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NARRATIVE OF RESCUE MISSION

During normal strip alert on 19 December 1965 at Nakhon Phanom Air Base, the crews of Jolly Green 33 and 27 were notified of a "Mayday" by Invert radar. An F-4C had encountered battle damage over North Vietnam and the crew was anticipating ejecting. At 0927Z Invert radar advised the crews to scramble as the damaged aircraft was proceeding toward their area. Both helicopters took off and were given an initial intercept heading by Invert. On a heading of approximately 250° at about 0948Z a column of black smoke was sighted and the helicopters proceeded towards the smoke. Invert advised that two chutes had been spotted and the positions were 269° Radial at 29 miles and the other one on the 270° Radial at 32 miles of channel 65 TACAN. Jolly Green 27 diverted to the 270° radial position and Jolly Green 33 set up a search for the pilot located on the 269° Radial. The helicopters were receiving one good beeper signal and one intermittently plus receiving one of the downed pilots voice radio on guard channel. One of the pilots used his signal mirror and was immediately picked up by Jolly Green 27. The other pilot ignited a smoke bomb and attracted the attention of Jolly Green 33. The trees were dense where the pilot was and the helicopter directed him to move to a clearin about 200 feet away. A low hover was established and the pilot was picked up. Neither of the downed pilots were injured and they were taken back to Nakhon Phanom and later to Udorn Air Base, Thailand.

Crew Members "Jolly Green 33"

RCC Capt Norman B. Kamhoot
CP Capt Charles P. Rush
HM SSgt Theodore M. Youngblood
PJ A/1C Harry W. Birtel

Crew Members "Jolly Green 27"

RCC Capt Robert D. Furman
CP Capt Dale V. Hardy
HM SSgt Berkley E. Naugle
HM A/1C Robert E. Crites

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