

FROM: RCC

11 January 1969

SUBJ: Mission Narrative Report (1C-38-005-9010)

TO: 1C-38C

38C

3rd ARRGp (JSARC) ✓

IN TURN

1. This report is submitted IAW ARRM 55-2, 3rd ARRGp Sup 1, 11 Jul 68.
2. At 2101L, 10 Jan 69, Pedro Operations at Binh Thuy AB, RVN, was notified by Navy Binh Thuy, that one of their Patrol River Boats (PBR) had been sunk and another one was dead in the water at coordinates WS203065 which was east of Rach Gia and Northeast of Rach Soi. The PBR unit had one MIA with shrapnel wounds in the right ankle and upper right leg and required immediate medical attention. Pedro 39 launched at 2104L enroute to designated coordinates. Pedro aircraft arrived over pickup point at 2135L and began SAR efforts to locate the PBR unit. Pedro was in radio contact with Primary and Decede Papa on Fox Mike, and with Seawolf 72, a Navy Gunship that was flying escort during pickup and SAR efforts, on JIF. The pickup area had been hostile prior to Pedro's arrival, and the PBR unit had been ambushed about 300 yards down the canal from the pickup point. The PBR unit used a flashing Strobe Light to direct Pedro to their position. Pedro 39 did a spiraling descent down to the canal to begin pickup at 2140L. Since the PBR was adrift on the canal, the pickup was made difficult because the downwash from the rotor blades blew the boat from side to side of the canal. Seawolf 72 informed Pedro 39 that there was a small bridge and an outpost about 400 yards down the canal from which a landing pickup might be possible. Pedro 39 located this area and made an approach to the south end of the bridge, but due to several high barbed wire fences and suspected mine fields, Pedro could not land. Heavy foliage on the other side of the canal prevented Pedro from landing there. Pedro then contacted "Primary" to relay to the PBR to have them beach the boat somewhere along the canal to attempt another pickup. The PBR was beached and Pedro went in again to make the pickup. The pickup area was surrounded by several high trees; therefore, a night stokes litter (hoist) pickup was attempted. Winds during pickup were quite strong which caused the litter to be blown back and forth, thus increasing hover time and making pickup more difficult. After approximately 10-15 minutes of hovering, the pickup was successfully accomplished, and Pedro 39 departed the area at 2205L. While enroute to the 29th Medical Hospital, Pedro was diverted around an artillery operation just west of Binh Thuy. Pedro 39 arrived at the 29th Hospital at 2240L and offloaded the one MIA. Departed 29th at 2245L for termination at Binh Thuy at 2250L. Negative ground fire was encountered to and from pickup area. One tortie, 1.7 hours flying time, one combat save.

3. The survivor's name is: Francis Fleming, E-5, River Div. 514.

4. Crewmembers of Pedro 39:

RCC Maj Ralph L Gaede
RCCP Capt Cecil A Jessee
FE MSgt John G Regan
RS Sgt Lonnie G Conner



RALPH L GAEDE, Maj, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander