

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ **SECRET**

DECLASSIFIED

after being hit by ZPU fire and the pilots were forced to eject. ^{44/}

(U) The two pilots ejected at about 5,000 feet in mountainous terrain with the highest elevation in the area about 7,000 feet. The enemy route structure was just to the east over a ridgeline. There were no observed hostile defenses in the area and the landing point was comparatively inaccessible from the lower elevations. ^{45/}

(U) Two FACs, Covey 246/252 were already on-scene and had located the general area of the survivors by the time the Sandys arrived. ^{46/}

(U) Upon arrival of the Jolly Greens, the Sandys immediately directed them in for a pickup on Alpha. Alpha did not respond to the initial requests for smoke and provided no assistance in vectoring the helicopters to his position. He was finally pinpointed and Jolly Green 17 entered and made the pickup. Next Bravo was told to pop his smoke which he did immediately and he was quickly picked up. Covey 246, who was familiar with the area, led the force safely out. ^{47/}

(U) Another successful rescue effort was conducted the same day for Coachman 29. The aircraft, an Army helicopter, went down the day before in a mountainous area just northwest of Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam. ^{48/}

(U) The helicopter was a light observation type and carried the pilot and an Army code 07. It was believed to have been hit by a .50 caliber gun site. The code 07 was killed in the crash.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

The helicopter had gone down the previous morning, but because of inclement weather and hostile troops in the area, a rescue could not be effected that day.^{49/}

(U) The SAR force arrived on station early in the morning but because of an overcast had not been able to effect a rescue.^{50/}

(U) About 1215L, a large enough hole developed near the area and an initially unidentified Army helicopter slipped down under the overcast and through some professional low-level flying managed to progress to the survivor's location. An uneventful pickup was then completed. The rescue helicopter's callsign turned out to be Banshee 75 and was a Huey type helicopter.^{51/}

(C) Another rescue effort for the month was conducted 22 January for Zorro 16 in Steel Tiger north area. The A-1 went down as a result of taking an automatic weapons hit while on a strike mission against a truck part.^{52/}

(C) The resultant smoke and fire forced the pilot to abandon the aircraft. He landed on a karst formation and was picked up shortly thereafter without any difficulties.^{53/}

(S) On 27 January, a successful rescue was conducted for Cookie 02, an F-105 which suffered battle damage in the BARREL ROLL.^{54/}

(S) The survivor was located just east of Route 61 approximately four kilometers south of Twin Fords. No particular problems were encountered in the rescue.^{55/}

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

CHRONOLOGY

56th Special Operations Wing

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Significant Event</u>
Jan 2-3	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Milestone 507A/B was unsuccessful.
7	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Sidewinder 47 was unsuccessful.
11	(S)	1st Lt. Richard D. Chorlins, 602nd Special Operations Squadron, declared KIA.
13	(C)	Search and Rescue effort for BLIND BAT 13-4 was successful.
18	(U)	Search and Rescue effort for Misty 30 A/B was successful.
18	(U)	Search and Rescue effort for Coachman 29 was successful.
22	(C)	Search and Rescue effort for Zorro 16 was successful.
23	(U)	Lt. Col. Eugene B. Mechling assumed command of Detachment 1, 56th Special Operations Wing.
27	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Cookie 02 was successful.
28	(U)	Search and Rescue effort for Seabird 2A/3 was unsuccessful.
28	(U)	Jolly Green 71 shot down by MIG while participating in SAR for Seabird 2A/3.
31	(U)	CH-3, SN67-13296, 21st Special Operations Squadron, logged 150.1 flying hours.
-	(S)	Radar controlled guns became prevalent in Laos.
-	(U)	Presidential Unit Citation presented to 606th Special Operations Squadron.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED