

40th ARBOR HIST, JAN-MAR 1970

hostility. The Buff making the rescue observed ground fire but no hits were taken and the rescue was successful. 25

A "back yard" pick up was made on 16 March when an F-105 pilot bailed out of his battle damaged aircraft just nine miles south of Udorn. One of the alert Buffs was called upon to back up the local Pedro (H4-43). The Pedro's UHF-27 was inoperative so the Buff was directed to make the pick up. The survivor was entangled in tree vines so the PJ was lowered on the penetrator to assist. The PJ freed the survivor and the rescue was completed. 26 27

The last two rescues of the quarter were the result of one SAR effort that began with a first light effort on 20 March. This effort lasted two days and involved extensive SAR forces including eight Buffs, Sandy's, "Fast movers" and King aircraft. The survivor's position was 083/65/89, an extremely well defended and hostile area. On the first day of the effort an A-1 suffered battle damage and bailed out in a fairly permissive area (071/51/89) away from the center of the SAR activity. Two back up Buffs who were in a holding area proceeded to the scene and made the rescue unopposed. The original SAR objective was an F-4 pilot who was reported to have extensive injuries including back and leg injuries. Two attempts at pick up were made on the 20th but were unsuccessful due to heavy ground fire and resulting battle damage to two Buffs. Another attempt was made the morning of the 21st and again was unsuccessful. The fourth attempt was begun shortly after noon on the

32

19 MARCH
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40

40th ARNSQ HIST, JAN-MAR 1970

21st and although ground fire was still heavy the rescue was completed. Due to the survivor's injuries it was necessary to send the PJ down on the penetrator to assist him. Even with this necessary delay the Buff was in a hover over the survivor for only three minutes.³³

As a result of the heavy battle damage to four buffs we were unable to support the alert posture at Nakhon Phanom. The 37th ARNSQ from Danang AB, South Vietnam temporarily assumed this activity until such time as our fleet recovers to normal strength.