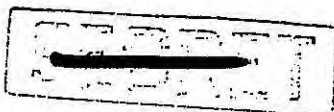


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507

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 7

12

## Mission Narrative Report (2-3-007-18 Jan 69)(U)

(S) At 0630Z on 18 January 1969 a SAR effort was initiated for Covey 285 and 264. Their aircraft (an O-2) had been shot down and both pilots had successfully parachuted into trees with only minor injuries. Their position was approximately 009/42 off channel 72 (XD 7405). The Jolly Greens from MKP (JG 16 and 20) were directed on the mission. The land line between Queen and Quang Tri was out, and, as it was nearing normal RTB time, the Quang Tri alert aircraft (JG 32 and 04) took off at 0900Z and remained on airborne alert off channel 109. JG 32 and 04 monitored the rescue effort and heard Crown 4 report that Jolly Green 16 had initiated a rescue attempt. JG 16 established a hover and lowered the hoist but was driven off by ground fire before the pickup could be made. JG 16's battle damage (reported airframe vibrations and control difficulties) forced his departure with JG 20 as escort. Queen advised JG 32 and 04 to hold at a point short of the area. JG 32 and 04 proceeded to the edge of the cloud layer (220/2-/109) and upon arrival were directed closer to 220/40/109. As the Jolly Greens approached this position they could see the smoke from airstrikes and were directed to hold over the ridge line short of the smoke. Sandy 19 was the On Scene Commander working Sandy 17, 20, and 22 and Spads 5, and 6. At 1025Z Sandy 19 determined the area was ready for a rescue attempt and escorted Jolly Green 32 into the area. JG 04 remained over the ridgeline as high bird. A smoke screen had been laid to the east and south of the survivor's position. Jolly Green 32 approached the area from the southeast and as it crossed the smoke turned west as directed by Sandy 19. JG 32 received and returned ground fire from directly below the aircraft but did not receive any hits. JG 32 continued on a westerly heading for approximately one mile before Covey 264 reported the Jolly Green was overhead. Jolly Green 32 initiated a tight 180° turn to return to Covey 264's position but in the turn Covey 285 reported Jolly Green 32 over his position and fired a pen gun flare. The pilot and Flight Engineer spotted Covey 285 and the JG was directed over his position. Ground fire could be heard but no hits were taken and the rescue effort continued. As the survivor was being hoisted aboard the flight engineer observed tracer bullets enter through the open rescue doorway and go out through the plexiglass on the aircraft's left side. When Covey 285 was aboard (1038Z) Covey 264 came up on the radio and advised that he was off at the helicopter's 11 o'clock position, a short distance away. Jolly Green 32 turned and was attempting to hover taxi toward the survivor's parachute when intense automatic weapons fire erupted from beneath. The boost pump failure warning lights for the aft tank illuminated. The aft fuel gauge indicated a rapid loss of fuel and the forward fuel by-pass caution light illuminated. Jolly Green 32 advised that it was taking ground fire and departed the area with directions from the RESCORT aircraft. The aft boost pumps were turned off and the rapid fuel



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508

13

loss ceased. It was dark and the SAR effort was terminated until the following morning. Jolly Green<sup>32</sup><sub>1</sub> proceeded to Ch 103 escorted by JG 04 and landed (1100Z) to inspect the battle damage. JG 32 had numerous fuel leaks and was shut down. Its' crew and Covey 285 were flown to Da Nang on JG 04. Crew coordination was excellent and weather was not a factor. Darkness was approaching but enough light remained for good hover references. Transmissions on guard frequency presented some problem during the first part of the pickup but ceased when radio discipline was requested.

(U) Aircraft assisting in the SAR effort were:

Sandys 19, 17, 20 and 22, Spads 5 and 6, Crown 6, and Jolly Greens 16 and 20.

(U) The name of the Survivor: Major George H. Blair,

(U) Crews of the Jolly Greens:

JOLLY GREEN 32

RCC Capt Jon E. Hannan  
RCCP Capt Charles P. Lowry  
FE TSgt Leslie Bunting  
RS Sgt Thomas T. Winters

JOLLY GREEN 04

RCC Capt Gerald W. Moore  
RCCP Major Paul B. Davis Jr.  
FE MSgt Charles L. Manes  
RS SSgt James F. Spears