

CHAPTER VI

MISSION NARRATIVES

Search and Rescue (SAR) activity for the quarter was begun by LCDR Joseph L. Crowe and crew with a 200 mile flight to sea on 21 Jul 71 to accomplish the medical evacuation of a seriously ill seaman off the USNS Barret. The mission, which resulted in one non-combat save for the squadron, was complicated not only by the distance to be traveled, but also by the complete lack of voice communications with the Barret and the resulting lack of preparation for the pick-up made by the vessel's crew. King 24, the Airborne Command Post for the mission, located and led the flight of Jolly Green's to the Barret. Upon arrival at the scene of the rescue, LCDR Crowe elected to lower a Pararescue, A1C George R. Ande, to coordinate the subsequent rescue attempt. As a result of this action, the litter hoist of the seaman, who was suffering from a ruptured appendix, and the recovery of the deployed PJ were easily accomplished. At this time King 24 led the Jolly Greens to Cam Ranh Bay, relaying enroute the survivors medical information and vital signs provided by the doctor and PJ's aboard LCDR Crowe's aircraft.

Practical SAR experience was gained by pilots on a training mission on 22 Jul 71 when Captain John N. Komich effected the medical evacuation of an injured seaman off a landing craft in the vicinity of Da Nang. The training aircraft, which happened to have a flight surgeon on board as a passenger, responded to a call for assistance for a seaman who's hand had been pulled through a cable

DATE: 21 July 71

MISSION NUMBER: A-3-026-21 July 71

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: King 24

DISTRESSED SHIP: USNS Barret

LOCATION: 1338N 1145E

SAVES: Credit to 37ARRS

At 0335Z King 24 was notified by Queen that USNS Barret was in need of assistance. A Seaman of the Barret had an appendix barst at approximately 2030Z and his condition was critical. JG 66/71 were launched from OH 77 and King 24 departed feet wet to attempt to find the Barret. While proceeding to the Barrets estimated position, attempts were made to establish HF communications with Oswald and with the Barret with negative results. No contact was made on emergency HF frequencies 2182, 8364, and a listening watch was established on 500KG. No UHF or HF contact was made with the Barret during the entire mission. At approximately 0430Z visual contact was established with the Barret approximately 25 miles south of the ship's estimated position. Still no voice contact with the Barret and King 24 returns to escort JG 66/71 to the scene. At 0500Z the Jolly Greens are on the scene and decision is made to lower a PJ to the Barret to evaluate the situation. King 24 is standing by to refuel the Jolly Greens if necessary. Joker advises to take the patient to OH 77, but due to winds it is determined that OH 71 is closer. At 0508Z PJ is on the ship and JG 66 passes instructions as to how to arrange ship for pickup and at 0519Z stokes litter is lowered to the ship. At 0542Z JG 71/66 have completed air refueling and JG 66 makes the pick-up of the Seaman at 0553Z. With refueling, the Jolly Greens have enough fuel to make it to OH 71, and King 24 climbs to provide communications and navigation aid for the Jellies. Patient is in critical condition (however, he is stable) and the Jellies go full speed ahead. King 24 escorts JG 66/71 to OH 71 and an ambulance picks up patient at Base Operations for an emergency operation. Prompt action by King 24 in finding the Barret without communications assistance plus the speed and efficiency of JG 66/71 definitely aided the fast recovery of the Seaman to medical aid.

King 24 Crewmembers

AMO Major Lewis E. James

CP Lt Col Irvin L. Klingenberg Jr.

CP Captain Charles B. Pearman Jr.

NAV Captain Charles P. McNeill

RO TSgt Lee E. Bateman

PS TSgt James D. Wigginton

PK SSgt Bobby K. Stubbs

IM SSgt Daniel Carroll

IM SSgt Alan N. Robinson

SAB Forces Utilized

JG 66/71

for Clarence L. Travis

LEWIS E. JAMES, Major, USAF

Aircraft Commander/Airborne Mission Commander

JULY 71

SURVIVORS

NAME RANK

SSN

DATE	CREW	JG	SAVE #	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TYPE SAVE
21	CROWE ULJUA PRIANTE Muelchi Ande MORENO	66	625	JOE ONE KIM (KOREAN ^{MERCHANT} SEAMAN) med evac to VVC R. RUPTURED APPENDIX	USNS BARRETT 1445N 11145E MSN # A-3-026-2JUL	1 MED EVAC NON COMBAT
22	KOMICH GRIFFITH JADROSICH BARRETT WARDI Thompson Pearson	77	626	NAVY SHIP 125/15/77 (NO NAME) NAVY SEAMAN with severed hand. to 95th HOSP.	NAVY SHIP 125/15/77 MSN # A-3-027-22JUL	1 MED EVAC NON COMBAT
26	HEIGES TYLER Theriot PROSE MANION CROWLEY	65	627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634	NO NAMES 45TH ENGR BTN U.S. ARMY	103/17/69 MSN # A-3-028	8 NON COMBAT

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1214 RF 26 FLYING WILL JG 67
 VIA HF. KING 26 Reports To JOKER THAT JG 67
 HAD Some medium FREQUENCY vibrations. KING 26
 will ORBIT PADATANGO.
 1225 RF VIA HF. K26 Advised JOKER THAT JG 67 will NOT
 SIT DOWN PAPA TANGO due GROUND fire IN THAT
 AREA. PROCEEDING TO BIENTHOA.
 1235 RF QUEEN ADVISES JG 65 CHANGED MIND AND IS NOW
 FEET WET heading FOR VUNG ~~TAU~~^{TAIL}, 33 mi SE
 TSN.
 1240 RF CREW CONSIST OF: CARSCADON / WEIMER / WALL / FE DRYER /
 MINSHAW / ALDEAN / KIRK.
 1315 RF VIA HF. KING 26 ADVISES JG 67 NOW HAS HIGH
 FREQUENCY VIB'S. PROCEEDING ON - 16 miles out
 1325 RF JG 20 ↓ FM LOCAL LOGGED 3.5
 1335 RF JG 67 ↓ AT VUNG TAIL.
 1350 RF JG 67 ↑ FM VUNG TAU FOR BIENTHOA

21 JULY

2245 CAPT KNUTSON ON DUTY
 2315 PASSED MAINT + SAR STATUS TO QUEEN
 2330 PASSED STATUS TO JOKER
 0015 QUEEN PASSED MP SET DG READ AQB R OMD.G
 0240 JG 20 AIRBORNE
 0305 JG 77 SHUTTING DOWN IN OP ROTOR TACH
 0310 CALL FROM JOKER REGARDING AIR EVACUATION
 OF PERSON FROM USN SHIP TO HOSPITAL MAT HUDD
 0330 SCRAMBLE ALPHA CREWS ON MED EVAC TO USNS
 BARRETT. PSN 1445N / 1145E MOVING 240° / 18K
 0340 RF ALPHA BIRDS ↑ WITH DOCTOR ON BOARD.
 0350 RF JG 20 RECALLED AND ↓

0430 RF JG 77 ↑ FOR ORBIT
 0435 RF KING HAS SHIP IN SIGHT. JOLLYS 90 MILES OUT
 RF FM CHNL 74
 0512 RF PJ BEING LOWERED ONTO SHIP.
 0515 RF FM KING. SHOULD PATIENT BE MOVED THEY
 WILL RTB CHNL 71.
 0545 RF JOLLY 66/74 BEING REFUELED BY K-24
 0545 RF FM COL MOORE - JG 20 WILL BE PEDRO BACK-UP.
 0605 RF JG 66 EST CHNL 77 0810Z - REQ AMBULANCE,
 AN HOSP TO PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE OPERATION.
 0624 RF JG 77 ↓ FM ORBIT. LOGGED: 2.0
 0633 RF JG 10 ↓ FM ORBIT. LOGGED: 2.3
 0800 RF QUEEN ADVISES JOLLYS ↓ CHNL 71 PATIENTS REFERRED
 TO HOSPITAL. DOWN TIME UNK.
 1000Z RF JOLLY'S 66/77 ↑ FM CHNL 71 ETA 1200Z
 1135 RF JG 71 ↓ FM MED EVAC
 1147 RF JG 66 ↓ FM MED EVAC

JULY 22

2245 GTR CAPT KOMICH ON DUTY
 0215 RF ITEM 3 QZ SET AT READ SIX V WAFC
 0235 RF JG 20 ↑ FOR TNG 1
 0300 RF JG 77 ↑ FOR TNG 2
 0403 RF JG 71 ↑ FOR ORBIT
 0410 RF JG 66 ↑ FOR ORBIT
 0620 RF JG 20 ↓ FM TNG 1 LOGGED 3.7
 0640 RF JG 66 ↓ FM ORBIT LOGGED 2.5
 0630 RF JG 71 ↓ FM ORBIT LOGGED 2.5
 0735 RF QUEEN ADVISES SCRAMBLE JOLLYS - HEAD FOR CHURCH
 CONTACT ON AIR.