

Detachment 9, 38th Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Squadron, with two HH-43F helicopters assigned, had two significant operational rescue missions during this reporting period. The first occurred on 6 April 1967, when a U.S. Army UH-1D helicopter made a forced landing in known hostile territory, 18 miles south of Pleiku Air Base, Vietnam.¹ Three Army crewmembers were recovered by one of the detachment's HH-43F and returned to Holloway Army Air Field, located two miles southeast of Pleiku Air Base. The second significant mission occurred on 21 May 1967, when the injured pilot of an A1E "Skyraider" fighter was recovered by this detachment.² The A1E was enroute on a tactical mission when it encountered engine failure, caused by suspected hostile small arms ground fire, seven miles northwest of Pleiku Air Base. The pilot ejected at about 1000 feet altitude, but broke both ankles in landing. This was the first ejection from an A1E in Vietnam and utilized the only recently installed "Yankee" rocket ejection system. The injured pilot was aboard the detachment's HH-43F helicopter 20 minutes after ejection from the aircraft.

During the reporting period, Detachment 9, flew a total of 56 local base rescue precautionary scrambles in support of aircraft landing at Pleiku with declared emergencies. 200 total flying hours were accumulated during this three month period on the two HH-43F's. Most of this flying time was flown as training missions for the upgrade and continuation training of our 19 aircrew members.

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1. Mission Narrative 9-38-8-6 Apr 67.
 2. Mission Narrative 9-38-9-21 May 67.