

39th ARRSq History, Jul - Sep 69

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S.D. 3

22 Jul 69

Date: 19 Jul 1969

Mission Number: 1-3-067-19 July 1969

Flight Designation: King 4

Distressed Aircraft: Alligator 390, U.S. Army Slick, and Red 12, U.S. Army Loach

Location: BR 5267/Tacan Position 272/39/87, 16NM North An Khe

Saves: 9, combat

KIA: 2, causes unknown

1. At 0258Z while monitoring guard, received word of two downed helicopters in the An Khe area. At 0302Z White 06, Army helicopters, reported two helicopters downed by ground fire, King 4 proceeded down the coast requesting further information and if any assistance was required. White 06 indicated that no assistance was required at that time. Further monitoring revealed that no available Dustoffs with McGuire rigs were in the area, the terrain was 2500 feet MSL, grass was 10 feet high, and there were unfriendly troops in the area (500 meters right of the L.Z.). White 06 reported that a total of 11 personnel were on board the two helicopters; four were wounded and could not be moved. There was voice contact between White 06 and the survivors.

2. At 0319Z White 06 reported that he could not locate any Dustoff aircraft and only had Gunships in the area. King 4 asked again if he could be of any assistance; explaining that he was the Air Force SAR command aircraft and had SAR forces available including JCs. After the explanation White 06 requested assistance. King 4 requested Queen to scramble JG 28 and 42 with Spads from channel 77.

3. At 0324Z Queen advised negative on the JCs., "the DASC says they do not need them." In the meantime a Slick had made one pickup of one individual and during the process received damage to the aircraft. Again King 4 requested either Pedros from channel 87 or JCs; since it was apparent the aircraft in the area were having difficulty in the recovery operation.

4. At 0337Z Queen advised that two Pedros were being launched from channel 87. At 0345Z Pedro 22 and 99 with P.J.s on board were launched with an ETA of 0415Z for the SAR objective. Also two Spads were launched from channel 107 33 minutes later on scene.

5. At 0406Z Pedros 22 and 99 arrived on scene. There were four Cobras and several other helicopters suppressing the ground fire at this time. At 0407Z

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King 4 was released from the mission; briefing King 6, and returned to fraged orbit. (See King 6 final report)

6. Problem areas:

a. Lack of familiarity with the King call sign, led White 06 to become confused and reluctant to discuss the situation readily. Recommendation: A statement be implemented to clarify our position: example: "This is CROWN my call sign is King 4".

b. Joker was reluctant to assist in the Army's SAR effort after being advised that there was a problem and assistance was being solicited by the Army.

7. King 4 crew members:

- a. AC Major Smith, C.J.
- b. CP Major Abbott
- c. IN Captain Burgess
- d. NN Major Begley
- e. RO MSgt Launer
- f. FE MSgt Berger
- g. FE MSgt Sims
- i. LM TSgt Hillman



CHARLES J. SMITH JR., Major, USAF
AC, King 4