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56 Special Operations Wing

SAR Report (Kingfish 01) (U)

3 AMHQ (3G)

1. (S) Kingfish 01 bailed out at 106/62/channel 113 at 09330 on 16 June 1969. The UTM coordinates were UF 710957.
2. (C) Sandy 01/02/03/04 were scrambled immediately. Sandy 01/02 were airborne at 10000.
3. (C) The survivor was located in heavy elephant grass in a valley which was completely surrounded by high, steep karst. There was a river about 500 meters north and east and a deserted village on the other side of the river. The weather was broken to overcast, and layered from the surface to 8000' MSL with scattered buildups to about 18,000' MSL. Fortunately there was a break in the overcast about 2 miles in diameter around the survivor.
4. (S) A Kingfish wingman was first on scene and had observed a good chute. However he could not establish radio contact with Kingfish 01. Firefly 42/43 were diverted to the scene to aid in the rescue. Upon arrival Firefly 42 assumed on scene command. He could not establish radio contact with Kingfish 01. Jolly Green 71/76 had scrambled from Lima Site 98 and were enroute to the area. Raven 46 was also working nearby and came to the area to offer assistance. Due to erroneous vectors, Sandy 01/02 were off course and Sandy 03/04 were close to the area when radio contact was established with Kingfish 01. His injuries were two broken legs and a broken arm. He therefore requested an immediate pickup. Sandy 03 was given on scene command about 5 miles from the area. Firefly 42 had made several trolling passes around the survivor with no ground fire observed and Raven 46 advised that this was a permissive area. Based upon that information, Sandy 03 directed Firefly 42/43 to escort Jolly Green 71 into the survivor and make the pickup. Sandy 03/04 arrived at the scene and flew cover for Jolly Green 71 just as he began his hover over the survivor. Firefly 42/43 then departed for NKP. Sandy 01/02 arrived shortly behind Sandy 03/04 and four ship daisy chain was maintained around the helicopter until the egress. Two pararescuemen were lowered to assist the survivor into a Stokes litter which was taken aboard the helicopter at 1100G. Egress was to the northwest up a valley and into the clouds. Sandy 01/02 then escorted Jolly Green 79 back to Lima Site 98, while Sandy 03/04 escorted Jolly Green 71 to the fence. Jolly Green 71 recovered at CH 70 and Sandy 03/04 RTB'd CH 89.

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5. (S) Some confusion occurred during the SAR because of the recent change in call-signs from "Crown" to "King". It became necessary to revert to the "Crown" call sign in order to raise some SAR participants.

6. (U) Sandy Forces participating in this effort were as follows:

Sandy 01 - Capt Robert W. Keith
Sandy 02 - 1/Lt William B. Atkinson Jr.
Sandy 03 - 1/Lt Jon W. Bading
Sandy 04 - Major Robert L. Bohan

SIGNED

DARYLE E. TRIPP, 1st Colonel, USAF
Ass't Deputy Commander for Operations
Sandy Coordinator

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

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