

FROM: RCC

12 JAN 1969

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-012-9020)

TO: 10-38C

38C

3rd ARRGp (JSARC)

IN TURN

1. This report is submitted IAW ARRSM 55-2, 3rd ARRGp, Sup 1, 11 Jul 68.

2. At 2220L Binh Thuy Operations called Pedro Operations and requested pickup of several wounded Naval Personnel. Pedro 39 launched at 2230L for coordinates, WS 790 740. Enroute weather was 2000 feet scattered with 5 miles visibility and light haze. Pedro 39 arrived at pickup site at 2315L. Two Seawolfs and one Spooky Aircraft were suppressing ground fire around the rescue location. Pedro 39 made a tactical approach to the site observing light ground fire during the approach. Pedro 39 landed and the PJ and Flight Engineer were deployed to care to the wounded before loading. After administering much needed medical attention the wounded were litter loaded on board. There were three litters and one ambulatory. One was critically wounded, two were in serious condition with multiple shrapnel wounds. The fourth man had minor leg wounds. Pedro 39 departed the area at 2325L enroute to Binh Thuy. While enroute the PJ with the assistance of the Flight Engineer continued to sustain life to the critically and seriously wounded. Pedro 39 arrived at the 29th Army Field Hospital at 2350L, offloading the wounded to the awaiting Medical Team. Pedro 39 then departed the 29th for termination at Binh Thuy. However, at this time, "Redrose", Navy Operations contacted Pedro 39 and asked if they could land again for the same coordinates to pickup three more wounded. Pedro 39 informed "Redrose" that they would have to land at Binh Thuy for fuel then launch for the rescue site. Pedro 39 landed at Binh Thuy at 2355L for fuel. Pedro 39 refueled and launched again at 2400L for coordinates WS 790 740. Enroute weather was the same as previously mentioned, however, due to artillery Pedro 39 had to fly a Zig-Zag course to the rescue site. Pedro 39 arrived at the location at 0035L. Still flying cover and suppressing ground fire were two Seawolfs and a Spooky Aircraft. Pedro 39 again made a tactical approach to the site and again picked up light ground fire. Pedro 39 landed and again deployed the PJ and Flight Engineer to aid the wounded. Two US Navy wounded were on loaded, one litter patient in a state of shock from a concussion and the other with leg wounds. At this time Pedro 39 was informed that one ARVN was wounded and was located about 100 yards away. Pedro 39 hovered over to the ARVN Ground Force and on-loaded the wounded. The ARVN had minor shrapnel wounds. Pedro 39 then departed the location at 0045L. Enroute the PJ with the Flight Engineer's assistance again administered medical attention to the wounded. Pedro 39 arrived at the 29th Army Field Hospital at 0110L and offloaded the wounded. Pedro 39 then departed the hospital and terminated at Binh Thuy at 0115L. Light ground fire was observed, but no hits were taken. Seven combat saves. Four sorties, 2.7 hours flying time.

3. The names of the survivors were:

Sanders, James L., E-7, 554 River Division

Childres, G.H., E-6, 554 River Division

The remaining survivors names could not be obtained due to Medical Evacuation from 29th Army Field Hospital.

4. Crew Members of Pedro 39 were:

RCC Maj Ralph C. Gaede

RCCP Capt Jack D. Cusano

FE SSgt Gerold H. Jones

PJ ALC Richard C. Stiefken



RALPH L. GAEDI, Major, USAF

Rescue Crew Commander