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FROM: Detachment 7, 38th ARRSq

3 JUL 68

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (Msn # 7-38-07 3 JUL 68)

TO: 38C

3rd ARRGp

IN TURN

1. This report is submitted iaw ARRSM 55-2 and 3rd ARRGp Sup 1.
2. Narrative: At 1120 Local (0320 GMT) 3 July 68, 366th Explosive Ordnance Disposal called Det 7, requesting assistance in extracting an ARVN soldier who had entered a nearby minefield and was injured. EOD was attempting to clear a path to the victim, but this was too slow, dangerous, and the man's injuries were apparently severe. We accepted the mission, and an EOD NCO was dispatched to Det 7 Operations where the best method of extraction was discussed prior to takeoff. Both the PJ and the EOD NCO volunteered to ride the hoist down to make a pickup, but we decided to use this method only as a last resort. The alert helicopter took off at 1130L and flew directly to the accident scene, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north and slightly off to the side of runway 17R. We landed nearby to coordinate procedures. The victim, who was conscious, rational, and apparently not in deep shock, advised us he could ride the penetrator up the hoist. He was briefed on its use and our intentions. The NCOIC of the EOD team on the scene advised us that it would be necessary to hover at 100 feet to prevent rotor wash from detonating the extremely sensitive mines. We took off, established a 100 foot precision hover; the penetrator was lowered; the survivor climbed on and was lifted approximately twenty yards to the edge of the minefield where he was lowered to a waiting ARVN medical team. "Pedro" then returned to the field, terminating the mission at 1154L. Three sorties flown; 24 minutes. There were no problems of any kind. Weather was clear, wind calm. There were no hostilities in the area. All equipment functioned properly. The only communication was with the tower who cleared us to operate in the approach zone. A SAVE is claimed. The survivor had suffered a foot blown off and was bleeding profusely. Had rescue been delayed until EOD was able to clear a path, he probably would have bled to death.

3. Name of the survivor is unavailable.

4. Crew making the save:

Capt J. V. Leech, RCC, Det 7, 38th ARRS

Capt D. J. Jogerst, First Pilot, Det 7, 38th ARRS

Sgt W. P. Owens, FE, Det 7, 38th ARRS

Sgt R. D. Baker, Pararescueman, 37th ARRS

Classified by
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 84
Sgt Owens was the hoist operator.

Joseph V. Leech
JOSEPH V. LEECH, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year
intervals. Declassified
after 12 years

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miles from the end of the landing strip at Katum, a U.S. Army Special Forces camp 60 miles northwest of Saigon. After delivering a new tire to another C-130 immobilized with a flat at Katum, the Task Force Alpha plane had just taken off and was climbing for altitude. Suddenly a burst of 50-caliber machine gun fire erupted from the jungle below and ripped into the left wing. The left outboard engine burst into flames.

Aircraft commander 1st Lt. Fletcher A. Hatch, Weston, Mass., and loadmaster A1C Jerry T. Willard, Live Oak, Fla., spotted the fire as it began spreading along the wing. Lieutenant Hatch and copilot 1st Lt. Lee B. Blaser, Wichita, Kan., attempted to smother the flames by shutting down the engine and discharging the fire extinguish-

(Continued On Back Page)

Psywar Pilot Relates Experiences in Vietnam

DA NANG—"We know that you are trying to evacuate your sick and wounded. You know that you do not have the medical facilities to help these people.

"Why not save your life, and at the same time, get the care that your people really need. You can do this by rallying to the Government of Vietnam. Now is the time to start a fresh, happy life with the GVN," announced the voice in Vietnamese.

So went the message, one of many which Capt. Thomas F. Cartwright, Banning, Calif., broadcasts every day from his aircraft as he flies low over the jungles of I Corps, a mountainous area in the northernmost part of South Vietnam.

His objective, with the aid of a tape recorder and loudspeaker, is to communicate with the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops hidden below. For maximum effectiveness, Captain Cartwright frequently has to subject himself and his aircraft to enemy ground fire.

Since his arrival in Vietnam

AIR FORCE CROSS—Maj. Robert S. Beale is congratulated by Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Air Force vice chief of staff, after the general presented him with the nation's second highest award—the Air Force Cross.

(U.S. Air Force Photo)

Medal Winning Sgt. Seeks Unsung Hero

NHA TRANG — War has a way of making heroes and also of hiding them. The story of an airman who risked his life to save a combat aircraft came to light recently at an awards ceremony for another airman of the 14th Air Commando Wing at Nha Trang AB.

SSgt. Delton A. Bowman, Au-

rora, Colo., was presented the Bronze Star medal with "V" device for heroism by Lt. Col. Samuel E. Blessing, Alexandria, Va., 4th Air Commando Squadron commander.

For Sergeant Bowman, however, something was missing at the ceremony, and he told why.

On Nov. 26, 1967, enemy mortars shelled Nha Trang AB and set a fire adjacent to the AC-47 Dragonships of the 4th ACS.

The NCO was on night duty as a flight chief for his squadron. When the fire started to endanger the Dragonships, he left the safety of his bunker and ran through the fires and smoke to do what he could to move the aircraft.

He took it upon himself to taxi (Continued On Back Page)

Chopper Crew Rescues ARVN Soldier

DA NANG—An Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldier, who inadvertently strayed into a mine field near Da Nang AB, was rescued from the grips of death recently by an HH-43 Huskie helicopter crew from Detachment 7, 38th Aerospace Recovery and Rescue Squadron at Da Nang.

The air crew commander, Capt. Joseph V. Leech, Waterford, Pa., was assisted in the daring rescue by Capt. David J. Jogerst, Cuba City, Wis., pilot, and Sgt. William P. Owens, Sacramento, Calif., flight engineer.

"We were called upon to assist the base Explosive Ordnance Disposal team in rescuing a South Vietnamese soldier who

had wandered into a mine field, stepped on a mine and had a foot blown off," said Captain Leech. "It was a matter of time since the man could possibly bleed to death before the EOD men could reach him. It was also risky for them.

"As we approached the scene," he continued, "we were waved away the first time and warned that the rotor wash from our helicopter could possibly detonate other mines in the area. This is when we decided to hover at 100 feet and make the pickup."

"This mission was a trifle different from the normal mission which mostly involves aircraft crashes and downed pilots," said Captain Jogerst.

Dear, saved many concentrations of heavy anti-aircraft artillery fire and . . . surface-to-air missiles as he successfully led his . . . flight in diverting the hostile defenses away from the main strike force.

"He contributed to the destruction of one missile site only three miles from the center of the heavily defended target area and damaged at least one other missile complex.

"As a result of his actions, the main strike force suffered no losses . . . and successfully destroyed this vital military target."

Major Beale was presented the award by Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Air

AF Seeks Instructors

RANDOLPH AFB, Tex. (AFNS) — Men in grades sergeant through technical sergeant are being sought to fill military training instructor positions at Air Training Command's Lackland AFB, Tex.

Applicants must possess a high school diploma and have been rated in the top 40 per cent on their last three airman performance reports.

Selected airmen will be assigned to a three-year stabilized tour of duty with an option for a one-year extension.

Full criteria and application procedures may be obtained at local Personnel offices.

Eligibility Requirements Change for E-8 Stripe

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—Master Sergeants with a date of rank of Dec. 1, 1967, or earlier, will meet the time-in-grade requirements for promotion consideration to senior master

sergeant during the 1969 promotion cycle.

The change, among several in airman promotion eligibility requirements to be announced this month, was transmitted to all major commands this week to allow maximum number of master sergeants to make themselves eligible for promotion consideration.

Particularly affected are those masters who have not qualified on the Air Force Supervisory Examination. To assist those who are otherwise eligible and who normally would be tested, or retested in the September testing period, an off-schedule testing period has been authorized this month.

This will provide airmen with the opportunity to achieve a qualifying score by Aug. 20, cut-off date for the 1969 promotion cycle.

Master sergeants tested off schedule who fail the supervisory examination may be retested in December, next scheduled testing period.

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS

MISSIONS

1. 7-38-07, 3 Jul 68. The alert crew was notified at approximately 1125 that an ARVN soldier had wandered into a mine field and was subsequently injured when a mine detonated. Pedro crew scrambled with an EOD representative. As rotor wash was considered sufficient to detonate other mines in the area, a hundred foot hover was established and the forest penetrator lowered. The ARVN soldier was conscious and able to board the rescue device without assistance. His right foot had been blown off in the ordeal. One combat save was recorded.
2. 1-3-66, 4 Jul 68, Pedro scrambled on an F-100 with battle damage. Shortly after the aircraft had stopped and shut down on the runway a fire was noted in the aft fuselage. The aircrew firefighters were deployed and the fire extinguished using the FSK. One equipment save was recorded.
3. 1-3-075-8205. The Pedro crew was notified by OL-1 that an Army CH-46 was down three miles out in Danang harbor. Crew located the aircraft in the water proceeding under its own limited power toward Red Beach. The Pedro crew covered the CH-46's progress until it reached the beach and shut down. The CH-46 crew was then flown to the hospital ship Repose for examination. Three non-combat saves were recorded.