

OPERATIONSMISSIONS

	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
Local Base Rescue Sorties:	80	104	77	255
Hours Flown:	15.1	19.4	17.3	51.8
Aircrew Recovery Sorties:	8	4	0	12
Hours Flown:	9.1	4.3	0	13.4
Support Sorties:	30	40	31	101
Hours Flown:	19.0	22.6	24.0	65.6
Personnel Rescued:	0	0	0	0
Combat Losses:	0	0	0	0

Although twelve Aircrew Recovery sorties were flown, Detachment 6 participated in only three rescue missions in this category. A description of these missions follows.

Mission 6-38-12-17 Apr 68

On 17 April the Joint Search and Rescue Center notified this unit at 1355 hours that a USAF A-37 had gone down in the jungle near Song Be, approximately sixty miles north of Bien Hoa. The cause was believed to be hostile ground fire. Pedro 95 and 97 launched at 1405 hours and arrived over the crash site fifty minutes later. Upon arrival it was learned from the Forward Air Controller (FAC) that a parachute had been spotted near the aircraft wreckage and an Army helicopter had placed a man on the ground to explore and

search the area surrounding the parachute. He had reported negative results. Pedro 95 then lowered a pararescueman to search in and around the aircraft. Radio contact was maintained with the pararescueman who reported the jungle to be extremely dense and movement very difficult. An Army helicopter in the immediate area then reported receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from a nearby location. It was decided to withdraw the pararescueman until a time when the hostile fire could be suppressed. Other aircraft joined the search which continued until dusk. Both Pedro aircraft were forced to depart the search area due to low fuel and impending weather. Enroute to Bien Hoa heavy thunderstorms were encountered which could not be circumnavigated. The flight turned north once again in an effort to reach Song Be Airfield, which had closed with the coming of darkness, but was the only available and secure landing location. Upon arrival at the airfield, the aircraft were secured within the perimeter of an Army outpost and the crews remained sheltered in bunkers with an Artillery Company. In the morning, fuel was obtained and both helicopters proceeded to the crash site. A FAC and Crown aircraft were overhead and stated a beeper was still active in the parachute and one voice contact had been established, however it could not be authenticated and was believed to be Vietnamese. As the Pedro aircraft could be of no further assistance, both returned to Bien Hoa Air Base.

CREWMEMBERS

PEDRO 95

Major Price S. Summerhill	RCC
Capt Jon C. Long	RCP
SSgt James B. Reed	FE
Sgt Charles F. Salome	PJ

PEDRO 97

Capt Charles W. Burrridge	RCC
Capt Paul E. Stone	RCP
AlC Glen N. Chafey	FE
Sgt Roland C. Schmidt	PJ

Mission 6-38-13-23 May 68

At 1640 hours on 23 May the alert aircraft launched in response to notification that an O-1 aircraft had crashed four miles northwest of Bien Hoa. A large column of smoke was visible immediately and the crash site was easily located. The rescue helicopter arrived on the scene within minutes and it was noted that the aircraft had impacted next to a road in the midst of a small village. The aircraft was still burning intensely when the fire suppression kit was released a few yards away in the center of the road. Small arms ammunition and smoke rockets in the wreckage were exploding due to the intense heat of the fire. Cautiously, the two fireman moved into the blaze and quickly brought it under control. Although a few rounds of ammunition were still igniting, the para-rescueman probed into the smoldering aircraft in search of the