

DECLASSIFIED

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Re # 14598

AKRS

MISSION NARRATIVE
20 March 66

Jolly Green 51 and 56 were scrambled from a forward operating site to recover a group of friendly forces who's position had been over run. After adjusting our fuel load for the mission we proceeded to the recovery area with four Sandy (A-1E's) as escort. An Air America Helio Carrier acted as Forward Air Controller. The area was hostile and position was within two miles of known hostile gun emplacements.

Jolly Green 51 proceeded in for a pickup with Sandys providing cap and smoke plus firing a few well placed rockets to discourage unfriendly forces located on the ground.

The pickup area was in extremely rugged terrain at 3,000 feet MSL elevation. A 200 foot hover was necessary and our operation was at our maximum power limits. Jolly Green 51 recovered 3 personnel and then received two fire warning lights. He transitioned into forward flight and we (Jolly Green 56) proceeded into the area to attempt a pickup. We came to a high hover and lowered the hoist. Just after one of the personnel mounted the bree penetrator we experienced rotor decay and started to settle. I was forced to lower the nose attempting to regain translational lift in forward flight. The next few seconds were harrowing for both the people in the aircraft and our passenger on the hoist. We lost altitude until we had regained sufficient forward speed and narrowly missed damaging the rotor blades on the canyon walls. The man on the hoist had managed to stay on the hoist. Sgt Youngblood continued the hoist pickup and I held the airspeed down to 25 knots until he was safely in the aircraft. He sustained a few minor scratches and bruises.

It was obvious we were too heavy to continue the pickups. I coordinated with the FAC to lead us to the closest safe landing area to off-load the personnel already picked up and to burn off additional fuel, reducing the gross weight. Both Jolly Greens proceeded to a nearby Lima Site, off-loaded our passengers and returned to the pickup area. Jolly Green 56 proceeded in first and picked up 4 more personnel on the hoist followed by Jolly Green 51 who picked up the remaining 5 personnel. One more moment of terror, one of the passengers in Jolly Green 56 dropped a hand grenade in the cabin compartment. Both Jolly Greens plus escort proceeded back to our forward operating site without incident with the personnel recovered.

Low Bird - Jolly Green 51
RCC Robert D. Fuman, Capt
RCCP Dale V. Hardy, Capt
HM Robert E. Crites, ALC
PJ John J. Dagneau III, A20

High Bird - Jolly Green 56
RCC Norman E. Kamhoot, Capt
RCCP Donald A. Vavra, Major
HM Theodore M. Youngblood, SSgt
PJ William G. Daniels, NSgt

NORMAN B. KAMHOOT
Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

ARODC # 661210

No PARC Log No. 1105266

DOWNGRADE-AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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AR 50 SC No. 661290

DECLASSIFIED
AFR-205-2

12 MAY 1970

DECLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
On Change to (Date) 1/2/71
By Authority of (Signature)