

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 2 April 1972

DECLASSIFIED

MISSION NUMBER: A-3-028/2

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Blue Ghost 28

FLIGHT DESIGNATION: Jolly Green 67

LOCATION: Approximately 1647N 10719E

SAVES: 2 Combat Saves

1. Summary of SAR Actions: At 0730Z Jolly Green 67 and 65 were scrambled on a feet wet SAR (Nail 81, OV-10). At 0735Z JG 67 and 65 were airborne and proceeding feet wet toward Quang Tri. Weather for take off was 1000 feet overcast and visibility 4 to 6 miles and haze. No difficulty was encountered enroute. At 0745Z we were advised that a US Navy destroyer had picked up Nail 81, but we were to remain on scene for a possible extraction of US Advisers at Quang Tri. During this time Bat 21 (EB-66) was reported down 11 NM Northwest of Quang Tri and a SAR was initiated. At approximately 1050Z we heard Blue Ghost 28 (AH-1G) report over guard frequency that he was hit and wing man Blue Ghost 39 was going down. Blue Ghost 28 reported he had lost tail rotor control and also was losing main transmission oil. As he came out of the mouth of the Qua Viet river I joined in formation with him. He reported he was losing his flight controls and was going to land on the beach approximately 2 miles south of the river. He landed in a marshy area approximately 100 yards inland. I also landed in the marsh and the two survivors were on board within 15 seconds. At 1100Z I was airborne again and holding feet wet. At 1115Z I proceeded to Phu Bai to refuel and drop off the survivors. By the time refueling was complete it was dark and the Bat 21 survivor had been bedded down for the night. At approximately 1200Z Jolly Green 67 and 65 returned to DaNang.

2. Call Sign Sorties Hours

JG 67	1	5.5
JG 65	1	6.0

3. Unknown

4. Unknown

5. Jolly Green 67

Jolly Green

AC - Capt Rodney S. Griffith
CP - Capt Douglas A. Peck
HM - TSgt Roy D. Prater
RS - Sgt Robert L. La Pointe
RS - ALC Michael A. Aillet

AC - Major Gerald J. Lange
CP - Capt Gary A. Dake
HM - SSgt William A. Simm
RS - TSgt Allen J. Avery
RS - ALC William R. Pearson

Rodney S. Griffith
RODNEY S. GRIFFITH, Captain, USAF
Aircraft Commander, Jolly Green 67

Classified by
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 78

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 2 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DOC A4

ground forces. Contact was lost with Covey 282 on 18 April after he had evaded capture for 11 days. BAT21B spent 11 days on the ground and Nail 388 spent 8 days on the ground. After initial pickup attempts failed the Sandys made several madden kit drops to the survivors and passed coded movement instructions to the survivors.

While the SARs south of the DMZ continued, Bengal 505A (Navy A-6) was shot down east of Tchepone. Despite bad weather and a lack of air resources Bengal 505A was rescued after four days.

On 10 April Musket 01 (F-4) was downed northwest of the "Catcher's Mitt." Both survivors were quickly rescued when the SAR forces encountered no opposition in the area.

On 23 April contact was made with Cosmic 16B (RF-4) west of Dong Hoi. The aircraft had been downed by a SAM three days earlier and 16B had spent the time moving to a safe area. After four days delay because of bad weather and despite a lack of air resources, the Sandys led the Jolly Greens in for a successful pickup from deep in North Vietnam. At least two SAMs were fired at the rescue forces during the pickup but excellent planning thwarted all enemy defenses.

On 29 April Scorpion 115 (VNAF A-37) was shot down south of Quang Tri (300/31/69). During the search for the VNAF survivor two Army helicopters were shot down in the same area. After directing the rescue of eight Army crewmen from both helicopters the Sandys resumed the SAR for the VNAF pilot. Due to a lack of

~~SECRET~~