

~~SECRET~~

76

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OPENING/CLOSING/SUBJECT
MISSION NUMBER: 2-3-49-2 July 67
SUBJECT: U S A F F-105
HH-3E

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

FLASH

FLASH

TZFTC JAW RUHROO0179 1840353-CCCC--RUCLMFA.

DE RUMBAD 4A 1840316

ZNY CCCCC

Z 030320Z JUL 67

FM 3ARRGP OL 2 UDORN RTAFB THAI

TO RUMSBJ/3ARRGP TSN AB RVN

RUEDHQA/HQ USAF

RUCIEUA/HQ MAC

RUCLMFA/ARSCP ORLANDO AFB FLA

RUHLKM/PARRC HICKAM AFB HAWAII

RUMSBJ/7AF TSN AB RVN

RUMTFJA/USAF MPC RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS

RUMSMA/MACV SAIGON RVN

RUHLKM/PACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII

RUCLBMA/48ARRS EGLIN AFB FLA

RUMKAH/388TFW KORAT RTAFB THAI

RUEDNBA/TAC

ZEN/TUOC UDORN RTAFB THAI

RUMHPB/OL 1 3ARRGP DANANG AB RVN

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAR/3ARRGP (OL-2) . 083 JULY 67. HQZSAF FOR AFPC
/AFKOPFH MAC FOR MAOCCA AND MCP, PACAF FOR DOCC-R, USAFMPC FOR AFPMSC,

12
ARS

STAFF	ACT	INFO
AGENCY		
ARCCO		
ARODC	☒	
ARPOC		
AREDC		
ARMDC		
ARDAS		
ARYDC		
ARFOI		☒
ARIIG		
ARASG		

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PAGE 2 RUMBAD 4A ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7AF FOR DOTO, DO, DP, DI, BDPMP, CP, 3 ARRG FOR JSARC, TAC FOR DOSS-LR

1. RESCUE/REOPENING/CLOSING REPORT

2. 2-3-49-2 JUL 67

3. 3 JUL 67

4. A. F-105 ONE POB

5. PINTAIL 01 CONTACTED CROWN 5 02/0928Z

8. LAUNCHED JG 37/53 02/0943Z; LAUNCHED 4 AIE (SANDYS) ~~Classified by~~

10. B. CLEAR

11. OL-2, 3ARRGP, MAJ JIM GARDNER

13. SANDY 1/602 FS/022227Z/1806N 10543.5E

14. DET 2, 37 ARRS/HH-3E WITH HOIST AND FOREST PENETRATOR

15. A. 1/1/1/0/0 B. S/E

16. RETURNED TO NAKON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND

17. 4/18:30/602FS(C)/2/6:35/HH3E/DET 2, 37ARRS; 1/4:35/HO-130P/OL-1,

39 ARRS.

18. RT-10

19. A. (RCC) EDSEL, G.A.M. CAPT: (CP) BRADLEY, H.W., CAPT: (HM)

OUTER, R.G., AIC; (PJ) PIGHINI, J., A2C. CREW ASSIGNED DET 2, 37ARRS

B. PICHARD, DALE M, CAPT, 388 TFW, KORAT AB THAILAND

20. A. 1802N 10542E TO VCNTY OF 1806N 10543E

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PAGE 3 RUMBAD 4A ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

B. S/E

G. REOPENED BY HIGHER HQ. NEW EFFORT MOUNTED AT FIRST LIGHT.

CONTACT ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY BY RESCAP.

20. H. SANDYS 1 & 2 PROCEEDED TO THE AREA AND ESTABLISHED VOICE
CONTACT WITH THE SURVIVOR. SANDY 1 REPORTED GROUND FIRE IN THE AREA
THE JOLLY GREENS WERE HELD IN A SAFE AREA UNTIL THE PICKUP AREA WAS
STERILIZED BY NUMEROUS RESCAP FLIGHTS. JOLLY GREEN 09 MOVED IN FOR THE
PICKUP AT 03/0055Z, AND REPORTED GROUND FIRE DURING THE PICKUP PHASE,
RECEIVED ONE HIT IN THE ROTOR BLADE. THE SURVIVOR WAS REPORTED IN GOOD
CONDITION, AND WAS RETURNED TO NAKON PHANOM RTAFB, WHERE HE WAS RELEASED
TO LOCAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL. THIS IS AN ARRS COMBAT SAVE. GP-4

BT

DOWNGRADED BY 2 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
GDD DIA 8200,10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFTC JAW RUHHROE0119 1831923-CCCC--RUCLMFA.

DE RUMEDF 46A 1831550

ZNY CCCCC

O 021539Z JUL 67

VFM 3ARRGP OL2 UDORN RTAFB THAI

TO RUMSBJ/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AB RVN

RUEDHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC

RUCIEUA/HQ MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

RUCLMFA/ARSCP ORLANDO AFB FLA

RUHHABA/PARRC HICKAM AFB HAWAII

RUMSBJ/7AF TAN SON NHUT RVN

ROWTFJA/USAF MPC RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS

RUMSMA/MACV SAIGON RVN

RUHHABA/PACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII

RUCLMFA/48ARRS EGLIN AFB FLA

RUMKAH/388TFW KORAT RTAFB THAI

RUEDNBA/TAC LANGLEY AFB VA

RUMNAF/39ARRS TUY HOA AB RVN

RUMEDFA/TUOC UDORN RTAFB THAI

RUMHPB/CL 1 3ARRGP DANANG AB RVN

BT

CONFIDENTIAL/SAR/3ARRGP (OL-2) 50082 JULY 67. HQ USAF
FOR AFCEP/AFXOPFH MAC FOR MAOCCA AND MCP, PACAF FOR DOCC-R, USAFMPC

PAGE 2 RUMEDF 46A CONFIDENTIAL

7AF FOR DOTO, DOI, DP, DI, EDPMP, CP, 3 ARRGPs FOR JSARC, TAC FOR DOSS-LR

1. RESCUE SUSPENDING REPORT (TEXT. PPOG #1)

2. 2-3-49 2 JULY 67

3. 2 JULY 67

10. (B) CLEAR

13. JOLLY GREEN 37 HAD VOICE CONTACT WITH PIN TAIL 02 AT 02/1150Z.
JOLLY GREEN 37 HAD NO VISUAL CONTACT.

14. SEE ITEM 20 (H)

17. 1/3:00/39ARRS/H/C130: 2/5:00/DET 2 37ARRS/HH3E:

4/15:00/602FS/AIE.

18. RT-10

19. (A) SEE ITEM 20 (H)

(B) SEE ITEM 20 (H)

20. (A) 1802N 10545E.

(B) VOICE CONTACT ESTABLISHED BY JOLLY GREEN 37 WITH
PIN TAIL 02.

(F) SEARCH CALLED OFF DUE TO DARKNESS AND HOSTILE GROUND FIRE.

(H) NARRATIVE: CROWN 5 NOTIFIED OL-1 3ARRGP OF DOWNED F105

PIN TAIL 02 AT 02/0923Z. AT 02/0940Z CROWN 5 ADVISED OUR
LOCATION THAT HE NEEDED OUR ASSISTANCE AND THE HH3E'S AND

PAGE 4 RUMEDF 46A CONFIDENTIAL

AIE'S WERE LAUNCHED FOR THE DOWN ACM. CROWN 5 WAS AIRBORNE

MISSION CONTROLLER UNTIL THE HH3J3'S ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AT WHICH
TIME CROWN 2 TOOK OVER.

JOLLY GREEN 53 HAD MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND JOLLY GREEN 37

~~IMMEDIATE~~

OL 2 - 50082 JULY 67

CONFIDENTIAL SUSPENDING

ASD

ODC

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS. 7 FEB 1977
DECLASSIFIED ON _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PICKARD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNNNOTIC JAW RUNMIGU7446 1832200-CCCC--RUCLMFA.

ZNY CCCCC

DE RUMEDF 45A 1831550

ZNY CCCCC

O 021538Z JUL 67

VFM 3ARRGP OL2UDORN RTAFB THAI
TO RUMSEJ/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AB RVN
RUEDHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC
RUCIEUA/HQ MAC SCOTT AFB ILL
RUCLMFA/ARSCP ORLANDO AFB FLA
RUHHABA/PARRC HICKAM AFB HAWAII
RUMSEJ/7AF TAN SON NHUT RVN
RUMTFJA/USAF MPC RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS
RUMSMA/MACV SAIGON RVN
RUHHABA/PACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII
RUCLBMA/48ARRS EGLIN AFB FLA
RUMKAH/388TFW KORAT RTAFB THAI
RUEDNBA/TAC LANGLEY AFB VA
RUMNAF/39ARRS TUY HOA AB RVN
RUMEDFA/TUOC UDORN RTAFB THAI
RUMHPB/CL 1 3ARRGP DANANG AB RVN

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L / SAR/3ARRGP (OL-2) 50081 JULY 67. HQ USAF FOR
AFCP/AFXOPFH MAC FOR MAOCCA AND MCP, PACAF FOR DOCC-R, USAFMPC FOR

PAGE 2 RUMEDF 45A C O N F I D E N T I A L

AFPMSC, 7AF FOR DOTO, DO, DP, DI, EDMFP, CP, 3 ARRG P FOR JSARC, TAC FOR
DOSS-LR

1. RESCUE OPENING REPORT

2. 2-3-49 2 JULY 67

4. (A) F105 PIN TAIL 02

(B) TACTICAL

(C) CLASSIFIED

(D) 1 F105 PIN TAIL 02, 1 POB

(E) USAF

(F) 388 TFW KORAT RTAFB, THAILAND

(G) CAPTAIN DALE M. PICHARD

(H) 1 POB

(I) STANDARD

5. PIN TAIL 01 CONTACTED CROWN 5 02/0928Z

6. S/E

7. ADVISED JOLLY GREEN 37/53 TO GO COCKPIT ALERT AT NAKHON

PHANOM 02/0930Z. AIE'S ALERTED 02/0941Z.

8. LAUNCHED JOLLY GREEN 37/53 02/0943Z. LAUNCHED 4 AIE'S
02/0959Z.

9. 1802N 10545E

PAGE 3 RUMEDF 45A C O N F I D E N T I A L

10. (C) LOW STRATUS IN VALLEYS

11. OL-2, 3 ARRG P, RONALD P. FRANK, MAJOR

12. SEE ITME 20 (H)

20. (C) 1802N 10545E

(D) 4 AIE 602FS UDORN RTAFB: 2 HH3E/DET 2 37ARRS NAKHON PHANOM:

1 HC 130/39 ARRS, UDORN RTAFB.

(F) NARRATIVE: CROWN 5 NOTIFIED OL-1 3ARRGP OF DOWNED F105

PIN TAIL 02 AT 02/0928Z. AT 0940Z CROWN 5 ADVISED OUR

LOCATION THAT HE NEEDED OUR ASSISTANCE AND THE HH3E'S AND AIE'S WERE

LAUNCHED FOR THE DOWNED AC. CROWN 5 WAS AIRBORNE MISSION CONTROLLER

UNTIL THE HH3E'S ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AT WHICH TIME CROWN 2 TOOK OVER.

JOLLY GREEN 53 HAD MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND JOLLY GREEN 37 PROCEEDED

INTO THE AREA ESCORTED BY AIE'S. EXCELLENT RESCAP WAS PROVIDED AND

THE WEATHER WAS GOOD. A NAVY HELICOPTER AND AIE'S WERE ALSO INVOLVED

WITH THE SAR. MISSION WAS SUSPENDED DUE TO DARKNESS AND HOSTILE

FIRE. ACM WAS ADVISED TO HEAD FOR HIGH TERRAIN AND PREPARE FOR A

MORNING EFFORT.

GP-4

BT

DOWNED F105
DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 3RD AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY GROUP (MAC)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: RGRC

13 July 1967

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (U)

TO: Hq ARRS (AROOPCR)

1. (U) The attached mission narrative is forwarded in accordance with Chapter 2, paragraph 4c of ARRSM 55-2.
2. (U) When attachment is withdrawn or not attached, the classification hereon is cancelled.

FOR THE COMMANDER

John F. Hagemeister
JOHN F. HAGEMESTER, Major, USAF
Chief of Administrative Services

1 Atch
Ltr, Det 2, 37ARRS, 3 July 67 (S)
Subj: Msn Narrative, 3pgs, 2cy.

Cy to: PARRC, 7AF(DOCO), 48ARRS, Hq 636th
CSG, ATTN: Commandant PACAF Jungle
Survival School, CINCPACAF (DIOE)

Downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL

25 JUL 1970 IAW AFR 205-2
(Date)

AROLD # 670867

126-ND. 150994

17-AD-3365

~~SECRET~~ *am* *PICKARD*

MISSION NARRATIVE JOLLY GREEN 37,09 and 53 - 2 - 3 JULY 67

(S)(GP-4) Jolly Green 37 and 53 on alert at Ch 89. Compress notified at 0927Z 2 July 67 that Pintail 2 was down 0600/77 Ch 89, good chute and beeper. At 0940Z Crown 2 scrambled JG 37 and 53. JG 37 and 53 airborne at 0943Z. Sandy 5, 6, 7, and 8 scrambled from Ch 86 at 1000Z. JG 37 established orbit at 060/60 Ch 89 to wait for Sandys'. Observed AW fire and moved orbit to 050/60 Ch 89. Rendvous was made with Sandy 5 and 6 at 1045, JG 53 reported fluctuating main transmission oil pressure, and elected to RTB. After discussing the situation, JG 37 directed JG 53 to jettison his tips, reduce power to minimum as a precaution and notify JG 37 immediately if any further complications arose. JG 53 safely landed Ch 89. Meanwhile JG 37 and Sandy 5 and 6 moved closer to target area and re-established orbit, awaiting the results of Sandy 7 and 8 in locating survivors.

(S)(GP-4) Sandy 7 and 8 were unable to contact Pintail 2, but were directed to immediate area by Pintail flight, who had been in contact with him 15 minutes earlier. Sandy 7 and 8 suppressed what ground fire they encountered, then Sandy 7 reported seeing what looked like panels from a parachute and requested JG 37 to check it over.

(S)(GP-4) JG 37 arrived over target area 1130Z. By this time daylight was rapidly fading and the bottom of the valleys were in shadows. Sandy 7 attempted to point out the parachute panels to JG 37 but to no avail. At 1132Z JG 37 established voice and beeper contact with the survivor. Electronic search was initiated by JG 37 homing on beeper.

(S)(GP-4) The area was on a long low ridge running NW-SE, with flat valleys on either side, roads and railroads in the valleys and roads and footpaths along the ridge, as well as what looked like unoccupied gun emplacements in little clearings along the ridgetop.

(S)(GP-4) JG 37 followed the ridgeline NW, as indicated by the UHF/DF from a clearing ahead 5 or 6 AW's opened up. JG 37 broke left over the top of the ridge and headed SW. Received AW fire/tracers from the valley to the west. The PJ shot back 2 full magazines of M-16 tracer at this position on full automatic, and that position was not observed to fire again. JG 37 attempted to use terrain masking to avoid fire while continuing the electronic search. Suspected a trap after several encounters with AW/Tracer fire and asked Crown 2 to supply us with personal identifier question. ✓ Pintail 2 answered the question correctly.

(S)(GP-4) We determined that the survivor was down in a hole or steep ravine along the north east side of the ridge by interpretation of UHF/DF bearing information and signal characteristics. Each time JG 37 attempted to approach the survivor the ground fire got worse, until the last time when JG 37 received an intense barrage from directly below. From numerous positions along the valley floor on the eastern side of the ridge.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

70 JAN 1982 205-2

(Page)
1678-0119

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 4

DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFY AFTER 12 YEARS

classified by
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED
DATE

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(S)(GP-4) By now it was so dark that the top of the ridgeline was discernable only when silhouetted against the sky. The hostiles were waiting longer and longer to open fire, but because of the terrain masking and the dark color of JG 37 their fire was primarily directed at the sound of the rotors. Whenever tracers came close to JG 37 the PJ and FE would return the fire with M-16's as long as they could keep the origin of the fire in sight. Due to the evasive maneuvers being made they were usually limited to expending one magazine at a time. The Sandys' were unable to assist in suppressing this ground fire because of darkness, being unable to see each other, JG 37 or the terrain.

(S)(GP-4) At 1223 after about 40 minutes, JG 37 elected to RTB, notified the Sandys' and climbed out of the area. Pintail 2 was contacted, advised to climb up the ridge as high as possible, and told that we would be back the next day. Pintail 2 reported that as we progressed further and further up the ridge, he was finally able to hear JG 37 and the ground fire.

(S)(GP-4) JG 37 landed Ch 89 at 1318Z, and was out of commission due to battle damage to a main rotor blade.

(S)(GP-4) JG 09 was positioned at Ch 89 early the next morning to replace JG 37. JG 53 had been repaired during the night.

(S)(GP-4) At 2230Z 2 July (0530L 3 July) JG 09 and 53 launched from Ch 89. Reached orbit with Sandy's 3 and 4 at 2320Z with bingo time of 0240Z. Sandy 1 was in voice contact with Pintail 2, and was "FACING" the RESCAP aircraft. Sandy 1 had received ground fire as soon as he arrived on scene. By 0050Z RESCAP and Sandy 1, 2, and 3 had sterilized the area enough for Sandy 1 to call in JG 09 and 53. JG 09 and 53 arrived over survivor 0055Z, JG 53 remained high while JG 09 went down to about 2000' over the terrain and had immediate voice contact with Pintail 2. Sandy 1 made a low pass and verbally indicated his position over the survivor. Pintail 2 confirmed this also. JG 09 commenced the approach at 0056Z. Using the FE's precise directions, JG 09 established hover over the survivor's red smoke at 0057Z.

(S)(GP-4) The survivor was located deep in a steep closed ravine, so it was necessary to hover below the crest of the hills. The only open area for rapid departure was directly NE, toward the valley. Smoke from the Willie Pete Bombs, the Sandys' used to create a smoke screen, was particularly obscuring the hilltops and ravine walls. Elevation 500' Temp 32° No wind.

(S)(GP-4) The survivor was on the forest penetrator at 0058Z and JG 09 started getting ground fire from above and behind at this time. The PJ reported seeing troops in dark uniforms with helmets about 50 yards away coming over the crest of the hill through the smoke. He fired at them. As soon as the FE announced that the survivor was clear of the trees JG 09 broke immediately down the ravine, turned left around the end of the ridge and climbed out behind the ridge in the smoke screen. The survivor was gotten on board at 0100Z by the FE and PJ.

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SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS. 7 FEB 1977
DECLASSIFIED ON

~~SECRET~~

(S)(GP-4) The survivor Capt Dale M. Pichard, FV3145334, was in fine shape, he even pulled out his .38 to help in shooting back as soon as he was aboard, since he heard the shooting as he was getting on the forest penetrator.

(S)(GP-4) During climbout of JG 09, the Sandys' flew racetrack patterns on either side to suppress ground fire. As soon as JG 09 was in a safe area Sandy 1 declared emergency fuel and proceeded directly to Ch 89. JG 09 and 53 flew along the track of Sandy 1 to render assistance. Sandy 1 landed safely Ch 89, 0135Z JG 09 and 53 landed Ch 89 0150Z. JG 09 out of commission, battle damaged main rotor blade.

(S)(GP-4) Pickup made at 1807N 10544E, North Vietnam, weather and communications no problem.

(U) The Sandys', particularly Sandy 1 did an outstanding job FACING the RESCAP aircraft to sterilize the area, in fact even getting some secondary explosions. From my viewpoint the cooperation and mutual support between the Sandys', Crown and the RESCORT aircraft made this successful mission a textbook operation.

(U) I recommend that Capt Bradley (RCCP), A1C Cotter (FE), A2C Pighini (PJ), of JG 09 and the Sandy pilots' particularly Major Mehr (Sandy 1) be recognized for their outstanding teamwork and exceptional professional flying skills in the face of hostile fire without which the mission would most probably have ended in failure.

JG 37/09 Low Bird

RCC Capt Etzel
RCCP Capt Bradley
FE A1C Cotter
PJ A2C Pighini

JG 53 High Bird

RCC Capt May
RCCP Capt Hall
FE A1C Whisenhunt
PJ A2C McComb

Gregory A. M. Etzel
GREGORY A. M. ETZEL, Capt, USAF
RCC

~~SECRET~~

Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS. 7 FEB 1977
DECLASSIFIED ON _____

ZNY EEEEE

R 210746Z JUL 67

FM HQ PARFC HICKAM AFB HAWAII

TO RUEHUA/MAC

INFO RUEHFA/HQ ARRS ORLANDO AFB FLA
BT

UNCLAS E F T O FRFDC 01357 JUL 67.

MAC FOR FAPPSP AND MACCO, ARRS FOR ARPCB. SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION
FOR AIR FORCE CROSS. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM 7TH AF TO
CINCPACAF IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

"UNCLAS E F T O 00461 JUL 67.

PERSONAL FROM GENERAL MONYER TO GENERAL RYAN. SUBJECT -
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECORATIONS. THIS MESSAGE IS IN TWO PARTS.
PART I. BELOW INDIVIDUALS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD
OF THE AIR FORCE CROSS FOR THEIR HEROIC ACTIONS ON 2-3 JULY 1967:
NOMINEE POSITION

MAJ RICHARD L MEHR, FR64900

A-1E, FLIGHT COMMANDER

CAPT GREGORY A M ETZEL, FV3072748

HH-3E, PILOT

MAJOR MEHR, 602D FIGHTER SQUADRON (COMMAND) AND CAPTAIN ETZEL,
DET 2, 37TH AFROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SQUADRON, ARE HIGHLY
DESERVING OF THIS AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN

PAGE 2 RUHHA02002 UNCLAS E F T O

THE RECOVERY OF THE PILOT OF PINTAIL 2 ON 2-3 JULY 1967. THESE
OFFICERS VOLUNTARILY RISKED THEIR LIVES ON 2-3 JULY TO EFFECT THE
RESCUE OF THE DOWNED F-105 PILOT IN A HEVILY DEFENDED AREA OF
NORTH VIETNAM. THEY ENTERED THE AREA OF THE DOWNED PILOT AT
APPROXIMATELY 1800 LOCAL ON 2 JULY, AMIDST HIS FIGHTERS, HOSTILE
MISSILES, ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, AND NUMEROUS AUTOMATIC AND SMALL
ARMS FIRE. THEY REMAINED THERE FOR AN HOUR DESPITE DARKNESS AND
DID NOT WITHDRAW UNTIL COMPELLED TO DO SO BY ORDERS FROM 7AF.
THEY WITHDREW PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PICKUP, BUT NOT BEFORE SUSTAINING
SEVERE DAMAGE (THE JOLLY GREEN TOOK A HIT WHICH REQUIRED
A ROTOR BLADE CHANGE). EACH MAN VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN ON 3 JULY
DESPITE THE FACT THAT EACH HAD RECEIVED ONLY THE MINIMUM OF CREW
REST PRIOR TO THE 2200 BRIEFING ON 3 JULY, AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS
WERE AVAILABLE FOR THE MISSION, THEY DEPARTED FOR THE RESCUE AREA
AT 0430 WHERE THEY IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE DOWNED
PILOT AND WITH THE SIX FLIGHTS OF F-105'S. FOR TWO HOURS THEY
ENDURED CONTINUOUS GROUND FIRE PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE RESCUE.
THROUGHOUT THIS LONG PERIOD MAJOR MEHR CONTROLLED SOME 40 JET
AIRCRAFT STRIKES AGAINST THE NUMEROUS HOSTILE GSN POSITIONS.
DURING THE ACTUAL PICKUP, THE RESCUE FORCE AGAIN SUSTAINED SEVERE
DAMAGE TO THEIR JOLLY GREEN (REQUIRING A SECOND ROTOR BLADE
CHANGE). MAJOR MEHR, HAD IN THE MEANTIME, RECEIVED PUNCTURES IN
HIS FUEL TANKS; HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO LEAVE THE AREA PRIOR TO
ACTUAL PICKUP DESPITE A SERIOUS LEAK. HE EVENTUALLY LANDED AT
NANGH PHANON WITH ONLY 100 POUNDS REGISTERING ON HIS FUEL GAUGE.
PART II. IN VIEW OF THE XTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST IMMEDIATE
PROCESSING AND APPROVAL TO PERMIT "ON-THE-SPOT" RECOGNITION
OF THESE HEROIC OFFICERS. AF FORMS 642 AND INDIVIDUAL CITATIONS
WILL FOLLOW WITHIN 72 HOURS THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTIONS CONTAIN
THE DETAILS OF BRAVE AND GALLANT MILITARY ACTION WHICH NOT ONLY
PERSEVERED IN SAVING A PILOT, BUT ALSO INFLICTED SIGNIFICANT
DAMAGE TO THE HOSTILE FORCE."

UNQUOTE.

~~ADDED BY PARFC. RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD DISPATCHED TO HQ USAF
14 JULY WITH STRONG APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION BY CINCPACAF.~~

BT

PICHAARD