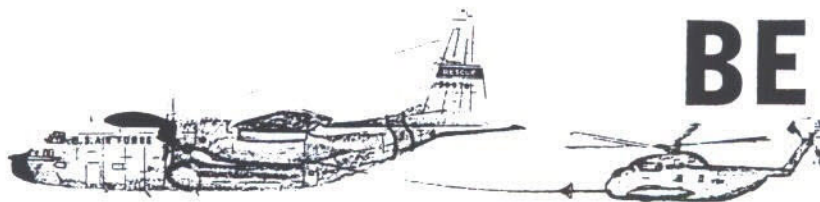


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BEEPER

Directorate of Information

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VOL. 1, NO. 2

JANUARY 1969

Three More ARRS Units Win AFOUA

Three more ARRS units have won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award--the 54th ARRSq Central ARRC and the non-SEA squadrons (31st, 33rd, 36th, 76th and 79th) of Pacific ARRC.

The 54th ARRSq, Pease AFB, N. H., was cited for its "exceptionally meritorious service in support of military operations from 1 April 1966 to 31 March 1968."

"Exceptionally meritorious service in support of military operations from 1 July 1966 to 31 May 1968" won the units of the Hickam, Hawaii-based PARRC their AFOUA's.

The award to CARRC, for "exceptionally meritorious service" covered the period from 1 January 1967 to 31 March 1968. The citation accompanying the award mentions that CARRC's "outstanding management and the exceptionally high motivation of its personnel resulted in an outstanding accident-free record of mission accomplishment coupled with an exemplary maintenance and materiel operation saving over \$40,000 and an incalculable amount in lives."

The citation to the 54th ARRSq reads, in part, "...the members of the 54th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron maintained a sustained search and rescue commitment with a perfect flying safety record. In addition to the normal planned precautionary support of Air Force operations, extensive coverage was provided the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space program, as well as numerous humanitarian assistance missions provided civilian agencies of the United States and foreign nations."

The accomplishments of PARRC and its non-SEA squadrons were detailed in their citation: "...members of the Pacific Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Center planned and assisted in the development of an outstanding aircrew recovery capability in Southeast Asia while simultaneously supporting expanded search and rescue activities throughout the Pacific including heavy trans-Pacific aircraft movement, several Gemini and Apollo spacecraft recoveries, humanitarian mercy

missions and rescue support of the Korean forces due to the Pueblo crisis. These efforts contributed to the saving of 289 lives, including seven combat saves and 46 combat assists. This outstanding achievement is due to the courageous efforts of the dedicated rescue forces who carried out their mission, some under enemy fire, in addition to the hazards already presented by weather, terrain and other natural obstacles."

The authority for the award to the 54th and CARRC is Special Order GB-556, 1 November 1968, and for the PARRC squadrons, Special Order GB-559, 1 November 1968.

PJ Returns from SEA With Save Record-51

DA NANG AB, RVN (7AF)--Sergeant Steve M. Northern is returning from Vietnam with the all-time record for combat saves--51--after three voluntary six-month extensions of his tour.

The 21-year old PJ has served with three units of the 3rd ARRGp, although only being assigned to two.

The first assignment was with Det 6, 38th ARRSq, at Bien Hoa. The final year and a half he served with the 37th squadron at Da Nang. In off - duty time he volunteered to fly LBR missions with Det 7, 38th ARRSq, which is also DaNang-based.

To establish his save record, Northern averaged 45 combat missions a month and a total of more than 240 missions in the Jolly Greens.

But his record is not the only honor he brings back with him. He wears two Silver Stars for "gallantry in action", the Purple Heart, three DFC's and "at least 15 Air Medals."

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NORTHERN, CONT.

Northern received the first Silver Star for his heroic action during a rocket attack on DaNang, July 15, 1967. He and Sgt Duane Hackney aided 25 persons trapped under a C-130 which had been set afire by exploding 750-pound bombs ignited by enemy rockets.

Little more than a month later, Northern voluntarily rode the hoist cable to an immobilized F - 4C pilot surrounded by enemy troops in North Vietnam. Disregarding the heavy gunfire, Northern carried the severely injured pilot to the hoist and brought him up safely. For this action he was awarded the second Silver Star.

The last two combat saves to his credit were recorded Oct. 20 off Tiger Island, N. Vietnam.

Sgt Northern plans to return to the U.S. late in February to attend school.

Made 51 Combat Saves

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Top Rescuer Leaves

(Photo on Page 1)

DA NANG AB—At age 21, Sgt. Steve M. Northern has completed his Vietnam tour. Barely of voting age, Sergeant Northern has recorded more combat saves than any other person in aviation history—51. The all-time record was established by Northern during two consecutive Southeast Asia tours as a (PJ) pararescuer with the 3d Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Gp. of the Military Airlift Command.

Northern, who was born in Indianapolis, Ind., where his late father was a championship race car driver, came to Southeast Asia in July 1966. He was first assigned to Bien Hoa AB, where he served as a PJ aboard HH-43 rescue helicopters. He was wounded in action less than two months after his arrival and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Enemy bullets couldn't stop the then-19-year-old youth, and he went on to become one of the most highly decorated pararescuemen in U.S. history.

Northern received the first of two Silver Stars for "gallantry in action" for a heroic rescue on July 15, 1967. His second Silver Star as a PJ came for an action on Aug. 23, 1967, when he "volunteered to be lowered from his HH-3 helicopter to aid an immobilized survivor located in a position completely surrounded by hostile troops and gun positions."

The citation continues: "Airman Northern carried the survivor to the hoist and shielded him with his own body as they were brought into the helicopter."

Both Silver Stars came for actions with the 37th Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Sq., home of

the HH-3 "Jolly Green Giants." He joined the unit in June 1967. Earlier, Northern served with Det. 6, 38th ARRS, at Bien Hoa.

While at Da Nang, Northern has flown more than 240 missions with the "Jolly Green Giants." He flew an average of 45 combat missions a month, many deep into enemy territory and as far north as the Haiphong area of North Vietnam.

During his off-duty time, Northern volunteered to fly rescue missions with Det. 7, 38th ARRS also based at Da Nang. He is one of the few pararescuemen who flew missions interchangeably on both the HH-3 "Jolly Green" and HH-43 "Pedro."

At other times Northern participated in Medical Civic Action Patrol flights, offering medical aid to Vietnamese villagers in the I Corps area.

During a rocket attack on Da Nang, Northern and the 1968 "Airman of the Year," Sgt. Duane Hackney, aided 25 persons trapped under a C-130 which had been set afire by exploding 750-pound bombs by enemy rockets. Hackney, first living airman to be awarded the Air Force Cross, will return to the 37th ARRS early next year.

Northern, who entered the Air Force in 1965, plans to attend El Camino Junior College, Torrance, Calif., starting in February. He earned his high school diploma while in the Air Force.

Asked how he felt about leaving the Air Force and Southeast Asia, Northern said, "I'll miss it!"