

~~SECRET~~

then came in and had Bravo on board within two minutes. The SAR was terminated and all aircraft RTBed to Da Nang.

**BOOTLEG 51B<sup>134</sup>**

(S) At 1530L on 7 May, Queen declared a SAR for Bootleg 51 (Marine F-4). The position was given as feet wet off Quang Tri. Again the position was in error as the actual location was 12 miles West of Dong Ha. Anti-aircraft fire was moderate with 23 and 37mm. Most of the firings were from a distance with the rounds being lobbed in. CBU was requested for gun suppression and area denial ordnance was needed to seal off the survivor. Neither ever arrived. When the Sandys trolled for ground fire and received none, they decided to make a pickup attempt before dark. The run-in was from the South with a Sandy leading the Jolly Green. The Sandy began taking 12.7mm fire from two guns that were right on the ingress route so the Jolly Green was waved off and the attempt abandoned. The survivor was told to bed down for the night and to check in every hour with a FAC that would be overhead during the night. This SAR was complicated because the Marine flyer had a radio that had only Guard channel. Having to run a SAR on guard unnecessarily endangered aircraft in the entire theater, especially near the DMZ with the many SAM calls.

134. 1st SOS Historical Data Reports. Also, see SARCO Report for Bootleg 51B, 7 May 72, (Doc 30).

~~SECRET~~

Classified by *William P. Brouard*  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO  
YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1980

56 SOW  
Apr - Jun 72 vol. 3  
1 SOS 1-31 May 72  
K-WG-56-HI

~~SECRET~~

DOC A12

SA-7 hit in the engine and ~~blended with wet~~. The aircraft continued to run with the engine on fire until the oil pressure went to zero. Lt Seitz extracted about five miles off shore and was picked up by an Army helicopter within 30 seconds. The SAR was turned over to Hobo 42/43 by Sandy 07 but Hobo 42 (Lt Rick Fossum) was immediately hit by another SA-7. He stamped out the fire in the cockpit with his feet and the engine kept running allowing an emergency landing at Da Nang.

The next morning Hobo 20/21 Maj Harding and Capt Screws entered the SAR area but they too were shot down by SA-7 missiles. Both were rescued by Army helicopters but Capt Screws had sustained a broken shoulder during extraction. Bilk 34 was subsequently rescued by ground forces as all A-1's were ordered out of the area after the loss of three in less than 24 hours.

On 5 May Musket 03 (F-4) was downed at 293/33/69 with two survivors. The Sandys 07/08 (Capt Throckmorton, Lt Blevins) proceeded directly to the area and began trolling for ground fire. None was observed so the Jollys were brought in for a quick pick-up. Musket 03A was rescued first but ground fire drove the Jolly off before Bravo could be picked-up. The Sandys suppressed the ground fire and brought in another Jolly to rescue Bravo.

On 7 May Bootleg 51 (F-4) was downed at 295/50/69 with one survivor. Sandys 07/08 (Maj Encinas, Lt L. L. Smith) arrived on scene at 1705L and began trolling for ground fire. Several 23mm and 37mm guns were spotted and neutralized with fast mover

~~SECRET~~

STATEMENT

DOC 301

7 - 8 May 1972

SUBJECT: Sandy 7 and 8 (Bootleg 51B SAR)

1. At 1530L Queen informed us that a marine F-4 was down feet wet off the coast of Quang Tri. Sandy 7 and 8 and the Jolly Greens were launched.
2. Sandy 7 and 8 proceeded to the area while the Jollys held feet wet. We contacted Musket 02, a fast FAC, who was over the survivor. He told us that the survivor was 295 for 50 off channel 69. That put the survivor about 5 miles due west of Cam Lo. We arrived over the survivor at 1705L and began talking to him. He had a radio that would only transmit on guard, therefore the entire effort had to be on guard.
3. Sandy 7 began to check out the area. 8 began by trolling for gunfire in the survivors position. Sandy 8 reported that on all my roll-ins, a 23 mm was tail shooting me. Also a couple of 37mm opened up from the north. Musket 02 spotted the 23mm and put in a fast mover strike of CBU 49 on the position at that time I requested King to bring up a couple more fast movers with CBU for the attempt. Also the Jollys were brought in from feet wet to an initial holding point 12nm SSe of the survivor in the high Karst. The 37mm fire was located about five kilometers north and I felt it presented no threat to a helicopter. They were lobbing their rounds in our general area.
4. Sandy 7 and 8 proceeded out to meet the Jollys. A briefing was given to both Jolly. The high Jolly was too hold at the initial holding point while the low bird and the Sandys made the run-in. About that time Queen notified us that the CBU we (had holding) for us was taken away by Blue Chip. Also that there was no more CBU available in the entire theater. I decided we would make one attempt before last light. The run in was started with Sandy 7 marking the ingress with white phosphorus rockets. The Jolly was on the deck with Sandy 8 as top cover. As Sandy 7 crossed the river and marked with an M 47, two 12.7 opened up on him. The ingress was immediately abandoned and the Jolly and Sandy 8 were told to RTE. The two 12.7 were right on the ingress route. Sandy 7 then told the survivor to bed down for the night. I told him a fast FAC would be in area and to check in once every hour. The sar forces RTE to channel 77. Enroute the Jollys took heavy 37mm fire and suffered slight damage.
5. That night Sandy 7 and 8 along with the fast FACs began to order ordnance for the night and the first light attempt in the morning. Word was relayed to Joker that area denial weapons <sup>were</sup> to be used around the survivor to seal him off from the enemy. We requested CBU 42 and BLU 52 on specific points. For the morning we ordered Snake and Nape, BLU-52, CBU 24/49 and a tanker. Elint and Iron hand was ordered, and two more Sandys were requested for the attempt.
6. 0630, 8 May, Sandys 7 and 8 and two Jolly Greens launched. Sandy 7 and 8 proceeded to the initial holding point which the Jollys held feet wet to effect a join up with Sandy 9 and 10. The low Jolly

SECRET

GROUP 4  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification  
after 12 years

~~SECRET~~

REF ID: A63150

DOC 302

encountered control problems and had to RTB. A few moments later <sup>another</sup> Jolly was launched. At 0745 Sandy 7 and 8 proceeded to the survivors position and talked to him. Gunsmoke 05 the fast FAC assigned to the effort, relayed to 51B to move to the floor of the valley he was in. As Sandy 7 and 8 approached the survivors position, they encountered 37mm fire from the north. Sandy 8 spotted the source and marked the position. The Jollys and Sandy 9 and 10 were told to proceed to the initial holding point. Sandy 7 trolled for ground fire and <sup>none</sup> was encountered. Sandy 8 then proceeded to join up with the Jollys and Sandys and led them to the final holding point. Prior to their crossing QL 9, Gunsmoke 05 put in a fast mover CBU strike on the highway. The Jollys then crossed on the deck and encountered no fire. Sandy 7 marked the final holding point with an M 47 and held over the survivor. Sandys 9 and 10 left the Jollys at the final holding point and came to the survivors position. A general briefing was given and the ingress was begun.

7. Sandy 8 began the run-in marking with WP rockets. The low Jolly followed with Sandy 9 and 10 for cover. At the same time, Gunsmoke 05 put two flights of Snake and Nape on the guns to the north. He also put the BLU 52 on the route 9. As the Jolly approached the area Gunsmoke 05 had the fast Smoke layed down on the ridge 2KM north of the run-in. The Jolly came in on the deck and was vectored through a pass to the survivor. The survivor was told to pop his smoke and the Jolly entered the hover. The Sandys set up a daisy chain dropping ordnance in the vicinity. The pick up was effected and all SAR forces egressed unopposed at 10451. The low bird took one hit of AK 47 from an unknown position. Sandy 8 led all the forces out on the same route used for the ingress.

8. CoComments: The marine survivor had one radio with only guard as a transmitter. This was totally unsatisfactory. We had to run the sar on guard and blocked many SAM calls. Recommend that the marines get a survival radio with at least two frequencies. On the first day, we had CBU taken away from us by Blue Chip. This could have been a gross mistake. We were unable to put down any suppressive fire on the guns. This could have cost the survivors life. During the evening a request was made for a fast FAC to be over head all night and area denial munitions put down around the survivor. None of this was accomplished for some unknown reason. Joker was advised of the request and apparently nothing was done about it. After the SAR I talked to the survivor and he commented on the fact that the enemy did search for him that night. They came within 40 ft of his position. The area denial munitions could have prevented this.

*E. Encinas*  
E. ENCINAS, CAPT, USAF  
Sandy 07

**SECRET**

GROUP 4  
Declassified at 2 year intervals;  
Declassified after 12 years.

~~SECRET~~

STATEMENT

DOC 301

7 - 8 May 1972

SUBJECT: Sandy 7 and 8 (Bootleg 51B SAR)

1. At 1530L Queen informed us that a marine F-4 was down feet wet off the coast of Quang Tri. Sandy 7 and 8 and the Jolly Greens were launched.
2. Sandy 7 and 8 proceeded to the area while the Jollys held feet wet. We contacted Musket 02, a fast FAC, who was over the survivor. He told us that the survivor was 295 for 50 off channel 69. That put the survivor about 5 miles due west of Cam Lo. We arrived over the survivor at 1705L and began talking to him. He had a radio that would only transmit on guard, therefore the entire effort had to be on guard.
3. Sandy 7 began to check out the area. 8 began by trolling for gunfire in the survivors position. Sandy 8 reported that on all my roll-ins, a 23 mm was tail shooting me. Also a couple of 37mm opened up from the north. Musket 02 spotted the 23mm and put in a fast mover strike of CBU 49 on the position at that time I requested King to bring up a couple more fast movers with CBU for the attempt. Also the Jollys were brought in from feet wet to an initial holding point 12nm SSe of the survivor in the high Karst. The 37mm fire was located about five kilometers north and I felt it presented no threat to a helicopter. They were lobbing their rounds in our general area.
4. Sandy 7 and 8 proceeded out to meet the Jollys. A briefing was given to both Jolly. The high Jolly was too hold at the initial holding point while the low bird and the Sandys made the run-in. About that time Queen notified us that the CBU we (had holding) for us was taken away by Blue Chip. Also that there was no more CBU available in the entire theater. I decided we would make one attempt before last light. The run in was started with Sandy 7 marking the ingress with white phosphorus rockets. The Jolly was on the deck with Sandy 8 as top cover. As Sandy 7 crossed the river and marked with an M 47, two 12.7 opened up on him. The ingress was immediately abandoned and the Jolly and Sandy 8 were told to RTB. The two 12.7 were right on the ingress route. Sandy 7 then told the survivor to bed down for the night. I told him a fast FAC would be in area and to check in once every hour. The sar forces RTB to channel 77. Enroute the Jollys took heavy 37mm fire and suffered slight damage.
5. That night Sandy 7 and 8 along with the fast FACs began to order ordnance for the night and the first light attempt in the morning. Word was relayed to Joker that area denial weapons ~~be~~ to be used around the survivor to seal him off from the enemy. We requested CBU 42 and BLU 52 on specific points. For the morning we ordered Snake and Nape, BLU-52, CBU 24/49 and a tanker. Elint and Iron hand was ordered, and two more Sandys were requested for the attempt.
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SECRET

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals;  
Declassified on 01-01-97

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*E. Encinas*  
E. ENCINAS, Capt, USAF  
Sandy 07

**SECRET**

GROUP 4  
Declassified at 2 year intervals;  
Declassified after 12 years.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

DOC 301

STATEMENT

7 - 8 May 1972

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UNCLASSIFIED

REF ID: A66152

DOC 302

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*E. Encinas*  
E. ENCINAS, Capt, USAF  
Sandy 07

**SECRET**

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals;  
Declassified after 12 years.

REF ID: A66152

7 MAY 72

2240 JH SSgt Nalhu to duty  
2305 JH Item Report to Queen  
30 LY JG 71 & 72 ↑ FM ORB  
2707 LY QUEEN ADVISES BEVECAEE SIB ↓ NO CHUTES, NO CONTACT. MARINE F-4  
07157 LY VOICE CONTACT WITH SIB. LOCATION DD/EFRASHT  
07307 LY JOLLIES REFUELING AND HOLDING FEETWET, SANDIES LAUNCHED.  
0938 JH JOLLIES GOING IN FOR PICKUP. P-3-050  
0910 JH B-MAN GETTING FLARES READY FOR PICKUP.  
0920 JH CAPT COX, NAIL-FAC ON 15 MIN ALERT. NOTE: TWO SMART BIRDS.  
0925 JH SANDIES CHECKING AREA, NO GROUND FIRE.  
0932 JH SANDIES GOING IN TO SOFTEN UP AREA.  
0938 JH SANDIES DRAWING GROUND FIRE.  
0943 JH TAKING 23MM FIRE ABOUT 2000 YDS. FROM B-MAN.  
0957 JH JOLLIES BACK OUT TO ORBIT, SANDIES AND MUSKET TRYING TO FIND 23MM EMPLACEMENT.  
1001 JH 23MM SILENCED.  
1011 JH SANDY 7 LEADING JOLLIES BACK IN.  
1020 JH BROKEN OFF, TAKING GROUND FIRE.  
1030 JH JOLLIES LEAVING AREA, TAKING FIRE ON WAY OUT. RTB SANDIES LEAVING AREA, RTB FEET WET.  
1052 JH JOLLIES FEETWET.  
1120 JH JOLLY 71 & 72 ↓

8 MAY 72

0100 gH SSgt Haller to Duty  
0130 gH Item Report to Queen  
0155 gH JG 21 & 65 ↑ SAR  
0240 gH JG 21 made emergency landing at CH 77  
0252 gH JG 60 ↑ SAR (AL JG 65 & AH JG 60)  
0330 gH ORDANACE being laid down.  
0045 gH BRAVO PHASE

A 2-250 (LORIT)

0055 gH Jollys going in for P/U of 51B.  
0058 gH Jollys have visual contact with 51B.  
0100 gH JG 65 p/u 51B.  
0200 gH JG 65 & 60 ↓ from SAR.  
0515 gH JG 21 & 60 ↑ for orbit  
0632 gH JG 21 & 60 ↓ from orbit

09 MAY 72

2245 gH SSgt Haller to duty.  
2310 gH Item Report to Queen  
0155Z gH JG 64 & 57 ↓ FM CH 89  
0255Z gH JG 65 ↑ TNC  
0400Z gH JG 65 ↓ FM TNC.  
0620Z gH JG 60 & 57 ↑ To CH 89

0630Z gH Alphas ↓ from orbit.  
NOTE JH WX WARNING: 1600L TO 2000L  
TSTS 5NM RAD DAD  
LTG 3NM RAD DAD

SURVIVOR  
NAME RANK  
SSAN ORIGIN

| DATE       | CREW                                            | JG # | SAVE ID | SAVE LOCATION                                    | TYPE SA                                |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|---------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 28 MAY 72  | KNUTSON<br>DAKE<br>GARCIA<br>WAGNER<br>MARSH    | 65   | 840     | CW03CASTONGUA<br>JAMES J.<br>UNKNOWN<br>VMFA 212 | 330/17/103<br>COMBAT                   |
| 26 MAY 72  | DAKE<br>BRUNER<br>PINA<br>STEPHENS<br>MARSH     |      | 842     | UNKNOWN<br>WEST OF KHE SANH                      | COMBAT<br>2                            |
| JUNE 1972  |                                                 |      |         |                                                  |                                        |
| 12 JUNE 72 | KORPER<br>LAND<br>SEALANDER<br>WINSON<br>WAGNER | 65   | 843     | W01 MARTIN,<br>SAM.<br>196 INF BRIG.             | SOUTH WEST OF<br>CH 69.<br>1<br>COMBAT |
| 15 JUNE 72 | SCOTT<br>PINA<br>FRIEDRICH<br>YOUNG             | 64   | 844     | UNKNOWN<br>VNAF                                  | 283/13/69<br>1<br>COMBAT               |