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Date: 8 November 1971

Mission Number: 03-016-8 November 1971

Aircraft Designation: King 24

Distressed Aircraft: King Bee w/Ground Team

Location: 115 DME on the 342 Radial CH 73

Saves: 8 Combat

(S) At 0725Z Joker diverted King 24 to proceed to the 155/170/93 advising that a King Bee had been shot down with 7 SOB. Jolly Green 65 and 70 were enroute from CH 73 and Sandys 5 and 6 were being scrambled from CH 93. Mike 64 was on scene and the survivors were reported to be under attack.

We proceeded to the crash scene and established contact with Ramrod and Pyramid. We requested information on the situation and the frequency of Mike 64 from Ramrod. Ramrod informed us that King Bee, a CH 34 was down and we could talk to Mike 64 on 280.9U. A discrete GCI frequency, 372.0U, was obtained from Pyramid. Ramrod said that they could not come up that frequency.

At 0735Z initial contact was established with Granny 01, and Mike 65 who was Mike 64's replacement. At that time both Granny and Mike 65 were enroute to the scene. At 0738 we established contact with Mike 64 and designated him OSC. All SAR Forces on 280.9 were told to QSY King 24 on 364.2.

During this time Ramrod informed us that they were RTB and to effect further coordination with Sundog Alpha on 121.6V. At this time King 24's ETA to OS was 0750Z.

At 0740Z Jolly Green 65 and 70 were contacted on Hotel A and told to QSY King 24 127.7V with 364.2U as SAR primary.

At 0741Z Mike 64 informed us that there were 6 people on the ground (3 chopper crewmembers and 3 members of the ground team). Mike 64 also said that the survivors were moving to a clear area for use as a landing zone and that they were being pursued by the enemy. King Bee had been shot down while attempting to extract the ground team.

Weather OS was 4500' broken with good visibility, altimeter 2990. Terrain was flay 100' elevation with 100' trees. The hostile situation consisted of small arms fire.

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At 0742Z M64 informed us that Law 54 (Call sign later turned out to be Law 56) was OS and had visual and voice contact with the survivors. M65 said that 4 Huey Cobras would be available within 30 min. if required.

At 0745Z Sandy 5 and 6 were airborne CH 93 and Hawks were requested. At 0746Z we requested that King 27 be launched.

Further ordinance (soft preferable) was requested from Sundog Alpha. Ramrod then began to talk to Mike FACS and King on 364.2. We requested that he coordinate on discrete GCI freq. 372.0. Communication with Ramrod was poor and all requests were made through Sundog A. Our requests for TAC Air were denied by Sundog Alpha and Ramrod.

At 0751Z we requested that CBU 19/30 and BLU 52 be unloaded. At 0752Z Granny 01 was put in hot with Nape and High Drags.

We attempted to contact Pawnee Target because of difficulty in obtaining TAC Air, however they could not be raised on listed frequencies. Law 56 reported that the enemy was close to the survivors and that the survivors were still under fire.

At 0806Z we requested that Joker coordinate with blue chip for TAC Air that was needed urgently. At 0808Z we were informed that Hawk 01 and Hawk 03 were being launched as TAC Air, we also requested gas be fragged on the hickory anchor for SAR support.

At 0810Z M64 RTB and M65 was appointed OSC. We asked for a kacked up position of the LZ but M64 said he would have to give it in the clear. We then asked for TACAN radial & DME only. He reported it as 342/115/102 (later he revised it to 342/115/73), at this time Granny Flt was winchester and RTB'd. M65 informed us that Raider 26 (4 huey Cobras) was 5 min. out.

At 0812Z Gunfighter 01 checked in with 16 Snake and Nape, M65 started to work them as soon as they were available.

At 0813Z we were informed that King 27 was off CH 71 at 0811Z, ETA 0900Z. At 0815Z we were informed by Joker that Hickory 46 could AR Gunfighter 01 at anytime.

At 0820Z Gunfighter 01 was sent to the tank and Raider 26 was put to work, at 0830Z Hawk 01 was OS and was immediately put to work and the Raiders held close by. Hawk 01 had M82's, Nape and Nails.

At 0825Z JG 65 and 70 were established in holding 5 NM East of LZ. ETA for Sandy 5, 6 was 0900Z.

Three more flights of TAC Air were requested from Sundog Alpha. We were informed that we would have Clammy flt, Hawk 03 and Redbird 09.

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At 0833Z CBU 19/30 was requested again. We were informed that neither CBU 19/30 or BLU 52 would be made available. We then requested a fast mover smoke flight.

At 0835Z Clammy flt checked in with M82 and BLU 27. At 0837 Hawk 03 checked in with M82 slicks, AG, and pistol. At 0841Z Sandy 5 and 6 checked in on 127.7 with a 1230Z bingo. Bingo for JG 65 and 70 was 1100Z. A replacement FAC had been requested previously and we were informed by Sundog Alpha that Sundog 08 would be OS at 1000Z. Law 56 informed us that there were 8 survivors and that they were all in good condition waiting at the LZ with a panel out.

At 0855Z Hawk 01 RTB'd and Raider 26 (then a flight of 2 Cobras) began to troll the area.

At 0900Z Sandy 5 & 6 began to work with M65. King 27 arrived OS. At 0900Z, BLU 52 was again requested with the approaching darkness in case we had to bed down the survivors.

After coordination with Sandy 5 evaluating wind and time remaining we cancelled our request for fast mover smoke. Sandy 5 & 6 began trolling for ground fire. JG 65 and 70 checked in on 364.2 at this time and phase A was completed.

Phase B began at 0918Z. Sandy 5 saw ground fire west of LZ and expended on it. Raider 26 (now a flight of 4 Cobras) worked with Sandy 5 & 6 in phase B.

At 0920Z Clammy 1 & 2 were sent to the tank and at 0921Z Lowboy flt checked in with 12 MK82's Ext and 12 MK82's mm extended. LOWBOY flt had very little fuel so he was also sent to the tank. Hawk 03 and Red Bird 09 were in holding. Red Bird 09 had wall to wall high drag bombs.

At 0925Z smoke had been deployed by Sandys 5 & 6 and the survivors reported negative fire in their immediate vicinity. Survivors were asked to pop a smoke at 0932Z. Some one called that they were taking ground fire 50 meters to the NE and Sandy 5 went in hot. At 0935Z Raiders were bingo and had to RTB. At 0940Z phase bravo was complete.

At 0940Z Gunfighter 01 checked back in. He had landed at CH 93 and refueled. He was released at 0942Z. Hawk 03 was asked to escort JG 64 & 70 to CH 73, RTB 1125Z under the guidance of King 27. Redbird 09 was sent to Law 56 to destroy the CH34 and all participants were informed they the SAR was terminated and that they were released. Sandy 5 & 6 RTB'd to CH93.

Several problems were encountered in this mission basically due to a lack of knowledge of what to expect in a Cambodian operation. The Jollys were launched out of CH 73 without the SAR dedicated Hawks, when they were requested they were not available and only became available later as TAC Air. If the Jollys

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could have made a quick pick up they would have had to wait 35 min. for the Sandys or go in unescorted. I felt this situation should not have occurred. We also had problems getting TAC air, we felt that Ramrod and Sundog Alpha were not familiar with Kings role and how they should assist us, I felt that CBU 19/30 should have been used and that BLU 52 also should have been available in case we had to bed down the survivors. If we will not be able to use this ordinance in Cambodia someone should have told us before hand. At least some type of smoke flight should be made available for all missions. We used to expect BLU 52 on Cobra F4's from Phu Cat. Phu Cat is closing now and Joker said that they were trying to locate BLU 52. Information on the location BLU 52 should be researched and made available to all using agencies. In requesting authentication from Joker there was an excessive time delay. Request that Joker radio operations have all encoding and decoding devices immediately available and are familiar with their use.

I feel that the mission was overall very successfully handled. Without the assistance of ARRS, the recovery of 8 personnel could not have been completed that day. If the 8 survivors did have to spend the night I feel that it is very questionable whether or not they would have been alive the next day due to the intense enemy activity in the area.

King 24 Crewmembers

AC/AMC Capt Robert J. Hager
CP 1 Lt James V. Jordan
N Major Thomas E. Doherty
RO SSgt John E. Freeman
FE SSgt George T. Whitlow
FE SSgt Louie B. Payne
LM SSgt Jaime Rivera

SAR Resources

Jolly Green 65/70
Sandy 5/6

Other Resources available
not used

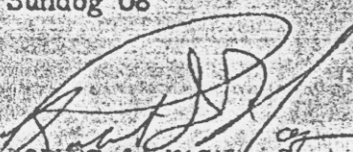
Clammy 01 Lowboy
Sundog 08

King 27 Crewmembers

AC/AMC Capt Don H. Owen
CP 1 Lt Thomas J. Parks III
N Capt John C. Thomas
RO SSgt James Chrisan
FE TSgt Edward L. Pike
FE SSgt Bobby E. Stubbs
LM TSgt Claude R. Ferrand

Other Resources used

Mike 64/65 Gunfighter 01
Law 56 Red Bird 09
Raider 26 Hawk 01/03
Granny 01


ROBERT J. HAGER, Capt., USAF
Aircraft Commander/Airborne Mission Commander

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