

FROM: Det 12, 38 ARRS

24 Jan 69

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (12-38-002-2169) (U)

TO: 3ARRGp (JSARC) *JPH*

THRU: 38 ARRS (38C) *SP*

1. (U) This report is submitted IAW ARRSM 55-2, 3ARRGp Sup 1, dated 15 Apr 69.

2. At 1733L on 21 Jan 69 Pedro 20 launched on Mission 12-38-001-9021 to recover a wounded Recondo Team member. Crewmembers on Pedro 20 were Capt Daniel A. Nicholson, RCC; Maj Robert J. Kazmerchak, RCCP; ALC Timothy M. Reynolds, PJ; and Sgt Joseph R. Capper, RS. Secondary crewmembers were notified and assembled at Det 12. Pedro 21 was readied for flight and progress of Pedro 20's mission was being monitored. At 1815L we received notification over the primary crash net that Pedro 20 was going down two miles SW of Nha Trang. Pedro 21 scrambled at 1820L with crewmembers: 1st Lt Willis J. Thayer, RCC; Maj Richard G. Lauderdale Jr., RCCP; Sgt John M. Dunbar Jr., FE; and Sgt James R. Pospichel, RS. Tower frequency was monitored, a heading of 230 degrees was established and a visual search for Pedro 20 was initiated. The sun was on the horizon in the Southwest and visual search was ineffective on our 230 degree heading. Pedro 20 was heard on UHF guard frequency but excessive chatter on tower frequency blocked the transmission. Tower notified us that a FAC aircraft was circling over Pedro 20. We immediately spotted the FAC and found that we had overflowed the site by one mile. Pedro 20 was sighted and we landed in the small clearing beside the stricken aircraft at 1827L. At this time we learned that Pedro 20 had made a precautionary landing, that there were no injuries to the crew, and that an escort UH-1D had taken the wounded Marine that had been aboard Pedro 20 on into the 8th Field Hospital at Nha Trang. Pedro 20 had landed due to complete loss of engine oil through a 7.62 mm bullet hole in the engine oil cooler. The damage was surveyed and we decided to attempt emergency repair and recover the aircraft in the remaining daylight. Maj Richard G. Lauderdale Jr., Sgt James R. Pospichel, Sgt John M. Dunbar Jr. and ALC Timothy M. Reynolds remained as perimeter guard for Pedro 20 while the other three crewmembers of Pedro 20 were returned to Det 12. Pedro 20 relaunched from the Pedro pad at 1850L with Maj Robert J. Kazmerchak, RCCP, TSgt Harold R. Massengale, FE; and ALC Robert J. Brooks, FE, plus tools and equipment for a field fix on Pedro 20. The field fix was unsuccessful in that damage to the oil cooler was more extensive than initially thought. All detachment personnel returned to Nha Trang at 1920L. Installation Defense Command supplied a team of CIDG personnel to guard Pedro 20 for the night. Mission 12-38-002 suspended at 1920L.

3. At 0700L on 22 Jan 69 the mission was reopened. Installation Defense Command was contacted and arrangements were made to continue CIDG perimeter defense which we were told had not been continuous through the night. The 14th Field Maintenance Squadron provided two EOD specialists to check the aircraft and surrounding area for possible overnight sabotage. Det 12 maintenance personnel assembled necessary equipment to effect a field fix on

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Pedro 20. Pedro 21 launched at 0850L on the first of eight sorties flown in support of the maintenance crew in the field. Maintenance performed in the field under hostile conditions included:

- a. Engine oil cooler pulled.
- b. Cooler core taken to base welding shop to close two 7.62 mm bullet holes.
- c. Flushed and replaced oil cooler core.
- d. Stress panel in cabin pulled and rotor brake hydraulic line traced to point of break.
- e. Pilot's seat and access panels pulled and junction box wiring examined for battle damage.
- f. Walkway between pylons pulled and area inspected for damage.
- g. Battery replaced.
- h. Engine oil tank serviced.

4. Pedro 20 was then flown back to Nha Trang with Pedro 21 as escort. Both aircraft landed at 1150L and Mission 12-38-002-2169 was closed. Crewmembers for sorties flown on 22 Jan 69 were as follows:

Pedro 21 (8 sorties)

1st Lt Willis J. Thayer (RCC)
Capt John A. Lerda (RCCP)
Capt Daniel A. Nicholson (RCC) (PAX)
Maj Robert J. Kazmerchak (RCCP) (PAX)
Capt Karl R. Bossi (EOD) (PAX)
TSgt Don Devening (EOD) (PAX)
TSgt Harold R. Massengale (FE)
SSgt James L. Miller (PJ)
SSgt Huel W. Wilson (RS)
SSgt John B. Gent (FE)
A1C James I. Arnold (Heli Mech) (PAX)
A1C Robert J. Brooks (FE)
A1C Timothy M. Reynolds (PJ)

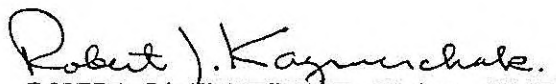
Pedro 20 (1 sortie)

Capt Daniel A. Nicholson (RCC)
Maj Robert J. Kazmerchak (RCCP)
TSgt Harold R. Massengale (FE)
SSgt John B. Gent (FE)
A1C Robert J. Brooks (FE)



WILLIS J. THAYER, 1st Lt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

APPROVED:



ROBERT J. KAZMERCHAK, Major, USAF
Commander

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