

date of rescue or mission of mercy: 7 August 1971
FIRST name, MIDDLE initial, LAST name, RANK of rescue pilot and crew members:
PILOT: Charles W. Miller, Capt CO-PILOT: Ralph H. Ball, Capt
CREWMEN: Sgt Wallace H. Long, SSgt John W. Bryant, SSgt Louis J. Maloney
and Sgt Terry R. Miller
Name and location of activity: Det 7, 3 ARRG DaNang Afld, RVN.
Location of rescue: South China Sea
Day or night: Day Time: 1420 Local 0620 Zulu
Sea state or description of terrain: Sea state was small white caps, wind 10 - 15 kts estimate.
Altitude: 20 feet Visibility: estimate 7 miles
Water temp: est. 70°F Air temp: 95°F Wind velocity: 10-15 kts
Other weather conditions: No significant weather surface to 1000 ft.
Distance flown to and from rescue: 10 miles No. of personnel rescued: ONE
Military or civilian: Vietnamese Military Names and ranks: Tran Tuan Khai- Viet Sgt
S/N 1/2687

Detailed narrative description of rescue or mission of mercy, paying particular attention to any condition which makes this rescue outstanding, or "other-than-routine:" (USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF REQUIRED) The Alert crew was alerted of a man about a mile off shore stranded in a raft. The HH-43F was scrambled and was at the scene in 11 mins. The survivor was sighted immediately at the point given in the initial distress call but apparently drifting further out to sea. The loud hailer was used to determine the condition of the victim. The victim was lying face down in the raft dressed only in jockey shorts. Two passes were made using the loud hailer speaking in both English and Vietnamese because the victim had the physical appearance of a Vietnamese. He made no response to these passes. This forced the crew to prepare for a possible inert recovery using the forest penetrator with a floatation collar. On final approach the rotor downwash caused the raft to rock violently. The survivor became semi-conscious again and fell out of the raft which was promptly blown 100 yds by the downwash. Quick response from the crewmember on the hoist (SSgt Bryant) maneuvered the penetrator up to the victim who made a last grab for it. The Helicopter was hovered to a very low high height above the survivor as he feebly clung to the device in the most improper position. The other crewmembers were prepared to jump if the victim fell again but the rapid coordination between the low hover and the hoist operation brought the victim aboard. Due to his long exposure to the sun and sea the survivor was only semi-conscious. The survivor was rushed to his Landing Zone where attendants were waiting. Post mission information was that he was treated for heat exhaustion and exposure and responding well.

37 ARRSQ HISTORY, 1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 1971

MISSION NARRATIVES

This quarter the unit had five numbered missions.

Mission #7-3-006, 5 Jul 71: The unit was notified of a possible MED EVAC just after a rocket attack. In spite of the possibility of another attack and the fact that the base lighting was blacked out, Pedro 61 took off from the alert pad and proceeded to the 366 USAF Dispensary pad. Two critically injured survivors were loaded and Pedro 61 was flown to the 95th Medical Evacuation Hospital pad. After the survivors were offloaded by hospital personnel, Pedro 61 returned to the alert revetment and refueled for a standby status. Two combat saves were credited.

Mission #7-3-007, 7 Aug 71: The unit was alerted by the crash net that a man was sighted in a lift raft near Marble Mountain. After takeoff, Marble Tower was contacted and directed Pedro 60 to the vicinity of the survivor. The forest penetrator was lowered and the survivor grabbed the device. At this time he was brought on board. The medic diagnosed the man to be in fair condition, suffering from exhaustion and exposure. The survivor was delivered to Landing Zone 60A, where he was met by attendants. Pedro 60 then returned to Da Nang Airfield.

Mission # A-3-30, 3 Sep 71: The alert crew diverted from a local flight to the 366 USAF Dispensary. After landing at the Dispensary pad, the survivor, a civilian employee of Air America, was involved in a motorcycle/truck accident. He had multiple fractures, arterial bleeding, and required immediate surgery to prevent the loss of his leg or life.