1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with AIRSM 55-2/3ARESEP Supplement 1, dated 15 June 1967.

2. (S) At 0635L, 1 September 1968, Jolly Green 66 took off from Chennel 70 and proceeded to 025/36/70 and rendezvoused with Jolly Green 71. The mission was to cover strikes in a hostile environment. Jolly Green 66 and 71 then proceeded north from that position only to be turned back by ciroc buildings and turbulence. While orbiting in the vicinity of 025/36/70, a call was received that "Poncho 2", an F-105 pilot, had bailed out. The time was 1000L. "Poncho 1" had viewed the bailout of "Poncho 2", and had observed a good chute but lost it when it had entered the clouds. Jolly Green 66 and 71 then proceeded northeast to the general area of 035/66/70, guided by "Poncho 1" using UHF/AM. The survivor had a good radio and was in contact with "Poncho 1". The weather in the area was scattered to broken clouds with occasional rain showers. Visibility was generally good, but the mountain peaks were obscured by clouds. The terrain features were river valleys and tall peaks to 6200 feet. After eight passes through a large valley, the survivor was electronically located on a cloud capped peak of 3200 feet elevation. After receiving confirmation by the survivor that he heard rescue craft overhead, the two Jolly Greens orbited the area looking for a break in the cloud cover. At 1050L, the survivor was requested to fire a flare from his pen gun. Jolly Green 66, the closest to the survivor, spotted the smoke trails of the flare and pinpointed the position, still within the confines of a cloud approximately 300 feet thick. It was then decided that by using the rotorwash of the HH-53B, the cloud might be disrupted. The two Jolly Greens then began repeated passes over the survivor. Slowly the cloud parted and at 1100L, the survivor was sighted. The parachute was tangled in trees approximately 100 feet tall. The Flight Engineer of Jolly Green 66 directed the pilot into a hover and the survivor was brought up through a hole in the jungle canopy. The survivor had suffered a strained arm and back in addition to facial lacerations. He was given immediate medical aid by the Paramedics aboard. As Jolly Green 66 and 71 departed the area at 1120L, the clouds closed over the site. Recovery was made at Chennel 70 at 1200L.
3. (U) The survivor was Captain Ken Thaste, FR3120822, 7th Air Force, Ton Son Nhut AB, RVN; attached TIN to Korat.

4. (U) The crews were:

   a. Jolly Green 68;
      
      BCG  Major John V. Allison
      BCGP 1st Lt Leon S. Russo
      FE  SSgt Gene A. Sellers
      BS  Sgt Richard Grossman Jr
      BS  Sgt Thomas R. Hope

   b. Jolly Green 71;
      
      BCG  Major Lucius F. Balfitt III
      BCGP  Captain Glen E. Hoff
      FE  Sgt Edward J. Koeburnik
      BS  TSgt Larry W. Nigelmier
      BS  Sgt Robert F. Koebner
      AP  SSgt Raymond E. Windham

John V. Allison

John V. Allison, Major, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander