

McDaniel

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Was ejection or a chute observed? YES. Two good 'chutes sighted, and photographs were made of chutes descending by crewmembers of another A-6A in the flight.

Was radio contact established with the pilot or crew?
Radio contact established with LT Kelly Patterson, USN, Bombardier/Navigator. Contact was maintained on periodic basis for extended period, by aircraft flying to area where crew known to have landed.

Was the pilot or crew observed on the ground?

As I recall, B/N was seen on ground. Pilot and B/N apparently landed on opposite sides of hill/ridge line.

If observed, did the personnel seem injured?

LT Patterson reportedly had broken leg. Condition LCDR MC DANIEL not known.

If contacted, did they mention the extent of injuries?

LT Patterson, broken leg.

Were lights used for attempted recovery?

Not to my knowledge.

What equipment or other reasons can be offered that might have converted this incident into a recovery?

These crewmen were down in rough, hilly country, and were not taken by NVN troops (at least in LT Patterson's case) for a period of forty-eight hours or so after the ejection. Several flights were made into the area at dawn/dusk, and radio contact made with LT Patterson. Possibility of rescue by Jolly Green's out of Laos was subject of message traffic between embarked CARDIV Commander and Seventh AF. While I was not privy to all info in the exchange, decision not to attempt this method apparently based on desire not to risk four to save two in a high SAM-threat area. A Fulton recovery kit was dropped to LT Patterson after he had been there an extended period (don't recall how long, but I believe about 36 hours.) Also, as I recall, LT Patterson reported by radio that North Vietnamese had picked up the kit before he could get to it. The kit was dropped by an ~~A-6~~ A-6 or A-6. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. One of our pilots, LTJG Nicholas Carpenter, who had followed LCDR McDahiel's plane down and photographed the chutes and area, rode the C-130 and directed them to the spot, when pick-up was attempted. Unfortunately, LTJG Carpenter was shot down on a subsequent deployment.

The leader of this strike was CDR Herman Lee Turk, USN, now on COMNAVAIRPAC staff.

These men were down in good evasion/recovery country, but the location required deep penetration of rescue forces. An earlier decision and prosecution of rescue efforts may well have gotten at least one of these men out.

McDaniel