

JOLLY GREEN GIANT CREW RESCUES EIGHT MARINES

An Air Force HH-3E Jolly Green Giant rescue crew assigned to the 3d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group detachment at Da Nang air base made two trips into enemy infested jungles, 19km (12 miles) southwest of their base, to rescue eight wounded Marines—one of whom was seriously wounded, yesterday Aug. 21).

Shortly after noon yesterday, the rescue crew was scrambled to pick up the Marines. Piloted by Captain Charles R. Dunn, 29, of Babylon, N.Y., the Jolly Green Giant flew to the area, where it hovered for 35-minutes taking seven Marines aboard.

The pickup zone was in thick jungle. Marine UH-1 Huey gunships fired machine guns and rockets into nearby enemy positions and kept the enemy soldiers from firing at the Air Force rescue crew. "We were hovering 10 feet above the treetops," said Major Frank L. Trochak, 44, of McAllen, Tex., co-pilot of the Jolly Green, "and still had to let out 175 feet of cable to reach the ground."

"The Marines were tied to the hoist. We couldn't bring them up on litters because of the dense foliage."

After getting the seven wounded aboard the Jolly Green crew flew to the Naval Support activity hospital near Da Nang. They then returned to the air base. Less than an hour later, they were scrambled to the same area to pick up another wounded Marine.

Before they arrived over the pickup zone, the Huey gunships had raked the enemy positions again to silence the ground fire. The second pickup was made without incident, and the Marine was also taken to the Navy hospital.