

Det 9, 38ARRSq Hist, Jul - Sep 68

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS

MISSIONS

During the reporting period, Detachment 9 flew 328 sorties of which 84 were in support of aircraft or personnel in distress. There were 137 base support sorties, and 105 training sorties. The remaining 12 sorties were functional check flights. Of the rescue sorties, 53 were local base rescue scrambles and 31 were aircrew recovery missions. While most of these were quite routine, several are worthy of mention.

THE DROWNING VICTIMS

At 0945Z 20 Jul 68, the detachment was notified that two Vietnamese boys had disappeared while swimming in a lake one mile southwest of the base. Pedro 98 (HH-43F serial number 63-9717) crewed by 1Lt Warren F. Kaufman, Crew Commander, Capt Jerald D. Briscoe, Copilot and Sgt Roger E. Lawson, Flight Engineer, responded, dropping three pararescue specialists (Sgt Luther T. Jones, ALC Nicholas Gala, Jr, and ALC David M. Thompson) and one assistant (TSgt Donald W. Gooding) at the scene. Meanwhile, Maj Robert A. Bunton proceeded to the scene by jeep. After approximately 10 minutes of underwater searching, using scuba gear, Airman Thompson recovered the two bodies. After turning the bodies over to the Vietnamese authorities, the rescue team returned to base by jeep.