



A pararescueman administers an intravenous injection to a "victim" during field training exercises at Eglin AFB. (USAF Photo by TSgt Lloyd D. Brune)

PJ Technician Class Graduated

ARRS has graduated the first class from its newly - created school for pararescue technicians at Eglin AFB, Florida.

The ten-man graduating class was made up of pararescue technicians from ARRS units around the world.

The week - long school was a mixture of classroom lectures, discussions and field problems. It was designed to refresh the students' basic knowledge and provide them with advanced medical techniques and information.

Maj Clifford J. Buckley, ARRS Command Surgeon, and Capt James C. Byrk, Chief of Medical Training at the 48th ARRSq, taught the class. They were assisted by MSgt Charles T. Walthers and TSgt Richard L. Grigsby of Hq ARRS, and TSgt Charles Jenkins of the 48th.

The students were given an opportunity to develop their proficiency in emergency surgical procedures under laboratory conditions.

Additionally, the field medical problems enabled the students to realistically practice their techniques. "Victims" who exhibited a variety of wounds ranging from bullet punctures to accidental amputations were placed in hidden locations on Eglin AFB. The students had to find them, extricate them from a given situation then treat them for the "wounds" which were created through the moulage technique.

The graduates are: MSgt Anthony R. Gargano 55th ARRSq; MSgt Jerome C. Gorney-57th; MSgt David L. Gray - 79th; MSgt Rodney D. Ohman-31st; MSgt Lewis J. Roberts-67th; TSgt M.P. Budke-41st; TSgt John F. Heitsch-33rd; TSgt Philemon S. Resos-36th; TSgt David H. Rhody-76th; and TSgt Charles K. Schwartz-58th.

PJ WHO 'COULDN'T MAKE IT'

WINS SILVER STAR, DFC's, AM's

SCOTT AFB, Ill.—"They told me I wouldn't make it when I volunteered for pararescue training," said Sgt Martin E. Roepstorff, a 21-year old, 5-foot 8 PJ.

He made it big.

Roepstorff recently received the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the first through third clusters to the Air Medal from Lt Gen James W. Wilson, MAC Vice Commander.

Roepstorff flew 282 missions in SEA during his 13 - month tour, most of them as a crewman aboard Jolly Green Giants. Most of the missions were over enemy territory, and Roepstorff took part in 18 saves.

"We got the word to scramble about 1300," as he recalled a mission on 6 March. "A chopper was down in the Ashau Valley. There were one or two survivors we knew about down in a gully between the hills.

We came down low and I rode down the hoist. I told the helicopter to leave when I got off the hoist."

He found one man, cut in half, and the charred remains of the Army Chinook. Roepstorff set out in a search pattern around the helicopter to locate the other man.

"About 30 yards away I found him. Then, I heard shooting nearby. I knew that the friendly personnel who had joined in the search and I would have to get out fast.

"The man I found had a severe chest injury and fractures of an arm and both legs. I grabbed him and ran."

Roepstorff's party was the center of enemy attention, and the young sergeant provided covering rifle fire as other members of the party were reeled into the hovering helicopter in the face of intense automatic fire and grenades.

"You don't think about it at the time," Roepstorff said. "It's a job, and you just can't think about it. If you do, you're no good to anybody."

"Why do we do it?" he asked out loud. "It's hard to put into words what it feels like to save a life. They often cry when they are safe and you end up with tears in your eyes, too. There's just nothing like it."

And there are few like Marty Roepstorff, son of a bank vice president, an outstanding all-round athlete in high school who wants to study architecture when his Air Force hitch is completed.

He's already built something for himself.