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Changed to CONFIDENTIAL

By Authority of CDS

By ES (Date) 26/2/75

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DATE: 30 Mar 71

2 Apr 71

MISSION NUMBER: 03-007-30 Mar 71 ✓

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: King 24 ✓

DISTRESSED AIRCRAFT: Apache 12-13

LOCATION: UTM WT 060 760

SAVES: 3 Combat

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 79

(S) At 0250Z, King 24 copied an emergency call on Guard from Apache 26, Apache 26 had been wounded but was okay, and there were two CH-6 helicopters down east of Phnom Penh. King could not contact Apache 26. Rustic 05, OV-10, contacted Apache 26, as well as, Baron 01, C and C UH-1, Shadow 22, AC-119, and Black Pony 12-13, OV-10. King copied the position and situation on Guard, but could not contact any of the aircraft in the area. King attempted to contact Agate/Ram Rod, EC-121, for border clearance. No contact. King proceeded from orbit to the fence while the radio operator secured border clearance from Joker at 0255Z.

King made contact with Rustic 05 at approximately 0310Z and received a briefing on the situation. Apache 12 and 13 had been shot down at UTM WT 060 760. Rustic 05 did not know if there were any survivors. Baron 01 reported that he believed there were two survivors. Rustic 05 was asked if he could use the assistance of USAF S&F forces. Rustic replied affirmative. At 0315Z, King requested Jolly Green 64-67 and Sandy 07-08 be launched from CH 75. Jolly Green 55-62 and Sandy 01-02 were requested from CH 93.

Rustic 05 was appointed On Scene Commander. He was working Black Pony 12-13 and Shadow 22 in the S&F area. King coordinated with the OSC, Ram Rod 01, and Joker for fast movers with soft ordnance.

King requested launch of King 27, alert tanker, to refuel the Jolly Greens. Joker advised that King 27 was not available, however, King 26 would be airborne.

At 0343Z, Rustic 05 reported Baron 01 was going to attempt a recovery with Shadow cover. King accepted the OSC evaluation of the situation. The decision to attempt the recovery was immediate and coordinated on a discrete FM frequency apparently. Rustic 05 asked

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King to standby on the radio for a recovery attempt. At 0345Z, Rustic 05 reported that Baron 01 had recovered two survivors in good condition and that there was one more survivor on the ground.

Rustic 03 arrived and was appointed OSC At 0350Z. Shadow 22 and Black Pony 05-06 continued to suppress ground fire. The OSC and the strike aircraft reported heavy fire coming from a pagoda close to the SAR scene. At approximately 0412Z Dustoff 115 made a recovery attempt and was successful in recovering one more survivor. King called both Baron 01 and Dustoff 115 to confirm that there were four objectives, three recovered. Dustoff 115 reported that there was one more man lying on the ground 10 meters south of the wreckage nearest the pagoda. Dustoff 115 reported that his medic told him the man on the ground had burns and he could not determine if he was dead or unconscious.

Sandy 07-08 arrived in the area at 0422Z Jolly Green 64-67 arrived at 0430Z. After a briefing by Rustic 03, Sandy 07 was appointed On Scene Commander. Rustic 03 remained to serve as FAC for the mission.

Between the period 0442Z and 0604Z, A-37 Hawks and F-100 Blades were used to soften the area for another recovery attempt. Enemy fire power increased during the early progress of the SAR effort. Fire from the pagoda was a continuing problem.

Sandy 01-02 arrived along with Jolly Green 55-62 at 0525Z. King 26 was not available for refueling so it was necessary for King 24 to refuel JG 55-62 enroute to the scene. At 0610Z Joker advised that the problem pagoda could be struck. King 23, west alert tanker, was requested when it was apparent that no support could be expected from King 26. King 24 completed air refueling JG 55-62.

Sandy 07 reported that he felt the area was secure for a recovery attempt at 0640Z. Jolly Green 64 attempted the recovery but was driven off by ground fire on egress. The recovery attempt was aborted and Shadow 14 moved into the area to hose down the area of concentrated ground fire. Sandy 07-08 were nearing bingo time, and expended the rest of their ordnance. Sandy 01 was appointed OSC. Sandy 07-08 were instructed to RTB and come back out ASAP. Jolly Green 64-67 had to RTB after the recovery attempt. King 24 did not have enough fuel to refuel 64 and 67. Sandy 01 was OSC at 0720Z. The Hawks and Shadow 14 expended during this period in an attempt to eliminate the ground forces that threatened JG 64. Sandy 01-02 were approaching bingo time and expended their ordnance. Rustic 20 was appointed OSC until Sandy 07-08

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