

Mission 8-38-005-9020: 2 Sorties - 0.5 hours, HH-43B, Det 8, 38ARRS.

The 12th Security Police notified Detachment 8 at 1505, 20 January, that a US Army soldier had suffered heat exhaustion while on patrol and needed to be evacuated to the hospital. Lt Col Flavious F. Drake, RCC, Captain John P. Smariga, RCCP, Sgt James W. Simmons, FE, and TSgt Joseph Fernandez PJ, launched in Pedro 51. TSgt Fernandez was deployed on the jungle penetrator to assist the evacuee who was flown to the 12th USAF Hospital. This did not constitute a save.

Mission 8-38-006-20 Feb 69: 1 Sortie - 0.7 hours, HH-43B, Det 8, 38ARRS. While on a training flight, at 1635, 20 February, in Pedro 51, Captain Bruce K. Ware, RCC, Captain John P. Smariga, RCCP, SSgt Willie A. Burchett, FE, and TSgt Joseph Fernandez, PJ, observed 2 men waving frantically indicating they needed help. Pedro 51 was landed on the beach and it was learned that a man had fallen from the top of a concret bunker onto the rocks approximately 20 feet below. He was found partially in the water on some of the rocks. The victim was placed on a semi-rigid litter and flown to the 12th USAF Hospital. This was one non-combat save.⁶

On 14 February 1969, a battle damaged F-4C returned to Cam Ranh Bay AB unable to extend its right main landing gear. Pedro 17 launched, and the runway was foamed for the emergency landing. The F-4C veered off the right side of the runway and the right external fuel tank exploded. Pedro was first to the scene and the FSK was deployed. TSgt Joseph Fernandez, PJ, Sgt Larry E. Cunningham, RS, and Sgt Lynn K. Pillsbury, RS, assisted the crew in exiting the stricken F-4C. Lt Col Flavious F. Drake, RCC and Captain Horace P. Holland Jr, RCCP, were the Pedro Pilots.

⁶. Mission Report Number 8-38-006-20 Feb 69