

FROM: Lt Col Kilbride

25 Dec 70

SUBJECT: SARCO Report on Vampire 03

TO: DO

1. At 2215 on 20 December, I was notified that Vampire 03 had bailed out of his aircraft because of engine failure. I reported to the command post and was informed that voice contact had been established with Vampire 03 and that he was in good physical condition. At this time, it was determined that a first light effort would be in order. The A-1 squadrons were notified that a first light effort would be launched and the Sandy schedule for the following day would be used plus four Smoke aircraft.

2. The briefing was set for 0345 for the first six Sandy and four Smoke pilots. The situation, intelligence and weather were passed to the pilots. Sandy 01 then briefed his assets for a 0530 launch. This T.O. time would put the Sandy aircraft at the scene shortly before first light. Nail 41 was to launch at 0500 and take command until Sandy 01 arrived on scene. Sandy 01 was briefed that fast mover assets would be available in pairs every 20 minutes starting at 0445.

3. Sandy 03/04 and four Jolly Greens launched at 0535 for the prebriefed location of Vampire () which was reported as 114/62/89.

4. Sandy 01/02 launched at 0528 for the survivor's location which was reported to be 114/62/89. At 0535 Sandy 03/04 launched with the four Jolly Greens. While the resources were enroute Nail 41 had voice contact with Vampire 03 and was taking electronic cuts on his position. As first light approached he had pin pointed the position. Sandy 01 took on scene command at 0609. Phase Bravo was started at 0625 and the pickup was made at 0650.

5. The A-1 crews participating in the SAR were:

Call Sign

Name

Sandy 01

Lt Tillery

Sandy 02

Lt Lyon

Sandy 03

Capt Kent

Sandy 04

Lt Miller

Pieman 41

Lt Col Stone/Col Weber

Pieman 42

Lt Keeter

6. A chronological list of events follows:

2215 - Notification that Vampire 03 was down
2230 - Notified squadrons to set up crews and bed them down
0030 - Holding points established at 114/52/89
0045 - Jack passed survivor's position 114/62/89
0107 - Jack confirmed that fast movers would be available in sets every 20 min.
0110 - 23 TAS confirmed Nail 91 on scene and Nail 41 (McCaslin) would take off at 0500

0158 - Nail 77 passed on scene command to Nail 91
 0230 - Nail 91 had voice contact
 0300 - Nail 91 had voice contact
 0345 - Briefed 6 Sandy and 4 Smoke
 0415 - Briefed 4 Jolly Greens
 0500 - Nail 91 had voice contact
 0528 - Sandy 01/02 launched
 0535 - Sandy 03/04 and 4 Jolly Greens launched
 0554 - Nail 41 spots Vampire 03's chute
 0603 - Smoke 41/42 launch
 0609 - Sandy 01 takes on scene command
 0612 - Sandy 01 spots survivor
 0625 - Phase Bravo begins
 0650 - Pick-up made

Wade R. Kilbride

WADE R. KILBRIDE, Lt Colonel, USAF
 SAR Coordinator

1 Atch
 Ltr, SAR Report on Vampire 03,
 24 Dec 70, 1st Lt Tillery, 1st
 Lt Lyon

FROM: Sandy 01/02 (1st Lt Tillery/1st Lt Lyon)

24 Dec 70

SUBJECT: SAR Report on Vampire 03

TO: SARCO (Lt Col Kilbride)

1. On 20 Dec 70 at approximately 2300 local we were notified that we would have a first light SAR for Vampire 03. We briefed at 0345 on 21 Dec with Jolly Greens, Sandys 3, 4, 5, & 6 and Pie Man 41, 42, 43, & 44. At that time we briefed a pick-up procedure to be used if the situation in the area was as suspected.
2. Sandys 1 and 2 launched at 0530 and proceeded directly to the survivor - 114/62/89. Sandys 3 and 4 launched with the Jolly Greens and Pie Man 41 and 42 shortly afterwards.
3. Nail 41 was on scene when contacted by Sandy 1. He was just locating Vampire 03 with the survivor's strobe light. Just before the Sandys arrived, Nail 41 had the survivor lay out a white panel. There was just enough light to make this visible by the time the Sandys arrived. Nail 41 put me in trail and made one low pass pointing out the survivor. He was about 100 meters east of his chute and on the edge of a large clearing. At this time he was very easy to see from my proposed southerly run-in heading for the Jollys.
4. I took on scene command and got a full briefing from the Nail. We believed the survivor was quite a bit south of our original plot which put him south of a battalion of friendlies and near an unfriendly battalion. Originally we had thought the friendlies were between the survivor and the enemy.
5. I talked to the survivor then - He had flares and a mirror and was in excellent condition. He hadn't had any indication that there were any troops in the area and had heard no strange noises. Then we trolled for about 30 minutes to try to antagonize anybody that might be near the survivor. We had to rely on just our noise because we couldn't expend ordnance since we didn't know exactly where the friendlies were. We couldn't get anybody to shoot at us so we called the Jollys over to our FM to brief the pick-up.
6. I picked a run-in from the south to avoid looking into the sun. This was the only direction which gave good enough visibility and gave a good view of the survivor and allowed the survivor to see the incoming Jolly. I briefed the Jollys and the survivor, put down an M-47 as an IP, and put down in path for the Jolly to follow. This put me northwest of the survivor looking into the sun, and Sandy 2 took over the ingress as previously briefed with Sandys 3 and 4 in the Daisy Chain also. I climbed above the formation and came back to where I could look down on the pick-up with no glare from the dawn sun. The Jolly was in contact with the survivor and made an uneventful rescue. All force returned to NKP.

7. The only problem we encountered was the glare from the sun as it came over the horizon. The terrain was flat and vegetation sparse at the survivor's location. Sandy 2 had attempted to contact the command post for the friendly battalion on all the frequencies we had but was unsuccessful. We have been charged with shooting our 20MM, but this is not true. The only ordnance expended were 2 M-47 bombs, dropped safe and 7 white phosphorus marking rockets.

8. I have been criticized by some people for taking too long before initiating the pick-up. However, I believe that any Sandy qualified person knows the necessity for trolling for possible flack traps before committing the rescue helicopter to a low ingress and hover in an unknown area.

Wade H. Tillery Jr.
WADE H. TILLERY JR, 1st Lt, USAF

Sandy 01 - 1st Lt Tillery

02 - 1st Lt Lyon

03 - Capt Kent

04 - 1st Lt Miller

Jolly - 55, 52, 51, 63

Pie Man 41

42

Vampire 03 - Maj Peach

Nail 41

DECLASSIFIED

DATE: 21 Dec 70

83
23 Dec 70

MISSION NUMBER: B-3-052-20 Dec 70

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: KING 24

LOCATION: 113/63/89

DISTRESSED AIRCRAFT: Vampire 03

SAVES: 1 Combat

(S) King 24 was launched on a first light effort for Vampire 03 who went down during the night at approximately 113/63/89. King 24 launched at 2143Z for the SAR effort and Jolly Greens 55, 52, 53 and 51 with Sandy 1, 2, 3 and 4 were to arrive on scene at approximately 2300Z. Voice contact had been maintained throughout the night and survivors condition was reported good with a minimum of ground fire in the area. Nail 41 was the On Scene Commander (OSC) when King 24 arrived at the SAR scene. After Sandy 1 had been briefed and the survivor located he replaced Nail 41 as OSC. The area was considered very permissive and the SAR forces started getting ready for the pickup at 2325Z. At 2342Z the pickup attempt was started with Jolly Green 55 as low bird and Jolly Green 52 as high bird. Jolly Green 55 completed the pickup at 2347Z and survivor's condition was determined to be excellent. All SAR Forces were returned to their respective bases with Jolly Green 55 taking the survivor to Channel 39.

KING 24 Crewmembers

AC/AMC Capt Eisinger
FP 1Lt Kalisky
CP Col Pinyerd
N Major Metz
RO TSgt Coulter
FE TSgt Metz
LM TSgt Mc Pheeters

Forces Available

Sandy 1, 2, 3, and 4
Jolly Green 55, 52, 63, 51
Pieman Flight
King 24
Manual 501, 502
Nail 41, 47

Jerry B. Eisinger
JERRY B. EISINGER, Captain, USAF
Aircraft Commander/Airborne Mission Commander

Classified by *B-3ARR/64*
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED ON *9/1 Dec 78*

[Signature]
Downgraded at 2 year intervals.
Declassified at 2 year intervals.
ATC 12

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
40TH AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY SQUADRON (MAC)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96237



REPLY TO DO
ATTN OF:

22 December 1970

SUBJECT: RCS : ARS V-6 Report

83

TO: 3 ARRGp (JRCC)
APO 96307

DATE: 22 December 1970

MISSION NUMBER: B-3-052-20 December 1970

FLIGHT DESIGNATION: Jolly Green 55

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Vampire 03

LOCATION: 1657N 10538E

SAVES : One Combat Save

SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS:

Classified by 46 AELP
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 78

DOWNGRADED TO
CONFIDENTIAL ON
IAW EX. ORDER 11652

1. Jolly Greens 55 (low and 52 (high) were the primary helicopters for the pickup, and were launched from Nakom Phanom RTAFB at 202229Z. Jolly Greens 63 and 51 had flown to Nakom Phanom earlier in the morning. They were designated as backup helicopters, and launched at 202232Z. All helicopters proceeded to the holding point which was on the 115° radial at 65 miles off the Nakom Phanom tacan. The holding point was reached at 202310Z. Sandies 01, 02, 03, and 04 were launched from Nakom Phanom soon after the Jolly Greens. Sandies 01 and 02 proceeded directly to the scene, while Sandies 03 and 04 met the Jolly Greens over the "Little Rooster's Tail", a small hill formation 33 miles east southeast of Nakom Phanom. The four Jolly Greens and Sandies 03 and 04 then proceeded to the holding point. At the holding area, Jolly Greens 55 and 52 descended to 6000' while Jolly Greens 63 and 51 remained at 8000'. Sandy 01 was "On Scene Commander". King 24 was the control aircraft and King 21 was the tanker. After locating the survivors Sandies 01 and 02 trolled the area for ground fire, but there was none. Some smoke was dropped as a "To Rr" point for the Jolly Greens to the northwest of the survivor. Sandies 01 and 02 trolled further for ground fire, but did not try to suppress the area, as even though there were known enemy in the area, there were also some friendlys close by. The run in by Jolly 55 was started at 2345 on a northwest heading (away from the sun which had just come up) led by Sandy 02. The IP, which was some smoke that had just been dropped, was about one half mile short of the survivor. When Jolly 55 reached the IP, he requested the survivor to pop his smoke. At first the survivors smoke was not seen, but it was then spotted by a PJ at the helicopter's 8 O'clock position, or about 100 yards south of the helicopter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

Classified by 46 AELP
Downgraded at 3 year
interval; declassified
after 12 years

DECLASSIFIED

An approximate 150° turn to the left was made and the smoke, and then the survivor was spotted by the pilot. He was on the edge of a clearing sitting in the center of 4 white markers. His parachute was in the trees, some 50 yards west of the survivor. The helicopter was brought to a hover over the survivor at an estimated height of 75 feet. The penetrator was lowered and the survivor was brought aboard at 202349Z in excellent shape. Egress from the area was made to the south. During the SAR there was no ground fire encountered. Other support aircraft were in the area during the SAR, but did not take an active part. Jolly Greens 55 and 52 landed at Nakon Phanom at 210020Z, and Jolly Greens 63 and 51 continued on to Ubon. The other SAR forces landed at a later time. The pick up was made quickly and easily. All SAR forces, especially Sandies 01 and 02, did an outstanding job.

2. The Crew Composition was as follows :

JG 55 (Low)

Crew Position

Major Robert W. Hawes,
Major Evan C. Christiansen,
Sgt Wayne F. Estey,
Sgt Robert R. Taylor,
SSgt Theodore J. Polys,
Sgt Robert M. Zahrowski,

AC
CP
FE
#1PJ
#2PJ
PHOTO

JG 52 (High)

Major William D. Eastman,
Captain George F. Armstrong,
Sgt Robert M. Camy,
Sgt Joseph S. Stanaland,
A1C Frederick D. Jenkins,

AC
CP
E
#1PJ
#2PJ

Robert W. Hawes
ROBERT W. HAWES, Major, USAF
Aircraft Commander

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

[Signature]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VAMPIRE 03 SEARCH AND RECOVERY

(C) A successful, routine and almost uneventful SAR effort was conducted 20 and 21 December 1970 for Vampire 03. On the night of 20 December 1970 Vampire 03 departed his orbit in Steel Tiger was enroute to home station (Nakhon Phanom) with a malfunctioning engine. Soon afterwards the engine failed completely and Vampire 03 elected to bail out over the "Rooster Tail", a well known and commonly briefed escape and evasion area. The Rooster Tail is largely uninhabited and is located in Laos, southeast of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base between the base and southern sections of Steel Tiger. It generally consists of rugged high terrain with few lines of communication, making it relatively safe from enemy activities. Vampire 03 egressed at 16 degrees 59 minutes north, 105 degrees 38 minutes east at approximately 2130 on 20 December 1970. His position was 114 degrees, 62 NM from Channel 89 (Tacan station located at the base).¹⁵⁰

(C) Voice contact was established that evening and Vampire 03 described his condition as being excellent and indicated that there was no evidence of enemy activity in the area. Aircraft were scheduled to maintain contact with him throughout the night and a first light SAR was scheduled.¹⁵¹

(C) Sandy 01/02 launched at 0530 and proceeded directly to the objective position. Sandy 03/04 launched to escort the Jolly Green helicopters and Pieman 41/42 (A-1 smoke aircraft) launched shortly afterwards.¹⁵²

150. SARCO Report for Vampire 03, 25 Dec 70, Document # 15.

151. Ibid.

152. Ibid.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(C) When Sandy 01/02 arrived Nail 41 was already on scene and had located Vampire 03 on the ground. The survivor was approximately 100 meters east of his parachute on the edge of a large clearing. There was no evidence of hostile activities in the area and the situation appeared excellent for the SAR effort.¹⁵³

(C) Sandy 01 took charge as On-Scene Commander and decided to check the area for enemies by trolling for gun fire. Sandy 01 had been briefed that Vampire 03 was north of his actual position and that a battalion of friendly forces separated him from the enemy. The Sandies spent about 30 minutes trolling for gun fire with no response. Ordnance was not expended because no one could be sure of the actual positions of friendlies in the area. All efforts were made to establish radio contact with the friendly force's command post but these attempts failed also. Since the area appeared completely sterile, it was decided to attempt an immediate pick up.¹⁵⁴

(C) The survivor was in excellent condition and had all of his survival equipment intact. He was directed to display a white panel to mark his exact position. The major problem encountered during the entire effort was poor visibility resulting from the glare created by a rising sun. For this reason Sandy 01 selected a run in heading from the south which allowed the rescue forces to view the objective area and allowed the survivor to view the approaching Jolly Green helicopter. Sandy 01 put down a M-47 to mark the IP

153. Ibid.

154. Ibid.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(initial point) and led the Jolly Greens in while Sandy 03/04 flew a protective daisy chain behind them. The actual pick up was absolutely routine and all SAR forces returned to home station without incident.¹⁵⁵

DECLASSIFIED

(C) The only ordnance expended were two M-47 bombs dropped safe and seven WP (white phosphorous) marking rockets. The 56th Special Operations Wing generated four Sandies, two Pieman (smoke) aircraft and one Nail FAC for the effort. Four Jolly Green helicopters were used, various fast movers were on the scene and several other aircraft were used throughout the night to maintain voice contact with Vampire 03.¹⁵⁶

155. Ibid.
156. Ibid.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~