



THE PURPLE HEART is presented to TSgt Raymond S. Weddel at the AF Academy Hospital by Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, Academy Superintendent. Sergeant Weddel, a paramedic, was struck in the left leg when his helicopter was hit by ground fire near Da Nang, Vietnam, while attempting to rescue four wounded Marines and the crew of a downed chopper. The lower part of the sergeant's leg had to be amputated.

JOLLY GREEN ATTEMPTS TO SAVE DOWNED CREW OF PEDRO 96

On 8 May 67, the first re-fueling training mission to take place in SEA with HH-3E and HC-130P was being conducted in the South China Sea. The mission was aborted to attempt rescue of crew of PEDRO 96. The Jolly Green was driven off by ground fire after SGT Weddel was wounded.

RCC Maj William O Mayfield
RCCP Capt Carlton Damonte
FE SSGT Earl E. Chambers
RS TSGT Raymond S. Weddel
RS ALC John C. Jeffers

THE LAST DAY FOR PEDRO 96 8 May 1967

While attempting to extract a group of four wounded Marines southwest of Da Nang, PEDRO 96 came under sniper fire and was shot down. Maj Hoyer broke his foot against the rudder pedal and SGT Resos broke his elbow against the aircraft armor plate while operating the hoist. All four crewmembers received the Silver Star for their heroic actions.

RCC Maj John J. Hoyer RCCP 1Lt Al Jacox

RS TSGT Philemon S. Resos & SSGT John F
Tobey



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION, Headquarters Seventh Air Force
TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
6-67-018

PARARESCUEMAN HAS BUSY THREE DAYS

Da Nang (7AF) --"The greatest job in the Air Force." That's the way a 25-year old native of Gilbertsville, N.Y., describes his job as a pararescueman in Vietnam.

Staff Sergeant John F. Tobey, is a veteran of 12 combat saves during his 10 months in Vietnam. He is assigned to the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

During a recent three day period the sergeant was shot down, rescued by a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter crew and participated in the rescue of five USMC personnel.

It all started when an HH-43 helicopter of Detachment 7, 38th ARRS was scrambled to pick up four U.S. Marines who had been injured while on patrol 12 miles southwest of Da Nang.

"They were in mountainous terrain at about 3,000 foot altitude," the pararescueman explained. "We had to hover about 90 feet above them due to foliage. We lowered our jungle penetrator to them, but they had difficulty figuring out how to use it, so I suggested that I be lowered to give them aid," he said.

"We had the first three aboard and as the last guy was severely wounded I decided to ride up the hoist with him.

D-N, 1 photo

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DOWNED
8 MAY 67

RESCUED
9 MAY

"We were at about tree-top level when a sniper raked the side of the chopper and it started losing power. The aircraft commander called for the hoist operator to let us down as he could not hover much longer.

"Our penetrator got hung in the trees, but I was able to get us loose without difficulty. I started unstrapping the wounded man from the penetrator before we hit the ground and got him off as soon we touched ground.

"I looked up and saw the chopper was just starting to settle in the trees. The aircraft commander at this time took the controls and threw it hard to the left in an effort to keep it from falling on top of us. It came down about 30 to 40 feet away.

"I ran to the chopper afraid of what I might find. The fuel was splashing out of it, but the pilot was able to get everything shut off before the fuel ignited. I called to the hoist operator who said he had a compound fracture of the left arm but could get out by himself.

"We got the rest of the people out of the chopper and while I was treating the wounded, a Marine patrol came in and set up a defensive perimeter.

"About an hour later a Marine Corps CH-46 helicopter came in to attempt the pickup. They were chased away after two of the crewmembers were injured by ground fire. A few moments later an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant from the 37th ARRS came in, escorted by two U.S. Army HU-1E gunships, to attempt the rescue. They were also forced to leave after one of the crew was injured by ground fire.

"By this time a cloud layer had rolled in and we were unable to call in any air strikes," Sergeant Tobey said.

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"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 a 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.

PEDRO 96 downed, May 1967

Our mission on this day was to extract some wounded Marines who had been involved in a firefight with the VC about 12 miles southwest of Da Nang. My crew for the day was First Lieutenant Al Jacox as co-pilot, with S/Sergeant John Tobey and T/Sergeant Phil Resos as PJs. We arrived over the scene of the battle, and hovered between 150 and 200 ft above the jungle floor. There were four wounded Marines down there and we lowered the penetrator and began hauling them in. Three of the Marines were aboard and we had the fourth one (and Sergeant Tobey) on the cable about 40 ft above the ground, when the chopper suddenly shuddered.

A VC sniper had raked the HH-43 engine with machine-gun fire and we were about to fall out of the air. I yelled at Sergeant Resos "Get them back down on the ground!", and he started to lower the wounded Marine and Sergeant Tobey back to the jungle floor. PEDRO 96 started to nose forward and lose altitude. As we settled into the tops of the trees, I threw the controls hard to the left in an attempt to keep the falling helicopter from crushing the two men on the ground. As we fell through the trees, the rotor blades

A pararescueman (otherwise known as a parajumper or PJ) is lowered from a 38th ARRS HH-43F Huskie on the jungle penetrator during a rescue near Bien Hoa in January 1966. The HH-43F was the first helicopter in-theatre to be equipped with this valuable tool.

disintegrated, sending pieces in every direction. Sergeant Resos was still hanging part way out of the back of the helicopter as we dropped through the trees. The chopper hit the ground with a thunk, slamming Sergeant Resos into the inside of the helicopter. His arm got caught between the sliding armour plate door and the frame, nearly severing it. My legs and feet got tangled up in the rudder pedals, and I had multiple breaks in my ankle and foot, plus a broken lower leg bone.

As we extracted ourselves from what remained of PEDRO 96, the remainder of the Marine patrol whom we had come to save rushed back and helped us get free of the twisted remains of the helicopter. Then we set up a defensive perimeter, since the 'black pyjama gang' was still out there somewhere.

About an hour later, a 'Jolly Green' helicopter out of Da Nang came over and started to make a pick-up. We found out later that the 'Jolly Green' had been training on inflight refuelling with an HC-130P over the South China Sea. By now, the VC had set up a neat little trap, using us as bait. Heavy machine-gun fire raked the 'Jolly Green', wounding T/Sergeant Ray Weddell in the leg. The 'Jolly Green' was forced to pull up and withdraw back to Da Nang to take care of Sergeant Weddell. He later lost that leg.

Soon, a Marine CH-46 arrived on the scene. It, too, was raked by heavy machine-gun fire and had to withdraw. One of the Marine door gunners was hit in the neck and they rushed him back to Da Nang. By this time, it was starting to get dark, and there was now a cloud deck over our position. Darkness would preclude any further attempts at a rescue. We would have to wait for morning.

The night was far from boring. Between treating patients, including myself, and keeping a wary eye out for the VC which were trying to get to us, plus the incessant Marine artillery that was keeping 'Charlie' off of us, it was a very sleepless night. Sergeant Resos manned one of the 50s all night long, even though he was in constant pain.

Early on the morning of the 9th, another Marine CH-46 came in. The VC poured machine-gun fire at the Marine helicopter. But they had an escort; as soon as the VC opened up, a flight of Marine F-8 Crusaders from Da Nang came in and pounded them with 500-lb and 750-lb bombs and rockets. The Marine chopper kept the CH-46 at treetop level and lowered the list.

The wounded Marines were the first to take the whole ride. Then it was my turn. The VC had come out of their holes again and were firing at us as we rode the cable back up to the chopper. The CH-46 was hit

several times. Two of the Marine crew were wounded. Sergeant Resos manned the 50 and helped suppress the enemy fire as I rode the cable. As I came up through the jungle canopy, several enemy rounds were very close, some impacting right above me in the bottom of the CH-46.

Those Marine pilots, although taking a lot of fire, kept a steady hover over the hole in the jungle canopy. Finally, as we were attempting to bring the rest of the Marine patrol up, the hoist motor burned out, and we were forced to bring the cable in by hand. As we departed the area, I looked out the back and saw a long trail of vapour – fuel vapour. Evidently, the VC had hit the fuel tanks.

We weren't too far from Da Nang and the Marine base at Marble Mountain. We were taken to the Marine hospital at Marble Mountain. I had previously delivered many casualties to this very same hospital door. As they carried me in on a stretcher, one of the attending Marine corpsmen looked at me and said, "What the hell are you doing here? I've seen you flying one of the choppers bringing in wounded. Now you are one!"

Major John Hoyer

**Commander, Detachment 7, 38th AFRS
Da Nang**

Pararescue Man Shot Down, Is Rescued, Then Saves 5

The Observer 5 July 1967

Da Nang (USAF) — Air Force Staff Sergeant John F. Tobey, a pararescueman with 12 combat saves to his credit, describes his work as "the greatest job in the Air Force."

The 25-year-old Gilbertsville, N.Y. native, assigned to the

37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, flies in HH-3E "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters.

During one three day period Sergeant Tobey was shot down, rescued by another helicopter, and participated in the rescue

of five U.S. Marines. The action started when his rescue ship arrived in mountainous terrain 12 miles southwest of Da Nang to pick up four Marines who were injured while on patrol.

The chopper was forced to hover about 90 feet above the ground due to the dense foliage. Sergeant Tobey was lowered by cable to aid the injured men. Since the last man to board was badly injured, the sergeant rode the hoist with him.

"We were at about tree-top level when a sniper raked the side of the chopper and it started losing power. The hoist operator let us back down, as he could not hover much longer," related Sergeant Tobey.

"I saw the chopper was starting to settle in the trees. The aircraft commander threw it hard to the left to keep it from falling on top of us. It came down about 40 feet away."

The pilot, the crew and the injured men got free of the helicopter, and together with a Marine patrol which joined them, they set up a defensive perimeter.

An hour later a Marine Corps CH-46 helicopter attempted to rescue the men, but was chased away by ground fire after two of its crew were wounded. Moments later an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant with two Army Huey gunships as escorts came in to attempt the rescue. They were also forced to leave empty. A cloud layer rolled in and the group was forced to stay the night.

"Between treating patients and the artillery fire around our position used to keep the enemy away, it was a sleepless night," said Sergeant Tobey.

The next morning a Marine helicopter was able to get the most seriously wounded out before being driven off by ground fire. Air strikes were called in and three Marine F-8 Crusaders dropped 750-pound bombs on the enemy ground fire positions.

According to Sergeant Tobey, "After they finished their runs we called for another chopper which came in and picked up the rest of us without any resistance."



BUSY JOB—Sergeant Tobey adjusts sling on his aircraft, an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant. (USAF Photo)



Battalion Hospital.

(4) Mission 1-3-67, 8 May 67. Pedro 96 scrambled from DaNang, RVN to aid four Marines who were wounded 12 miles west of DaNang. Pedro 96 was shot down with minor injuries to the crew. The crew was picked up the next day and aircraft was destroyed.

(5) Mission 1-3-68, 9 May 67. Pedro 95 scrambled from DaNang, RVN on a UH-1B crash. Recovered two bodies and returned to DaNang.

(6) Mission 1-3-75, 21 May 67. Pedro 95 scrambled from DaNang, RVN to aid 5 marines who needed medical evacuation 7 miles north west of DaNang. Survivors recovered and turned over to 1st Marine Medical Battalion Hospital.

(7) Mission 1-3-87, 12 Jun 67. Pedro 95 scrambled from DaNang, RVN on 2 F4B pilots 5 miles east of DaNang. Both were recovered and returned to DaNang.

(8) Mission 1-3-92, 21 Jun 67. Pedro 95 scrambled from DaNang, RVN on an A-4 pilot that was down 5 miles west of DaNang. Pilot recovered and returned to DaNang.

Summary of Missions. Eight actual aircrew recovery missions resulted in the recovery of ten persons, all of which were Marines and two civilian bodies. 216 local base recovery or Fire Suppression missions and 146 miscellaneous support missions were flown.

8. Personnel.

a. Introduction. The 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Tan Son Nhut performs all of the administrative and personnel services, assisted by the Detachment's Administrative section at DaNang, except for finance.

b. Assigned Strength. The average strength of the permanently assigned personnel has remained at 14. This number includes 5 officers and 9 airmen. During this period 2 officers and 4 enlisted personnel have been

Stranded Airmen Welcome Marines

The Observer 5 July 1967

Da Nang (USAF) — Four Air Force rescuemen from Detachment 7, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, were pulled from the jungle 12 miles southwest of Da Nang by Marine CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters.

They had been shot down the previous afternoon while attempting to evacuate four wounded Marines.

Three of the Marines had been brought aboard the HH-43F. The fourth was 40 feet above the ground riding the hoist with

pararescueman, Staff Sergeant John F. Tobey, Gilbertsville, N.Y.

When the Huskie was hit and began to lose power, Major John J. Hove, Glenns Ferry, Idaho, commander of Detachment 7, and pilot of the chopper, had one thing in mind, to lower the men on the hoist without injury. "Get them down!" he yelled to Technical Sergeant Philemon S. Resos, Honolulu, the pararescueman operating the hoist.

No one aboard the chopper knew they had been hit. They thought they had a power failure.

"We couldn't hear any ground-fire," said First Lieutenant Alfred R. Jacox, Thousand Island Park, N.Y., co-pilot. "We only had a small clearing in the trees to get the hoist through."

Sergeant Resos quickly lowered the two men to the ground as the Huskie started to nose forward and lose altitude. He was still part way out of the back door of the chopper when it hit. An armored plate struck him on the right arm, chipping his elbow and damaging muscles and ligaments.

Two rescue attempts were made that afternoon by Marine HH-46 helicopters and an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant from Da Nang. Heavy groundfire drove them off.

The four airmen spent the night with the Marines where the Huskie went down. All through the night, the Marine commander called in artillery to keep the Viet Cong from setting up firing positions.

The next day, two Marine Sea Knight choppers came to the area to evacuate the airmen and Marines.

As soon as the men were aboard, the Sea Knight drew heavy groundfire until Sergeant Resos and a Marine gunner returned the fire and silenced the enemy position.

The first helicopter left the area, and the second came and picked up the remaining men without opposition.

Major Hove spoke for the crew when he said, "those Marines did a great job. It's good to be back."

Rescueman Has Busy Trip

DA NANG AB, Vietnam—"The greatest job in the Air Force!" That's the way a 25-year-old NCO describes his job as a pararescueman in Vietnam. SSgt John F. Tobey, assigned to the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Sq., has 12 combat saves in 10 months in Vietnam to his credit.

During a recent three-day period the sergeant was shot down, rescued by a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter crew and participated in the rescue of five USMC personnel.

It all started when an HH-43 of Detachment 7, 38th ARRS was scrambled to pick up four Marines who had been injured while on patrol 12 miles southwest of Da Nang.

"They were in mountainous terrain at about 3000-foot altitude," the pararescueman explained. "We had to hover 90-feet above them due to foliage. We lowered our jungle penetrator to them, but they had difficulty figuring out how to use it, so I suggested that

I be lowered to give them aid," he said.

"We had the first three aboard and as the last guy was severely wounded I decided to ride up the hoist with him.

"We were at about tree-top level when a sniper raked the side of the chopper and it started losing power. The aircraft commander called for the hoist operator to let us down as he could not hover much longer.

"Our penetrator got hung in the trees, but I was able to get us loose without difficulty. I started unstrapping the wounded man from the penetrator before we hit the ground and got him off as soon as we touched ground.

"I looked up and saw the chopper was just starting to settle in

the trees. The aircraft commander at this time took the controls and threw it hard to the left in an effort to keep it from falling on top of us. It came down about 30 to 40-feet away.

"We got the rest of the people out of the chopper and while I was treating the wounded, a Marine patrol came in and set up a defensive perimeter.

"About an hour later a Marine CH-46 came in to attempt the pickup, but was chased away after two of its crewmembers were injured by ground fire. A few moments later an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant from the 37th ARRS came in, escorted by two Army HU-1E gunships, but it also was forced to leave after one of the crew was injured by ground fire.

"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 a sleepless night," he continued.

"We called for air strikes the next morning and received three Marine F-8s loaded with 750-pound bombs. After they finished their runs, another chopper came in and picked up the rest of us.

"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 'cold turkey'."

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.

8 MAY 67 SAR

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED Paramedic Who Lost Leg In Vitenam Convalesces At Academy Hospital

"For a minute I didn't know just what had happened. Then I looked down at my foot, and saw that I was standing on a stub of leg."

These simple but graphic words of Tech Sgt. Raymond S. Weddel explain how he lost a foot and part of a leg while participating in a helicopter rescue attempt 12 miles southwest of D Nang, Vietnam.

Sgt. Weddel is in the Air Force Academy Hospital, recovering from the amputation of the foot and part of his leg. Every effort was made to save the leg, but it

was so mangled by a round of high velocity small arms ground fire, that surgery was unsuccessful.

A native of North Platte, Neb., Sgt. Weddel, 28, had flown almost 500 rescue hours in helicopters as a paramedic before being wounded.

On this particular mission, the helicopter was attempting to rescue four wounded Marines and the crew of another helicopter which had been shot down attempting the same rescue operation. The second chopper received several bursts of ground fire, which wounded the sergeant. The fuel tanks also were hit, and the helicopter had to return to base.

A 10-year Air Force veteran, Sgt. Weddel had been in Vietnam since last summer. He is married, and the father of three children, Deborah Kay 9, Cynthia 7, and Cathrine 6. His father and mother live in North Platte, as do his four brothers. His father is a railroad engineer.

What now, sergeant? "Well, I'm sure that a medical board would permit me to remain in the Air Force as a paramedic instructor, but if I can't do what I was doing in Vietnam, I'm not sure that's what I want. I'm thinking very seriously of studying forestry at Colorado State College if I can. I've always been interested in forestry, and I believe that's what I'll try."

Sgt. Weddel has a tremendous pride in the "maroon berets," as the paramedics are known. "You just can't conceive of the courage those young guys show," he says. "At 28 I'm an old man. But you should see the morale and dedication those 18 and 19 year olds show. They don't want to come home when their time is up, and they volunteer for extended duty almost without exception. I guess it's the look on the faces of the men you rescue that does it. They're the most grateful men in the world when you get them into the chopper and on their way back to medical aid within minutes."

MOVING
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FILE = WEDDEL, JPK



—Air Force Academy Photo

PURPLE HEART — Tech. Sgt. Raymond S. Weddel was given the Purple Heart at the Air Force Academy Hospital Monday. Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, Academy Superintendent, made the presentation. Sgt. Weddel, an Air Force paramedic, was struck in the left leg when his helicopter was hit by ground fire while attempting to rescue four wounded marines and the crew of a downed helicopter. The lower port of the leg had to be amputated.