

PARARESCUE MISSION REPORT

PART ONE: OPERATIONAL

1. ORGANIZATION LOCATION 71ARRS Elmendorf AFB, AK		2. MISSION NO. 096		3. AIRCRAFT HH-3	
4. NOTIFICATION TIME 1845		5. RESPONSE DEPARTURE 8 JUN 2025		6. MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT PATIENT SUBJ / ZONE CONTACT 8 JUN 2116	
DATE 8 Jun 76		ARRIVAL AT SCENE " 2110		EXTRACTION OF PATIENT / SURVIVOR " 2135	
METHOD Telephone		DEPLOYMENT " 2115		DELIVERY OF PT. TO DEFINITIVE CARE " 2215	

7. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT

See attached narrative

8. DEPLOYMENT		9. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN DEPLOYMENT		10. EQUIPMENT		Avail	Used		Avail	Used
☒	AIRPORT LANDING			RADIO		☒	☒	MOUNTAIN	☒	
☐	PARACHUTE			STROBE/FLARE		☒		HOUSEKEEPING	☒	☒
☐	HOIST			JUMP KIT		☒	☒	LITTER (TYPE)	☒	☒
☐	OTHER:			BACKUP KIT		☒		OTHER:		
☐				OXYGEN				Blankets	☒	☒
☐				MA-1				Sleep Bag	☒	☒

11. SUMMARY OF POST DEPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

See attached narrative #1, 2, and 3

12. SUMMARY OF MEANS OF EVACUATION

- 2 victims and 2 PJs airlifted back by chopper
- 3 PJs walked to highway, rode with state police
- 1 deceased left at scene, airlifted out two days later

13. REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

See attached narrative

PART TWO: MEDICAL (Attach separate ARRC Form 2, Part 2, for each individual patient)

14. TEAM			15. MEDICAL SITUATION ORIGINALLY REPORTED
NAME	RANK	DUTY TITLE	
Udo Fischer	SMSgt	NCOIC PJ	
Robert LaPonte	SSgt	Pararescueman	
Stephen Buergin	A1C	"	
Michael Buonaugurio	A1C	"	
Ward Warren	A1C	"	

One person standing and one person lying near burning wreckage.

16. MEDICAL HISTORY

18 PROGRESS NOTES

[illegible]

9. MEDICAL SUPPLIES UTILIZED

EX	CH	HT	ITEMS
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20. REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In an area inhabited by grizzlies and brown bear, rescue team on the scene with dead and/or burned victims should stay on constant alert for marauding bears. In surface evacuation, deceased burn victims should not be taken along to jeopardize team members and live victims. The carrying of .44 magn. revolvers does not assure complete safety.

NAME
UDO C.J. FISCHER

RANK	SIGNATURE
SMSGT	<i>John A. Force</i>

Attachment 1, Mission Narrative (#096)

Ground Rescue Team Report

Team Members: SMSgt. Udo Fischer, NCOIC Pararescue (Team Leader)
SSgt. Robert Lapointe
A1C. Stephen Buergin
A1C. Michael Buonaugurio
A1C. Ward Warren (HH-3 Alert Crew PJ)

Date of Mission: 8 and 9 June 1976

Location: Anthracite Ridge Mountain, Alaska. Elevation: 4,400'.
About 3 Air Miles north of Glenn Highway, Mile Post 93 (about 5
to 6 miles on foot from highway to crash site on mountain).

Mission: Alaska CAP, DeHavilland DH-2 (N51141G), crashed with 3
persons aboard (males/ 2 injured/ 1 deceased), crashed
in afternoon of 8 June 1976, spotted and reported by a
passing light aircraft.

Weather (at crash site): mostly closed in by low cloud cover;
constant heavy rain; snowing at night; air temperature variable
between 32° and 45° F.; winds WSW 10 to 20 knots; visibility on
ground: between 50 and 100 feet (except for short periods of high
visibility when clouds broke up temporarily). Terrain: mountainous
and adverse.

EVENTS (as encountered by PJ Ground Team)

1845/8-6: SMSgt. Fischer was notified (telephone) at home by the
unit operations officer, Major Tobik, about the reported incident
and the requirement to organize a PJ ground team (4 PJs) to reach
the crash site to aid, rescue and recover possible survivors (2
survivors were initially reported). The weather in the area was
reported below minimums to get the alert chopper in. The HH-3 was
on its way back to base to pick up the ground team and a state
trooper.

1900/8-6: Selection made of available team members; initial brief-
ing and mission planning.

1915/8-6: Team at Squadron. FCIF review, additional input from
operations officer. ETA of Jolly 74 at Hangar 1: 2000 hours.

1930/8-6: Team at RCC. Obtain area maps and pinpoint location.
No additional information available.

1930/8-6: Team at Hangar 1 PJ alert equipment facility. Obtain
additional mission equipment and prepare for trip. Did decide
against taking along weapons since state trooper would carry them.
Each man was to carry at least two full canteen cans of water, extra
clothing and chow for three days (plus).

Equipment Selected:

- Field Packs, Individual (4)
- Tent, 4-man type (1)
- Rain Gear, Individual (4)
- Pack, Mountaineering Mission (1)
- Ropes, Gold Line, 120' (4)
- Pararescue Medical Kit (1) (one additional on J74)
- Medical Kit, Mtn-Rescue (1)
- Radio, PRC-90 (4)
- Stokes Litter (1) (one more on J74)
- Blankets/Sleeping Bags (for survivors)

2025/8-6: Take off in Jolly 74. Land at Palmer Airport (no state trooper); pilot talked to person who saw the crash site from air. Continue flight toward crash site area.

2110/8-6: Clouds in crash site area had broken up and allowed flight into area. Spotted wreckage and two persons nearby.

2115/8-6: Jolly 74 touched down on small plateau, about 100 yards from wreckage. All five PJs disembarked and headed for victims; litters, blankets and medical kits were taken along. SMSgt. Fischer handled radio and delegated two PJs to each of the two victims.

The victims sat huddled together next to the burned out and smoldering engine; both appeared to have multiple injuries; they were in an obvious state of shock and hypothermic; they were soaking wet from the cold rain and wind; they wore each a thin shirt, a pair of pants and shoes. Both were breathing; no uncontrolled hemorrhaging was visible which could be life-threatening. One man was able to talk intelligently; the other was semiconscious.

There was no smell of fuel fumes; no sign of spilled fuel; the wreckage was smoldering but not burning anymore. The victims received their initial PE and treatment where they were found. Upon questioning, the talking survivor said that a third person was in the wreckage; he was found by SMSgt. Fischer in the cockpit/cabin area and completely charred beyond recognition and help.

On-Scene treatment of survivors: Upon reaching the survivors and after a quick visual PE, both were covered with blankets to retain remaining bodyheat; the PE continued. Multiple cuts, contusions, abrasions, and fractures were noted on both victims. Hypothermia appeared to be the life-threatening condition in both victims and required immediate counter-action; the best remedy was to place the victims into the helicopter and turn on the heaters. Since this was the decision, IV procedures were not started until inside the helicopter.

The two survivors were placed on litters (and kept covered with blankets and sleeping bags), and transported onto the helicopter. SSgt. Lapointe and ALC Warren were delegated to treat the injured inflight and return to base. SMSgt. Fischer, ALC Buonaugurio and

ALC Buergin were required by helicopter load limitation to remain at the scene to be recovered later on by another flight. They unloaded their field packs and the tent.

2135/8-6: J74 departs with the two survivors; the third victim was not touched due to lack of proper authorization from civil authorities.

The remaining team placed their packs under a tarp; additional clothing was donned, including full rain gear. Recovery within three hours was anticipated. The team recognized the small plateau area for suitable campsite, presence of animals, and a ground route from the mountain. The plateau was surrounded on three sides by 100' vertical cliffs, on the fourth side, the mountain terrain elevated steeply to greater heights. Two possible ground evacuation routes were established and visually recognized.

2200/8-6: Still daylight. Weather/clouds close back in. Visibility dropped to 50 feet. Heavy rain continued; snow mixed with rain; temperatures dropped; wind rose to 20 knots steady.

2345/8-6: Chance for helicopter pickup appeared out of the question due to steady adverse weather conditions. Decision was made to establish camp. The tent was pitched and anchored with rocks. Chow was consumed; and all hit the sack. Penguins and MK-17s were kept in readiness in case of bear visits; none showed up, even though we were in an area inhabited by grizzly and brown bear.

0600/9-6: All got dressed; made hot liquids and breakfast on MSR stove. Packed all gear, except for tent; stayed in tent and out of rain and snow. 4 inches of snow on ground; visibility still between 50 and 100 feet. Made sketch of wreckage.

0930/9-6: J74 flew by in distance; no visual contact; established radio contact on 282.8 UHF. No chance for pickup. I confirmed that team would remain on scene until this afternoon; if weather would still be unfavorable for pickup, we would start walking toward Glenn Highway without deceased victim; chance for encounter with bear too great in presence of burned flesh odor.

1345/9-6: Made decision to travel. Weather still closed in on us. Prepared for foot travel.

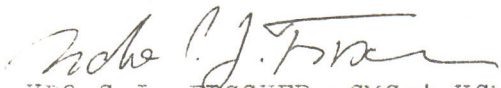
1400/9-6: Team started to climb down through a chute covered with talus; climbed down the remaining heights of the mountain. Then through thickets, bush and forest, across several streams toward the highway. During the travel, we noticed many signs and droppings of large moose and bear; we had no encounter.

1600/9-6: After continuing and forced march, we reached the highway; flagged down motorist to call the state troopers for transportation.

1710/9-6: King 34 flew above the clouds; radio contact: all well, and informed him of our position and intentions.

1800/9-6: State Trooper arrived, transported ~~us~~ back to Elmendorf AFB.; contacted RCC and reported back in. Equipment was stowed away. Mission completed at 2015 hours.

During the mission, we encountered no difficulties with equipment or procedures. Evacuation of a burned body through bear country, and on foot, would be a risky undertaking - even with heavy calibre weapons available. Possible future missions of this sort should take this into consideration; additional life would be jeopardized.



UDC C.J. FISCHER, SMSgt USAF
NCOIC Pararescue, 71 ARRS (MAC)

Attachment 2, Mission Narrative (#096)

SSgt. Robert L. Lapointe, pararescue team member accompanying survivor on helicopter (J74) back to Elmendorf Hospital.

2135/8 June 1976: Departed crash scene with helicopter. Patient was on litter and secured. Heaters were turned up; doors/hatches closed.

Patient, male, in his 40s or 50s. Burns, 1st and second degree over 30% of body; primarily, face, arms and upper legs. Suspected fractured Ulna and Radius in both arms. Fractured Tibia and Fibula on right leg, both ankles. Numerous abrasions and lacerations; no uncontrolled external bleeding. Severe condition of hypothermia was apparent and was life-threatening.

Treatment: Heater on full; blankets under patient; wet clothing cut off; covered with warm blanket. Unable to start IV due to collapsed veins in arms; encountered turbulence, decided against shutdown procedure due to short distance to hospital and severe turbulence. A full arm splint applied to fractured arm; bandaging of lacerations. Splint on fractured leg. Patient semi-conscious.

After landing at hospital, accompanied patient to emergency room; briefed doctor, and assisted in treatment. IVs were tried unsuccessfully by doctor and nurses; finally, the subclavian approach succeeded.

Assisted in cleaning wounds and suturing. Accompanied patient to surgery and observed procedures.

Items used from Medical Jump Kit:

- Heavy angular scissor
- Pen light
- 4x4 Gauze
- Kerlex
- One IV set-up
- Splints full arm/leg.

Attachment 3, Mission Narrative (#096)

ALC. Ward J. Warren, Pararescue Team Member accompanying survivor on helicopter (J74) back to Elmendorf Hospital.

1700/8 June 1976: Assumed helicopter alert duties, and was immediately scrambled. Were unable to make visual contact with crash site of civilian aircraft due to low cloud ceiling and adverse weather conditions. Returned to base to pickup PJ ground team.

Patient, male in late 30s or early 40s. 3rd degree burns of left hand and wrist; several lacerations on face; fractured right forearm; possible fracture of both ankles. Severely hypothermic. Conscious.

Treatment: Heaters on; blankets above and below; unable to start IVs inflight due to turbulence and injuries to arms. Since close to medical facility, discontinued attempt to start IVs. Dressed wounds.

Items used from jump kit:

Pocket D: Various Dressings
Pocket G: IV setup material