

DOC A<sup>9</sup>

V. NARRATIVE

The month of August was characterized by generally adverse weather conditions due to the rainy season causing low cloud ceiling conditions. Due to the above weather conditions, the 1st SOS scheduled flying sorties were below normal in execution because of numerous cancellations. Air operations for the 1st SOS was further hampered by a directive from higher headquarters ordering the squadron to strike on only SARs, tactical emergencies, and helicopter escorts. The above order remained in affect until recinded on 13 August. This resulted in a slightly lower pilot proficiency level in ordnance delivery due to lack of practice and was not voted the top morale contributor for the month of August. Primary maintenance problems occurred in the areas of engine and hydraulic problems. There were no accidents or incidents during the month of August.

20 August resulted in a very busy day for the Sandy forces of the 1st SOS. Vampire 26 went down on the 110° radial off channel 89 at 113 miles. Sandys 07 and 08 (Capt Shotwell/1Lt Cahill) were first on scene with Sandys 01 and 02 (Maj Harding/1Lt Scott) contributing later in the successful rescue effort. One of NKP's Giant Jolly Green's picked up the survivor who was down in an area with a two thousand foot overcast cloud layer. Nail 75 gave maximum assistance to the SAR forces during the location and recovery phase of operation. The success of the mission emphasizes maximum utilization of intricate communication and coordination by the different organizations at NKP.

Nokkatenh 402 also departed the skies prematurely on 20 August. Sandys 03/04 (1Lt Brown/1Lt Hukee) had to overcome very adverse

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS  
(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

JOHN W. STEPHENS

Sergeant John W. Stephens distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Specialist on a HH-53C Rescue Helicopter near Tchepone, Laos, on 20 August 1972. On that date, Sergeant Stephens voluntarily flew into hostile territory to accomplish the recovery of a downed American pilot. Standing at his unprotected crew position, Sergeant Stephens fired his minigun to suppress groundfire being directed at his hovering helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Stephens reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



## SEARCH AND RESCUE

(S) Aircraft assigned to the 56th SOW participated in the following SARs during this reporting period. Due to the excessive number conducted no attempt was made to provide complete details in this section. Each SAR has been briefly addressed below. For additional information refer to the SAR Rescue Opening/Closing Reports located in Volume II, Appendix V.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>CALL SIGN</u> | <u>TYPE A/C</u> | <u>PLACE</u> | <u>POB</u> | <u>RESULTS</u>     |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| (C) 11 Jul  | Lady Ace 21      | CH-53D          | Quang Tri    | 6          | 6 Saves            |
| (C) 12 Jul  | Blue Star 34     | UH-1            | MR-1         | 4          | 4 Saves            |
| (S) 17 Jul  | Owl 02           | F-4             | Ashau Valley | 2          | 1 Save<br>1 MIA    |
| (C) 31 Jul  | Surge 93         | B-52            | Thailand     | 6          | 1 Save<br>5 Losses |
| (S) 13 Aug  | Atlanta 10       | RF-4C           | DMZ          | 2          | 1 MIA              |
| (S) 15 Aug  | Saber 74         | UH-1            | Hue, RVN     | 2          | 1 Save<br>1 Loss   |
| (S) 20 Aug  | NKT 402          | O-1             | Paksong      | 2          | 2 Saves            |
| (S) 20 Aug  | PFD              | Porter          | Paksong      | 3          | 3 Saves            |
| (S) 25 Aug  | Buick 01         | F-4             | 19N, 106E    | 2          | 2 Saves            |
| (S) 26 Aug  | Motion A-2       | F-4             | Laos         | 2          | 1 Save<br>1 MIA    |
| (S) 2 Sep   | Tufa 02          | F-4             | PDJ          | 2          | 2 MIA              |
| (S) 2 Sep   | Raven 23         | O-1             | PDJ          | 1          | 1 MIA              |
| (U) 2 Sep   | Volunteer 538    | UH-1H           | 20N, 104E    | 11         | 11 Saves           |
| (S) 9 Sep   | Olds 04          | F-4             | Unknown      | 2          | 2 Saves            |
| (S) 14 Sep  | Date 03          | F-4             | N. Viet      | 2          | 2 MIA              |
| (C) 17 Sep  | Nail 60          | OV-10           | MR-1         | 2          | 2 Saves            |
| (S) 22 Sep  | Atlanta 08       | RF-4C           | Tonkin Gulf  | 2          | 2 Saves            |
| (S) 28 Sep  | Hobo 42          | A-1A            | 19N, 103E    | 1          | 1 Save             |