

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
40TH AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY SQUADRON (MAC)



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

400(Maj Allison/2687)

4 Sep 68

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report (#2-3-054, 1 Sep 68)(U)

TO: Operations Officer
Commander
3ARRGP (JSARG)
IN TURN

Classified by
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON SLDCM

1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARSM 55-2/3ARRGP Supplement 1, dated 15 June 1967.

2. (S) At 0825L, 1 September 1968, Jolly Green 68 took off from Channel 70 and proceeded to 025/58/70 and rendezvoused with Jolly Green 71. The mission was to cover strikes in a hostile environment. Jolly Green 68 and 71 then proceeded north from that position only to be turned back by cloud buildups and turbulence. While orbiting in the vicinity of 025/58/70, a call was received that "Poncho 2", an F-105 pilot, had bailed out. The time was 1000L. "Poncho 1" had viewed the bailout of "Poncho 2", and had observed a good chute but lost it when it had entered the clouds. Jolly Green 68 and 71 then proceeded northeast to the general area of 035/86/70, guided by "Poncho 1" using UHF/AHF. The survivor had a good radio and was in contact with "Poncho 1". The weather in the area was scattered to broken clouds with occasional rain showers. Visibility was generally good, but the mountain peaks were obscured by clouds. The terrain features were river valleys and tall peaks to 6200 feet. After eight passes through a large valley, the survivor was electronically located on a cloud capped peak of 3200 feet elevation. After receiving confirmation by the survivor that he heard rescue craft overhead, the two Jolly Greens orbited the area looking for a break in the cloud cover. At 1050L, the survivor was requested to fire a flare from his pen gun. Jolly Green 68, the closest to the survivor, spotted the smoke trails of the flare and pinpointed the position, still within the confines of a cloud approximately 300 feet thick. It was then decided that by using the rotomach of the HH-53B, the cloud might be dissipated. The two Jolly Greens then began repeated passes over the survivor. Slowly the cloud parted and at 1110L the survivor was sighted. The parachute was tangled in trees approximately 100 feet tall. The Flight Engineer of Jolly Green 68 directed the pilot into a hover and the survivor was brought up through a hole in the jungle canopy. The survivor had suffered a strained arm and back in addition to facial lacerations. He was given immediate medical aid by the Pararescuemen aboard. As Jolly Green 68 and 71 departed the area at 1120L, the clouds closed over the site. Recovery was made at Channel 70 at 1200L.

AMAZING!

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SEA of GATT

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12 cy of 1 cy

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
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3. (U) The survivor was Captain Ken Thaste, FR3120822, 7th Air Force, Ton Son Nhut AB, RVN, attached TDY to Korat.

4. (U) The crews were:

a. Jolly Green 68;

BCC Major John V. Allison
BCCP 1st Lt Leone S. Russo
FE SSgt Gene A. Sellers
RS Sgt Richard Grossman Jr
RS Sgt Thomas R. Pope

b. Jolly Green 71;

BCC Major Lucius F. Hallett III
BCCP Captain Glen E. Hoff
FE Sgt Edward J. Koebarnik
RS TSgt Larry W. Bigelow
RS Sgt Robert P. Koecher
AP SSgt Raymond E. Windham

John V. Allison
JOHN V. ALLISON, Major, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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