

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~
OPERATION ORDER #1201-70

Copy No. 1 of 7 Copies
1st Reconnaissance Battalion
DA NANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
020955H Dec 70

- Ref: (a) Maps, Vietnam, Sheets 6640 I, II, III, IV
 (b) BnO P03000.4
 (c) 1stMarDivO P3890.1G (Intelligence SOP)
 (d) 1stMarDivO P03330.2A (Rules of Engagement)
 (e) Bn Warning Order #1201-70

702162

Call Sign: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE & WAGE EARNER

1. Situation: (a) See current IPTSUM'S
 (b) See current OPSUM'S & FIR'S
 (c) Attachments: NONE
2. Mission: Conduct body recovery of downed CH-46D
3. Execution: Depart LZ 401 on 19 Nov; vicinity AT9640. Extract on 19 Nov within same vicinity. Coordinating instructions are contained in references (b) and (e).
4. Admin/Logistics: Reference (b) and verbal
5. Comm/Electronics: Primary Freq: 44.20 Alt: 45.60
 Artillery: ALL FM'S WILL GO THROUGH
 SPOON BILL "D" 64.10
 SPOON BILL "K" 44.95
 WILTED REEFER 56.45

Tm leaders will ensure that no patrol member draws or carries more than three days of shackle sheets. Shackle sheets will be turned into Comm immediately after debrief.

Radio Relay: WAR CLOUD "M"
WAR CLOUD "U"

R. M. EUB
R. M. EUB
By direction

1ST RECON BN S&C FILES

216270
COPY NO 1 OF 7

- Distribution:
- CO, 11thMar (1)
 - Div G-2 (1)
 - Div FSOC (1)
 - Recon S-3 (2)
 - MAG ONE SIX S-2 (2)

~~SECRET~~
DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASS AFTER
6 MONTHS OPNAVINST 5500.40

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

OPERATION ORDER: 1201-70
PATROL: WARCLOUD "IMPOSSIBLE" & WAGE EARNER
DEBRIEFER: CAPT COOK
MAPS: VIETNAM 1:50,000 AMS L7014
SHEET 6640 III

1ST RECON BN.
DA NANG, RVN
221630H NOV 70

PATROL DEBRIEF

1. SIZE, COMPOSITION AND EQUIPMENT:
 - A. COMPOSITION: 1 OFF, 15 ENL, 2 USN
 - B. SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS: NONE
 - C. COMM AND OBSERVATION EQUIP: 4 PRC-25, 2 PRC-93, 4 7x50 FIELD GLASSES
 - D. SPECIAL EQUIP: 1 M-14, 2 M-79, 7 CLAYMORES, 2 LAW, 20 BODY BAGS
1 DEMOLITION KIT, MISC MEDICAL EQUIP FOR FIRST AID
2. MISSION: CONDUCT BODY RECOVERY OF DOWNED CH-46 HELO VIC AT9640
3. TIME OF DEPARTURE AND RETURN: 190705H/191850H NOV 70
4. ROUTE: SEE ATTACHED OVERLAY
5. SYNOPSIS: THIS PATROL COVERED A PERIOD OF 11.75 HOURS WITH 1 SIGHTING OF A DOWNED CH-46 AND THE RECOVERY OF 15 BODIES ACCOUNTING FOR ALL PERSONNEL. TEAM WAS INSERTED AND EXTRACTED BY HELO.

6. OBSERVATION OF CRASH SITE AND TERRAIN:

A. CRASH SITE:

190705H VIC AT961402 TEAM "IMPOSSIBLE" INSERTED IN A GOOD 1 CH-46 ZONE. THE TEAM THEN MOVED OFF THE ZONE ON AN AZIMUTH OF 035°.

190735H VIC AT961402 TEAM WAGE EARNER INSERTED.

190745H VIC AT961402 TEAMS LINKED UP WITH CONTINUOUS AIR COVERAGE CONSISTING OF GUNSHIPS WHICH GUIDED THE TEAM TO THE CRASH SITE VIC AT967407.

190915H VIC AT967407 TEAMS ARRIVED AT THE CRASH SITE AND OBSERVED OIL AND HYDRAULIC FUEL THROUGHOUT THE CRASH SITE. THE MOTOR, TAIL SECTION, STUB WING AND FUEL TANKS WERE SIGHTED THROUGHOUT THE BURNT AREA. MOVING THROUGH THIS AREA 15-20 METERS DUE EAST THE TEAMS FOUND THE 7 MEMBER RECON TEAM "RUSH ACT" THROWN THROUGHOUT AN AREA COVERING 15-20 METERS. THREE MEMBERS WERE CLOSE TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER 4 SPREAD OUT. THREE "D" RINGS HAD BEEN TORN COMPLETELY FROM THE SPIE RIG AND ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS HAD THEIR SPIE EQUIPMENT ON. ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS WERE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THIS AREA AND ALL WERE DEAD.

PAGE 1 OF 5 PAGES
PLT RPT # 32

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASS AFTER 6 MONTHS
LAW ON AVIATION 5500.40
ENCLOSURE (6)

UNCLASSIFIED

3-56

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CAPT BLAIR
IMPOSSIBLE/WAGE EARNER
PATROL LEADER

MOVING EAST THE TEAM OBSERVED MISC. A/C PARTS. TEAM CONTINUED EAST AND CHANGED DIRECTION TO THE SOUTHEAST FOLLOWING THE SPIE RIG STRAP. THE TEAM THEN OBSERVED THE FORWARD SECTION OF THE A/C FROM THE HELL-HOLE FORWARD, DESTROYED AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. THIS WAS APPROX 60 METERS FROM THE ROTOR, TAIL SECTION, STUB WINGS AND FUEL TANKS. THE FORWARD SECTION WAS SMASHED AND TOTALLED 8-10' IN LENGTH. WITHIN THIS SECTION, THE BODIES OF WAR CLOUD "6", CPL MARVELLA, 2 CREW GUNNERS, CREW CHIEF, PILOT AND CO-PILOT WERE FOUND. UPON A CLOSER INSPECTION, THE BODY OF LT HARVEY WAS FOUND WITH HIS SHIRT TORN OPEN. IT APPEARED THAT HE HAD BEEN THROWN FROM THE A/C. UPON CLOSER EXAMINATION OF THE BODIES IN THE FORWARD SECTION, IT APPEARED THAT WAR CLOUD "6" MAY HAVE BEEN HIT IN THE HEAD WITH THE END SECTION OF THE JUNGLE PENETRATOR.

191230H VIC AT967407 UTILIZING WIRE CUTTERS AND INDIVIDUAL S/A THE TEAM TRIED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO DISENGAGE THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT FROM THE FORWARD SECTION WITHOUT SUCCESS. IN THE PROCESS, 1 USMC SUFFERED A DEEP CUT TO THE LEFT ARM RESULTING IN 1 USMC IHC (M). CLOSE OBSERVATION OF THE INSTRUMENT PANEL INDICATED FUEL GAUGE WAS SET ON "2" AND THE RADAR ALTITUDE INDICATED 25 FEET. THE SPIE STRAP WAS STILL ATTACHED TO THE FORWARD SECTION AND STRETCHED OUT 125', WHICH WAS A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE TEAM (JUSH ACT). THE TEAMS THEN BEGAN STAGING THE BODIES OF TEAM JUSH ACT. ONE BODY (LT HARVEY) HAD TO BE CARRIED FROM A LOCATION PARALLEL TO A CLIFF APPROX 15 METERS TO THE STAGING AREA WITH THE OTHER REMAINS.

191400H VIC AT967407 TEAM STAGED 8 BODIES WHICH WERE THEN EXTRACTED BY JUNGLE PENETRATOR.

191430H VIC AT967407 TEAM STAGED 5 BODIES THAT WERE IN THE A/C AND THEY WERE EXTRACTED BY JUNGLE PENETRATOR.

191515H VIC AT967407 TEAM RETURNED TO THE FRONT SECTION OF THE HELICOPTER AND AGAIN WORKED TO FREE THE BODIES OF THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT UTILIZING AVAILABLE TOOLS, WORKING APPROX 45-60 MINUTES WITH NO SUCCESS. THE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS CONDUCTED A SEARCH OF THE AREA FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AND MISC ITEMS THAT COULD BE UTILIZED BY THE ENEMY. THERE WAS NOT 1 PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, BE IT INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS OR AVIATION GEAR, THAT WAS OPERATIONAL. THE TEAM WAS THEN INFORMED THAT A CH-53 WAS IN ROUTE TO LIFT THE DOWNED CH-46 FORWARD SECTION.

191630H VIC AT967407 THE CH-53 ARRIVED AT CRASH SITE AND MADE COMM WITH THE TEAM RESULTING IN THE CH-53 LIFTING THE TRANSMISSION FROM THE FORWARD SECTION.

191700H VIC AT967407 TEAM WAS ABLE TO REMOVE THE BODIES OF THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT AFTER THE TRANSMISSION WAS REMOVED. THE BODIES WERE THEN SECURED IN BODY BAGS AND THEY TOO WERE EXTRACTED BY JUNGLE PENETRATOR.

PAGE 2 OF 5 PAGES
PTRL RPT # 32

DECLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASS AFTER SIX MONTHS. LAW OPR. VINST 5500.4-0 ENCLOSURE (6)

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CAPT BLAIR
IMPOSSIBLE/WAGE EARNER
TEAM LEADER

191710H VIC 967407 TEAMS IMPOSSIBLE AND WAGE EARNER BEGAN MOVING BACK TO THEIR INSERT HLZ WITH TEAM WAGE EARNER AS THE POINT ELEMENT.

191830H VIC AT967407 THE 2 TEAMS WERE EXTRACTED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

B. TERRAIN:

AREA WAS GENERALLY STEEP WITH 40-80' CANOPY AND SECONDARY GROWTH OF 4-10' CONSISTING OF VINES, SMALL BUSHES, ELEPHANT GRASS, BOULDERS, THORNS, AND THICK BRUSH. MOVEMENT WITHIN THE PATROL AREA WAS MODERATE TO DIFFICULT AVERAGING 25-50 METERS PER HOUR.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: COMM WAS GOOD WITH "KILO" AND OVERHEAD SUPPORTING A/C.

8. RESULTS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ENEMY: N/A

9. CONDITION OF THE PATROL: GOOD WITH 1 NHC (LACERATION OF LEFT ARM)

10. CONCLUSIONS: TEAM INDICATED THAT THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT WERE STRAPPED IN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS IN THE FORWARD SECTION WERE NOT. TEAM FOUND A CAP OF A CHI-COM GRENADE IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH. IN ADDITION TO THIS, THE TEAM OBSERVED RESULTS OF ENEMY ACTIVITY MOVING THROUGH THE AREA ON A SOUTHWEST - NORTHWEST AXIS, HOWEVER, THIS ACTIVITY IS BELIEVED TO BE 6 MONTHS OLD OR LATER. IN ADDITION, THE TEAM OBSERVED 1X105mm ARTY ROUND (DUD) ON THE INSERT/EXTRACT ZONE. THE DOWNED CH-46 HAD CRASHED HEAD ON INTO A 70-75° SLOPE AND THE FORWARD SECTION OF THE A/C WAS ON A 20° INCLINE. LOCATION OF "RUSH ACT" TEAM MEMBERS: 1 WAS LOCATED APPROX 10' UP A TREE AND ALL OTHER TEAM MEMBERS HAD BEEN THROWN FROM THE RESULTS OF THE CANOPY. THE SPIE RIG STRAP WAS WRAPPED AROUND A TREE 7-10' IN DIAMETER AND WAS 20' OFF THE DECK.

11. EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPPORTING AIRCRAFT: OUTSTANDING

12. DEBRIEFER'S COMMENTS: NONE

13. TEAM MEMBERS:

IMPOSSIBLE

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| CAPT BLAIR | 092681 |
| GYSGT MOORE | 1555970 |
| GYSGT HENSLEY | 1683696 |
| SSGT GOULDE | 1917563 |
| SSGT PETROFF | 2049913 |
| SSGT PUPUHI | 1486973 |
| SGT COP | 2415162 |
| CPL BEEDLE | 2563602 |
| HM3 WAGER | B839529 |
| HM3 WEST | B642386 |

WAGE EARNER

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| SGT ADKINS | 2291161 |
| CPL SPARKS | 2578571 |
| CPL EVANS | 2569183 |
| CPL HILL | 2524129 |
| CPL GIVENS | 2579595 |
| L/CPL KOZAKOSKI | 2569719 |
| L/CPL LUJAN | 2501640 |
| L/CPL BROWNE | 2598650 |

PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES
PTRL RPT # 32

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] DATE [REDACTED]
SIX MONTHS. LAW OPNAVINST 5500.40
ENCLOSURE (6)

UNCLASSIFIED

8-36

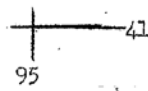
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CAPT HAIR
IMPOSSIBLE/WAGE EARNER
PATROL LEADER

PATROL OVERLAY



x = INSERT/EXTRACT LZ

* = CRASH SITE



LEGEND FOR ATTACHED SKETCH

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. PILOT | 9. RECON TEAM MEMBER |
| 2. CO-PILOT | 10. RECON TEAM MEMBER |
| 3. GUNNER | 11. RECON TEAM MEMBER |
| 4. CREW CHIEF | 12. RECON TEAM MEMBER |
| 5. GUNNER | 13. RECON TEAM MEMBER |
| 6. LTCOL LEFTWICH | 14. LT HARVEY |
| 7. RECON TEAM MEMBER | 15. CPL MANELA |
| 8. RECON TEAM MEMBER | |

PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES
PLT RPT # 32

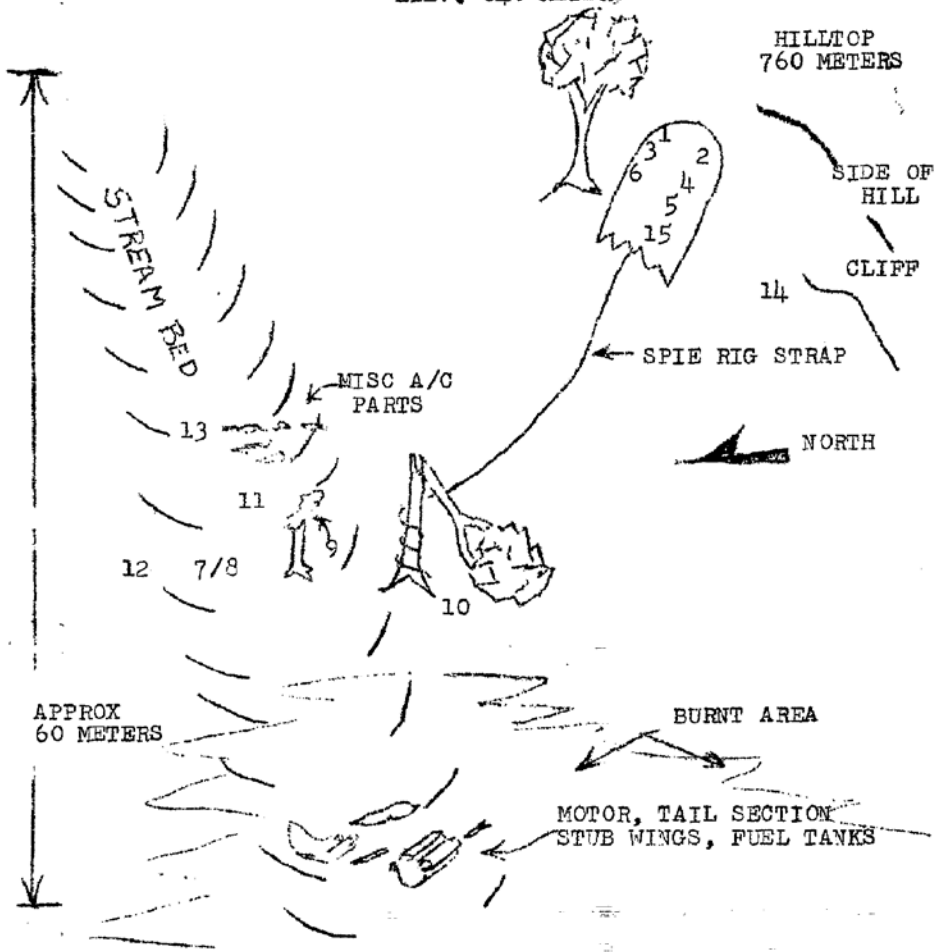
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASS AFTER 6 MONTHS
LAW OPN.VINSET 5500.40
ENCLOSURE (6)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

NOT TO SCALE
CAPT BLAIR
IMPOSSIBLE/WAGE EARNER
PATROL LEADER
AT 967407
ELEV. 640 METERS



PAGE 5 OF 5 PAGES
PTL RPT # 32

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASS AFTER 6 MONTHS
IAW OPNAVINST 5500.40
ENCLOSURE (6)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED