

The last mission in March took Jolly Greens 72 and 70 into North Vietnam to recover two crewmembers of Falcon 84. Although the mission started on 22 March, it was not completed until first light on 23 March. Jolly Green 72, flown by Major Donald L. Jensen, recovered both pilots in good condition. No resistance was present in the pickup area but Jolly Green 70 flown by Captain Edward D. Harrow (high bird) took heavy 37mm and 23mm fire near Bat Lake NVN. The Sandy flight did a great job on this mission.

22 March 1971

F-4D '67-0655' 13-TFS, 432 TRW, USAF, Udorn
Maj R D Priest (survived)
Maj R L Clobberly (survived)

A flight of Phantoms was flying an escort mission for a reconnaissance aircraft over the southern provinces of North Vietnam when one of the aircraft was lost. The formation was about 10 miles southwest of Dong Hoi when a SAM was launched at the aircraft. Maj Priest's aircraft, a Falcon fast FAC Phantom, was hit by the missile and burst into flames. The crew ejected immediately and evaded capture until they could be rescued by a USAF SAR helicopter. This was the first US aircraft to be lost to an SA-2 since October 1968. The serial quoted for this aircraft is incorrect, as 67-0655 is the serial of a Minuteman ICBM.

—15 hours on ground—

Rescue crews pluck 2 from North

DA NANG — After 15 hours on the ground in North Vietnam, two F-4 Phantom pilots were picked up by rescue crews of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and returned safely to the Republic.

Majors Robert D. Priest and Robert L. Cubberly were forced to eject from their Phantom when it was hit by an enemy surface to air missile near Dong Hoi, north of the Demilitarized Zone.

The two men had successfully evaded an earlier SAM missile during their escort mission for reconnaissance aircraft, but a second SAM exploded near them causing many of their aircraft's systems to malfunction. Shortly thereafter the plane burst into flames.

"Everything happened so fast it was hard to tell exactly what was going on," recalled Major Priest. "We felt the concussion from the SAM blast

and the warning lights came on all over the instrument panel. The aircraft jerked up and we ejected."

"I landed in a tall tree and got hung up there," said Major Cubberly. "I could hear enemy troops on the ground below me. One of them was blowing a shrill whistle and the troops rejoined him down the hill and came back up again in two columns.

All this time the weight of the parachute was causing tree branches to crack. "I thought the cracking noise might alert the troops below me, but they apparently didn't even notice me," the major continued.

As poor weather and darkness crept over the area, the pilots prepared to spend the night where they were.

"I cut down some palm leaves and made a shelter to hide in and protect me from the rain, which was pouring down by this time," related Major Priest. "But I still got soaked that night.

"Things really started happening fast the next morning. As soon as it got light, we could see A-1 Skyraiders in the area.

"About 45 minutes later we saw the Jolly Green coming in," recalled Major Priest. "Before long they had picked me up and I was in the bird."

The rescue helicopter then went in and, within five minutes, had Major Cubberly picked up.

Maj. Donald L. Jensen, Jolly Green pilot, and Capt. Glen W. Walder, copilot, agreed that "this was a classic SAR mission."

A PHOTOCOPIED FROM
612 and 613

23 MARCH 1971

SAR Progress - 22 March 1971

- 0800 - Falcon 84 down at 312/52/103 (17°20' N 106° 31' E)
- 0806 - JG 72/65 Airborne.
- 0830 - Sandy 11/12 Airborne. King 27 Airborne.
- 0835 - JG 62/55 Launched. Escorted by Sandy 1/2 into India Orbit.
- 0838 - Dipper 3 has contact with 84 Alpha. None with 84 Bravo.
- 0911 - Chippy 403 & Stormy 01/02 will join hands and go into area.
- 0919 - Stormy 01 On Scene Commander.
- 0925 - Weather is D-S. Stormy 01 has made 3 passes over area. No visual contact with survivors. Has drawn no fire.
- 0932 - Sandy 09/10 in area. Alpha & Bravo contact with each other.
- 0955 - Sandy 09 - bad UHF. Sandy 10 has gone in to try and locate survivors.
- 0958 - Survivors have 2 radios, 4 batteries, and smoke.
- 1025 - Sandy 09 has good contact with 84 Alpha - trying to pinpoint location, 84 Alpha reports rain in area.
- 1045 - Sandy 11 is briefing, survivors to switch to on guard. start 2000L. Every two hours - radio check, until 0600,
- 1046 - Sandy 11 On Scene Commander.
- 1050 - JG 72/65 Air Refueling.

SAR PROGRESS - FALCON 84 ALPHA AND BRAVO (23 March 1971)

- 0530H - "OWL FAC talked to 84 Alpha, who reports Westher 5000 broken. (??)
- 0615H - "SPUD" reports cloud bases 2000 -4000 feet.
- 0615H - Queen says laungh SANDY 1 & 2 to Join Jolly Greens at India Orbit.
- 0625H - Queen says launch Bravo Jollies.
- 0630H - Jolly Green 72 airborne.
- 0631H - Jolly Green 70 airborne.
- 0633H - Jolly Green 67 airborne.
- 0634H - Jolly Green 65 airborne.
- 0646H - sounded like SANDYS taking off.
- 0720H - Jollies going out 268/25/103, then North to 350/20.
Bravo Jollies holding 360/40/103.
- 0750H - Phase Alpha complete. JG 70 taking heavy AA near Bat Lake - pulling out.
- 0751H - Phase Bravo in progress on Falcoln 84 Alpha.
- 0756H - Phase Bravo completed on Falcoln 84 Alpha.
- 0757H - Phase Brove in progress on Falcoln 84 Bravo.
- 0800H - JG 72 has tally-ho on Falcoln 84 Bravo.
- 0801H - JG 70 to the South of the Fence.
- 0804H - Phase Bravo complete on Falcoln 84 Bravo.
- 0806H - JG 72, SANDY 1 & 2 egressing. Beaucoup ground fire around Bat Lake.
- 0808H - Cobra 4 flight going to escort SAR forces out of area.
- 0810H - King 23 est India Orbit at 0855H.

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- 0808H - Cobra 4 flight going to escort SAR forces out of area.
- 0810H - King 23 est India Orbit at 0855H.

0811H - JG 70 intercepting JG 72 to procede out together.
0814H - STORMY flight has tally-ho on SAR forces and will escort.
0823H - AR not required.
0825H - All SAR forces over the fence.
0826H - Both survivors OK. 84 Bravo has burns on hand and small piecc of
shrapnel in thumb.
0828H - Neither Jolly took hits.
0908H - JG 72 & 70 on the deck @ 77.
0909H - JG 67 & 65 on the deck @ 77.

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Majors Robert D. Priest and Robert L. Clobberly were forced to eject from their Phantom when it was hit by an enemy surface to air missile near Dong Noi, north of the Demilitarized Zone.

The two men had successfully evaded an earlier SAM missile during their escort mission for reconnaissance aircraft, but a second SAM exploded near them causing many of their aircraft's systems to malfunction. Shortly thereafter the plane burst into flames.

Everything happened so fast it was hard to tell exactly what was going on," recalled Major Priest. "We felt the concussion from the SAM blast

and the warning lights came on all over the instrument panel. The aircraft jerked up and we ejected."

"I landed in a tall tree and got hung up there," said Major Clobberly. "I could hear enemy troops on the ground below me. One of them was blowing a shrill whistle and the troops rejoined him down the hill and came back up again in two columns."

All this time the weight of the parachute was causing tree branches to crack. "I thought the cracking noise might alert the troops below me, but they apparently didn't even notice me," the major continued.

As poor weather and darkness crept over the area, the pilots prepared to spend the night where they were.

"I cut down some palm leaves and made a shelter to hide in and protect me from the rain, which was pouring down by this time," related Major Priest. "But I still got soaked that night."

Things really started happening fast the next morning. As soon as it got light, we could see A-1 Skyraiders in the area.

"About 45 minutes later we saw the Jolly Green coming in," recalled Major Priest. "Before long they had picked me up and I was in the bird."

The rescue helicopter then went in and, within five minutes, had Major Clobberly picked up.

Maj. Donald L. Jensen, Jolly Green pilot, and Capt. Glen W. Walder, co-pilot, agreed that "this was a classic SAR mission."

1. 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron
012 000 013

1971

37th ARRS Makes Save Up North.

(Continued from Pg. 1)

"Everything happened so fast it was hard to tell exactly what was going on," recalled Major Priest. "We felt the concussion from the blast and the warning lights came on all over the instrument panel. The aircraft jerked up and we ejected."

The two pilots estimated that they landed within a quarter of a mile from each other. They immediately established radio contact and waited for the search and rescue (SAR) aircraft to come in.

"I landed in a tall tree and got hung



Major Priest

there," recalled Major Cubberly. "I could hear enemy troops on the ground below me. One of them was blowing a shrill whistle and the troops rejoined him down the hill and came back up again in two columns."

All this time the weight of the parachute was causing the tree branches to crack. "I thought the cracking noise might alert the troops below me, but they apparently didn't even notice me," related the major about the harrowing experience.

As poor weather and darkness crept over the area, the pilots prepared to spend the night there.

"Things really started happening fast



Major Cubberly

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"About 45 minutes later we saw the Jolly Green coming in," recalled Major Priest. "Before long they had picked me up and I was in the bird."

The rescue helicopter then went in and had the back-seater, Major Cubberly, picked up within five minutes.

Maj. Donald L. Jensen was the aircraft commander of the HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter which made the pickup.

"This was a classic SAR mission. As soon as we went up this morning, everything went like clockwork. There was no heavy opposition and we were able to get right in there and pick up the survivors," commented Capt. Glen W. Walder, the co-pilot. "It turned out just like you hope they all do."

Other crewmembers on the rescue chopper were TSgt. Carlos J. McKinney, the flight engineer and the three pararescuemen, TSgt. Henry C. Kirk, SSgt. John C. Ratliff and A1C Danny D. Hancock.

Pilots Rescued From N. Vietnam

After 15 hours on the ground in North Vietnam, two F-4 Phantom pilots were picked up by rescue crews from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) and returned safely early Tuesday (March 23).

Majors Robert D. Priest and Robert L. Cubberly were forced to eject from their Phantom when it was hit by an enemy surface-to-air missile (SAM) near Don Hoi north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

While flying as an armed escort for reconnaissance aircraft, the Phantom crew successfully evaded one SAM but a second SAM exploded near the Phantom causing many of the aircraft's systems to malfunction. It shortly thereafter burst into flames.



23 MAR 71

MARCH 1971				SURVIVORS		
				NAME	RANK	
				SSN		
DATE	CREW	SG	SAVE #	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TYPE SAVE
2	BAKKE HARROW ROGERS NARDI PECORARO MONTENAYOR	73	610	LE HANOI NHOU (U.N. SAILOR)	CON SON ISLAND	MEDICAL 1 NON-ME
6	MUDD MERCHANT JOHNSON MUELEHI McDONALD HACKNEY LEWIS (AP)	71	611	TIPTON, CHARLES 4LT SANDY 04 5650W NKP	1639 N 106.23 E	COMBAT
23	JENSEN WALDER MCKINNEY RATLIFF HAUSCK KIRK SHAPIRO (AP)	72	612 613	MAJOR ROBERT D. PRIEST XXXXXXXXXX 432 TFW MAJ ROBERT L. CUBBERLY XXXXXXXXXX 432 TFW	312/32/103 North VN	2 COMBAT

TOTAL MONTHLY SAVES 4

Vietnam War Aircraft Losses

1377	6 Mar 1971	A-1H	LAOS	Tipton C. L.	1Lt	Rescued	USAF Helo				
1378	12 Mar 1971	F-100D	SVN	Jeffs C. G.	1Lt	MIA					
1379	16 Mar 1971	O-2A	LAOS	Scrivener S. R.	1Lt	KIA		Seeley D. M.	Capt	KIA	
1380	22 Mar 1971	F-4D	NVN	Priest R. D.	Maj	Rescued	USAF Helo	Cubberly R. L.	Maj	Rescued	
1381	22 Mar 1971	F-100D	LAOS	Moriarty P. G.	Capt	KIA					
1382	24 Mar 1971	OV-10A	LAOS	Butcher J. M.	1Lt	POW (returned)					
1383	26 Mar 1971	A-37	CMB	Krueger D. W.	1Lt	KIA					
1384	4 Apr 1971	F-100D	CMB	Smith J. S.	1Lt	KIA					
1385	6 Apr 1971	A-1J	LAOS	Stewart J. W.	Capt	Rescued	u Helo				
1386	11 Apr 1971	F-100D	SVN	Buerk W. C.	Capt	KIA					
1387	13 Apr 1971	F-100D	CMB	u	u	Rescued					
1388	15 Apr 1971	F-100D	SVN	Hauck J. C.	Capt	Rescued	Army				
1389	21 Apr 1971	F-4D	LAOS	u	u	Rescued		u	u	Rescued	
1390	24 Apr 1971	F-4	LAOS	Lemon J. C.	Capt	MIA		Sigafoos W. H.	1Lt	KIA	
1391	26 Apr 1971	O-2A	LAOS	Mellor G. L.	1Lt	Rescued		Fleming G. J.	1Lt	Rescued	
1392	28 Apr 1971	F-100D	SVN	Lang B. G.	1Lt	KIA					
1393	6 May 1971	F-4E	LAOS	Blissett A. S. Jr	Maj	Rescued		u	u	Rescued	
1394	4 June 1971	OV-10A	LAOS	u	u	Rescued		u	u	KIA	
1395	18 June 1971	A-1H	LAOS	White R. F.	Capt	KIA					
1396	20 June 1971	OV-10A	LAOS	Ross S. R.	Maj	Rescued		Moxon A. L.	1Lt	Rescued	
1397	27 June 1971	A-37	CMB	Jones R. W.	Capt	KIA					
1398	29 June 1971	F-4D	Sea	Ricks W. R.	Capt	Rescued		Buffkin B. D.	1Lt	Rescued	
1399	5 juli 1971	OV-10A	LAOS	Thomas D. W.	1Lt	MIA					
1400	10 juli 1971	RF-4	SVN	Wheeler R. C.	Capt	Rescued	USAF Helo	Stuermernav J. F.	1Lt	Rescued	
1401	18 juli 1971	A-1H	u	u	u	u					
1402	22 juli 1971	RF-4	CMB	Musgrove W.	LtCol	Rescued	Army Helo	Stuermeyer J. F.	1Lt	Rescued	

Downed in N. Vietnam, Pilots Evade Searchers

SAIGON (AP)—Two U.S. Air Force pilots told Wednesday of spending a night hiding from the enemy in North Vietnam after their F4 Phantom fighter was shot down on a reconnaissance mission.

Maj. Robert D. Priest, 38, Victorville, Calif., and Maj. Robert L. Cubberly, 33, Bowling Green, Ohio, were flying escort for a reconnaissance aircraft over North Vietnam Monday. A SAM missile fired at them exploded near their plane. Pilots call the long SAM missile the "Flying Telephone Pole."

"Everything happened so fast it was hard to tell exactly what

was going on," Priest said in a statement released by the headquarters of the U.S. 7th Air Force.

Cubberly said he parachuted into a tree, and could hear enemy soldiers below searching for him.

"They apparently didn't even notice me," Cubberly added, though his weight was causing the tree branches to crack.

The two pilots estimated they landed within a quarter of a mile of each other.

"I cut down some palm leaves and made a shelter to hide in and protect me from the rain, which was pouring down by that

time," Priest said. "But I still got soaked that night."

As soon as the sun rose Tuesday morning, Priest said, their emergency radios led Al Skyraider search planes to them.

"About 45 minutes later we saw the Jolly Green rescue helicopter coming in," Priest said. "Before long they had picked me up and I was in the bird."

Cubberly was picked up five minutes later.

The two were shot down at the same time that U.S. protective reaction air strikes were carried out against three antiaircraft missile sites in North Vietnam.

ALL DON JELSON PAGES 1
PICKUPS UP

0345 JG 72 AB

0415 JG 65 ABN A
0613 JG 70 & 67 ABN A
0710 JG 72 Down 3.5 A
0720 JG 65 Down 3.2 A
0800 JG 67 & 70 Down A
0800 FALCON 84 DOWN TWO GOOD CHUTE @ 312/52/103 ~~324/53/103~~ A
0806 JG 72/65 ABN (720N 106 31E) A
0830 SANDY 11 & 12 ABN AND KING 27 ABN A
0835 JG 62/55 LAUNCHED ESCORTED BY SANDY 1 & 2 INTO INDIA ORBIT A
0838 DIPPER 03 HAS CONTACT WITH FALCON 84 "A" NONE WITH "B" A
0911 CHIPPY 403 AND STORMY 1 & 2 WILL JOIN HANDS TO GO INTO AREA. A
0919 STORMY 01 OSC A
0925 WX IS DS, STORMY 01 HAS MADE 3 PASSES OVER AREA NO VISUAL CONTACT WITH SURVIVOR HAS DRAWN NO FIRE A
0932 SANDY 09 & 10 IN AREA. "A" & "B" CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER NEW POSITION ~~WITH~~ ^{OFF} SURVIVORS 325/32/103 AREA A FLAT MARSHLAND
0955 SANDY 09 BAD 4HF, SANDY 10 HAS GONE IN TO TRY LOCATE SURVIVOR
0958 SURVIVORS HAVE 2 RADIOS, 4 BATTERIES AND SMOKE A
1001 JG 72/65 HOLDING 350/40/143
1022 QUEEN WANTED TO LAUNCH BL & BH, COL COPPERTHYTE ADVISED COL PRINE THAT IT WOULD TAKE 50 MIN TO REACH THE AREA. A
1025 SANDY 09 HAS GOOD CONTACT WITH ALPHA MAN- TRYING TO PIN POINT POSITION
84 "A" REPORTS RAIN IN AREA.
1045 SANDY 11 IS BRIEFING SURVIVORS TO SWITCH TO ON GUARD START 2000Z EVERY TWO HOURS RADIO CHECK, TILL 0600
1046 SANDY 11 OSC AT THIS TIME.
1225 HF RADIO OUT CONTACT MAINT GU #081064 A
1255 JG 72 Down LOGGED 4.9 A
1303 JG 65 Down LOGGED A
1220 11 11 11 11 A

23 MARCH 1971

0040	CAPT MERCHANT ON DUTY	
0040	POWER FAILURE IN PROGRESS. NOTIFIED QUEEN.	
	PASSED MX STATUS & SAR POSTURE SAME CALL.	M
0025	POWER BACK ON. NOTIFIED QUEEN.	M
0015	LAUNCH ALPHA BIRDS	M
0015	LAUNCH SANDY 1 & 2	M
0025	LAUNCH BRAVO BIRDS	M
0030	JG 70 AIRBORNE	M
0031	JG 72 AIRBORNE	M
0033	JG 67 AIRBORNE	M
0034	JG 65 AIRBORNE	M
0109	JG 70, ON THE DECK - LOGGED 2.7	M
0109	JG 72 ON THE DECK - LOGGED 2.7	M
0110	JG 67 ON THE DECK - LOGGED 2.7	M
0110	JG 65 ON THE DECK - LOGGED 2.6	M
0150	ITEM 14. EB DD AKPT LUZV	M
0245	JG 67 & 70 QUICK TURN-AROUND COMPLETE	M
0246	JG 72 QUICK TURN-AROUND COMPLETE	M
	MSN NBR A-3-014	
//2304//	PHASE BRAVO COMPLETE - FALCON 84 A/B F-4D	
	#612 MAJ ROBERT D. PRIEST (SR PILOT)	
	478-34-9189 432 TFWg, UDORN	
	#613 MAJ ROBERT L. CUBBERLY (NAV)	
	270-32-0794 432 TFWg, UDORN M	
	PICKUP POSITION 312/52/103.	
0333	JG 70 AIRBORNE - for FRAG.	
0348	JG 67 AIRBORNE - for FRAG.	
0400	CAPT MERCHANT OFF, SSGT ARISBE ON	
0401	Alert System Tested.	
0608	JG 70 Down LOGGED 2.6	
0615	JG 67 Down LOGGED 2.6	
1015	DAAR JRCC TOTAL 15.9	
1030	LINE CHECK SVS, SSGT ARISBE OFF Duty	