

NOT A ROUTINE INSERTION

From Earl McCann

We pulling a mission out of LZ Uplift, into the mountains of the highlands for a drop off. Normally I was one of the first one out of the chopper, .no later than 2nd. But this time I was the last one out. On the right side of the chopper the team had about a 5 ft jump,,no big deal. But on the left side it was about a 12 to 15 feet drop down a rocky hill.

As I got on the skid ready to jump,.the chopper raised about 5 more feet in the air. As I was falling,.I wrapped my left leg around the skid, and was hanging on for dear life. The door gunner was telling me to drop head first. It was then about a 20 feet drop. I was shaking my head no, and hanging on with one leg. I must have looked like a Monkey hanging upside down. It might have been a little crazy for volunteer for the lrrps, but I was not stupid enough to drop 20 feet head first,down that rocky slope.

After what seemed like an eternity,.probably about a minute. I was able to release the rucksack, and reach up and grab the skid with both hands. Then they lowered the chopper about 5 feet,so I only had about a 8 ft drop, feet first. I Don't remember anything else about that mission, just the part of hanging upside down by one leg wrapped around the skid,,and holding on for everything I was worth.