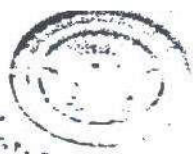


DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 3RD AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY GROUP (HAC)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 94307



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 3C

SUBJECT: Commander's Letter

7 November 1968

to: Brigadier General Allison C. Brooks
Commander
Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service
Scott AFB, Illinois 62225

Dear General Brooks,

1. Since assumption of command on 20 September 1968, the activities here for the remainder of September and the month of October have certainly initiated me and the new members of the 3ARRGp into this elite society. If this period is representative of the months to come, I look forward to the greatest challenge and most gratifying year of my career. The opportunity to manage such a truly professional force is indeed the opportunity of a life time. With almost 100% turnover of key personnel in the group staff and squadron commanders, along with the recent announced change in tactical policy by President Johnson, to say the magnitude of activities here has increased, would be the understatement of the year.

2. For continuity purposes I will attempt to cover the significant topics and events by functional areas. In the operational area the Blacklace 19 mission of 27 September nearly cost us an aircraft and crew when JG 27 received battle damage and lost #1 engine while the PJs were cutting the Blacklace pilot loose from the wreckage of his downed O-1. As the crew was evacuating aboard JG 24, ground fire nicked the ear of Sgt Beland, FE, and a bullet severed the chest pack parachute harness worn by Major Wingfield, the RCC. The Army and Marines responded promptly with gunships to aid our Spads, and a Special Forces team to establish a perimeter around the site while we prepared JG 27 for airlift out of the area; but the Army crane failed to arrive as arranged and nearly cost us the recovery. When within 15 minutes of darkness we were forced to evacuate our maintenance team and Army troops, General Blood strongly recommended we order the helicopter destroyed. I refused, and after many phone calls to the Army the crane was located and vectored to the area. Sergeant Watkins, a maintenance specialist, was put back on the ground to hookup the cables from the crane and JG 27 was lifted out just as complete darkness set in.

CATALOGED

1682100
No

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

DO NOT DESTROY

We recovered Lt Colonel Vic Gore (6SOS, Pleiku) after he crashed in a hostile area on 27 October. He was one of the enthusiastic participants in our 7 November SAR conference here at Tan Son Nhut.

4. The suspension of bombing in the North Vietnam Panhandle has not noticeably affected our level of activity. The main difference is that now the majority of the missions occur in another confined area. The HH-53's had their share of the action last month - an F-4 pilot from a nest of AAA on 9 November; a 9-man ground team on 10 November; and an Air America pilot and 4 others from a Site under attack at dusk on 27 November.

5. As a result of our experience on the 5 October 1968 SOG team extraction, we have loaned a forest penetrator to MACV for use in training SOG team members. Several of our ground team extractions in the past have been delayed because the ground party was not familiar with use of the penetrator.

6. We have just received word that the 38ARRSq has won an award for the "finest OJT program in Pac ARRC" for the third quarter of 1968. I feel this is particularly noteworthy considering the squadron is made up of 14 detachments scattered throughout South Vietnam and Thailand, each with a different OJT supervisor as compared to a squadron that has all its personnel located on the same base with just one OJT supervisor to run their program. Added to this are the adverse weather and living conditions, the constant harassment of hostile rocket attacks, and the 60-70 hour work week. We have all the ingredients and excuses to have a poor program, yet 3ARRGp is consistently above the MAC standards.

7. We are beginning to see some positive action from our SAR training exercise in September. Copies of the Operation Polecat Report were forwarded to CINCPACAF at the request of 7AF. CINCPACAF, in turn, has asked Aeronautical Systems Division to take expeditious action to resolve SEAOR 144. In addition, 7AF Life Support is formulating a proposed SEAOR for a protective face mask designed specifically for rescue aircrew purposes.

8. November was accident free in the ground safety area. In the flying safety area, Major Burnfield, of the 37ARRSq, averted a major aircraft accident on 23 November, when a materiel failure of the

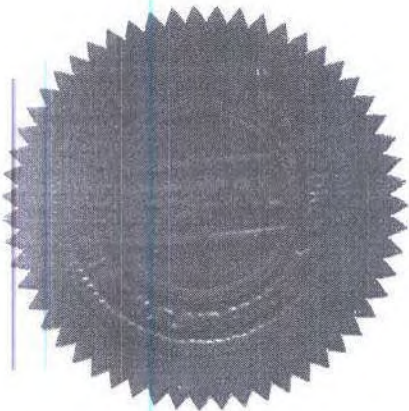
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE SILVER STAR

TO

JOHN D. NUSBAUM

Sergeant John D. Nusbaum distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force as Rescue Specialist on an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 5 October 1968. On that date, Sergeant Nusbaum volunteered to fill the Flight Engineer's position to attempt the extremely hazardous extraction of a Special Forces team after their insertion helicopter had been shot down and the team surrounded by hostile forces. En-route to the distress site he learned that a rescue helicopter had been shot down while attempting the extraction, fatally injuring two crew members. Despite low cloud cover, which prevented the use of fighter escort, Sergeant Nusbaum, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, penetrated the hostile area and directed his helicopter to a hover adjacent the burning crash site. During the prolonged hover, Sergeant Nusbaum stood exposed to the hostile fire in the open doorway and effected the rescue of the two crash survivors and the six surviving team members. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Nusbaum has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



Robert LaPointe

From: John Nusbaum [jnusbaum@new.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2005 8:14 AM
To: Robert LaPointe
Subject: Re: SILVER STAR
Attachments: JDN SS Orders.jpg; JDN Silver Star Diploma.jpg; JDN SS Narrative.jpg

I finally got my scanner working again after replacing a damaged hard drive. Let me know if you have any questions.

John D. Nusbaum
PJ 66-69

----- Original Message -----

From: Robert LaPointe
To: 'John Nusbaum'
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 9:43 AM
Subject: RE: SILVER STAR

Send copies to this email address and I will add it to the Silver Star site

From: John Nusbaum [mailto:jnusbaum@new.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 4:16 AM
To: Robert LaPointe
Subject: SILVER STAR

Dear Bob,

I received a Silver Star for my role in the Oct. 5, 68 mission that Avery was on. We had 2 PJ's on the Jolly that was successful in picking up the 6 surviving Special Forces team members and the 2 survivors from the 2nd Jolly Green that crashed while attempting the extraction. I was acting as FE because we there were none available. I sent copies of my award to the school and can do same for you if you e-mail me an address to send them to.

John D. Nusbaum
PJ from 66 to 69
jnusbaum@new.rr.com

1968 (cont)

16 Aug 68 Heavy rains along the south coast of Korea caused severe flooding, stranding many Koreans. The HH-43 crews from Detachments 4 and 10, Pacific ARRC, saved the lives of 75 Koreans.

5 Oct 68 Two HH-3s assigned to the 37th ARR Squadron were scrambled from Da Nang, Vietnam, to extract a ground party in the vicinity of the A Shau Valley. In the course of the mission one of the HH-3s was disabled and forced to return to base. The other HH-3 was shot down and destroyed. Three more HH-3s were scrambled to recover a total of eight survivors on the ground. Major Don P. Olsen and his crew went into the rescue site, hoisted all eight survivors into the aircraft, and successfully returned to Da Nang. Major Olsen was awarded the Air Force Cross.

29 Oct 68 During a hoist training mission at the 58th ARR Squadron, Wheelus AB, Libya, an HH-3 pilot observed a collision between two F-100s on the runway. The pilot of one aircraft rolled clear. The airborne HH-3 was positioned to direct the smoke and flames away from the engulfed cockpit of the second aircraft, allowing the pilot to escape. The helicopter landed, and pararescuemen aboard administered first aid to the injured pilot, who was placed aboard the HH-3 and taken to an ambulance.

Dec 68 Sergeant Steve M. Northern, a pararescueman, completed 30 months in Southeast Asia (SEA) and personally recorded a total of 51 combat saves. He received two Silver Stars during his tours in SEA. Later, in 1970, Sergeant Northern was killed in an industrial accident in Los Angeles.

Sergeant Steve M. Northern



24 Dec-
25 Dec 68

HH-3 aircrews from Detachment 1, 40th ARR Squadron were engaged in a mission involving the rescue of a downed pilot in Laos. On 24 December a chute was

spotted, and on 25 December a rescue task force returned and Airman First Class Charles D. King, a pararescueman, was lowered at the site, where he located the downed pilot and secured him to the hoist. At this point enemy automatic weapon fire was directed at the plane, Airman King, and the pilot on the ground. Airman King transmitted the message, "I'm hit. I'm hit. Pull

Tail No: 65-12782 Model: HH-3E Date of Loss: 5 Oct 68 Unit: 37th ARRS
Country of Loss: Laos Call Sign: Jolly Green 10

Co-Pilot: Albert D. Wester (41W-16)
Flight Engineer: Gregory P. Lawrence (41W-13)

Notes: While attempting to extract a Special Forces team in contact with the enemy, the aircraft received intensive ground fire which damaged aircraft, followed by a fire.

Additional Information: On October 5, 1968 the Jolly Greens were called upon by the Army to extract a special forces team, call sign "Carrot Top", from the A Shau Valley in Laos. Two Jolly Green helicopters were sent out along with a team of Sky Raiders to rescue the team. The first JG went in under heavy ground fire attack and received damage to their fuel lines and had to abort the mission and return to the base. The second helicopter was JG10. The 4 crew members of JG10 were Dwayne Wester; Co-Pilot, Vernon Granier; Pilot, Dean Casbeer; PJ and Greg Lawrence; FE. These 4 men braved enemy fire to try to rescue the team on the ground but it proved to be too much for them. The JG10 was shot down about 500 meters from the pick up point. The PJ was able to pull the pilot from the burning helicopter but before he could return the JG10 exploded, claiming the lives of the 2 trapped inside. Another JG was sent out to rescue the Special Forces team and the 2 survivors from JG10. The mission was completed and they returned back to DaNang with their helicopter full and their hearts saddened. They had lost 2 Jolly Greens that day, their friends, and their brothers of war.

Rescue and SOS SEA Losses

Names listed in are KIA/MIA; in blue were POW; in black are survivors.

Total Losses

Model	Hostile	Operational	Logistical	Unknown
CH-3	15	5		9
HH-3	10	4		3
HH-53B	2			
HH-53C	9	9	4	
CH-53C	6	1		
HU-16	4			
HH-43	8	4	1	

Jolly Green H-3 SEA Losses

Tail Number	Model	Date	Unit	Location	Call Sign	Pilot	CoPilot	Flight Engineer	Pararescueman	
63-09685	CH-3E	6 Nov 65	38th ARRS	NVN	Jolly Green	Warren E. Lilly	Jerry Singleton	B. E. Naugle	Arthur Cormier	SAR for SA by ground fir
64-14233	HH-3E	15 Jan 68		NVN	Jolly Green 20	Gregory A. Etzel	David E. Holt	Elwood R. Beam	Angus W. Sowell	Acft was flyi (EB-66C) wh for survivors.
65-12778	HH-3E	20 Oct 66	38th ARRS		Jolly Green	Youngblood	E. Burford			
65-12779	HH-3E	6 Feb 67	38th ARRS	NVN	Jolly Green 05				Duane A. Hackney	helo was hit NAIL 65; cra
65-12782	HH-3E	5 Oct 68	37th ARRS	Laos	Jolly Green 10	Lernon Granier	ALBERT O. WESTER KIA	GREGORY P. LAWRENCE KIA	Earnest Casbeer	While attemp in contact wit intensive gro followed by a

From: Lilweb669@aol.com <Lilweb669@aol.com>
To: rlapointe@gci.net <rlapointe@gci.net>
Date: Saturday, October 23, 1999 8:33 AM
Subject: Re: DAUGHER OF SGT. GREGORY P.LAWRENCE

Mr. LaPointe,

I do have all the copies of the JTF-FA reports. How did you get any of the reports? I have had the honor of contacting some of the men that were on the mission my dad was on when he died. If you would like to maybe contact them and get their views on the mission I can give you their email addresses. I am sure most of them will be willing to discuss it with you for the book.

Yes, you have my permission to use my dads picture for the book. I also have another website of pictures from the 37th ARRS. I know that there might be some pictures on there that would interest you. The URL for that is <http://members.aol.com/jgkid68/index.htm>

Good luck with your book and let me know when it's on the store shelves...will love to have a copy.

Debbie

From: Lilweb669@aol.com <Lilweb669@aol.com>
To: rlapointe@gci.net <rlapointe@gci.net>
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 1999 6:29 AM
Subject: DAUGHER OF SGT. GREGORY P.LAWRENCE

Mr. LaPointe,

I was sent the link to your webpage from a friend, Doug McGill, retired PJ. I would like to first say thank you for all the hard work you are doing to let people know of the work and sacrifice that the men of the rescue units did.

I am the daughter of Sgt.Gregory Paul Lawrence, he was the flight engineer on the Jolly Green 10 when it went down on Oct.5,1968. I have a webpage to honor my dad and it includes the mission as it was told to me. You can visit the page at
<http://members.aol.com/lilweb669/index.html>

If there is anything I can do to help you with the work you are doing please let me know. I have seen the listing of FE's on the site and there is a little correction that needs to be done...if you don't mind...everyone that knew my dad knew him as Greg...no one knew him as Paul...if you could change it to Greg I would appreciate it.

Thank you again
Deborah Webster
proud daughter of
Sgt.Gregory Paul Lawrence, USAF, KIA/BNR OCT. 5,1968
37TH ARRS - JOLLY GREEN GIANTS

Robert LaPointe

From: <Robert.Baldwin@hurlburt.af.mil>
To: <rlapointe@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 6:52 AM
Attach: A-Frame Hoist.jpg; BOB.JPG
Subject: RE: CH-3 A-frame hoist system
 Bob,

Good to hear from you. Attached is an old picture of myself and TSgt Allen Dyer rigging an A-Frame Hoist for a training mission. The picture was taken at Sheppard AFB TX, in 1966.

BALDWIN 9.JPG

The other photo is Jolly 10, (we think) lost 5 October 1968. The Flight Engineer, Greg Lawrence and Co-pilot, Al Wester were killed on the mission. The PJ, SSgt Casbeer and LtCol Vern Grainer were rescued by Jolly 32. The crash site is known but they have yet to recover the remains. Any chance of you coming to the Jolly Green Reunion, 5 - 7 May, Ft Walton Beach?

BALDWIN 10.JPG

John Eldrige was in town this weekend. He and Glenna were house guests at the Stanaland's. We had a surprise get together for him at the Crab Trap, about 25 of the old heads showed up. He was surprised, a few tears were shed. Fun was had by all.

Take care and tell all hello for me. Hope to see you soon.

Oh, If this photo don't work, let me know, <<A-Frame Hoist.jpg>>
 <<BOB.JPG>> I will do more research.

Bob (Mouse) Baldwin

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Robert LaPointe [SMTP:rlapointe@gci.net]

> Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2000 12:23 PM

> To: Baldwin, Bob

> Subject: CH-3 A-frame hoist system

>

> Hope you had a quiet Easter. The book is coming along well. I am looking
 > for a picture of an A-frame installed in a CH-3. A good substitute would
 > be a sketch from a CH-3 tech order. Do you have any ideas on who might
 > have one of these I can use in the book. This subject is one of those
 > where a picture is worth a 1000 words.

>

> Later

OUR DAD OUR HERO



Sgt. Gregory P. Lawrence

Sgt. Gregory Paul Lawrence

Born: March 10, 1938

KIA: October 5, 1968

USAF

37th ARRS

DaNang

Jolly Green Giants

"SO OTHERS MAY LIVE"

Our dad gave his life while saving others. We miss him more every day. We have learned so much about our dad and we would like to thank the men that served with him for sharing thier memories with us. It means so much to us and helps us to feel closer to him.

On October 5, 1968 the Jolly Greens were called upon by the Army to extract a special forces team, call sign "Carrot Top", from the A Shau Valley in Laos. Two Jolly Green helicopters were sent out along with a team of Sky Raiders to rescue the team. The first JG went in under heavy ground fire attack and recieved damage to thier fuel lines and had to abort the mission and return to the base. The second helicopter was the JG10. The 4 crew members of the JG10 were

Dewayne Wester; Co-Pilot, Vernon Granier; Pilot, Dean Casbeer; PJ and Greg Lawrence;FE. These 4 men braved enemy fire to try to rescue the team on the ground but it proved to be too much for them. The JG10 was shot down about 500 meters from the pick up point. The PJ was able to pull the pilot from the burning helicopt but before he could return the JG10 exploded,claiming the lives of the 2 trapped inside. Another JG was sent out to rescue the special forces team and the 2 surviors from the JG10. The mission was completed and they returned back to DaNang with thier helicopter full and thier hearts saddened. They had lost 2 Jolly Greens that day,thier friends,thier brothers of war.

Greg Lawrence and Dewayne Wester lived and died the Jolly Green motto "So others may live" Our father lost his life in a war that made no sense but, we find comfort in knowing that our dad died while helping others and that Heaven gained a great man.

I was only 2 years old when my dad died and my sister was 3 and our brother was 2 months old. Our dad never got to see his son and I have no memory of him. We are always looking for information about our dad and would love to hear any stories that you might have. To even know just a little about the man his was means so much to us. Also I am looking for more information on Maj.Albert Dewayne Wester,the man that died with our dad. I want to add a page to honor him.Anyone that remembers him and that wants to share thier memories with me please contact me.

Please keep coming back to our page often. This is just the begining of our tribute to our dad and we will add more to it as often as we can. Look for a family and friend picture page that I will be adding soon.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING.
The Proud Children of
Sgt.Gregory Paul Lawrence
USAF
KIA/BRN Oct.5,1968
37th ARRS
Jolly Green Giants
Crystal Lynn Lawrence Hood
Deborah Shereen Lawrence Webster
and
Paul Shannon Lawrence

Bill Parker has made a wonderful website in honor of our dad. We are very honored for his work he has done in remembering our father and would love for everyone to visit his page. In Honor of Sgt. G. Lawrence.

Thank you Bill for adopting our dad and keeping the memory of him alive. This site also has information on how you can adopt an POW/MIA to help keep the memories going.

Here are some of our favorite links:

WELCOME to . . .Sons & Daughters In Touch



PICTURES OF THE 37TH ARRS

These pages are my way of honoring all that served with my dad,
Sgt. Gregory Paul Lawrence KIA. OCT.5,1968, JOLLY GREEN 10

**"He whom this site commemorates was among those who,
at the call of their country, left all that was dear to them,
endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of sight of men by the path
of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others may live in freedom.
Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten."**

This quote was sent to me by Doug Ross, it was taken from a scroll presented to his Grandmother by
King George after his Grandfather, Captain David Ross, DSO, MC, 1st Bt. Argyll & Sutherland
Highlanders, was killed in France on November 9, 1918.

In a letter he wrote to me he said, " Those phrases exactly express my own feelings about all those
that gave their lives in Air Rescue."

I feel the same way.



**"HAVING A GOOD TIME"
DEAN CASBEER
DON BOUSHELLE
JACK WATKINS
JOHN HENESEY
DAVE RODRIGUEZ**



"THE GUYS THAT MADE IT HAPPEN"



**GREG LAWRENCE
HERBERT HORNER
MANGRUM**





**JOHN HENNESEY
DON CLAUDIUS
PETER J. GANUN**

I want to thank everyone who has sent me pictures for these pages. If it wasn't for the kindness of Jack Watkins, Duane Beland and Doug McGill these pages would not be possible.

LINKS TO THE OTHER PAGES OF PICTURES

- [2ND PAGE SITES AROUND DANANG](#)
- [3RD PAGE MORE PICTURES](#)
- [4TH PAGE OF PICTURES](#)
- [5TH PAGE OF PICTURES](#)
- [LINKS PAGE](#)



1962

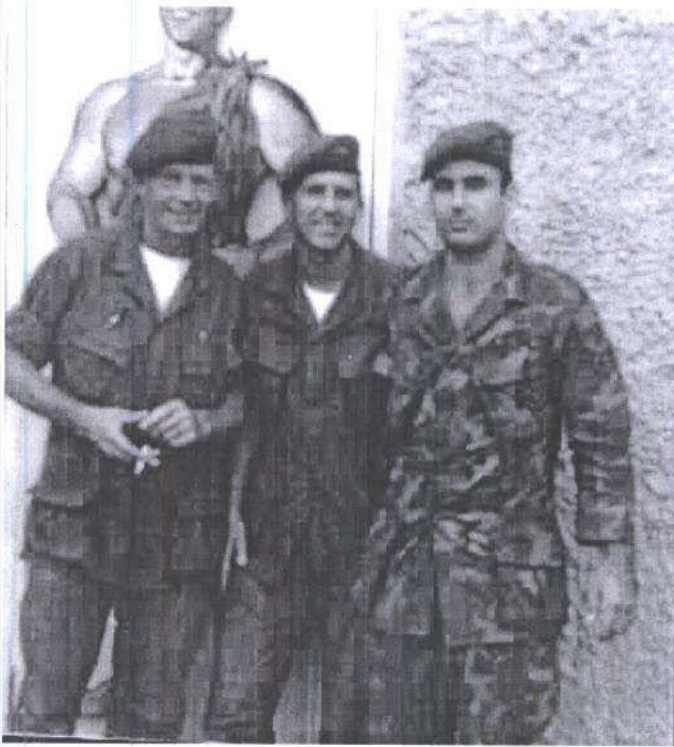
Beseen

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This page was created by
Deborah Webster
Proud Daughter of



FILE = 37th PJs

JOHN HENNESEY

DON CLAUDIUS

PETER J GANUN