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MISSION NARRATIVE REPORT

DATE: 18 December 1970

MISSION NUMBER: A-3-070, 18 Dec 70

FLIGHT DESIGNATION: Jolly Green 73/(HH#53)

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Hellix 38

LOCATION: Chu Lai, RVN 15°26'N, 108°45'E

SAVES: None

Classified by A3 HRP
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED ON 8/16/76

1. Jolly Green 73 (HH-53) was airborne 10 NM North of Channel 77 at 18/0735Z. Queen notified Jolly Green 77, Alpha Low and Jolly Green 73, Alpha High, that a Hellix 38 was down Feet Wet near Chu Lai. Jolly Green 73 and Jolly Green 77 proceeded directly to the area with Jolly Green 73 arriving first. Approximately 10 NM out Jolly Green 77 advised Jolly Green 73 that he had lost "First Stage" and would return to base. Jolly Green 73 then proceeded directly to the refined location given as 080/2½ off Channel 74 and spotted an Army Huey hovering over the water, as Jolly Green 73 came into the area the Huey pulled off and Jolly Green 73 passed over the pilot of Hellix 38 at 18/0800Z and deployed a smoke flare. This flare never ignited and the remainder of the mission was conducted without benefit of smoke flares. Weather was not a factor. Communication was established on FM and UHF Guard with Charger 57 (the Army Huey) after deploying the Dud Smoke Flare. Jolly Green 73 pulled into a slow orbit and deployed #1 pararescue technician on the next pass over the pilot. The pararescue technician made a preliminary examination of the pilot and found him floating face down in the water with a broken right arm. His LPU was inflated, but not snapped in front, and he had his harness on with survivor kit attached. The Bouyancy of the survival kit was considered a factor in the forcing the pilot to float face down. Immediately upon reaching the pilot the pararescue technician began to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation. Jolly Green 73 pulled off into a slow orbit and came into a hover over the pilot and the pararescue man. The hoist was lowered and it took approximately 5 minutes of hovering before the pilot of Hellix 38 and pararescue technician were hoisted aboard Jolly Green 73. Both men were on the hoist. Pick up was made at approximately 18/0810Z. Charger 57 then led Jolly Green 73 to the Chu Lai hospital pad and Jolly Green 73 landed at approximately 18/0815Z. Enroute to the hospital pad the pararescue technicians continued to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation and removed the survival kit from the pilot. The hospital attendants were waiting and immediately took the pilot into the hospital. Jolly Green 73 returned to Channel 77 without further event and landed 18/0850Z. King 26 gave outstanding support and escorted Jolly Green 73 back to Channel 77. Air refueling was not required.

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2. Two (2) Sorties / 2.3 hours / HH-53C / 37th ARRS.
3. One (1) Pararescue Technician deployed.
4. N/A.
5.
 - a. Two (2) Pararescue Technicians.
 - b. Forest penetrator with floatation collar.
 - c. One (1) pronounced DOA at Chu Lai Hospital.
 - d. Pilot had compound fracture of right arm and lacerations about the face.
 - e. Mouth to mouth resuscitation.
 - f. Chu Lai Hospital.
 - g. DOA.
6. Jolly Green Crews:

Jolly Green 73

AC - Major Harry S. Copperthite Jr.
CP - Major Frank J. Pehr
FE - SSgt Jerry L. Burchfield
RS - MSgt Gordon C. Bailey
RS - SSgt Henry C. Kirk III

Jolly Green 77

AC - Capt Edward D. Harrow Jr.
CP - Capt John N. Komich
FE - SSgt William Johnson
RS - A1C Steven C. Rhody
RS - SSgt John C. Ratliff


HARRY S. COPPERTHITE JR., Major, USAF
Aircraft Commander Jolly Green 73

18 December 1970

OV-10A 68-3821 20 TASS, 504 TASG, USAF, Da Nang

Maj James Pattee Allenberg (KIA)

A Bronco suffered an accidental engine failure during an FAC mission and crashed off the coast near Da Nang killing the pilot.