

1969

FROM: RCC

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-011-9020)

11 JAN 1969

TO: 10-38C  
38C  
3rd ARRGp (JSARC) *JSARC*  
615 TAC Fighter Squadron (Phang Rang)  
IN TURN

*EM*

*6/31*

1. This report is submitted IAW ARRSM 55-2 3rd ARRGp Sup 1, 11 Jul 68.
2. At 1408 Binh Thuy Tower notified Pedro Operations of an F-100, <sup>*Bobcat*</sup> ~~Buzzard~~ 11, bailout at WS 950 270. Pedro 39 launched at 1410L. Pedro 39 contacted Buzzard 12, who was circling the downed pilot. Pedro 39 had visual contact with the circling F-100 and flew direct to the downed pilot's position. Pedro 39 arrived in pick up area at 1415L. Radio contact was made with the downed airman and he started to vector 39 in over his position. As soon as Pedro 39 arrived within  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the pilots position intense ground fire erupted. Pedro 39 was flying at about 100 to 200 feet trying to make visual contact with the downed pilot. On the second vectoring approach the pilots position was spotted by a reflection of sunlight off the pilot's survival radio antenna. The pilot was hidden in the edge of a high rice paddy near a small canal. Pedro 39 hovered over the pilot settling slightly in the canal. Although the aircraft was taking ground fire and hits, Pedro 39 hovered until the PJ and FE physically pulled the pilot on board. Once on board Pedro 39 departed the area for Binh Thuy. Pedro 39 Terminated at Binh Thuy at 1425L. The survivor was in good physical shape. Pedro 39 took a total of 5 hits. One combat save. One sortie and 0.3 hours flying time.
3. The name of the survivor was:  
  
James D. Thames 1/Lt  
615 TAC F.S. Phang Rang
4. Crewmembers of Pedro 39:  
  
RCC - Maj Ralph L Gaede  
RCCP - Capt Jack D. Cusano  
PJ A1C Richard C. Stiefken  
FE SSgt Gerald H. Jones

  
RALPH L GAEDE, MAJ, USAF  
Rescue Crew Commander