

THREE DAY RESCUE. The distress signal from a downed 0-1E pilot started a rescue mission for the 3rd ARRGp that lasted three days. The Bird Dog pilot was hit while on a visual reconnaissance mission near the DMZ, but managed to crash land without injury to himself. The DaNang Rescuemen immediately scrambled a Jolly Green Giant, but although they were able to make voice contact with the man on the ground, extremely bad weather prevented a pick-up. The next day conditions remained the same; constant radio contact was maintained through an FAC, but no pick-up could be made. Finally about noon on the third day the cloud cover began to break up and the HH-3E returned to the rescue area. Captain Robert E. Prince circled his Jolly Green for one and a half hours trying to locate the 0-1E pilot, and finally found him with the help of flares. Two hundred feet of hoist cable was lowered through the dense tree cover while enemy ground fire hit the hovering helicopter, but as soon as the cable reached the ground the downed man climbed aboard the forrest penetrator and was hauled quickly up and into the Rescue craft. The helicopter rapidly pulled out and rushed back to DaNang with the survivor. For more than 48 hours ARRS mission controllers, aircrews and maintenance crews worked around the clock to see that the pilot had every possible chance of survival. Once again Rescue determination and teamwork paid off.

28 FEB 67

Copter Rescues Flier Caught in N. Viet Tree

Saigon, March 1 (Combined Services)—Air Force Capt. James Walldridge, his F-105 Thunderchief jet blasted from the air by Communist ground fire, dangled for an hour and a half yesterday from a North Vietnamese tree, trapped in his parachute harness.

He was 100 miles behind the enemy lines in an area as rugged as can be found in Vietnam. In this region supply roads from North Vietnam cross into nearby Laotian jungles, which shelter the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and then course down into South Vietnam, a zone in which a cloak-and-dagger "silent war" is widely suspected.

The Williamsport, Pa., flier used his rescue radio to alert rescuers, and four Air Force A1E Skyraiders swept in low to provide cover during the agonizing wait for a helicopter.

After 90 minutes, the lumbering "Jolly Green Giant," with a rescue cable that can be lowered into the trees, arrived. At the other end of the cable was Airman 2d Cl. Franklin D. Stevson, 23, of Ossining, N. Y.

It was the eighth pickup for Stevson, whose daring rescue work won him the Distinguished Flying Cross for a North Vietnam pickup Dec 6. Stevson, who combines rescue duties with songwriting and singing, sang his "Ballad of the Jolly Green Giants" on Bob Hope's Christmas TV show.

Walldridge had high praise for his rescuers. "Beautiful job," he said when he got back, a bit shaken, to South Vietnam.

FEBRUARY 28

J. G's - Hackney, Gabon

H/H - 43 - Sonny

Sonny had 4 med. evacs.

Colly Greens scrambled for a pilot
down near the DMZ. No pickup
due to bad weather. Helicopters
can't get in due to clouds covering
the mountain he is on.

FAC CAPT ROBERT MAYS DOWNED

CAPT ROBERT MAYS
DOWNED 28 FEB 67 NEAR DMZ
RESCUED 2 MAR
EVASION 3 DAYS

H-3 AC CAPT ROBERT PRINCE

CP CAPT JOHN PERRY

FE TSgt MAURICE TASKER (SP)

PJ AIC DUANE HACKNEY

PJ TRACEY HIGH BIRD
WILLIAM P