

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Missions/Saves

1. General Comments: Base support activities are now non-existent due to our being directed by 3rd ARRGF not to participate in any mission which does not directly involve rescue functions. Due to an increase in our training requirements, 52.5% of the flying time was spent on training sorties. The number of LBR missions dropped slightly, but was partially offset by an increase in our major search and rescue/aircrew recovery activities as is evidenced by the following mission summaries. We were called upon to participate in several missions of this type, but were usually called upon too late to effect a rescue. Of those missions which were successful, the following three are the most significant.
2. Mission # 1-3-081, 1 November 1969. Pedro 93 was scrambled at 1925L on word that a USMC CH-53 was down seven miles east of DaNang in the South China Sea. Pedro 93 proceeded to the area and began a low level search. The search, being hampered by low clouds and haze, proved fruitless until the only survivor fired a pencil flare and was sighted. The PJ was deployed to assist the survivor, who was severely injured, (compound fracture of right leg and broken pelvis). The survivor and PJ were simultaneously hoisted into the helicopter where the survivor was administered first aid while enroute to NSA hospital where he was admitted.

Pedro 93 then returned to the alert pad and terminated the mission.

One non-combat save was credited. The crew of Pedro 93 was as follows:

Capt James A. Tassie	AC
Capt David A. Voigt	CP
Sgt Randy L. Luke	FE
Sgt Harry C. Chalmers	PJ

3. Mission # 7-38-037, 16 November 1969. At 0501L, Pedro 69 was alerted by the tower that a USMC A-6 was 4 minutes out with an engine shut down and with battle damage. Pedro 69 was airborne within three minutes. Immediately after airborne, a Mayday was heard and tower advised Pedro that the A-6 went down seven miles north of DaNang. Pedro 69 landed at the alert pad and offloaded the firemen. After airborne again, radio contact was established with the A-6 pilot while Pedro was enroute to the scene. A flare pinpointed the pilot's position and proceeding to the survivor, Pedro 69 hoisted him aboard. At this time, a second flare was observed coming from the second survivor, (the bombardier/navigator). He was clinging to his life raft. A time was spent chasing the raft and survivor. Finally he was picked up, but due to him still being in his parachute and harness, he was lowered into the water to release his chute. Having done so, he was again raised to the helicopter.