

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



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: 400 (Major Lehman/2687)

17 June 1969

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report #2-3-038-16 June 1969

Classified by 12 Jan 69  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO  
YEAR INTERVALS.

DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 75

TO: 3ARRGP (JSARC) *MS*  
APO 96307

1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARSF 55-21  
3ARRGSP 1, dated 11 July 1969.

2. (C) JG 71 and 79 were standing strip alert at Tango 16 June 69. At 0238Z KING 1 ordered both aircraft to scramble for a downed F-105 call sign KINGFISH 01. Just prior to takeoff JG 71 and 79 were given the location of the survivor to be 108/58/113 (1852N 10357E). JG 71 and 79 launched at 0252Z and climbed to 7000 ft MSL on a direct course to the survivor. In route TACAN lock on was lost and vectors from ETHAN was received to the search location. Weather in route was broken cumulus clouds with tops 6000 ft to 7000 ft. JG 71 and 79 arrived in the search area at 0315Z. The survivor's chute had been spotted in a bamboo field near a river and village between two high mountainous areas. The bamboo was about 15 - 26 ft tall, so a landing was impossible. Tops of highest mountains were approximately 6500 ft and altitude of survivor's position was 1500 ft. Firefly 42 was on the scene and had received no beeper or voice contact. No ground fire had been received. KING 1 was on scene commander. JG 71 and 79 set up an orbit in the area at 7000 ft and above the clouds. Mountains were obscured by the broken clouds but a large hole was over the survivor's position. Bases of the clouds were approximately 4000 ft MSL. Some confusion on radio call signs were experienced due to the recent change of "KING" and "JACK", from "CROWN" and "COMPRESS". Radio discipline was very good and KING 1 coordinated all activities. At 0332Z Sandy 3 and 4 arrived on the scene and Sandy 3 was assigned on scene commander. At 0332Z voice contact was made with the survivor by firefly 42. The survivor reported he was injured seriously and requested immediate pickup. At 0335Z the area was confirmed friendly by Blue Chip. JG 71 started down for the pickup and maneuvered over a Karst area to jettison external fuel tanks. Tanks were jettisoned at 0336Z. Decent was continued and JG 71 arrived in hover near the survivor at 0345Z and lowered A1C Sopata, Pararescueman (PJ).

just as  
we said !

9/24  
not now !

GROUP 4  
Declassified at 5 years  
1975-1980 Declassified  
2000-2005 Declassified  
2010-2015 Declassified  
2015-2020 Declassified  
2020-2025 Declassified

CON [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The PJ was put on the ground about 50 feet from the survivor as rotor down wash was blowing the survivor's chute. The survivor's beacon came on at this time. The beacon was a hinderence to communications between the PJ and the aircraft. The PJ and aircraft switched to 282.8 for communications, and no contact was established on 282.2, so guard was again selected. The PJ was instructed to turn off the beacon. The beacon was coming from the parachute pack and due to the survivor's condition, the PJ delayed turning off the beacon until he could do so without further injuring the survivor. At 0350Z the PJ requested a stokes litter which was lowered. The survivor had suspected two broken legs and a broken arm. The first PJ had difficulties in placing the survivor in the litter because of the multiple injuries, so at 0353Z the second PJ (TSgt Willis) was lowered to assist. At 0359Z the aircraft was called back in over the survivor and the survivor was on board at 0402Z. The hoist was lowered and both PJs were recovered on the forest penetrator at 0404Z. Survival radios, URC 64, beacon URT 27 and the seat kit was dropped as the hoist was raised. JG 71 departed the area without incident and RTB to Ch 70 escorted by Sandies 3 and 4 and KING 1 for A/R if required. JG 79 returned to Tango. A/R was not required. JG 71 landed at Ch 70 at 0455Z terminating the mission. There was negative battle damage. *u/s JG 71*

3. (U) The name of the survivor was: JAMES L. DEVCSS, FV30205672, 1/Lt, USAF, 354TFS, APO 96273.

4. (U) The rescue crews were:

Jolly Green 71 (LOW)

AC: Major William B. Lehman, FR51282

CP: Capt James P. O'Fry, FV3020601

FE: TSgt Howard N. Lord, AF17367049

RS: TSgt Lorenzo E. Willis, AF15211796

RS: A1C Ronald F. Sopata, AF15763399

AP: A1C Timothy J. Monk, AF15845225

AGM (FE): AE2 (NAVY) B. Childer

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Jolly Green 79 (HIGH)

AC: Capt John H. Hartman, FR3151851

CP: Capt Gerald E. McCullough, FV31517848

FE: SSgt Aron P. Hodges, AF25270303

RS: TSgt Donald R. Snyder, AF19417295

RS: Sgt Michael Fish, AF19881623

ACM (RS) HM-1, H. G. Mills (NAVY)

*William B. Lehman*  
WILLIAM B. LEHMAN, Major, USAF  
Aircraft Commander