

FROM: 380

2 Mar 68

SUBJ: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-10, 1 Mar 68)

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

(29)

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CUB/25
4/25

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

2. On 1 Mar 68 at 1325Z, Det 10, 38th ARRSq, was notified by Navy Operations, Binh Thuy, that a River Patrol Boat (PER) had taken a hit down river and was proceeding to the town of Tra On for a Pedro pickup. Original notification indicated one seriously injured with a stomach wound. The Pedro crews scrambled from quarters and were airborne at 1340Z with Pedro 91 as primary aircraft and Pedro 39 as high cover. Pedro 91 rendezvoused with Seawolf 16, a flight of two USN UH-1B armed helicopters, who dropped a flare to mark an open field and provided cover as Pedro 91 descended for the pickup. Groundfire was observed in several areas around the town but none of it was directed towards the helicopter. The personnel from the PERs had transported the wounded to the open field and secured the area. Three patients, one of which had a vicerated intestine wound, were loaded into the helicopter. The other two had serious leg wounds as they could not walk under their own power. Pedro 91 had landed at 1355Z and was airborne at 1405Z enroute to Dong Tam, Pedro 39 returned to Binh Thuy AB and landed at 1420Z. Due to the extremely dark night land navigation was impossible and Pedro 91 had to rely on Paddy Control (radar) for steers to Dong Tam. Enroute the pararescue technician administered medical aid to the wounded and gave the sailor with the vicerated intestine an intravenous injection. Pedro 91 landed at Dong Tam at 1435Z, offloaded the patients and proceeded to the refueling area. An unusual delay was encountered due to the Pedro crew not being familiar with the night time operations at Dong Tam along with the lack of a control tower during hours of darkness. Finally a "Dustoff" helicopter crew started the refueling mechanism and Pedro was able to refuel and return to Binh Thuy at 1555Z. Weather enroute was CAVOK with haze at altitude. FM radio was used exclusively for coordination between Seawolf and Handlash Bravo. Inspection of the aircraft on the following day revealed battle damage to the left set of blades. It was undetermined whether the damage was caused by ground fire or by picking something up in the blades.

3. The names of the survivors were: Berry, J. A., E-3, 511 River Section CTF 116; Godbehare, R. G., Lt, 511 River Section CTF 116; Sherman, H. W., E-3, 511 River Section CTF 116.

Atch 7

4. Crewmembers of Pedros:

Pedro 91 (Low)

RCC Capt Laurence W. Conover ✓
RCCP Capt Leslie E. Johnson
FE Sgt Archelaus Whitehead
RS ALC Larry D. Nicholson

Pedro 39 (High)

RCC Capt Thomas D. Precious
RCCP Capt Albert E. Tollefsen ✓
FE ALC Harold D. Cooper
RS ALC Lonnie N. Davidson

Laurence W. Conover
LAURENCE W. CONOVER, Capt., USAF
Rescue Crew Commander