

37 ARRSq, History JAN - MAR 1971

CHAPTER V

MISSION NARRATIVEMISSIONS

Mission activity started on 11 January 1971. The squadron was asked to assist in the recovery of the remains of an Army pilot trapped in a LOH helicopter wreckage in a river approximately 15.5 miles south of Chu Lai. Although this area was reported to be secure, helicopter 68-10365, flown by Major Donald L. Jensen, was hit by two rounds of AK-47. Both rounds hit critical components of the helicopter and a forced landing was accomplished on a sandbar near the scene of the LOH wreckage. A second H-53, which was the high bird for the mission, flown by Major Mudd, also received two AK-47 hits which penetrated the right tip tank and right sponson respectively. The crew of the downed H-53 was recovered by an Army helicopter and flown to Quang Ngai. At this point Major Jensen's crew was transferred to the high Jolly, and returned to Da Nang. It was determined that the downed H-53 could be recovered by accomplishing temporary repairs in the field and then flown to Chu Lai. The aircraft was recovered without incident.

On 17 Jan 71, the squadron was notified that Gunfighter 13 had bailed out on the 090 radial for 12 miles off Channel 69. Jolly Green 70, flown by Major Donald L. Jensen, and Jolly Green 71, flown by Major William J. Osley, scrambled to the scene and recovered the pilot from the South China Sea.