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138

OPENING/CLOSING/SUSPENSE	CONFIDENTIAL
MISSION NUMBER:	2-3-85-4 Nov. 67
SUBJECT:	USAF F105
HH-3E	

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PAGE 3 RUMBOF 244 C O N F I D E N T I A L

15. A. 1/1/1/1/0/0 B. 2/0/0/0/0/0/0

16. RETURNED TO NAKON PHANOM RTAFB THAI

17. 1/3 PLU500/HC-130P/39APR 8: 40PLU530/A1E/S02 FS/ 2/9 PLU500/VH35/

DET 1, 37ARES

18. S/T

19. 4. (RCC) CAPT. HARRY W. VALVER: (CPO) LCOL. JERALD E. LOWE:

(CPO) SGT FULLELL L. ONAL: (PJO) SGT. CHARLIE D. SMITH

3. CAPT. BILLY R. SPARKS, 355TFW TAKHLI RTAFB THAILAND.

20. H. CROWN TWO REPORTED AT 0814Z THAT MARLIN LEAD HAD TAKEN A

HIT AND WAS REGRESSING. NEXT REPORT HAD MARLIN LEAD BAILED OUT

WITH GOOD CHUTE AND BEEPER. JOLLY GREEN 37 AND 56 WERE SCRAMBLED

FROM L-36. RESCAP AND WIGGAP WERE SET UP AND THE SAR FORCES

THERE WAS NO REPORTED GROUND FIRE AND JOLLY

GREEN 37 MADE THE PICK UP OF DOWN ACM. PILOT WAS IN GOOD CONDITION

WITH BUISED ELBOW AND ANKLE. SANDY 6 REPORTED BEING JUMPED BY A

KI2 BUT TOOK NO HITS. JOLLY GREEN 37 MADE AN AIR REFUELING AND

DELIVERED THE DOWNED ACM TO NAKON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND. THIS IS

A ARRS COMBAT SAVE.

GP-4

BT

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Classified by _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11181
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT 10
YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED ON _____

1. 10-300-40000*
2. 1000 18 24

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2-3-85

138

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative, 5 November 1967

21 NOV 1967

TO: 3ARRGp (C)

SPARKS

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1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARRSM 55-2/3ARRGp Sup 1, dated 15 June 67.

2. (S)(GP-4) Jolly Green 56 (Low) and 37 (High) were scrambled from LS-36 at 0840Z and told to rendezvous with Sandys 5 and 6 over North Station. At the time of launch a position for the downed survivor (Marlin Lead) had not been given to either of the crews. Shortly after takeoff Crown 2 gave a location of 047/89 from Channel 97 ($21^{\circ}23'N$, $104^{\circ}46'E$) and directed all aircraft to the North Vietnamese border immediately. We flew near a 7500' (MSL) scattered cloud layer to avoid ground fire and offer protective cover from hostile aircraft. Visibility throughout the mission was excellent. Approximately 35 minutes later while enroute to the scene, Compress directed JG 37 to make the recovery since JG 56 was not aerial refueling equipped. At this point the altitude of the downed airman was unknown and a good possibility existed that without the use of A/R enough internal fuel would not be available to make recovery and land at a suitable base during the hours of darkness. Arriving on scene at 0950Z JG 37 immediately sighted a rising cloud of white smoke and, upon direction of Sandy lead, started toward it. Approaching the smoke JG 37 was advised that it was the wrong marker and that another smoke bomb had been dropped closer to the survivor's position. At this point radio communication between JG 37 and the Sandys disintegrated. JG 37 could not talk to the Sandy, whose transmissions to the JG were, in turn, broken. JG 56, now in high orbit over a mountain of nearby karst began relaying the Sandy's direction. Although two different compass headings were initially given, by picking an average we crossed a nearby ridge and sighted the second smoke signal. Flying directly toward it the survivor fired a flare (we later learned) which ignited just after we had passed his position, making it impossible to see. Taking relayed instructions from JG 56, JG 37 turned around. Still there was no sign of the survivor. At this point someone called "up the hill" and the crew sighted remnants of smoke. Instantaneously two pen flares shot up through the trees. MigCap called "bogies" in the area. Almost immediately they were reported low and away. JG 37 entered a hover over the downed airman and, in spite of thick foliage, a steep slope and several high trees, no great difficulty was encountered in making the pickup. Just after we had dropped our tip tanks for the hover JG 56 called and advised that Compress had changed the original decision and told him to make the recovery. In view of the advanced stage of the effort, however, we were allowed to

1-370ps 67-

GROUP 4

25 JUL 1970
DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFY AFTER 12 YEARS

Cys 1 of 6 Gy

Atch 4

ARODC # 671388

67-AD-5387

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continue. Shortly after beginning our departure, Sandy 6, who had proceeded to escort JG 56 out of the area called Migs and reported that he was being fired upon. Neither JG crew sighted the enemy aircraft. The only other hostile activity observed was small arms and/or automatic weapons fire across the Black River and each time we crossed a valley. Our altitude was such that no battle damage was sustained. Enroute to Channel 89 JG 37 conducted A/R with Crown 2 and landed at 1300Z. JG 56 landed at Channel 86 at 1240Z with insufficient fuel to return to Channel 89. ✓

3. (U) The name of the survivor was Capt Billy (NMI) Sparks, USAF.

4. (U) Crews of Jolly Green 37 and 57 were:

Jolly Green 37

Harry W. Walker, Capt, RCC
Gerald B. Lowe, Lt Col, RCCP
Russell L. Oneal, Sgt, FE
Clarance R. Boles, MSgt, PJ
Charley D. Smith, TSgt, PJ

Jolly Green

James H. Platt, 1st Lt, RCC
Richard A. Wagner, Maj, RCCP
Hairy D. Thacker, SSgt, FE
Joseph M. Duffy, Sgt, PJ

Harry W. Walker
HARRY W. WALKER, Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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

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