

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 25 Feb 71

1 Mar 71

MISSION NUMBER: A-3-008-45 Feb 71

DECLASSIFIED

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: King 24

Classified by

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

DISTRESSED AIRCRAFT: Gunfighter 44

SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652

AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO

LOCATION: 34 NM from CH 103(130/34/CH 103)

YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED ON

31 Dec 77

SAVES: 1 Combat

(C) At 0236Z King 24 overheard a broken radio transmission from Danang Tower talking to Gunfighter 44 about a Mayday. King 24 contacted Danang Tower and learned that Gunfighter 44 had called Mayday 34 NM out of CH 103 with the front seater incapacitated and battle damage on the aircraft. The backseater was flying the aircraft and proceeding to CH 77. King 24 attempted to contact Gunfighter 44 with negative results while also establishing communications with Panama for radar positions on the distressed aircraft. No escort aircraft were available. Gunfighters position was 130°/34/CH103 heading south. Queen launched JG 66 and 72 and Sandies 9 and 10 at 0238Z and relayed that Gunfighter's controlling agency had directed him to proceed to CH 87(Phu Cat) for attempted landing or bailout due to better weather there.

King 24 attempted contact several times with Gunfighter 44 on Guard and on his company frequency with negative results. King 24 contacted Phu Cat approach control and requested launch of Pedro and emergency equipment be standing by. Gunfighter 44 came up on Phu Cat approach control's frequency and King 24 established communications with the aircraft at 0252Z; Phu Cat had positive radar contact and began issuing vectors. Gunfighter 44 confirmed that the front seater was totally incapacitated and that he was proceeding to CH 87 for bailout over the field.

At 0302Z a Guard transmission relayed that two good chutes were sighted, and Phu Cat relayed loss of radar contact with Gunfighter 44 at 065°/12.5/CH 87. King 24 went out on Guard for any aircraft near that position to contact King. Lucky 15 and Bulldog 21, two Army med-evac choppers, came up on radio about 5 NM north of the bailout position proceeding in that direction. At 0308Z King 24 assumed on-scene-commander and talked to Gunfighter 44 Bravo who reported that he and the Alpha man were both on the beach and that he was all right. Bravo said that he was walking to Alpha to check

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GROUP-4

Downgraded at 2 year intervals,
Declassified after 12 years.

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him over.

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At 0311Z Bulldog 21 and Lucky 15 spotted Gunfighter 44 Alpha and Bravo and dropped in to make the pickup. Bravo was on Bulldog 21 and Alpha was on Lucky 15. Lucky 15 reported that the Alpha man was dead. Both choppers proceeded to Phu Cat to the hospital and landed at 0330Z.

King 24 Crewmembers

AC/AMC Capt Nader
CP Capt Petit
N Capt Thomas
RO TSgt Martz
FE MSgt Yogodzinski
LM SSgt Richardson

SAR Forces

King 24
JG 66, 72
Sandies 9., 10

Additional Forces

Lucky 15
Bulldog 21



ALFRED H. NADER, Jr, Captain, USAF
Aircraft Commander/Airborne Mission Commander

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GROUP-4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals.,
Declassified after 12 years.

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1250
1305
1315

LINE CHECK SXS
DAAR JRCC TOTAL 17.3
SSGT ARISE OFF DUTY

✱
✱
✱
✱

25 FEB 71

2045 MAJ MUND ON DUTY JFM
2130 STATUS TO QUEEN JFM
2330 3rd GP SUPPLY CALLED. WANTS SUPPLY
STATUS ON NORM AIRCRAFT (2400/4952)
MAINTENANCE CONTROL NOTIFIED. JFM
2335 RF - AR/WAEN PYEV JFM
2400 STATUS TO JOKER JFM
0238 GUNFIGHTER 44 FY AC HAS BEEN SHOT NAV TRYING TO
BRING AIRCRAFT IN. POSITION 150/34/103 FEET WEST. R
0247 JG 66:72 AIRBORNE R
0250 GUNFIGHTER 44 HEADED TOWARD CHANNEL 87 R
0257 QUEEN ADVISED THAT JOLLY GREEN 66:72
PROCEEDING TO PHUCAT TO BACK UP
PEDROS ON PICKUP JFM
0305 PILOT AND NAV PUNCHED OUT
065/13/87 JFM
0315 PILOT AND NAV PICKED UP BY
LUCKY-15 - PROCEEDING TO PHUCAT JFM
0320 REPORT LUCKY-15 HAS ALPHA MAN
AND BULLDOG-21 HAS BRAVO MAN JFM
0417 JG 65 FCF R
0418 JG 73 TNG R
0618 JG 65 Down LOGGED 21 R
0635 JG 72 Down LOGGED 4.0 R
0710 JG 66 Down LOGGED 4.3 R
0735 JOLLY'S ^{ALPHA} ~~ALPHA~~ ^{ALPHA} ~~ALPHA~~ R
0725 ~~GREEN 21~~ Down 2 GOOD CHUTES POSITION 260/43/103
CARBA 21 ~~REPORTED~~ → Lost in Area R

IMMEDIATE

* C [REDACTED] *****

134
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00414

OTTCZYUW RUMUJNA0179 0570640-CCCC--RUWTBMD RUWTBMA.

ZNY CCCCC

O 250605Z FEB 71

FM OL-A 3ARRGP SON TRA AB RVN

TO RUEFHQA/CSAF AFXOTZB

RUHEAKA/PACAF HICKHAM AFB HI DOH

RUWTBMD/HQ ARRS COMMAND POST SCOTT AFB ILL

INFO RUCEAAA/HQ USAF ALT MAXWELL AFB AL

RUWTBMA/MAC MAOCCP

RUMMRSA/7AF CC DO DOO IN DOCT DP TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN

RUHHABA/41ARRWG DOC HICKHAM AFB HI

RUHHHQA/CICNPAC CC

RUMUHTA/MACV SAIGON RVN

RUEKAAA/AFEGC FT RITCHIE MD

RUMFRBA/CTF 77

RUHGOSA/CTG 77.0

RUMUJAA/39ARRS CAM RANH BAY AB RVN

RUMMRSA/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN

RUWTFJA/USAFMPC DPMCS RANDOLPH AFB TEX

RUMMRSA/38ARRS CC TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN

RUMUJGA/DET 13, 38ARRS PHU CAT AB RVN

RUMOREA/56SOW NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND

Classified by

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 116

AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO

YEAR INTERVALS

EXPIRED ON 9/10/77

OPR	CYS
INFO	CYS
DOO	4
DOC	1
CSEH	1

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INFO RUMOSRA/OL-B 3ARRGP UDORN RTAFB THAILAND

RUUJBA/37ARRS DANANG AB RVN

RUMUHAA/1ST AVN BRIGADE LONG BINH RVN

RUMUJBA/366TH TFW DANANG AB RVN

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L/JOPREP JIFFY/OL-A 3ARRGP/RESCUE 008/

0400 25 FEB 71.

1. RESCUE OPENING/CLOSING REPORT 25 FEB 71.
2. MISSION NUMBER: A-3-008-25 FEB 71
3. SITUATION: RECOVERY OF DOWNED AIRCREW MEMBERS.

A. DESCRIPTION OF SAR OBJECTIVE:

- (1) F-4C/66-8691/CAMOFLAGED/GUNFIGHTER 44.
- (2) TACTICAL
- (3) PILOT: RICHARD K. SOMERS, MAJOR, 390TFS, DANANG AB RVN
- (4) POB - 2
- (5) WEATHER: 4,500 SCATTERED, GOOD VISIBILITY.
- (6) SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT: USAF STANDARD
- (7) LAST KNOWN POSITION: 1403N 10914E.

B. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- (1) CONTROLLING AGENCY, OL-A, 3ARRGP, NOTIFIED AT 0235

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25 FEB 71 BY PANAMA RADAR THAT GUNFIGHTER 44 WAS HIT, THE PILOT WAS INCAPACITATED AND THE BACKSEATER WAS FLYING THE AIRCRAFT.

(2) FOLLOWING SAR FORCES ALERTED:

- (A) 39ARRS AT 0236 25 FEB 71.
- (B) 37ARRS AT 0236 25 FEB 71.

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00414

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(C) 56SOW AT 0236 25 FEB 71.

(D) DET 13, 38ARRS, AT 0250 25 FEB 71.

(3) FOLLOWING SAR FORCES WERE LAUNCHED OR DIVERTED:

(A) 39ARRS AT 0236 25 FEB 71 - K-26, C-130P

(B) 37ARRS AT 0245 25 FEB 71 - JG 66/72, HH-53

(C) 56SOW AT 0249 25 FEB 71 - SANDY 9/10, A1-H

(D) DET 13, 38 ARRS AT 0305 25 FEB 71 - PEDRO 33/34,

HH-43.

C. PERSONNEL INFO:

(1) 2 PERSONS INVOLVED - 2 PERSONS LOCATED, 2 RECOVERED
1 SAVED, 1 DECEASED.

(2) SAR OBJECTIVE LOCATED BY BULLDOG 21 AND LUCKY 15 AT
0314 25 FEB 71 COORDINATES 1403N 10814E.

(3) RECOVERY BY ARMY HELICOPTER, LANDED BY DOWNED AIRCREW
FOR PICK-UP.

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(4) BOTH CREW MEMBERS WERE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL AT
PHU CAT AB RVN.

D. FLYING ACTIVITY:

(1) 39ARRS - 1 SORTIE FOR 0.8 HOURS.

(2) 37ARRS - 2 SORTIES FOR 1.0 HOURS.

(3) 56SOW - 2 SORTIES FOR 1.0 HOURS.

(4) DET 13, 38ARRS - 2 SORTIES FOR 0.9 HOURS.

E. RCC MAKING SAVES CAPT A. NADER, 39ARRS. 1 PERSON SAVED
JOHN S. TALLEY, 390TFS, DANANG AB, RVN. 39ARRS CREDITED WITH
1 COMBAT, AIRCREW MEMBER SAVE. 129TH HELICOPTER ASSAULT SQUADRON
CREDITED WITH 1 COMBAT AIRCREW MEMBER SAVE.

G. SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS:

(1) AT 0235 25 FEB 71, OL-A RECEIVED A CALL FROM PANAMA
RADAR THAT GUNFIGHTER 44 (F-4C) WAS HIT BY ENEMY FIRE AND THAT THE
BRAVO MAN (BACKSEATER) WAS FLYING THE AIRCRAFT. THE ALPHA MAN
(FRONTSEATER) WAS INCAPACITATED AND UNABLE TO FLY THE AIRCRAFT.
THE 366TH COMMAND POST DIRECTED GUNFIGHTER 44 TO CONTINUE TO
PHU CAT AB BECAUSE OF BETTER WEATHER. THE DECISION WAS MADE BY
366TH TFW CP TO HAVE THE CREW BAILOUT OVER THE COAST NORTH EAST
OF PHU CAT. AT 0235Z JG 66 AND 72 (HH-53) SANDY 9 AND 10 (A1-H)

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AND K-24 (C-130P) WERE NOTIFIED. K-24 BECAME MISSION COMMANDER (AMC) AT
THAT TIME. THE JG'S AND SANDY PROCEEDED TOWARD PHU CAT. THE
JRCC AT TAN SON NHUT ALERTED DET 13 PEDRO'S 33 AND 34 (HH-43) AT
PHU CAT FOR A POSSIBLE PICK-UP. AT 0305Z OL-A RECEIVED WORD THAT
THE CREW HAD BAILOUT. 2 GOOD CHUTES WERE OBSERVED AND REPORTED
AT 0309Z. THE CREW LANDED ON THE BEACH 11 MILES NORTHEAST OF
PHU CAT (1403N 10914E). BULLDOG 21 AND LUCKY 15 (BOTH UH-1H MED
EVACS) WERE FLYING IN THE AREA, SAW THE CHUTES AND LANDED NEXT TO
THE CREW MEMBERS. BULLDOG 21 PICKED-UP THE BRAVO MAN AND REPORTED
HIM IN GOOD CONDITION. LUCKY 15 PICKED-UP THE ALPHA MAN AND
REPORTED HIM DOA. BOTH WERE TAKEN TO PHU CAT HOSPITAL. ALL SAR

IMMEDIATE

* C O N F I D E N T I A L *

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PT 00414

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FORCES WERE THEN RTR. THERE WERE NO REFUELINGS. THE 39ARRS AND THE 129TH HELICOPTER ASSAULT COMPANY ARE CREDITED WITH 1 COMBAT AIRCREW MEMBER SAVE.

(2) TOTAL FLYING ACTIVITY: SEE ITEM 30.

GP-4

BT

#0179

NNNN#

3/3

MESSAGE NOTIFICATION	
Individual Contacted:	LE
Local Time and Date:	0140Z 26 Feb 71

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CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

JOSEPH S. STANALAND

Staff Sergeant Joseph S. Stanaland distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a HH-53 Rescue Helicopter Pararescue and Recovery Technician, 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand on 25 February 1971. On that date, Sergeant Stanaland flew an extremely hazardous mission deep into hostile territory in an attempt to rescue an American pilot downed by hostile fire. In spite of adverse weather conditions and the constant threat of hostile fire, Sergeant Stanaland accomplished this highly intricate and hazardous mission in support of free world forces combatting aggression. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Stanaland reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

The second Phantom lost on this day was taking part in a night mission in the same area. Capt Hedditch was making his third pass on a target near Ban Tampanko when his aircraft was struck by ground fire. In this instance both the crew ejected successfully and were rescued by a USAF helicopter.

Sunday, August 25, 2002 (2).jpg

25 February 1971

F-4D 66-8691 366 TFW, USAF, Da Nang
Maj Richard Keith Somers (KIA)
Capt J S Talley (survived)

Again, two Phantoms were shot down during two unrelated Steel Tiger missions in southern Laos. Maj Somers was bombing enemy troops in contact with friendly forces near Ban Tampanko, 17 miles southwest of Khe Sanh. The aircraft was hit in the cockpit at 1,000 feet on its fourth pass. Maj Somers may have been wounded or his ejection seat damaged, as he did not follow Capt Talley out of the aircraft. The WSO was subsequently rescued by a USAF helicopter.

F-4D 65-0637 12 TFW, USAF, Phu Cat
Capt Hedditch (survived)
1Lt T McLaughlin (survived)

Sunday, August 25, 2002.jpg