

131A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OPENING/CLOSING/SUSPENDING

Set 8

MISSION NUMBER: 5-38-3-7 SEP 68

SUBJECT: USAF F105E.

HH-438

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NC saves
SEA HH-43
USAF aircrew

Det 5-38 - 003 - 7 Sep 68

Open/Close -

This mission broke suddenly Saturday when an F-105C just up from Udorn reported a rough running engine. Det 5 scrambled an HH-43 and orbited for 20 minutes - the lower reported they had lost radio contact, but still had him on radar - squawking emergency. Pedro had him in site when he crashed 10 miles SE of the base. After a quick refueling, Pedro headed for the scene and established radio contact with the downed pilot, who soon directed him in to his position. As he was being lifted up to the chopper with sling & hoist, Pedro established radio contact with the other pilot, and a short while later he was also safely aboard. Both men were returned to base in good shape, 2 sorties, 1.5 hrs, 2 non-combat saves.

P/68

CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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IMMEDIATE

JH

PT 0218

OTTCZYUW RUMOSRA1463 2521012-CCCC--RUCIEUA.

ZNY CCCCC

0 080840Z SEP 68

FMDET 5 38 ARRS UDORN RTAFB THAI
TO RUCIEUA/ARRS ARSCP SCOTT AFB ILL
RUEFHQA/HQ USAF AFXOPFH
RUHHABAS/PAC ARRC PROCP HICKAM AFB HAW
INFO RUMUFKA/3ARRGP TSN AB RVN
RUMBAH/388 TFW KORAT RTAFB THAI
RUMUFKA/38 ARRSQ TSN RVN
RUCIEUA/MAC MAOCOA SCOTT
RUCIEUA/MAC MCP

RUEFHQA/AFCP WASHINGTON DC
RUHHABA/PACAF HICKAM AFB HAW
RUWTFJA/AFPMSC RANDOLPH AFB TEX
RUCLBMA/48 ARRSQ EGLIN AFB FLA

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L -50 PS

1. RESCUE OPENING/CLOSING REPORT
2. 5-38-003-251
3. A. F-105E, PACKARD 1, 2 POB
- B. TACTICAL

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C. NOT RELEASEABLE

D. F-105E, TAIL NUMBER 63-8289, 2 POB

E. USA

F. 388 TFW KORAT RTAFB THAI

G. BONFIGLIO, EUGENE A. MAJOR, FR47053

H. S/E

4. CONTROL TOWER, UDORN RTAFB, THAI 07/1320
5. 07/1430

6. HH-43B 07/1320

7. HH-43 B AIRBORNE WITH FSK AT 07/1322

8. 17 DEGREES 15' N, 102 DEGREES 50' E

9. A. 10,000 OVERCAST, 6 MI

10. OL-2, 3ARRGP, SSGT DONALD W. CRANFORD

11. NONE

12. HH-43B, 07/1430, 17 DEGREES 15' N, 102DEGREES50'E

13. HH-43B, HOIST

14. 2/2/2/2/0/0

15. REMOVED TO DISPENSARY-PRESENTLY STILL REMAINING IN DISPENSARY,
BUT IN GOOD CONDITION.

16 2/1.5/HH-43B/ DET5 38 ARRSQ

Classified by

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED ON

31 DEC 74

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17. S/E

18. A. (RCC) GIBSON, G.R., MAJOR, (RCCP) SIMONSEN, M.H., CAPTAIN
(FE) LOONEY, DENNIS M., SGT. ALL ASSIGNED TO DET 5 38 ARRSQ. (FF)
DRAKE, B.E., SSGT, (FF) HAMILTON, NEIL A., SSGT BOTH ASSIGNED TO
432ND C.E. SQ.

B. BONFIGLIO, EUGENE A., MAJOR, MCCORMICK, LORNE, F. MAJOR,

IMMEDIATE

* C O N F I D E N T I A L *

HH
IMMEDIATE

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *

BOTH ASSIGNED TO 44TFS, KORAT RTAFB, THAI.
19. H. TWO (2) NON-COMBAT SAVES ARE CLAIMED FOR THIS MISSION.
PEDRO 09 SCRAMBLED FOR F-105E WITH A ROUGH RUNNING ENGINE. PEDRO
09 ORBITED FOR TWENTY MINUTES WHEN THE TOWER ADVISED THAT THE
DISTRESSED AIRCRAFT WAS SQUAWKING EMERGENCY AND THAT APPROACH
CONTROL HAD LOST RADIO CONTACT, BUT STILL HAD RADAR CONTACT. AT
THE SAMETIME PEDRO 09 STARTED RECEIVING A BEEPER. SIGNAL. THE
AIRCRAFT WAS SIGHTED VISUALLY, AND APPEARED TO FLY IN CONTROLLED
ORBIT PATTERN. PEDRO 09 CONTINUED TO ORBIT FOR APPROXIMATELY
FIVE (5) MINUTES, WHEN THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED TEN(10) MILES SOUTH-
EAST OF THE BASE. PEDRO 09 RETURNED TO BASE FOR PREARRANGED
REFUELING. REFUELING WAS COMPLETED IN FIVE(5) MINUTES AND PEDRO
09 WAS AIRBORNE AT 07/1400. PEDRO 09 LOCATED THE CRASH SCENE
AND INITIATED A SEARCH FOR THE SURVIVORS BEEPER SIGNAL. RADIO

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CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE DOWNED PILOT AND ANINITIAL
BEARING WAS OBTAINED ON THE BEEPER USINGTHE UHF/DF. PEDRO 09
ESTABLISHED VOICE CONTACT AND STARTED FLASHING THE LANDING LIGHT.
THE DOWNED PILOT SIGHTED THE HELICOPTER AND DIRECTED IT TO HIS
POSITION. HE WAS SIGHTED IN A WOODED AREA, NEAR A SMALL STREAM.
PEDRO 09 MADE A NIGHT APPROACH TO THE AREA USING THE SURVIVORS
FLASH LIGHT SIGNALS AS REFERENCE. THE SURVIVOR WAS RECOVERED WITH
THE SLING AND HOIST. DURING THE RECOVERY RADIO VIOCE CONTACT WAS
ESTABLISHED WITH THE SECOND SURVIVOR. AFTER TAKE-OFF HE DIRECTED
PEDRO 09 TO HIS POSITION, APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE WEST OF THE
FIRST SCENE. PEDRO 09 MADE A NIGHT APPROACH TO AN AREA OF LOWER
TREES ABOU 200 YARDS WEST OF THE SECOND SURVIVOR AND HOVERED
WHILE HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE HELICOPTER. SLING AND HOIST PICKUP
WAS EFFECTED. PEDRO 09 RETURNED TO BASE WITH BOTH SURVIVORS
SUFFERING ONLY MINOR CUTS AND BURISES FROM DECENDING THROUGH THE
TREES. GP-4
BT

NNNN#

M-K-544

HH
IMMEDIATE

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *

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FROM: Det 5, 38ARRS, APO 96237

9 Sep 68

Classified by

SUBJECT: MISSION NARRATIVE REPORT (5-38-003-251) SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 13652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AND DRAFTED
YEAR IN 1974

DECLASSIFIED ON 51 SEP 68

TO: 3ARRGP (JSARC)

1. (u) THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED IAW ARRSM 55-2/3ARRGP SUP 1, DTD
11 JUL 68.

2. (c) PEDRO 09 WAS SCRAMBLED AT 07/1320Z BY THE CONTROL TOWER ON A F-105E WITH A ROUGH RUNNING ENGINE. PEDRO 09 HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE ORBIT PATTERN FOR TWENTY MINUTES WHEN THE CONTROL TOWER ADVISED THAT APPROACH CONTROL HAD LOST RADIO CONTACT WITH THE DISTRESSED AIRCRAFT, BUT STILL HAD RADAR CONTACT. AT THE SAME TIME A BEEPER SIGNAL WAS HEARD ON GUARD CHANNEL FOR A BRIEF TIME. PEDRO 09 CONTINUED TO ORBIT AND VISUALLY SIGHTED THE AIRCRAFT FLYING WHAT APPEARED TO BE A CONTROLLED ORBIT PATTERN AT APPROXIMATELY 5,000 FEET AGL. ABOUT FIVE MINUTES LATER THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED TEN MILES SOUTHEAST OF UDORN RTAFB. PEDRO 09 RETURNED TO THE RAMP FOR PREARRANGED REFUELING. THE REFUELING WAS COMPLETED IN FIVE MINUTES AND PEDRO 09 WAS AIRBORNE AND PROCEEDING TO THE CRASH SITE AT 07/1400Z. APPROACH CONTROL HAD A POSITIVE FIX ON THE CRASH SITE AND VECTORED PEDRO 09 TO THE AREA WHERE SMOKE WAS OBSERVED BY THE RESCUE CREW. WHILE SEARCHING THE CRASH SCENE PEDRO 09 STARTED RECEIVING WEAK RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM ONE OF THE DOWNED CREW MEN. PEDRO 09 REQUESTED A BEEPER SIGNAL AND WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN A BEARING FROM THE UHF/DF. AS PEDRO 09 APPROACHED THE SURVIVORS, GOOD RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED AND WE STARTED FLASHING OUR LANDING LIGHT. THE DOWNED PILOT SOON SIGHTED PEDRO 09 AND EXPERTLY DIRECTED US TO HIS POSITION. THE RESCUE CREW SIGHTED THE PILOT IN A WOODED AREA BY A SMALL STREAM. A CAREFUL NIGHT APPROACH WAS EXECUTED TO THE SURVIVOR. HE APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND AFTER A STABLE HOVER WAS ESTABLISHED BY APPROXIMATELY 75 FEET THE RESCUE SLING WAS LOWERED ON THE HOIST BY THE FLIGHT ENGINEER. NO DIFFICULTY WAS ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING THE SURVIVOR SECURELY ABOARD THE HELICOPTER. DURING THE RECOVERY OF THE FIRST CREWMAN RADIO CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE SECOND SURVIVOR. SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF HE SIGHTED THE HELICOPTER AND, ALSO EXPERTLY DIRECTED IT TO HIS POSITION, ONE HALF MILE EAST OF THE FIRST PICK-UP. PEDRO 09 WAS UNABLE TO APPROACH THE SECOND AREA BECAUSE OF THICK TALL TREES IN THE AREA. THE SURVIVOR SAID HE WAS IN GOOD CONDITION AND ABLE TO MAKE HIS WAY TO A RELATIVELY CLEAR AREA 200 YARDS TO THE EAST. A CAREFUL NIGHT APPROACH WAS MADE TO THE AREA AND THE FLIGHT ENGINEER LOWERED THE SLING APPROXIMATELY 25 FEET AFTER A STABLE HOVER WAS ESTABLISHED. NO DIFFICULTY WAS ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING THE SECOND SURVIVOR SECURELY ABOARD THE HELICOPTER. PEDRO 09 DEPARTED THE AREA AT 07/1445Z AND RETURNED TO BASE WITH BOTH SURVIVORS IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS, SUFFERING ONLY MINOR CUTS AND BRUISES FROM DESCENDING THROUGH THE TREES. THE COORDINATES OF THE AREA ARE: 17° 15" N, 102° 50" E. THE MISSION WAS TERMINATED AT 07/1500Z.

3. (c) THE SURVIVORS WERE MAJORS EUGENE A. BONIFIGLIO AND LORNE F.

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MCCORMICK OF THE 44th TFS, KORAT RTAFB, THAILAND.

4. (U) CREW MEMBERS OF PEDRO 09:

RCC MAJOR GERALD R. GIBSON
RCCP CAPTAIN MARTIN H. SIMONSEN
FE SERGEANT DENNIS M. LOONEY
RS STAFF SERGEANT BILLY E. DRAKE
RS SERGEANT NEIL A. HAMILTON

Gerald R. Gibson

GERALD R. GIBSON, Major, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

GROUP 4
Downgrade at 3yr. Intervals
Declassify after 12yrs & down to 3200 00

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