

Det 10, 38 ARRSq History, Apr - Jun 68

15

MISSION NARRATIVE: Det 10, 38th ARRSq, Mission 10-38-31, 12 May 68

Three combat saves - 3 USN. Light ground fire. At 1135Z 12 May 68 this unit was notified by Navy Operations Binh Thuy that a swift boat had been hit by recoilless rifle off the South China Coast. Four personnel had been wounded, one critically, and they were being transferred to a LST (landing ship, tanker). Pedro 91 and 39 (HH-43F's) launched at 1150Z and 1200Z respectively. Both crews scrambled from their quarters and Pedro 39's crew was delayed due to the breakdown of their vehicle. Both Pedro's refueled at Soc Trang (1220Z and 1230Z) and then headed south along the coast. At Bac Lieu FM radio contact was made with the LST, call sign "Scrappy Jaguar Whiskey", and they gave their latest position. Pedro located the ship with the aid of the LST's searchlight and a flare. Their position was estimated to be 9 NM NE of their last known position. Pedro 91 landed on the deck at 1320Z and picked up the litter patient who had a critical wound in the shoulder, shrapnel wounds in the arm and 2nd degree burns on the back. The PJ administered an intravenous injection and treated for shock. To allow room in the helicopter cabin for the PJ and FE to work on the patient Pedro 91 called Pedro 39 in (1325Z) to pickup the two ambulatory patients; one with a bullet hole in his side and both with numerous shrapnel wounds. Both aircraft refueled at Soc Trang and offloaded the patients at Dong Tam (1505Z and 1510Z). On the last leg Pedro 91 crewmembers observed tracers aimed in their direction but because of their altitude the tracers were falling off short. The weather was 5CU25 around Binh Thuy and then cleared up until the coast line was reached. Along the coast clouds were building up but once out to sea the sky cleared up. Winds were light out of the NE. The LST FM radio transmitter was broken up. Pedro 91 almost went past the ship because of the wrong coordinates supplied by the LST, however, the searchlight was spotted at the 9 oclock position and an aerial flare verified the ship's location.

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

Pedro 91

RCC Capt Laurence W. Conover
RCCP Capt Leslie E. Johnson
FE SSgt Gerald H. Jones
RS Sgt Lonnie G. Conner

Pedro 39

RCC Capt Thomas D. Precious
RCCP Capt Albert E. Tollefsen
FE Sgt Archelaus Whitehead
RS ALC John C. Wilkins

Supporting Document #3