

CHAPTER V

MISSION NARRATIVES

Marginal weather conditions and withering enemy fire were part of the complications faced by Lt Col C. D. (Bud) Fried on 9 Apr 71 in the first squadron SAR activity of the quarter. The object of this successful mission was the extraction of four indigenous personnel. The cost, two wounded PJ's, one seriously, as well as the unexplained loss of one Sandy (A-1H) aircraft and pilot. A NaII (OV-10) FAC started the activity for the morning by directing the Sandys through a devastating preparation of the area. Despite the efforts of these aircraft, the first rescue attempt by Lt Col Fried had to be aborted as a result of ground fire coming from the one to three o'clock position of his Jolly Green. After additional ordinance was laid into the area, Lt Col Fried made his second run and subsequently four combat saves. The true test of men and machines came shortly after the egress run had started when extremely heavy ground fire was observed in a 360 degree radius around Lt Col Fried's aircraft. It was at this time, while returning the enemy fire with their miniguns, that the number one PJ, A1C Petty, received a .51 caliber round through his right arm and the number three PJ, SSgt Hackney, took a round through his helmet resulting in a minor scalp wound. Medical aid was rendered these men as the aircraft recovered without further incident. The Sandy aircraft that was lost was last seen prior to the egress run.

Crew Rosters

AC Lt Col C. D. (Bud) Fried
 CP Capt Bruce M. Carskadon
 HM SSgt David M. Cutillo
 RS SSgt Duane D. Hackney
 RS A1C Donald J. Pecoraro
 RS A1C Ervin A. Petty

AC Capt Glen W. Walder
 CP Capt Edward D. Harrow
 HM MSgt Samuel J. Halphen
 RS MSgt Gordon C. Bailey
 RS TSgt Allen J. Avery
 RS A1C Ralph R. Moreno

A first light effort resulting in one combat save on 18 Apr 71 was the squadron's second SAR mission of the quarter. The mission, led by Capt Glen W. Walder, ran into complications as soon as they arrived at the initial holding point, where they were greeted by a combination of hazy visibility and anti-aircraft artillery airbursts. Following some appropriate evasive actions, a thorough briefing on the situation by a Covey (OV-10) FAC, a rapid air-to-air refueling as well as some additional holding while the area was prepared by Sandy (A-1H) aircraft, Capt Walder made a high speed, low level run for the Navy A-7E pilot on the ground. The ingress, which was made up a small valley with a plateau at its end for a target, drew only light ground fire, which was returned. Upon reaching the survivor's approximate position on the plateau, Capt Walder was forced to hover for an extended period, lowering the jungle penetrator several times, before the survivor, who had nothing to mark his exact location, could be extracted. Egress from the area and return to DaNang was accomplished uneventfully with a Sandy escort.

Crew Rosters

AC Capt Glen W. Walder	AC Lt Col Harry S. Copperthite Jr.
CP Capt Otto G. Gammill Jr.	CP Lt Roderick Martin III (USCG)
HM TSgt Carlos J. McKinney	HM SSgt David M. Cutillo
RS A1C Ralph R. Moreno	RS A1C Michael A. Curtiss
RS A1C Randy L. Zonker	RS A1C Charles B. Aldean
RS SSgt Micheal D. Morris	RS SSgt James R. Thomas

Five SAR missions have resulted in 11 lives saved during this quarter. Eight of the 11 were combat saves. The first mission was on 9 Apr 71. Lt Col Fried and crew rescued 4 indigenous personnel with damage to his aircraft and two wounded pararescuemen. The second mission of the quarter, led by Capt Glen W. Walder, brought about the rescue of a downed Navy A-7E pilot. Captain Walder accounted for three more saves on 12 May 71 when he picked up the crew of an Army helicopter on the beach near Quang Tri. The fourth mission involved the pick up of a crew member from a crashed Army O-1 on 24 May 71 by Maj Robert H. Heiges. The final mission of the quarter was led by Maj Donald L. Jensen on 4 Jun 71 and resulted in the rescue of two downed OV-10 crew members.

Personnel standing alert at the FOL responded to several scrambles during the quarter, but no actual SAR activity was recorded.

The personnel required to maintain the alert status at Bien Hoa consisted of a commander, four pilots, and six enlisted crew members. The FOL was also completely manned with a maintenance staff of seven airmen.

TRAINING

During the quarter the following personnel were upgraded or qualified in the positions noted:

Pilots

Maj Robert H. Heiges to Flight Examiner

Maj Gerald J. Lange to Instructor Pilot

Maj Joseph F. Mudd to Instructor Pilot

Maj Reginald A. Murray to Instructor Pilot

SAC - Strategic Air Command

SAR - Search and Rescue mission

SEA - Southeast Asia

TDY - Temporary Duty

TFW - Tactical Fighter Wing

SAVES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Survivor's Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission Number</u>
614	Indigenous Person	--	9 Apr 71	A-3-016-09
615	Indigenous Person	--	9 Apr 71	A-3-016-09
616	Indigenous Person	--	9 Apr 71	A-3-016-09
617	Indigenous Person	--	9 Apr 71	A-3-016-09
618	Richard E. Forman	1 Lt	18 Apr 71	A-3-017
619	Alvin R. Simon	SP/5	12 May 71	A-3-018
620	Gary Westphal	Sgt	12 May 71	A-3-018
621	Bjarni O. Bradwell	W01	12 May 71	A-3-018
622	Robert A. Wolff	1 Lt	24 May 71	A-3-020
623	Sam Ross	Maj	4 Jun 71	A-3-021
624	Art Moxon	Capt	4 Jun 71	A-3-021

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DATE: 9 Apr 71

MISSION NUMBER: A-3-016-9 Apr 71

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: King 26

DESTRESSED PERSONNEL: Vietnamese Ground Team

LOCATION: 215/57/CH 77

SAVES: 4 Saves

(S) On 9 Apr 71 at 0642Z (1454H) I advised a Vietnamese who had been transmitting on Guard for some time to stay off that frequency when Nail 47 came up and explained that his indigenous backseater had been conversing with a four-man Vietnamese ground team (Call sign AP) which was surrounded at landing zone "Belgrass" located at 215/57/CH 77 (EB 8089). He said that the extraction forces could not come from NKP due to a large weather front on the ridgeline and that if the team was not recovered that day they would be captured by the next morning. I asked if he had tried Army resources and he replied that they did not have the endurance for an extraction in that high terrain (4300'). Queen was advised and at 0731Z (1531H) JG 70/67 and Sandy 9/10 were launched from Danang for the SAR effort. The weather in the area was 7/8-8/8 at 10,000 feet and 3/8 on the surface with scud and low clouds moving across the landing zone.

Nail 47 was appointed OSC at 0700Z (1500H) and had sufficient fuel to remain until dark. Nail 28 was on scene also but departed soon after. Nail 49 arrived at 0810Z (1610H) to supplement Nail 47. Sandy 9 was made OSC at 0823Z (1623H) after locating the survivors. Other aircraft arriving on scene were several Blade aircraft which were not used due to deteriorating weather and Jupiter, a flight of 2 VNAF A-1's which Nail 47 used from 0835Z (1635H) to 0850Z (1650H) to sanitize the area. Since Hobo 20/21 and Sandy 1/2 were due on scene at 1000Z (1800H), I cleared Sandy 9/10 to expend about half their ordnance on scene in support of the SAR before the first pickup attempt. At 0900Z (1700H) Sandy 9 was briefing the pickup to the Nail FACs, Sandy 10, and JG 70/67. At 0914Z (1714H) the forces moved in for a first attempt with JG 70 prebriefed to set down on the landing zone in order to unload an injured survivor. Nail 49's backseater briefed the survivors on Guard but the SAR forces used discreet frequencies for the attempt as only Vietnamese was spoken on Guard. The first attempt was abandoned

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

after Smoke drifted across the landing zone and JG 70 took some small arms fire. Confusion resulted when it was thought that the survivors were firing at the aircraft but the Nail PACs checked with the survivors and relayed that the firing came from the treeline across the landing zone from the HAZ. At 0936Z (1736H) Sandy 9 briefed for a second attempt with modified tactics. With Sandy 9/10 strafing and JG 67 flying above a thin cloud deck as high bird, JG 70 moved in for the pickup with his MD60's firing at the treeline. From 0944Z to 0954Z the run-in and pickup was accomplished and I heard the radio calls, "We're hit" or "I'm hit" and then Sandy 9 calling to JG 70 to, "Get it up Jolly...Climb out Jolly" and then, "Where's Sandy 10?". I asked twice, "Who is hit?" but received only broken transmissions. Then I said on Guard, "All SAR forces check in on 123.1". Immediately everyone checked in except Sandy 10. JG 70 assessed his damage and reported the survivors were all on board and that two PJ's had been injured. I then sent JG 70 and 67 home to CH 77 and kept Sandy 9 and the Nail PACs on scene. Sandy 1/2, JG 65/71 and Hebe 20/21 had all arrived in the area as the pickup was accomplished and they were also kept on scene.

Sandy 9 reported that the last time he had seen Sandy 10 was on the strafing passes while JG 70 was inbound on the second pickup attempt. He also said that a 5600 ft peak to the south was largely obscured by clouds. Sandy 9 initiated a communications search and Panama was asked by King if they had an emergency squawk on radar. Queen also advised several ground stations to be on the lookout for Sandy 10 who may have had radio failure.

Sandy 1 rejoined with Sandy 9 over the scene and Sandy 2 stayed with JG 65/71 in the holding pattern. Nail 49 was king and departed for CH 77 at 1015Z (1815H).

All efforts to locate Sandy 10 both visually and electronically proved negative and the SAR forces were cleared off scene in the following order: Sandy 9 (1039Z) CH 77; Hebe 20/21 (1050Z), Moonbeam; Sandy 1/2 (1110Z) CH 93; JG 65/71 (1110Z) CH 77; Nail 47 (1110Z) CH 77; King 26 (1120Z) CH 71.

SAR Forces

Sandy 1/2, 9/10
JG 70/67, 65/71
King 26

PACs

Nail 47, 49, 28

Strike Aircraft

Jupiter C
Hebe 20/21

To: Bob Lapointe, rlapointe
From: Jim Scott, INTERNET:jdscott@jps.net
Date: 4/8/99, 12:11 PM
Re: Swerve

9 APR 71 SAR

Since you are going to see Swerve to go over that stuff thought I had just as well send something else you can go over. He will be able to definitely give you the date. (when he got shot)

Our Jollies got scrambled to go pick up a team that was in a highly contested area and they needed our minigun suppressant. Don't remember if it was the Army or the Knives. But they went in totally unopposed and on their way out every one was congratulating themselves. (Swere, Hackney and Pecoraro were the PJs) Swerve reached over to shake someone's hand and a 51cal took the top of one finger off and entered his bicep and blew the entire back of his arm out.

Roy Taylor and I were off that and when we heard we had a Jolly coming back with wounded about we went to the dispensary helo pad. Roy and I helped carry Swerve off the bird. (Swerve may have pictures of us carrying him off, He also has a 16mm movie that the Photog took of him coming off. I got that film and gave it to him later.)

We took him inside, His arm was darn near blown off. We PJs insisted that they send him to the Army hospital (95th Med ?) rather than the Marine station since some of the PJs had gone over there to work on days off and knew that those Docs would chop off an arm in a flash. While waiting on the Army chopper to take him over there Col Copperthite came in with Hackney, they both were in shock. The Col was saying don't take his helmet off, don't take his helmet off. Hack sat down and there was a hole in the center of his helmet through the visor and a larger hole in the back of the helmet near the lower part of the head. Looking at him from the side it had to travel through most of his head. The Col said when they went on down to the flight line Hack got off the bird and kind of wobbled around so he went up to him and about had a stroke. He was afraid if he took the helmet off that the top of his head would come off with it.

The helmet (ballistic) had to come off. There also was a small trickle of blood that had run down the back of his neck. The bullet 51cal. had gone through the visor, front of the helmet, over the top of his head and out through the back. Where the bullet went through getting some brass frayed off and made some small cuts to his neck. (Don't know if you can find much on this one except the people mentioned because Duane didn't want a purple heart or anything that may get into the papers. Because he had told his Mom that he was not flying Combat this trip.

Swerve wanted me to go with him to the Hospital so I did, but just before we left one of the guys told me if they say something about the sticks in his foot to not worry about it because Peck had tried to start an IV in his tendon.

Sure as heck as we rolling him back to the OR one of the medics said wait we got to take him back because he must have straitened in the top of his foot. I told just to ignore it because he got accidentally punched there by one of medics.

That night Swerve wanted me to push him down the word so that he could kill this VC that had been brought in and was hollering and taking on. I had a heck of a time getting Swerve to settle down, he had blood in his eyes.

The next day Mulchi, Randy Zonker and some more came to see Swerve and pick me up. Swerve had a lot of blood on his bandages and what not, Randy started wobbling and then fainted. Some people were walking down the ward so Mulchi just politely pushed Randy under Swerve's bed to where these people could not see him. When asking him why, He said he didn't want anyone to see a PJ faint. Please verify these with Swerve, Peck and

Mulci.

Guess that will be about it, there are more incident that were' so comical at the time but looking back one can chuckle, i.e. lack the time I lost a mini gun barrel off the ramp on alfa 1 alert off Quang Tri after test firing the weapons.

Later Bob. I have never before said anything to any one about SEA. As you may note I have nothing in the Pararescue Book except sometime Fischer put in. I just felt that if I could give you anything you could use, that would mean a lot to me. God bless good luck and I know from looking at your web page in the Jolly Green web site your book will be great reading and feel sure it has been my pleasure. Maybe when it's out I can purchase and autographed copy.

Scotty

----- Internet Header -----
Sender: jdscott@jps.net
Received: from smtp2.jps.net (smtp2.jps.net [209.63.224.235])
by hpdmgaaa.compuserve.com (8.8.8/8.8.8/HP-1.1) with ESMTP id QAA0224
for <rlapointe@compuserve.com>; Thu, 8 Apr 1999 16:11:52 -0400 (EDT)
Received: from jps.net (209-142-38-138.stk.jps.net [209.142.38.138])
by smtp2.jps.net (8.8.5/8.8.5) with ESMTP id NAA17932
for <rlapointe@compuserve.com>; Thu, 8 Apr 1999 13:11:45 -0700 (PDT)
Message-ID: <370D0CF8.9C569D7@jps.net>
Date: Thu, 08 Apr 1999 13:09:28 -0700
From: Jim Scott <jdscott@jps.net>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.04 [en] (Win95; U)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Bob Lapointe <rlapointe@compuserve.com>
Subject: Swerve
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Quarter II

CHIEF TOWNS**~~SECRET~~**

Rescue missions have shown a decline during this quarter mostly due to the onset of the rainy season but King has continued its mission of mercy effecting 27 combat and 3 non-combat saves.² Ninety per cent of the missions flown in support of a rescue resulted in the recovery of distressed personnel. Below are listed six typical missions for this quarter. It is suggested that the reader turn to these narratives at this time to acquaint himself with our most current operations.³

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>SAVES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
9 Apr	Vietnamese Gnd Team	4 Combat	59
13 Apr	Blade 57	1 Combat	62
12 May	Charlie Horse 828	3 Combat	64
2 Jun	PFL	2 Combat	65
4 Jun	Covey 504	2 Combat	68
20 Jun	Covey 504	2 Combat	70

The entire squadron is dedicated to our mission and it is a matter of pride to have participated in the recovery of a downed crewman.

Change was the key word for the Operations Section during the quarter. Lt Col Irvin L. Klingenberg Jr. became the acting Squadron Commander when Col Sidney E. Spilseth rotated in June. Lt Col Clarence L. Paradis became the Operations Officer and Lt Col Ronald J. Soroka

1. Information for this portion of the history was supplied by Lt Col Ronald J. Soroka, Assistant Operations Officer.

2. The number of combat saves recorded here may vary from the figures recorded by 3rd ARRGp. The 39 ARRS claims a save whenever the King bird is involved with a recovery in spite of the type of aircraft making the actual pickup.

3. The mission narratives may be found on pages 59-71.

0325 JG 70
 0655 JG 71 DOWN Logged 4.1
 0712 JG 65 DOWN Logged 4.0
 0726 JG 70 DOWN Logged 4.0
 0930 JG 77 BH LOGGED 3.0 KLANDINGS
 1030 DARR JRCC TOTAL 15.3
 1040 Line Check SR5
 1045 Spot Andor off Duty

9 APRIL 1977

2045 CAPT. BEATTIE ON DUTY
 0010 Status Report PASSED to JAKER
 0115 Item 3 VU set AWKAL LFH RITRY
 0204 JG 71 Airborne
 0238 JG 72 Airborne
 0400 JG 70 Airborne
 0400 CAPT. BEATTIE OFF DUTY SSST AIRFIELD ON
 0410 JG 72 ~~LANDED~~ Logged 1.4
 0432 JG 65 ABN.
 0620 JG 65 ~~LANDED~~ Logged 1.0
 0657 JG 70 ~~LANDED~~ Logged 3.0
 0820 JG 71 ~~LANDED~~ Logged 5.3
 0733 ALERTED FOR A BALL GAME AT 262/65/74 - 218/57/77 &
 4 PEOPLE INVOLVED, KING 26 Amc
 JG 70/67 ABN @ 0740 / JOLLY'S HOLDING 215/57/77
 0825 NAIRWOSC NOTHING IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW.
 0837 JUPITER FLT WORKING AREA - 20mm
 0847 Wx too bad for fast movers, slow movers will work out.
 0904 PHASE ALPHA IN PROGRESS
 0907 PHASE ALPHA COMPLETED.

0915	PHASE ALPHA STILL IN PROGRESS	
0918	PHASE BRAVO	
0925	GROUND FIRE JOLLY PULING OUT. NO HITS TAKEN	
0926	LAUNCH BRASSO'S	
0930	STRAFING AREA WHERE GROUND FIRE REPORTED	
0931	JG 65/71 ABN	
0940	PHASE ALPHA IN PROGRESS	
0950	PHASE BRAVO COMPLETED IN PROGRESS	
0958	PHASE BRAVO COMPLETED. #614, #615, #616, #617	
1000	JG 70 TOOK HITS - PJ HIT IN ARM, SANDY 10 MISS, 00	
1010	JG 70 TO DANANG MED PAD, ETA 1020	
1032	JG 70 LANDED LOGGED <u>3.0</u>	
1035	JG 67 LANDED LOGGED <u>2.9</u>	
1115	SAR MISSION # A-3-016	fe PVA
1140	JG 65 LANDED LOGGED <u>2.4</u>	
1145	JG 71 LANDED LOGGED <u>2.3</u>	
1255	LINE CHECK SXS	fe
1300	DAAR. JREC TOTAL 22.1	fe
1315	SGT ARNOLD OFF DUTY	fe

10 April 71

2045	Capt Cole on duty	all
2115	Passed maint. status to Queen	all
2205	Ops status to Joker	all
0055	J.G. 67 abn	all
0230	" 72 "	all
0315	" 65 "	all
0415	Item 3 JT AQ, RDT OXRB	
0400	CAPT COLE OFF, SGT ARNOLD ON DUTY, ALERT SYSTEM TESTED	
0610	JG 72 LANDED LOGGED <u>3.6</u>	fe
0620	JG 65 LANDED LOGGED <u>3.1</u>	fe

APRIL

1971

NAME RANK

SSN

DATE	CREW	JG	SAVE #	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TYPE SAVE
9	FRIED	70	614	(4) FOUR	15.14 N	4 COMB
	CROSKADON		615	INDIGENOUS	107.36 E	
	CURTILLO		616	PERSONNEL		
	PETTY		617		MSN #	
	HACKNEY				A-3-016-9APR71	
	PECORARO					
18	WALDER	65	618	FORMAN, RICHARD	341/81/77	1 COMB
	GAMMILL			E. USN	1522 N	
	MCKINNEY			BATTLE CRY 305	10701 E	
	MORENO			ATE, USS		
	ZONKER			RANGERSHIP		
	MORRIS				MSN #	
					A-3-017-17APR71	

TOTAL MONTHLY 5