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DECLASSIFIED

SEARCH AND RECOVERY

22 JUN 71

(C) Compared to recent periods the Search and Recovery effort was relatively light and amounted to approximately one half of the effort expended in each of the previous two periods. The wing participated in four successful Search and Recovery missions and one other unsuccessful effort to rescue an injured member of Task Force I. That effort was unique to the mission in so far as no aircraft was down and the objective was not a flyer. #82

(S) A special four man team known as Task Force I parachuted into an area approximately 55 miles west of DaNang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. The area was extremely hostile and two of the paratroopers were injured during contact phase of their landing. A decision was made to extract the team and two of the members, one injured, were removed immediately. A Search and Recovery (SAR) was generated for Sierra, the other injured soldier. Sandy 09/10 were enroute to Nakhon Phanom RTAFB from DaNang Air Base and were diverted to the area along with Jolly Green 73/70. The weather was extremely poor, darkness was approaching and the SAR forces were unable to continue the effort that day. Voice contact was established with the injured survivor and the other team member and they were told to wait for a first-light effort the following day. #83

(S) The following morning, 23 June, the forces returned to the area but contact with Sierra was never established and his fate was undetermined. After a major search effort the SAR was terminated and the fourth man was extracted by other resources. Six A-1 sorties participated in the effort and flew 14.4 hours. #84

82 Observation, 56th SPOPWG Historian.

83 SARCO Report, Task Force I (Sierra), 22 Jun 71, Document 310.

84 Ibid.

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