

Air America Rescue of Laotian Helo' Crew

DATE: 15 Mar 71

19 Mar 71

MISSION NUMBER: None Assigned

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: King 21

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Laotian Helicopter

LOCATION: 10 Miles SW of CH 108

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SAVES: 10 Laotian Saves

(C) At 0603Z King 21 received a call from HFG who overheard from Air America Customer, Ringo that a Laotian Helicopter, call sign unknown, had gone down in vicinity of TG 6311. A check was made with Cricket and they had no knowledge of any downed chopper. Air America "Tango" was then contacted to get a further check on the incident. Hotel 67 then came up on frequency and advised he was familiar with the area and would proceed to it. Hotel 73 was with Hotel 67. Cricket was queried as to the Raven FAC in the area and they advised Raven 26 was working that area. Raven 26 was contacted and he proceeded toward the Channel 108 area. Raven 26 and H 67 and H 73 confirmed that the crash area was friendly. L-37, however, approx 2 miles from the site had gone unfriendly earlier in the day. Raven 28 also checked in on frequency and said he knew the area. Search was conducted by the two Raven FAC's and the Hotel choppers and the downed chopper was located by H 67, approx 10 miles SW of CH 108. Raven 28 was made OSC. H 88 also arrived on scene then and the H choppers initiated the pickup. There was not hostile action in the area. H 67 and H 88 made the pickup, H 67 picked up 4 and H 88 picked up 6. After pickup Raven 26 and another chopper, call sign FJ confirmed all were rescued from the area. Determination was made to airlift the survivors to L-16, status of which was confirmed friendly by the Hotel choppers. After pickup all forces were relieved by King 21 and many thanks passed to the Hotel choppers and Raven FAC's. Hotel 67 and 88 arrived L-16 at 0703Z safely. Cause of the crash was confirmed by the pilot survivor as pilot error.

No mission number was assigned this mission by Jack. The efforts, however, contributed by K 21 in coordinating and controlling the rescue contributed to the successful save of 10 Laotian personnel.

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified at 10 years

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