

400 (Lt Col Matcer/2687)

20 November 1969

Mission Narrative #2-3-071-19 Nov 69

3 ARRGp (JSARC)
APO 96307

1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARRSB 55-2/
3 ARRGp Sup 1, dated 11 July 1968.

2. (S) At 0735Z, 19 Nov 69, Jolly Green 76L and 71H departed Channel 89 for November Orbit. At 0755Z, JG 76 monitored a radio conversation between King 6 and King 2 to the effect that Spud 05 reported Spud 06 with two survivors down at approximately 042/350/72. JG 76 and 71 proceeded to the area reporting to King 6 an ETA of 0845Z. On the advice of Mail 20, a FAC more familiar with the area, a less direct ingress route was selected, and the JG ETA was changed to 0900Z. By arrival time one survivor had been located, and the area seemed permissive. The survivor was asked to pop a smoke, and JG 76 was directed toward him by Sandy. However, the smoke did not become visible until after JG 76 had passed over the survivor. A 360° circle to the right then brought JG 76 to a hover over the survivor as his first smoke dissipated. In the absence of smoke, the hoist operator was unable to locate the survivor due to dense jungle foliage. For that reason, and because the torque required to hover was 90%, JG 76 left the area to make another 360° circle to the right to give the survivor time to pop another smoke. He did so and a hover was re-established over the smoke at 0906Z. The survivor was spotted by the photographer; the penetrator was threaded through the trees; the survivor was recovered at 0909Z, and JG 76 withdrew to an immediately adjacent holding area while the search for the second survivor continued. At 0915Z the second survivor popped a smoke from his position on a rock in a river bottom. Sandy directed JG 76 to the smoke; a hover over the survivor was established; the survivor was recovered at 0917Z; and all SAR forces departed the area. JG 76 returned to Channel 89 with both survivors in excellent condition. The mission was textbook routine with two exceptions. The #3 gunner twice reported ground fire, and both airspeed indicators failed on take-off after recovering the second survivor. No other crewmember either heard or observed ground fire and no battle damage was sustained. In the opinion of the Aircraft Commander of JG 76, the mission was unopposed. The airspeed difficulty proved to be a weld on the co-pilot's pitot tube which must have cracked during the hover over the second survivor. That the system failure occurred during a critical phase of the mission was apparently mere coincidence.

3. (U) The survivors rescued by Jolly Green 76 were:

Capt Austin, USA

E-4 Mackintosh, USA

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years