

Det 7, 38ARRS, Hist, Jan - Mar 1969

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CHAPTER III

MISSION/SAVES

1. Mission 7-38-008, 15 Jan 69. Pedro 93 was scrambled at 0918Z, 15 Jan 69 by DaNang Tower crash phone. A VNAF single seat fighter had reported 5 miles south with engine trouble. Prior to picking up the FSK Pedro heard the AIE wingman call that his buddy had "gone in". Pedro proceeded directly toward the reported position, and located survivor on the 130 degree radial at 10 miles on ch 77. This was 1 to 1½ miles offshore. The wingman and a Marine H-34 were circling the area. Pedro made an approach directly to the survivor and deployed the PJ. The VNAF pilot was having difficulty due to fact that he still was attached to his seat pack, still was in his parachute harness, and his LPU was improperly positioned up on his back which forced his face forward into the water. He had swallowed a lot of sea water and was in mild shock. The PJ cut the pilot loose from his parachute harness and seat and recovery was completed at 0942Z. The pilot was released to NSA hospital attendants at 0955Z. One VNAF aircrew/pilot-combat save was claimed.
2. Routine Intercept Mission, 1 Mar 69. Pedro 93 was scrambled at 1600L by the DaNang Tower crash phone on an inbound C-47 that had sustained battle damage. Just as Pedro lifted off with the FSK the C-47 reported 5 miles south with left engine shut down and on fire. The C-47 lost all braking on roll-out and Pedro followed as closely as possible so that as soon as the aircraft stopped the smoke and flames could be suppressed with rotor wash to allow for quick evacuation of the aircraft. Only seconds after rolling to a stop the crew was safety out and Pedro was requested to move out by the fire chief,