

FROM: Det 8, 38ARRS (8-380)

6 January 1969

SUBJECT: Rescue Narrative Report (8-38-002-9004)

TO: 3ARRGp (30) *llb*

1. Det 8, 38ARRS was notified at 0355Z by the base crash phone that an aircraft, (48N, radio call sign) was anticipating ditching. No other information was available at this time so it was decided to scramble the alert aircraft, Pedro 17 and obtain further information from the control tower. After take off at 0400Z, Pedro 17 was advised to switch to Cam Ranh Approach Control which had been in contact with the distressed aircraft. Contact was established with Approach Control and Pedro was given a vector to the area of last radar contact which was approximately 10NM northwest of Cam Ranh Bay AB. The weather at Cam Ranh at the time of launch was 500 scattered, visibility 2-3 miles. Enroute, over the ocean the ceiling dropped to 200 feet obscured with visibility down to 1-1½ miles in rain showers. We were vectored to within ½ mile of the crash site and spotted the aircraft and 2 survivors at 0410Z. The aircraft which was barely floating was located at 12°07'N 109°012½'E. The two survivors were treading water as neither had any flotation gear. One of the men indicated that the other should be picked up first and this was accomplished by using the hoist. Both men were able to enter the sling without difficulty and it was not deemed necessary to deploy the pararescueman into the water. After pickup of the second man, Pedro 17 departed for Cam Ranh Hospital Pad at 0413Z. Pedro 17 arrived at the 12 USAF Hospital pad at 0418Z and off loaded the two survivors. Pedro then returned to the Pedro Pad and terminated the mission at 0425Z. No hostile fire was experienced during this mission and aerial refueling was not a requirement.

2. Crew Members were:

Capt John F. Patterson  
Capt John P. Smariga  
A1C Wilber L. Jeffcoat Jr.  
A1C Donald H. Goodlett Jr.

Rescue Crew Commander  
Rescue Crew Co-Pilot  
Flight Engineer  
Pararescueman

*Flavious F. Drake*  
FLAVIOUS F. DRAKE, Lt Col, USAF  
Detachment Commander