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3 'RESCUED' IN NEW TEST

Edwards Air Force Base, Cal., May 3 (AP)—A cargo plane snatched three men from the desert by cable today in daring tests of a new way of rescuing downed fliers and astronauts.

Air Force Capt. Gerald T. LyVere, 48, was the first to be subjected to a jerk of six G's—six times the normal pull of gravity—as a four-engine cargo plane swooped low and snagged a nylon line running from a balloon down to a harness stitched into LyVere's flight suit.

The plane circled and snatched simultaneously two other men—Col. Allison Brooks, 49, commander of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, and A.3.C. Ronald Doll, 22.

Others Slated Tomorrow

Similar rescues from rafts in the Pacific are scheduled Thursday at Point Mugu, Cal.

"Very exhilarating," Colonel Brooks said after landing. "It was surprisingly comfortable on the end of that line, after the first fast lift.

"I had been expecting something terrific when the plane hit the cable, but I was not aware of a jerk or even any acceleration. I'd like to do it again."

Brooks said the recovery method has definite applications for wars such as that in Vietnam—"assuming there is enough time for the subject to get ready on the surface."

Time Can Be Cut

He said ground preparation time could be reduced to 15 minutes with the kind of training military men are to be given when the system becomes operational June 30.

In a real-life situation, the cargo plane parachutes two packages to the downed flier. One package contains helium to inflate a small balloon. The other contains the balloon, a nylon cable and a body harness integrated into a bright orange flight suit.

The pilot first gets into the suit, inflates the balloon, which ascends to a height of 500 feet. The end of the line is attached to the flight suit.

The cargo plane circles and catches the line below the balloon with a forked boom on its nose.

The line is locked into the fork

and the man on the ground is lifted into the air.

Crewmen standing in an open door at the rear of the plane lower a weighted hook and snag the line, pull it up and fasten it to a winch. The winch reels the subject into the plane.

The same procedure was used to pick up Brooks and Doll, both of whom were attached to the end of one line and hooked together at

the belts of their flight suits.

An Air Force spokesman said the Lockheed HC130H can fly more than 2,000 miles from its base, loiter long enough to locate a downed flier and rescue as many as five men in one or two-man pickups from land or sea and return home.

The number that can be rescued by one plane is limited by the number of recovery packages the plane can carry.