

DATE: 29 Oct 70

2 Nov 70

MISSION NUMBER: 3-013-29 Oct 70

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: KING 24

LOCATION: 11°18'N, 109°12'E

DISTRESSED VESSEL: LCU 1535Z

SAVES: 13 Non-Combat

(U) At approximately 0010Z, 29 Oct 70, King 24 was notified by Queen to proceed to the Vietnam coast between CRB and Phan Rang and to begin searching for a vessel, LCU 1535, last contacted at 1300Z, 28 Oct 70, in foul weather. The vessel was reported to have left Phan Rang for CRB with 13 pab. The vessel was 100 ft long, 40 ft wide, 10-15 ft high, with cargo lashed to the deck. King 24 began searching at 0115Z along the coast line 107M north of CRB and proceeded to search along the coast 77M south of Phan Rang at 1500 ft. We had radio contact with Pedro 20 dispatched from Phan Rang to search the coast and with CRB Central on FM 51.00. CRB Central coordinated search efforts with surface vessels involved. LCU 1537 and the Kanna Men (Decca Tug) were searching the waters adjacent to the coast. At 0145Z an object was sighted by King 24 approximately 207M from Phan Rang out at sea. King 24 proceeded to the object and when approaching the object it was determined that it was a vessel fitting the description of the LCU 1535. A distress flare was launched by the vessel. King 24 marked the position with smoke and dropped two emergency radios to the crew, but the crew failed to come up on the radios after retrieval. King 24 determined that the vessel was the SAR objective by its description, the distress flare, and the fact that it was down in the water. King 24 radioed the position to Queen and to CRB Central. Pedro 20 diverted back to Phan Rang to refuel and pickup a medic in case of injury on board the vessel. CRB Central diverted the Kanna Men to the scene and relayed information as passed by King 24. King 24 assumed On-Scene-Commander and made several passes at the LCU to try to determine if there were any injured on board or any distressing signs were visible. Pedro 20 contacted King 24 airborne out of Phan Rang, and King 24 intercepted and escorted Pedro 20 to the vessel. Pedro 20 dropped a third emergency radio to the LCU but the crew failed to come up on the radio. The shopper determined that all signs from the vessel's crew indicated that all were alright and there were no injuries. King 24 and CRB Central released Pedro 20 to return to Phan Rang. At 0330Z the Kanna Men arrived on the scene and King 24 vectored him to the LCU. At 0330Z the Kanna Men was alongside the LCU and again determined the condition of the crew was good. A line was passed between the vessels, and the Kanna Men took the LCU 1535 in tow. King 24 was released and returned to normal orbit.

KING 24, Crewmembers

ASC/AC	Capt Mader
CP	Maj Delorenzo
NW	Maj Good
FE	Tsgt Sumner
RO	Tsgt Coulter
LM	Msgt Paterson

Alfred H. Mader
ALFRED H. MADER, Captain, USAF
AIRBORNE MISSION COMMANDER/AIRCRAFT COMMANDER