

## 37ARBS, History, April - June 1967 (Continued)

|         | <u>Auth</u> | <u>Assgd</u> |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| 7 Level | 0           | 3            |
| 5 Level | 28          | 10           |
| 3 Level | 0           | 0            |
| Total   | 28          | 13           |

b. Missions:

(1) 1-3-58, 10 April 1967, Jolly Green 24 and 56 scrambled from Quang Tri, RVN on a downed F-105 pilot. Due to no voice contact and a hostile populated area, recovery actions were discontinued.

(2) 1-3-62, 1 May 1967, Jolly Green 10 and 15 scrambled from Quang Tri, RVN on four downed crewmembers of a Marine UH-1D helicopter fifteen nautical miles southeast of Dong Ha. The crew was recovered and returned to Alpha Medical Battalion, Hue Phu Bai, RVN.

(3) 1-3-64, 4 May 1967, Jolly Green 10 and 15 scrambled from Quang Tri, RVN on a downed Marine F-8 pilot twenty-one nautical miles southwest of Hue Phu Bai, RVN. The pilot was recovered and returned to DaNang.

(4) 1-3-65, 5 May 1967, an HU-16B was diverted from it's Gulf of Tonkin orbit to rescue seven crewmembers of a grounded boat, one hundred and ninety nautical miles east of DaNang. The crew was recovered and returned to DaNang.

(5) 1-3-69, 10 May 1967, Medical evacuation from Navy Tug, AFB 779 to Naval Support Activity Hospital, DaNang AB, RVN.

(6) 1-3-70, 10 May 1967, Jolly Green 07 and 15 scrambled from Quang Tri, RVN on a downed Marine UH-1E helicopter with five crewmen thirty-five nautical miles southeast of Khe Sanh. Jolly Green 07 received battle damage from small arms fire and was forced to return to Hue Phu Bai, RVN. After the A-1E's further sanitized the area, Jolly Green 15 recovered the crew and delivered them to Hue Phu Bai.

(7) 1-3-71, 13 May 1967, Medical re-supply of the hospital ship, Sanctuary, from the Naval Support Activity Hospital at DaNang.

(8) 1-3-73, 16 May 1967, Jolly Green 10 and 11 were scrambled from Quang Tri, RVN on two Marine F-4B pilots eleven nautical miles west of Dong Ha. Jolly Green 10 attempted rescue but sustained ground fire and compressor stall and returned to Dong Ha. Jolly Green 11 recovered the pilots and returned them to Dong Ha.

## Supporting Document# 16

| <u>SAVE NO</u> | <u>SURVIVOR'S NAME</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>SERIAL NO</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>SOURCE</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 29-36          | 6 ARVN UNK, 2 ARMY UNK | UNK         |                  | 12 Mar 67   | 1-3-41        |
| 37             | M.F. Guy               | Cpl-M       |                  | 13 Mar 67   | 1-3-42        |
| 38             | Peter Kruger           | Capt-M      |                  | 15 Mar 67   | Sq Scrapbook  |
| 39             | Jack C. Spillars       | Maj-AF      |                  | 26 Mar 67   | 1-3-54 M.N.   |
| 40             | Lyle W. Townsend       | Maj-M       |                  | 1 May 67    | 1-3-62        |
| 41             | D.S. Brachins          | Capt-M      |                  | 1 May 67    | 1-3-62        |
| 42             | James H. Holland       | Cpl-M       |                  | 1 May 67    | 1-3-62        |
| 43             | Thomas E. Hughes       | Cpl-M       |                  | 1 May 67    | 1-3-62        |
| 44             | Edward F. Townley      | Maj-M       |                  | 4 May 67    | 1-3-64        |
| 45             | L.E. Alexander         | Maj-A       |                  | 10 May 67   | 1-3-70        |
| 46             | H.E. Burke             | Capt-M      |                  | 10 May 67   | 1-3-70        |
| 47             | J.L. Murphy            | 1/Lt-M      |                  | 10 May 67   | 1-3-70        |
| 48             | M.W. Leftridge         | Cpl-M       |                  | 10 May 67   | 1-3-70        |
| 49             | E.J. Ferraira          | Pfc-M       |                  | 10 May 67   | 1-3-70        |
| 50             | Robert Powell          | Lt-N        |                  | 10 May 67   | Sq Scrapbook  |
| 51             | O.E. Hoy               | Capt-M      |                  | 16 May 67   | 1-3-73        |
| 52             | Mike Carson            | 1/Lt        |                  | 16 May 67   | 1-3-73        |
| 53-56          | UNK-ARVN               | UNK         |                  | 21 May 67   | 1-3-76        |
| 57             | Charles C. Rhymes      | Maj-AF      |                  | 25 May 67   | 1-3-78        |
| 58             | Ronnie E. Randolph     | 1/Lt-AF     |                  | 25 May 67   | 1-3-78        |
| 59             | Clarence Kough         | Maj-AF      |                  | 5 Jun 67    | 1-3-83        |
| 60             | Charles A. Colton      | Maj-AF      |                  | 9 Jun 67    | 1-3-85        |

"We spent the night there. Between treating the patients as required and artillery fire all the way around our position to keep the enemy away, it was an sleepless night.

"The clouds lifted about 8:30 a.m. and a Marine chopper came in and was able to pick up our injured hoist operator and pilot and the most seriously wounded Marine before it was driven off by ground fire.

"We called for air strikes and received three Marine F-8 Crusaders loaded with 750-pound bombs. They dropped their ordnance where we thought the ground fire was coming from. After they finished their runs we called for another chopper which came in and picked up the rest of us without any resistance.

"While going up the sling the only thing I could think of was that I had stood right below and seen four helicopters take casualties. I knew if they started firing now they had me.

The next day Sergeant Tobey was a member of a Jolly Green Giant crew from the 37th when they were alerted to pick up five Marines who had gone down west of Hue.

"I was in the secondary bird that day," he recalled, "and after the lead helicopter was forced to leave after taking ground fire we went in and made the pickup," he continued.

"We brought the more severely injured up first and I was busy giving them first aid while they brought the rest of the downed crew up the hoist. We had the last two on the sling when the ground fire became more intense and we had to get out of there," he said. "The two Marines got quite a ride on the sling, but were unhurt," he concluded.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

JOHN F. TOBEY

Staff Sergeant John F. Tobey distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Rescue Specialist of an HH-3E Rescue Helicopter in Southeast Asia on 10 May 1967. On that date, Sergeant Tobey flew repeatedly over known hostile forces and hovered for approximately 15 minutes while under constant ground fire to successfully recover five crew members of a downed helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Tobey reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

# John Tobey Again In Helicopter Rescue Of Marines

Two Air Force HH-3E Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopter crews braved heavy ground fire the morning of May 10 to pick up five U.S. Marine Corps personnel whose helicopter had crashed west of Hue.

The 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery - Group helicopters, based at Da Nang, were scrambled from their forward operating base after receiving the call that the Marine HU-1B helicopter had gone down.

"When we arrived at the scene," said Major William V.D. Hickerson, 41, of Tacoma, Wash., pilot for the lead Jolly Green Giant, "we were contacted by an A-1E Skyraider pilot who had been flying suppressive cover for the downed Marines.

"Informed of the location of the downed bird, we flew to it. On our first pass, we picked up ground fire and had to get out," the major said. "We called in the A-1Es and they hosed down the area where the ground fire came from. It was on our second pass that my flight mechanic (Airman First Class Michael Mulvaney, 22, of Lawton, Okla.) spotted the crash site.

"I swung out to punch the tip tanks to lighten my load so that

we could make the pickup. Just as we began to hover over the area, we started taking more ground fire. One round went right through the top of the canopy," Major Hickerson added.

"Again we had to get out of there. Airman Mulvaney reported we were streaming fuel. Unable to continue the rescue attempt, I headed for Hue Phu Bai and let the other chopper crew come in and try to get the Marines out. We later found out that we had taken two hits in a rotor blade," he said.

Prior to the second Jolly Green Giant crew coming into the area, the Skyraider pilots bombed and strafed the area on numerous passes.

"It took us two passes over the area before we spotted the downed crew," said Captain John E. Halligan, 27, of Kurten, Tex., co-pilot on the second rescue chopper. "Hovering over the Marines, getting ready for the pickup, we received enemy fire. I called for fire suppression from the A-1Es and they really did a great job. They were all over the place, laying down fire wherever we needed it.

"Our flight mechanic (Airman First Class William T. Lowe, 21, of Great Barrington, Conn.) let out about 150 feet of cable for the Marines to come up on. We hoisted them up one at a time, except for the last two, with the most seriously injured coming first.

"We had the last two on the hoist when we came under heavy fire again. We lifted out of there with the two Marines still hanging on the hoist. It must have been quite a ride for them", said Captain Halligan.

The Marines were brought aboard the Jolly Green Giant and given medical aid by the pararescueman, Staff Sergeant John F. Tobey, 25, of Gilbertsville, N.Y. The injured were taken to Hue Phu Bai where they were given further medical attention.

Other crew members on the first Jolly Green Giant rescue crew attempting the pickup were Captain Gerald D. Ward, 27, of Castle Creek, N.Y., co-pilot and Airman Second Class Joseph M. Duffy, 19, of Kansas City, Mo.