

CHAPTER II

OPERATIONS

During the quarter, the detachment was credited with two combat saves and two non-combat saves as a result of participation in four search and rescue missions. A brief narrative of each mission follows:

Mission No. 11-38-032, 1 July 1969 - The detachment was notified at 1115L¹ that the base dispensary had an emergency appendicitis patient who needed evacuation to the U.S. Army Hospital at Qui Nhon Army Air Field. Pedro 24 was scrambled at 1120L and loaded the litter patient at the dispensary helipad at 1125L and proceeded to Qui Nhon Army Air Field approximately 45 miles northeast of Tuy Hoa. Pedro 24 returned to base at 1245L and it was later learned from dispensary personnel that we were credited with saving the life of one non-crew member. 1.4 hours flying time and three sorties logged.

Crewmembers were:

AC Capt Walter F. Turk

CP Major Morgan A. Downing

FE SSgt Leroy W. King

PJ Sgt Michael E. Fish

Mission No. 11-38-033, 2 July 1969 - The detachment was notified at 2045L by the tower that a mortar round had exploded on a Swift boat approximately three miles south of Tuy Hoa Air Base. An Army UH-1D was on the scene, but was unable to hover over the boat due to high winds and rough seas. Pedro 05 was scrambled at 2050L and arrived at the scene at 2055L. An Army flare ship dropped flares

1. L (Local Time) = Greenwich Mean Time + 8 hours

to light the scene, while Pedro 05 hovered over the aft section of the damaged boat and lowered the pararescue specialist to the deck. Emergency medical aid was administered by the pararescue specialist who then loaded the two injured men into semi-rigid litters and the flight engineer hoisted them aboard. Pedro 05 then rushed the men to the Tuy Hoa dispensary where one was pronounced dead on arrival and the other was quickly rushed to the Army hospital at Qui Nhor Army Air Field for emergency treatment. Pedro 05 returned to the boat and picked up the pararescue specialist who had remained aboard to aid in the search of a third man blown overboard from the force of the explosion. Pedro 05 returned to the pad and terminated the mission at 2150L. 1 hour of flying time and 2 sorties logged. One non-combat save.

Crewmembers were:

AC Capt William F. Austin

CP Capt Charles T. Wohlneck

FE SSgt Robert J. Christian

PJ Sgt Paul E. Fatka

Mission No. 11-38-035, 30 July 1969 - At 1255L, the detachment was called by an Army helicopter who requested our assistance in extracting two injured Korean soldiers from the jungle approximately 25 miles southwest of Tuy Hoa Air Base. Pedro 24 launched at 1300L and proceeded to the scene and Pedro 05 launched at 1315L to act as cover for Pedro 24. Upon arriving at the scene, Pedro 24 was joined by two Army UH-1 gunships and two Army UH-1 personnel carriers. One of the personnel carriers, Dustoff 11, had radio contact with the ground forces and after insuring that the area was safe, requested the ground forces use a smoke signal to mark their location so Pedro