

06T F-105 RESCUE

SECRET
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
40TH AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY SQUADRON (MAC)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96237



REPLY TO DO
ATTN OF:

22 December 1970

SUBJECT: RCS : ARS V-6 Report

TO: 3 ARRGp (JRCC)
APO 96307

DATE: 22 December 1970

MISSION NUMBER: B-3-052-20 December 1970

FLIGHT DESIGNATION: Jolly Green 55

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Vampire 03

LOCATION: 1657N 10538E *QU-22*

SAVES : One Combat Save

SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS:

1. Jolly Greens 55 (low and 52 (high) were the primary helicopters for the pickup, and were launched from Nakom Phanom RTAFB at 202229Z. Jolly Greens 63 and 51 had flown to Nakom Phanom earlier in the morning. They were designated as backup helicopters, and launched at 202232Z. All helicopters proceeded to the holding point which was on the 115° radial at 65 miles off the Nakom Phanom tacan. The holding point was reached at 202310Z. Sandies 01, 02, 03, and 04 were launched from Nakom Phanom soon after the Jolly Greens. Sandies 01 and 02 proceeded directly to the scene, while Sandies 03 and 04 met the Jolly Greens over the "Little Rooster's Tail", a small hill formation 33 miles east southeast of Nakom Phanom. The four Jolly Greens and Sandies 03 and 04 then proceeded to the holding point. At the holding area, Jolly Greens 55 and 52 descended to 6000' while Jolly Greens 63 and 51 remained at 8000'. Sandy 01 was "On Scene Commander". King 24 was the control aircraft and King 21 was the tanker. After locating the survivors Sandies 01 and 02 trolled the area for ground fire, but there was none. Some smoke was dropped as a "To Far" point for the Jolly Greens to the northwest of the survivor. Sandies 01 and 02 trolled further for ground fire, but did not try to suppress the area, as even though there were known enemy in the area, there were also some friendlys close by. The run in by Jolly 55 was started at 2345 on a northwest heading (away from the sun which had just come up) led by Sandy 02. The IP, which was some smoke that had just been dropped, was about one half mile short of the survivor. When Jolly 55 reached the IP, he requested the survivor to pop his smoke. At first the survivors smoke was not seen, but it was then spotted by a PJ at the helicopter's 8 O'clock position, or about 100 yards south of the helicopter.

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[Signature]
at 3 years
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after 12 years

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VAMPIRE 03 SEARCH AND RECOVERY

(C) A successful, routine and almost uneventful SAR effort was conducted 20 and 21 December 1970 for Vampire 03. On the night of 20 December 1970 Vampire 03 departed his orbit in Steel Tiger was enroute to home station (Nakhon Phanom) with a malfunctioning engine. Soon afterwards the engine failed completely and Vampire 03 elected to bail out over the "Rooster Tail", a well known and commonly briefed escape and evasion area. The Rooster Tail is largely uninhabited and is located in Laos, southeast of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base between the base and southern sections of Steel Tiger. It generally consists of rugged high terrain with few lines of communication, making it relatively safe from enemy activities. Vampire 03 egressed at 16 degrees 59 minutes north, 105 degrees 38 minutes east at approximately 2130 on 20 December 1970. His position was 114 degrees, 62 NM from Channel 89 (Tacan station located at the base).¹⁵⁰

(C) Voice contact was established that evening and Vampire 03 described his condition as being excellent and indicated that there was no evidence of enemy activity in the area. Aircraft were scheduled to maintain contact with him throughout the night and a first light SAR was scheduled.¹⁵¹

(C) Sandy 01/02 launched at 0530 and proceeded directly to the objective position. Sandy 03/04 launched to escort the Jolly Green helicopters and Pieman 41/42 (A-1 smoke aircraft) launched shortly afterwards.¹⁵²

150. SARCO Report for Vampire 03, 25 Dec 70, Document # 15.

151. Ibid.

152. Ibid.

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(C) When Sandy 01/02 arrived Nail 41 was already on scene and had located Vampire 03 on the ground. The survivor was approximately 100 meters east of his parachute on the edge of a large clearing. There was no evidence of hostile activities in the area and the situation appeared excellent for the SAR effort.¹⁵³

(C) Sandy 01 took charge as On-Scene Commander and decided to check the area for enemies by trolling for gun fire. Sandy 01 had been briefed that Vampire 03 was north of his actual position and that a battalion of friendly forces separated him from the enemy. The Sandies spent about 30 minutes trolling for gun fire with no response. Ordnance was not expended because no one could be sure of the actual positions of friendlies in the area. All efforts were made to establish radio contact with the friendly force's command post but these attempts failed also. Since the area appeared completely sterile, it was decided to attempt an immediate pick up.¹⁵⁴

(C) The survivor was in excellent condition and had all of his survival equipment intact. He was directed to display a white panel to mark his exact position. The major problem encountered during the entire effort was poor visibility resulting from the glare created by a rising sun. For this reason Sandy 01 selected a run in heading from the south which allowed the rescue forces to view the objective area and allowed the survivor to view the approaching Jolly Green helicopter. Sandy 01 put down a M-47 to mark the IP

153. Ibid.

154. Ibid.

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(initial point) and led the Jolly Greens in while Sandy 03/04 flew a protective daisy chain behind them. The actual pick up was absolutely routine and all SAR forces returned to home station without incident.¹⁵⁵

(C) The only ordnance expended were two M-47 bombs dropped safe and seven WP (white phosphorous) marking rockets. The 56th Special Operations Wing generated four Sandies, two Pieman (smoke) aircraft and one Nail FAC for the effort. Four Jolly Green helicopters were used, various fast movers were on the scene and several other aircraft were used throughout the night to maintain voice contact with Vampire 03.¹⁵⁶

155. Ibid.
156. Ibid.

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An approximate 150° turn to the left was made and the smoke, and then the survivor was spotted by the pilot. He was on the edge of a clearing sitting in the center of 4 white markers. His parachute was in the trees, some 50 yards west of the survivor. The helicopter was brought to a hover over the survivor at an estimated height of 75 feet. The penetrator was lowered and the survivor was brought aboard at 202349Z in excellent shape. Egress from the area was made to the south. During the SAR there was no ground fire encountered. Other support aircraft were in the area during the SAR, but did not take an active part. Jolly Greens 55 and 52 landed at Nakon Phanom at 210020Z, and Jolly Greens 63 and 51 continued on to Ubon. The other SAR forces landed at a later time. The pick up was made quickly and easily. All SAR forces, especially Sandies 01 and 02, did an outstanding job.

2. The Crew Composition was as follows :

JG 55 (Low)

Crew Position

Major Robert W. Hawes,
Major Evan C. Christiansen,
Sgt Wayne F. Estey,
Sgt Robert R. Taylor,
SSgt Theodore J. Polys,
Sgt Robert M. Zahrowski,

AC
CP
FE
#1PJ
#2PJ
PHOTO

JG 52 (High)

Major William D. Eastman,
Captain George F. Armstrong,
Sgt Robert M. Camy,
Sgt Joseph S. Staraland,
A1C Frederick D. Jenkins,

AC
CP
FE
#1PJ
#2PJ

Robert W. Hawes
ROBERT W. HAWES, Major, USAF
Aircraft Commander

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