

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
DETACHMENT 11, 38TH ARRSQ (MAC)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96316



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 38-11 D

10 February 1969

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (11-38-007-9041) (U)

TO: 3rd ARRGp (JSARG) *✓ JEL* THRU: 38TH ARRSQ (O)
APO 96307 APO 96307

1. This report is submitted IAW ARRSQ 55-2, 3rd ARRGp Supplement 1, 15 April 1968.

2. While Pedro 24 was intercepting a C-130 with an inflight emergency, a radio transmission was heard at 0725Z on guard frequency, declaring that a US Army helicopter, call sign Blue Star, had crashed at coordinates BQ929215. Pedro 24 returned to Pedro Pad, unloaded the FSK and — picked up the flight engineer. After 15 minutes of flight, Pedro 24 was directed to the crash site by an O-1E, Forward Air Controller, Seahorse 15. There were numerous UH-1 aircraft in the area. Pedro 24 was in contact with the survivors on the ground. They stated that there were nine people aboard the downed aircraft. The Army gunships informed Pedro 24 that all hostile ground fire in the area had been suppressed. The crash site was on the top of a ridge line in a heavy jungle at an altitude of 3500 feet. Clouds were partially obscuring the crash site at hover altitude. Pedro 24 was guided in by the helicopters in the area and by a smoke grenade which was ignited by the survivors. The survivors advised that they had sustained only minor injuries. Pedro 24 initiated the first pickup at 0745Z. The forest penetrator was lowered through the trees. The survivors were not familiar with the proper use of the forest penetrator thus making the pickup more difficult for the hoist operator. Several of the survivors did not use the safety straps. Five men were recovered by Pedro 24 while it maintained a 100 foot hover. While Pedro 24 was picking up the fifth man, they were advised by Tuy Hoa tower that Pedro 05 was airborne and enroute to the pickup area. Tuy Hoa Approach Control vectored Pedro 05 to the crash site area. During the hover there were continuous radio transmissions on UHF and FM. While still hovering, Pedro 24 established radio contact with Pedro 05. An ADF steer was given to enable Pedro 05 to locate the exact area. Pedro 24 picked up the fifth man at 0805Z and departed the area to transport the survivors to the 91st Hospital at Phu Hiep AAF. A low fuel state prevented Pedro 24 from picking up a sixth man. Pedro 05 continued in to the crash site. Pedro 05 established a hover over the site and hoisted two survivors aboard. While hoisting the third man aboard, the HH-43B started to settle due to insufficient power. Pedro 05 had taken off with

9000 show

a full fuel load which limited the payload. The survivor on the hoist was lowered back to the ground and Pedro 05 departed the site and landed at a small secure hilltop radio relay site approximately three miles from the crash site and unloaded the two survivors. Pedro 05 had coordinated this action with the Army helicopters in the area. The helicopter was then flown back to the crash site to effect the rescue of the remaining survivors. A hover was again established and the first man was hoisted aboard. This man informed the helicopter pararescueman that there were three people remaining on the ground. A second man was hoisted aboard and both survivors were flown to the same radio relay site as the previous two. Once again Pedro 05 returned to the crash site. At 0900Z the final two survivors were hoisted aboard along with 100 pounds of classified electronic equipment. The weather had deteriorated to such an extent that the final take off had to be made parallel to the mountainside at tree top level until finally breaking out of the clouds approximately 500 feet below the crash site. The final two survivors were taken to the 91st Army Hospital at Phu Hiep AAF. Pedro 05 returned to Tuy Hoa AB and the mission was closed at 0930Z. Total combat saves: 11, US Army personnel.

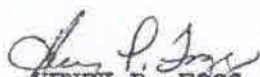
Crewmembers were:

Pedro 24:

RCC Capt Henry P. Fogg
RCCP Capt Charles T. Wohlneck
FE SSgt Charles F. Soderboom
RS Sgt Richard E. Evans

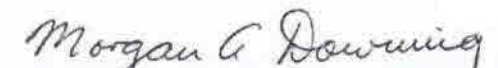
Pedro 05:

RCC Capt William F. Austin
RCCP Maj Morgan A. Downing
FE SSgt Leroy W. King
RS ALC Paul E. Fatka

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HENRY P. FOGG, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

APPROVED:


MORGAN A. DOWNING, Major, USAF
Commander