF 102 which was scrambled to aid in determining airspeeds on the Navy F-8. The F-8 apparently had lost all airspeed indication after its mishap. After determining that 208 was safely landed Pedro 69 returned the FSK to the alert pad and refueled. Pedro 93 was also scrambled at 1400L. Pedro 69 and Pedro 93 proceeded to the target area of 5NM NNE of DaNang AB. The ceiling in the area of Son Tra RVN was approximately 200 feet. Due to the limited visibility Pedro 69 and Pedro 93 stayed close to the surface of the water and followed the shoreline in an effort to determine an accurate fix on the downed pilot. With the aid of Covey aircraft voice contact was made with "Firefighter 207". The approximate position of the pilot was determined. A ground party of Marines, which had been spotted earlier in the search, was picked up from the beach and flown to an area below the downed pilot. The paramedic crew member and the Marine party departed the helicopter and started up the slope toward the approximate position of the pilot. By maintaining visual reference with the tree tops Pedro 69 then moved slowly up the slope of the mountain. The downed pilot heard the helicopter in the distance and by voice contact steered the helicopter to his position by sound. When Pedro 69 was within about 200 feet of the downed pilot he ignited his night flare which was spotted by the helicopter crew. The tree tops in the area of the downed pilot were approximately 100 feet. The visibility was approximately 75 feet. Pedro 69 maneuvered into position over the downed pilot. The forest penetrator was lowered. The pilot secured himself and was raised into the helicopter. When the downed pilot was secure in the helicopter cabin a descent was initiated. An effort was made to keep visual reference with the tree tops. During the descent the tail section of the helicopter contacted a tree top and was damaged. The flying characteristics of the aircraft were normal so the aircraft was returned to DaNang. Pedro 69 landed at DaNang AB at 1525L. The rescued pilot appeared to be in good physical condition.

3. (C) The name of the survivor was: Jerry A. Weber, 694699 Lt JG USS Homme Richard.

4. (U) Crewmembers of Pedro:

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON *31 OCT 81*

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RCC	Capt George R. Andrews
RCCP	Capt Richard A. Mayer
FE	SSgt Daniel M. Palmer
RS	SSgt Elbert E. Hillhouse
RS	Sgt Steve M. Northern

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 5 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

George R. Andrews
GEORGE R. ANDREWS, Capt USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

69 was credited with one non-combat save.

5. Mission 7-38-4, 12 March 1968. Pedro 69 was scrambled by tower on a crashed F-8 three miles out on the 035 degree radial of channel 94. The crew of Pedro 69 hovered up the side of the mountain because of poor visibility. By following the radio signal and verbal directions of the downed pilot, Lt J.G. Jerry Weber 694699, was rescued and one combat save recorded.

6. Detachment 7 activities for period 30 January - 29 February 1968: On 29 January, just prior to the start of the so-called "Tet Truce", allied military bases near the DMZ, in the extreme Northern I Corps area, came under intense enemy rocket, mortar, and ground attack. Casualties were mounting very quickly, and personnel of Det 4, 903rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, based at DaNang Air Base, were deployed on reconfigured C-130 and C-123 aircraft to the several bases under attack. Normally, Detachment 7 HH-43's carry approximately fifty critical litter patients each month, receiving these patients primarily from the 903rd AES aircraft. The "Pedro" alert crew was notified that their services would be needed. The Detachment was alerted to the fact that heavy patient loads were expected. Therefore, both HH-43's were immediately reconfigured for the medical evacuation task. The first load, though light with just five litters, was brought in late that evening. The Northern bases were under such intense attack that no other aircraft could get in to continue evacuation that night. Pedro Operations was advised to expect the real work to begin the next day.