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File Ops 7 140
3 Oct 1969

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
40TH AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY SQUADRON (MAC)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96237

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 400 (Captain Carty/2687)

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SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report 2-3-060-2 Oct 69

to: 3 ARRGp (JSARC)
APO 96307

1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARRSN 55-2/3 ARRGp Sup 1, dated 11 July 1968.
2. (S) At approximately 0200L, 2 Oct 69 the crew of Jolly Green 71 (Low) and Jolly Green 70 (High) were alerted to prepare for a "First Light Effort". The SAR Briefing was initially scheduled for 0400L and then was rescheduled for 0330L. The briefing was a normal SAR briefing. I would recommend that for pre-planned SAR efforts, more attention should be devoted to planning safe routes to and returning from the SAR areas. The briefing team should have this information plotted in TACAN coordinates on the SAR maps prior to the briefing. JG 71 and JG 70 were to launch with Sandy 3 and 4 for escort. Sandys 1 and 2 were to launch and locate the survivor. There was some question of launch time. JG 71 and JG 70 were airborne at 0450L with Sandys 3 and 4 starting their take off at approximately the same time. Sandy 3, JG 70 and JG 71 got airborne and were climbing when we heard Sandy 4 tell departure control that he was aborting. Sandy 4 was asked if he wanted the barrier and his reply was a calm "negative". About two or three minutes later, the Pararescueman on JG 70 reported a fire on the runway followed almost immediately by several ordnance explosions. Sandy 1 and 2 informed Sandy 3 and KING that they could not launch because the runway was blocked and stated that they would attempt to get clearance for a take off from the parallel taxiway. JG 71 and JG 70 crossed the fence at 0558L with Sandy 3 for escort. JG 71 and JG 70 established a holding orbit at 0530L at 115/67/89 and waited for the survivor to be contacted. After the orbit was established Sandy 3 and Nail 20 proceeded to the estimated position of the survivor at 110/85/89. At 0600L, Spad 11, 12 and 13 were launched from Channel 77 and estimated to be on station at 0700L. At 0650L, KING 4 reported a possible weak contact with the survivor and estimated the position as 120/65/89. At 0705L, JG 70 reported what appeared to be a chute at 115/61/89. Sandy 3 took a look and the chute was just a flare chute. At 0745L, good voice contact was established with the survivor and his position was determined to be somewhere south of Tchepone on the 120° or 121° radial from Channel 89. At 0803L, Sandy 3 got a definite location of 121/102/89. In the meantime JG 71 and JG 70 had requested AR and KING 1 came down and completed the AR at 0815L.

400-0103

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

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SAR Efforts:

(S) During this reporting period the 56th Special Operations Wing participated in 14 search and rescue efforts. Several of these could well have been the largest efforts every made by the Air Force to rescue down crew members.

(S) The first SAR effort of the quarter took place on 2 October as wing Sandy forces and Jolly Greens accomplished a successful rescue for U.S.N. War Ace 300, an A-7,⁵³ that went down during the night.

(S) At 2 a.m. on 2 October, the Wing Sandy force was alerted for a first light effort. Due to congestion in the arming area, Sandy 03 and 04 had to takeoff before Sandy 01 and 02 could be armed. After Sandy 03 became airborne, Sandy 04 aborted his takeoff, left the runway, and his aircraft exploded. This accident closed the runway and resulted in fatal injuries to the pilot, 1st Lt. Donald R. Moore, 602nd Special Operations Squadron. The accident⁵⁴ also prevented Sandy 01 and 02 from launching.

(S) The crews were briefed that the terrain was predominately flat with some rolling hills and karst, and that