

Rescue Squadron Picks Up Two; Registers 424th Combat 'Save'

20Nov68 HH-3 SAR - PJ was
SSgt Eugene Nardi

DA NANG — The 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (MAC) here has pushed their combat 'saves' to a total of 424. A rescue crew led by Lt. Col. John J. Devlin Jr., 37th ARRS commander, and Maj. Herman C. Stafford Jr., recently

extracted two Air Force pilots from dense jungle ridge some 17 miles west-southwest of Da Nang.

Capt. Frank T. Kimball, Arundell, Me., and Capt. Lawrence K. Irving, Los Angeles, both members of the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phu Cat AB, were on a Misty forward air controller mission when their F-100 was hit by enemy fire. "After we felt the hit on our aircraft, I headed our plane toward the coast and Da Nang," said Captain Kimball. "But before too long, our engine flamed out and we had to punch out."

Maj William P. Farnham
and Capt Thompson were
the Spads on this rescue
Don Dineen

Jolly Greens Rescue

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"When we arrived on the scene, the Spads from the 6th Special Operations Squadron detachment had located and identified both pilots," began Colonel Devlin, Honolulu. "The Spads made a low level pass through the valley and declared it safe for us to attempt the pickup."

"We dropped to about 2,000 feet and started up the valley to where the backseater was located on a steep slope in the dense jungle. We found him and lowered our extractor and when he was safely on the penetrator, we lifted him aboard. Then we headed for the second man who was about 1,000 feet from the first downed man. After we extracted him, we headed for Da Nang," he added.

"Actually it wasn't too rough,

although we did almost hit some tree limbs while we were extracting the men from the slope," added Major Stafford, Bluefield, W. Va.