

~~SECRET~~

(S) Another successful rescue was effected on 10 March for Firefly 23 A and B. The aircraft, an A-1E went down in the northern PDJ.^{80/}

(S) The flight was striking a damaged tank in the middle of the PDJ when Firefly 23 suffered a power loss during the climb-out after the fifth pass. He was instructed by RAVEN 44, the primary FAC along with RAVEN 45, to put it down in the open. The aircraft continued to lose altitude and both pilots extracted at approximately 2,000 feet.^{81/}

(S) RAVEN 45 called the control agencies immediately upon the Mayday call of Firefly 23 Bravo. Firefly 22 reaffirmed the emergency and advised that both pilots were in good chutes upon their extraction. Bravo then came up on beeper and voice immediately and advised the rescue forces that he was injured and that he was taking fire from the south bluffline. Firefly 22 then devoted his efforts to suppressing the ground fire. The RAVENs in the meantime effected further coordination with the control agencies and were informed that two Air America choppers, plus the Sandy force, were on their way.^{82/}

(S) The Air America choppers arrived first and one AA Huey took one pass over the area, spotted Bravo and half dived and half spiraled down to a landing right beside him. RAVEN 44 then asked Alpha which was quicker - move to the open rice paddy or climb to the top of the bluff he had already started climbing.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Alpha said the top of the bluff and the same chopper then touched down briefly on the top of the bluff and in less than ten seconds^{83/} was off again with Alpha aboard.

(S) A successful rescue was conducted on 16 March for NAIL 53, an OV-10, who went down after apparently receiving an anti-aircraft hit from an AAA position located close to the DMZ.^{84/}

(S) The rescue was effected with very little difficulty except for weather. The enemy gun positions did not pose any major threat.^{85/}

(U) An unsuccessful rescue for Wolf 06 Bravo and an successful rescue was effected for Wolf 06A on 20-21 March. The aircraft, an F-4, went down on 19 March after being hit just south of Delta 30. The aircraft went directly in and both pilots ejected safely.^{86/}

(U) Bravo was physically all right while Alpha was initially reported to be seriously burned and to have one or two broken legs. (After the pickup it was determined that he was burned somewhat but was suffering from no other injury other than shock.)^{87/}

(U) The survivors were located in a karst valley of the main transportation route of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. This is regarded as one of the most heavily defended segments of the entire system. Bravo was located just a few yards east of the river, out in the valley, while Alpha had sought cover in one of the caves of a karst also east of river.^{88/}

(U) While looking for Alpha, both Sandy 01 and 02 received 23/37mm hits. After locating Alpha, they proceeded to find Bravo

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

FEB

1	(U)	56th Combat Support Group CBPO became servicing CBPO for 1987th Communications Squadron.
3	(S)	CH-3 lost to ground fire on exfiltration mission - crew recovered.
6-7	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Milestone 516 was successful.
11	(S)	Lt. Col. William L. Kieffer Jr, 1st Special Operations Squadron, declared KIA.
16	(C)	Detachment 9, 38th Air Rescue Squadron (PEDRO) arrived from Pleiku.
18	(U)	Search and Rescue for Banyan 03B was successful.
18	(U)	New officer modular barracks opened for occupancy.
21	(C)	Xieng Khoung field captured by enemy forces.
28	(U)	Civic Action Center inactivated.
-	(C)	Night restrictions placed on A-1 and C-123 aircraft for operations in Lu Gia and Ban Mari.

Mar

1	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Charger 411 was successful.
5	(U)	Search and Rescue effort for Firefly 32 was successful.
10	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Firefly 23-√3 was successful.
14	(S)	Maj. Donald B. Fincher, 602nd Special Operations Squadron, declared KIA.
15	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Garfish 501 was successful.
16	(S)	Search and Rescue effort for Nail 53 was successful.
20-21	(U)	Search and Rescue effort for Wolf 06 Alpha was successful - effort for Wolf 06 Bravo was unsuccessful.

~~SECRET~~