

FROM: 38RCC

13 Mar 68

SUBJ: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-18, 12 Mar 68)

TO: 10-38C *RLS*
38C *RLS*
3rd ARRGp (JSARC) *J*
IN TURN

26A

sub 125
4/25

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

2. At 0430Z (1230L) 12 Mar 68 Det 10 was requested by 3rd Gp JSARC to pickup a critically injured Vietnamese Seaman from the USCG cutter Winona. The cutter was operating in the Gulf of Siam 115 miles SW of Binh Thuy AB RVN. As we had only one Pedro operational and it was without UHF and ADF plans were made for JSARC to arrange for an escort which would rendezvous with Pedro at Ca Mau. The cutter was located 40 miles at sea and 60 miles from Ca Mau, the nearest semi secure area. The escort was to locate the cutter and guide Pedro in. The limited endurance of Pedro would not allow for any search at the scene. Pedro 39 departed Binh Thuy at 0450Z and arrived over Ca Mau at 0530. FM contact with the cutter was established. He reported the weather as 5000 foot broken with 8 miles visibility, wind 090 deg at 20 knots. His position was now 35 miles from Ca Mau and 15 miles from the Vietnamese coast. The patient was in critical condition with internal injuries and hemorrhaging. The request for an escort was cancelled and Pedro 39 landed at Ca Mau at 0550Z to refuel. At 0555Z Pedro departed Ca Mau for the cutter and the pickup. Visual contact ^{was made} with the cutter at 0615Z and a stokes litter was lowered to the fantail utilizing the hoist. At 0628Z the man ^{was} ready for pickup and was hoisted aboard. The pickup was complicated by failure of the hoist operators hot mic system and the nearness of obstruction on the extremely small fantail deck. However the man was brought aboard without incident. The nearest hospital was 60 miles north at Rach Gia; with only the open sea and unpenetrated jungle in between. The paramedic advised he was giving the patient a I.V. and that he had extreme chest and abdominal pain and apparent extensive internal hemorrhaging. The vast rice fields of the delta were being burned off at this time and the easterly winds carried the smoke toward the Vietnamese west coast and Pedro's route. As the coast line was reached in order to maintain adequate terrain clearance because of hostile ground fire a climb to on-top conditions was attempted. No radar coverage could be obtained, Play Boy's set was bent. A on-top condition at 6000 feet was maintained for a short while when addition build ups were encountered. The weather condition at Rach Gia could not be determined. ^{After} dead reckoning to midway enroute a let down in the blind was initiated. Pedro broke clear at 1000 feet on course and further on was able to maintain VFR conditions at 2500 feet. Landing accomplished at Rach Gia at 0745Z where the patient was released to the Vietnamese Naval Hospital. After refueling Pedro proceeded to Binh Thuy

Atch 11

terminating at 0840Z. No ground fire encountered during the mission. Two sorties for 3+40 flown by the Det 10, 38th ARRS HH-43F. One non combat save.

3. The name of the survivor was: Phan Xuan, Seaman, Vietnamese Navy.
4. Crewmembers of Pedro:

Pedro 39

RCC	Maj James F. Okonek
RCCP	Capt Albert E. Tollefsen ✓
FE	A1C Harold D. Cooper
RS	A1C Lonnie N. Davidson

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