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GIANT JOINS AF # 3





The Sheppard Senator

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Dedicated To The Memory Of The Late Senator Morris Sheppard After Whom the Base Was Named

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Wichita Falls, Texas, Thursday, January 11, 1968

SEA Mascot Duties

'Giant' Joins USAF

By AMN. TERRY DALTON

From the star figure in a Medical Service School (MSS) skit to the jungles of Southeast Asia — that's the route of a nine-foot super "Jolly Green Giant" who soon will assume the role of super-mascot for the helicopter rescue and recovery team which is his namesake.

The mammoth mascot will be shipped to Udorn Air Base, Thailand, to be received by Capt. Carl W. Oliver, rescue crew commander of the "Super Jolly Green Giants" — helicopter rescue team that patrols Southeast Asia. Many of these during pilots are trained at Sheppard's 363rd Flying Training Squadron (Bolt).

The plan to ship the giant overseas as a mascot was conceived by Maj. Edward Menning, an instructor at the MSS Department of Veterinary Medicine after watching the giant "perform" in a skit held here last year.

From this modest beginning, the idea began to take a more definite form. Col. Geoffrey P. Wiedeman, MSS commander, originally procured the statue from the Green Giant food company. He suggested that their jolly green man might be interested in enlisting for Southeast Asian duty.

A favorable response encouraged Colonel Wiedeman to present the giant to the Udorn-based

unit will record the number of aircrew members rescued by the flying "Jolly Green Giants."

Captain Oliver requested the aid of his former instructor at Sheppard, Col. Jimmy M. Hamill, deputy commander for helicopter operations of the 363rd Flying Training Wing, to see that the giant was properly transported to Udorn.

Back at Sheppard, Colonel Hamill placed Maj. Donald R. Walker in charge of transporting the mascot to Thailand. At present the nine-foot monster is awaiting a "hop" to join his rescue friends deep in the "Jolly green jungles."

GREEN GIANT — Receiving his inoculation before being shipped to Udorn Air Base, Thailand for duty is this nine-foot "Jolly Green Giant." Col. Geoffrey P. Wiedeman, Medical Service School, administers the "shot" to the soon-to-be mascot of the "Super Jolly Green

Giants" helicopter rescue team based at Udorn. Observing are (from left) Maj. Edward Menning and Maj. Donald R. Walker while Col. Jimmy M. Hamill administers the hypodermic needle. (USAF PHOTO)

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