

(1) At 0908Z, 19 Jul 68, Nha Trang Tower notified Detachment 12 of a downed O-1G southwest of Nha Trang. Pedro 20 launched at 0910Z (mission Number 12-38-08). Crew members aboard Pedro 20 were: Captain Melroy Borland, Rescue Crew Commander; Major Bruce C. Bowden, Rescue Crew Co-Pilot; A1C Timothy M. Reynolds, Pararescue Specialist; SSgt Huel W. Wilson and Sgt James R. Pospichel, Airborne Firefighters. Radio contact was made with the downed pilot and his position was located approximately five miles southwest of Nha Trang. The survivor reported light ground fire and a larger enemy force was engaged in battle with friendly ground forces approximately 500 yards from the survivor's position. Capt Borland elected to make an immediate pick-up. The survivor provided smoke upon request and hoist operator, A1C Reynolds, extracted the survivor, in good condition, from the jungle at 0920Z. The mission was terminated at 0930Z. The recovered pilot, Capt Allan R. Zaiser, was met at the Pedro pad by other members of his unit, 21st TASS.

(2) On 2 Sep 68 at 0745Z, Pedro Operations received a call from Installation Defense Command requesting medical evacuation of two seriously ill (suspected malaria) ARVN soldiers. Mission 12-38-09 was opened and Pedro 20 departed for the designated location. Crew members were: Captain Cortland D. Field, Rescue Crew Commander; 1st Lt Willis J. Thayer, Rescue Crew Co-Pilot; A1C Timothy M. Reynolds, Pararescue Specialist; Sgt William Grimes, Flight Engineer. The ill soldiers and ground party were

FROM: Det 12, 38 ARRS

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21 Jul 68

SUBJECT: Rescue Narrative Report

TO: 3ARRGp

1. Subject report is submitted IAW 3ARRGp Sup 1 to ARRSM 55-2, 15 Apr 68 as follows:

a. Notification was by the Nha Trang tower at 0908Z, 19 Jul 68; launch of Pedro 20 was at 0910Z.

b. Pedro 20 scrambled in a general direction provided by the tower, and was able to contact the downed pilot (call sign Walt 31) on his survival radio when sufficient altitude was reached. The pilot mistook a Huey for Pedro and apparently gave us an erroneous heading to his position. However, by requesting him to use his beeper, we obtained a quick correction to his location using our ADF equipment. When asked about ground fire, the pilot indicated that he had heard a few shots. Pedro 20 was well aware of a large active battle in progress just below the pilot's position, and elected to make an immediate pick-up before the enemy forces could move into position. Location was on the side of a mountain in dense jungle growth. When Pedro 20 was reported to be directly overhead, smoke was requested and Pedro went into a descending left orbit for a tactical pick-up. The smoke was spotted immediately and the helicopter was quickly brought to a hover.

c. Weather and visibility were clear.

d. Cooperation and coordination with the tower and downed pilot as excellent. Gunships did not get airborne until the pick-up had been made and Pedro was returning to home base.

e. Guard channel was used exclusively, and I feel that because this was such a quick extraction with only three parties involved, radio discipline was excellent. Crew interphone discipline was likewise excellent.

f. Pedro 20 arrived and commenced extraction at 0920Z. Location was approximately five miles SW of Nha Trang AB, RVN (12°10' N, 109°09' E).

g. The course taken into the area was above a known battle. The best exit route was not used to avoid battle area. This necessitated a climb over a ridge line with the survivor still dangling below the helicopter. Enemy fire in the area was afterwards reported by the survivor to be heavy. No tracers were seen and the chopper took no hits.

h. The downed pilot remained calm and followed instructions instantly. He was not injured, although it now appears that he banged his knees in the course of crash landing his O-1G (#51-12555).

i. The forest penetrator was used for the extraction. Terrain was very steep with tree height approximately 100 feet. Maximum power was required to hover. One pilot, Capt Allan R. Zaiser, FR79007, was recovered in good condition.

j. Departure from the pick-up area was estimated to be 0923Z.

k. The mission terminated at 0930Z.

l. There was no damage to Pedro 20.

m. All equipment functioned properly.

n. N/A

o. None.

p. Additional information:

(1) Crew consisted of:

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RCC Capt Melroy Borland
RCP Maj Bruce C. Bowden
RS A1C Timothy M. Reynolds (hoist operator)
RS SSgt Huel W. Wilson
RS Sgt James R. Pospichel

(2) The O-1 was probably downed by ground fire and was not located until the pilot was spotted nearby.

2. The success of this mission was due to a number of pertinent factors which I feel are worth emphasizing. The recovery crew was able to clearly and quickly analyze the situation and effect prompt, correct decisions which permitted the extraction to commence within ten minutes of launch time. This mission was classic recovery in that everything functioned properly: the downed pilot's survival radio, the ADF/DF equipment, orange smoke, and the hoist operation with the forest penetrator. Also, this is a testimony to the training program in effect at this detachment. It just so happened that that very morning the same crew had been scheduled to practice tactical pick-ups in our rice paddy training area. The actual extraction sounded and went as if it were right out of the book.

Excellent!!

Melroy Borland
MELROY BORLAND, Captain, USAF
RCC

and only
28 minutes