

FROM: Aircraft Commander

12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (10-38-033-11May69)

7.

TO: 10-38C

38C

3ARRGP (JSARC)

1. This report is submitted IAW ARRSM 55-2, 3ARRGp Sup 1, 11 July 1968.
2. At 1035L, 11 May 69, Navy TCC called for assistance from Pedro Operations to initiate rescue procedures to recover two seriously wounded Navy patrol rivermen. Pedro 91 launched at 1040L enroute to the coordinates XR440628, which was at the Southeastern tip of the Bassac River, approximately 45NM from home base at Binh Thuy. Pedro contacted Paddy Control for clearance down the river and received a direct route to the pickup area. Pedro then contacted "Red Rose" on Fox Mike and gave an estimated time of arrival at the site. Pedro launched with 800 pounds of fuel and cruised at 1000 feet to avoid a slight headwind condition. Nearing the pickup area, Pedro contacted Asternoid/Yankee for information about the seriousness of wounded personnel. One man had multiple wounds of the head, chest, stomach, and legs and was going into shock. The other man had a sucking chest wound and difficulty of breathing. Pedro arrived over the two PBR's at 1110L and executed the recovery. The stokes litter was used to recover the two Navy sailors and the Forest penetrator was used to recover a Vietnamese sailor who had come aboard the PBR from the second PBR during recovery of the US wounded. He had wounds of the right hand and forearm. During the hover operation which lasted approximately twenty minutes, Pedro's fuel supply had diminished to 400 pounds. A fine display of crew coordination during the pickup enabled the team to make an effective pickup with minimum consumption of fuel. Pedro departed the area enroute to the 29th Med Evac Hospital which had been notified about the seriousness of the wounded and was standing by for Pedro's arrival. During the trip to the hospital, the most seriously wounded man went into shock and stopped breathing. The PJ, Sgt Dear, immediately administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation which restored the man's breathing. Two times this happened and the PJ revived the man. At the same time, the PJ, Sgt Johnson, was administering first aid to the other wounded who had a sucking chest wound and severe difficulty of breathing. Using the full aerodynamics capabilities of the aircraft, the crew was able to arrive at the hospital with all three wounded alive when delivered into the hands of the medical team at the hospital. Pedro arrived at the hospital at 1200L and off-loaded the wounded. Termination of mission was accomplished at home base at 1205L. Negative ground fire was encountered to and from pickup area. Three combat saves for Pedro Operations and one sortie for 1.4 hours of flying.

The US Survivors are: James E. Greene, O-3, Riv Div 515. Raymond D. Rathburn, E-4, Riv Div 515. One Vietnamese, name unknown.

4. Crew of Pedro 91:

AC Maj Ralph L. Gaede

CP Capt Cecil A. Jessee

PJ SSgt Michael F. Dean

FE Sgt Kenneth P. Johnson

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph L. Gaede', is written over the typed name and title below it.

RALPH L. GAEDE, Major, USAF
Aircraft Commander