

MARCH 26

Folly Greens - Jaffers, T. 1324
43 ALG - Duffy

Folly Greens scrambled into DMZ for down pilot. Found parachute immediately but had to hold off for air cover. When we did go in for the pickup and started hoisting survivor we received heavy ground fire. No hits -

MARCH 27

Folly Greens - Tracy, T. 1324
43 ALG - Resos
Resos had one med evac.

'Jolly Green' Rescues F-105 Pilot In DMZ

28 MAR 67 SAR

DA NANG—In a dramatic rescue recently, an Air Force HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter crew braved intense enemy ground fire to pick up an injured F-105 Thunderchief pilot 3 miles inside the Demilitarized Zone.

After ejecting from his battle-damaged Thunderchief, Maj. Jack C. Spillers, 35, of Atlanta, Ga., made a successful parachute landing in a small clearing surrounded by dense vegetation.

He spent one hour and 25 minutes in the hostile territory before being hoisted aboard the rescue chopper.

Major Spillers suffered painful but not serious injuries to his back and ankle and is now in the Da Nang AB hospital for observation and treatment.

ment.

Capt. Robert W. Davis, St. Petersburg, Fla., pilot of the Jolly Green, said, "We hovered over him for about four minutes before he got in the hoist. Then we started drawing ground fire and had to get out of the area before we could get him completely aboard. It's a miracle we weren't hit."

The ground fire was returned by the crew's pararescueman, A2C John C. Jeffers, Blue Springs, Mo. He fired 20 rounds from his M-16 rifle at the enemy positions. This was Airman Jeffers' fourth pickup since arriving in Vietnam.

"I couldn't hear the ground fire," he said, "but I could see puffs of smoke so I emptied a full clip at them."

A1C Rodney J. Bettevy, Marksville, La., the Jolly Green's flight mechanic, described the actual pickup.

"The area was out in the open, so I didn't have any trouble lowering the hoist to him. When we started picking up the ground fire he was still about 10 or 15 feet outside of the helicopter, but we got him aboard without any trouble as we were leaving," he said.

Capt. Robert N. Hillary, Clearwater, Fla., was the rescue helicopter's copilot. All of the crew members are with the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group and are stationed at Da Nang AB.

A. U. S. Marine Corps CH-46 Sea Knight crew flew as backup for the Jolly Green, while Air Force A-1E and Navy A-1H Skyraiders flew cover.

The Air Force A-1Es, based at Udorn RTAB, were piloted by Capt. Thomas W. Burdin, Alton, Ill., and Maj. Willard A. Dillon, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

The Navy Skyraiders from the Carrier USS Hancock, were flown by Lieutenant Commander Arnold H. Henderson, Le-moore, Calif., and Lieutenant Norman L. Winningham, Hanford, Calif.