

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM: 370

5 January 1969

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (1-3-001-9003) (U)

TO: 370
3rd ARRGp (JSARC) *LLP*

IN TURN

1. (U) At 0028Z, 3 Jan 69, Jolly Greens 33 and 34, alert helicopters at Da Nang AB, were placed on cockpit alert for a Navy A-4 which had called emergency coming off target near Dak To, RVN. The aircraft, call sign Diamond Back 601, reported a rough engine and was given instructions by Misty 21, an F-100 FAC, to proceed to Chu Lai Air Base for recovery. At 0041Z the pilot reported flame out and that he was going to eject. Jolly Greens 33 and 34 scrambled and were airborne at 0043Z. Panama GCI provided radar vectors direct to the position of the bailout. Diamond Back 605, 601's wingman and Crown 4 were in the area of the bailout and located the survivor immediately after he contacted the water. Crown 4 dropped a smoke flare in the immediate area of the survivor. Jolly Green 33, upon entering the area spotted the smoke and was given the survivor's relative position from the flare by Crown 4. Fuel was dumped to reduce aircraft weight and a water landing was made approximately 75 feet down wind from the survivor. The helicopter was taxied to the survivor and he was assisted aboard the aircraft by the Flight Engineer and Rescue Specialist. A South Vietnamese fishing boat was approaching the survivor at the time of the landing and came within 50 yards of the helicopter. The survivor had reported no injuries over his emergency radio so the Rescue Specialist was not deployed. Upon entering the helicopter he indicated that he was experiencing some pain in his right knee. Jolly Green 33 departed the pick up point, 124/44/77 at 0104Z and returned to Da Nang AB. Escort was provided to and from the scene, by Spads 11 and 12.

2. (C) The survivor was Lt JG Dick Aaron, 708543, USN, VA-216, USS Coral Sea.

3. (U) Other aircraft assisting: Crown 4, Spad 11, Spad 12, Misty 21 and Diamond Back 605.

4. (U) Crews of the Jolly Greens were:

JOLLY GREEN 33

RCC Capt Richard D. Griffiths
RCCP Lt Col James H. Grady
FE A1C James A. Thibodeau
RS MSgt Glenwood C. Wilkinson

JOLLY GREEN 34

RCC Capt Jon E. Hannan
RCCP Capt George B. Stokes
FE MSgt Charles L. Manes
RS SSgt Eugen L. Nardi

Richard D. Griffiths
RICHARD D. GRIFFITHS, Capt., USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO

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DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 15

ATCH 1