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95

39th ARRSq History, Jul - Sep 69

85

S.D. 7

31 July 1969

Date: 29 July 1969

Mission Number: None Assigned

Flight Designation: King 6

Objective: North Vietnamese Fishing Boat

Location: 001/41/109

Saves: 5, Noncombat

1. (C) Jolly Green 03 had been on Echo orbit for 12 minutes when he reported at 0712Z that he was hovering over a sinking North Vietnamese fishing boat. The five occupants of the boat were waving their arms as well as a white flag. The boat was continuing to take on water and JG 03 wanted to pick-up the occupants one at a time, search them, tie them up, and take them to safety. Queen relayed that JASARC had determined the Navy should pick the survivors up but that they would launch JG 27-28 and Spad 11-12 anyway. These forces joined JG 03 and King 6 in the area at 0815Z.

2. (U) Also at 0815Z Harbormaster advised via HF that a smallboy surface vessel was enroute with an ETA of 0945Z.

3. (C) Between 0815Z and the surface rescue at 0957Z, the following took place: JG 03 was refueled from 0830-0840 during which time JG 27 remained on scene and reported the boat had sunk and the survivors were clinging to floating debris. At 0840Z, JASARC approved stripping a Jolly Green raft of survival equipment and deploying it to the swimmers. Thirty five knot winds in the area blew the raft away from the survivors and a second raft was successfully deployed. At 0912Z a Navy STF (Sea Base 012) showed up and on-scene command was transferred to him since he had the survivors and the approaching USS Remshaw in sight. SAR forces, with the exception of King 6, were RTB'd at the direction of JASARC at 0925Z. At 0957Z the Remshaw (C/S Sidcar) reported five happy fishermen on board. Final score: Navy 5-ARRS 0.

4. King 6 crew members:

a. AC Major Clements

b. CP Lt/Col Tyner

c. NN Lt/Col Reece

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GROUP-1
Downgraded every 2 year intervals.
Declassified on 11-01-18.

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SEARCHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE 41st AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY WING

Vol. II No. 9

SEPTEMBER 1969

PACAF RP 64-1

THE NAME IS "KING"

If you need help from the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service's HC-130 Hercules worldwide force, the word to remember is "KING."

That's the new call sign given the rescue-modified turbo-prop aircraft by Air Force.

Previously, rescue HC-130s have

been assigned various and changing call signs throughout the world. The HC-130s in Southeast Asia, members of the 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, previously have used the call sign "CROWN."

The new designation does not affect call signs for ARRS helicopters.

NORTH VIETNAMESE RESCUED BY USAF HH-3 CREWS

By Capt. Paul L. Lyter

SAIGON — Perhaps by definition, most of the events of war are ugly, especially to the half million American servicemen in Vietnam who live with war every day. But little things happen, beautiful things, sometimes, that will never be forgotten by some of the men here.

One such event occurred this week on rough seas 45 miles off the coast of the Gulf of Tonkin when five North Vietnamese were wrestled from almost certain death by U. S. Air Force rescue men and a U. S. Navy destroyer crew in a two-and-a-half hour rescue operation.

Air Force Major John C. Kakacek, 39, Tucson, Ariz., was flying his HH-3 "Jolly Green" rescue helicopter over international waters north of the demilitarized zone Tuesday afternoon (July 29) when he and his crews spotted trouble below.

"We saw the boat and when we went in closer, all five people on board were

waving black flags," recalled the major.

"I did a 180 (degree turn), and as we descended and got in closer we saw them waving something white," he added.

"When we came in the second time, all but the man waving the flag were bailing water," Sergeant Dennis P. Duffy, 24, Spokane, Wash., one of the pararescue-men, said. "The sampan was full of fish, and water -- and was breaking up."

The Jolly Green crew then flew upwind of the fishermen and "kicked out" a 12-man life raft for the North Vietnamese, but to no avail.

"The wind was so strong it blew the raft, end over end, right over the top of them," the major said.

Shortly after the sampan was initially spotted, two more Jolly Green helicopters of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang AB and an HC-130 "King" flying rescue command post from Tuy Hoa Air Base were dispatched to the area. A pair of

A-1 Skyraider fighter-bombers were also sent to the scene to provide firepower in the event of hostilities.

When these aircraft arrived, one of the Jolly Greens dropped another raft to the men in the sea, but the high winds blew the raft out of reach.

Major Kakacek's crew dropped a heavy jungle penetrator, attached to a cable, on the raft and pulled the raft close enough for the Vietnamese to board it.

While the aerial attempts were underway, the USS Renshaw moved into the area. The destroyer dispatched a small boat to the Vietnamese on the raft and took them to the ship where they received food and dry clothing.

The following day, the fishermen were taken to Da Nang for medical observation and eventual return to their homes.

Other members of Major Kakacek's crew were SSgt. John J. Eldridge, 24, Fayetteville, S. C. and Sergeant E. W. Hopper, 23, Houston.

29 JULY 69 SAR

ELDRIDGE INTERVIEW

17 AUG 99

6 MAN RAFT

ART RAMP

ALMOST BLOW UP INTO TAIL ROTOR



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