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Statement of LCDR B. J. CORDES, MC, USN, 672735/2100

I was notified at approximately 030320G JUN 69 that HMAS MELBOURNE had contacted with USS FRANK E. EVANS and that MELBOURNE had requested medical officers be sent from USS KEARSARGE. I went immediately to FOC to be able to coordinate medical logistics. After assessing the situation I mobilized sick bay for handling of mass casualties and dispatched William E. HANCOCK, 729648/2105 (an air group flight surgeon) and LT Robert V. HELLIN 669978/2205 a dental officer with interest in oral surgery and special training in first aid to MELBOURNE. They arrived by helicopter at approximately 0415G. At the same time, routes of patient transfer were established, stretcher bearers assembled and blood donors called for. I also requested CQM to notify the closest major medical facility, 12th USAF Hospital, Cam Rahn Bay of a possible large casualty influx and requested information as to best means of air evacuation to that facility.

At 0513 three patients arrived by helicopter from MELBOURNE. The only critically injured patient, RODRIGUEZ, Marcus Jr., FA, B84 62 47 was found to have

He was given several units of blood and flown to Cam Rahn Bay at 0714. NAVJAG 5800/15 has been submitted on this patient as permanent disability may result as indicated by NAF CAM RAHN BAY msg 040751Z JUN 69.

The other patients who arrived at this time were MACAYAN, Florentino, BTCS, 455 11 02, BAUGHMAN, Terry L., FN B52 18 25. The following three additional patients arrived by helicopter at approximately 0740G. PEACOCK, Michael W., FA B63 44 81, LOCKWOOD, Robert E., FN B21 13 26, PETERS, Roy E., MM3, B50 37 61. These five patients who had all received pain relief and admitted to the ward. and

At about 1005 the walking wounded arrived and about 26 were treated in KEARSARGE sickbay and released to duty or placed on the binnacle list for less than 24 hours.

Three of these patients required other than minor first aid and were treated, released to duty and arrangements made for specialist evaluation at a later date. They were EPPERSON, Albert D., SN, B73 48 47 with a

538 98 68 with a FRANCIS, Delbert A., RD3, FUCHS, Aaron C., FN, B70 39 12 with a It is not felt that there will be any time lost from duty as a result of these injuries.

Beginning at approximately 1300 the five patients were given

one of these, MACAYAN, was MEDIVAC to Cam Rahn Bay on 4 June 1969. NAF CAM RAHN BAY msg 040752Z indicated that acture of was present.

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It is considered that all five of these patients will make a complete recovery after approximately thirty days of time lost from duty. Medical records on all except MACAYAN are available for inspection. No permanent disability will result, therefore NAVJAG 5800/15 were not executed.

The four remaining patients BAUGHMAN, PETERS, PEACOCK, and LOCKWOOD were transferred to Naval Hospital, Subic Bay at 1700H 6 June 1969. Conversation with LCDR Philip WRIGHT, MC, USNR Chief of Surgery today indicates that they are now ready for discharge from the hospital and can subsequently be treated as outpatients.

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