

JAN 23, 1969

Rescue Units Set Pick Up Records

Every existing record established by the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, parent unit of Detachment 1, 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, was eclipsed during 1968.

During the past year rescue crews of the Third Rescue and Recovery Group, whose "soul" mission is the saving of human lives, were responsible for more than 900 persons being able to usher in the new year.

HH-3E Jolly Green Giant crews of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) and Det. 1, 40th ARRS, made a total of 300 combat saves—many over North Vietnam before the bombing halt.

Of these combat saves, 162 were downed aircrews. Up until recently HH-3E Jolly Green crews have made 628 combat saves.

A save is credited when an individual would have met certain death or enemy capture if he had not been rescued. The "combat" classification results from the individual being exposed to enemy action or having been recovered from a hostile area.

Since air rescue operations began in Southeast Asia, a total of 2,202 persons have been rescued. Of these, 1,507 are classified as combat saves.

Det. 1, 40th ARRS also makes "medical evacuation" flights. These involve the transfer of patients by air. Their latest medevac took place Jan. 14.

A woman, with aid from Army medics, had delivered two babies earlier in the day at an Army Engineer camp 13 miles from base. But she was having trouble delivering a third child.

Jolly Greens were called in to pick up the woman and bring her to NKP where she was met by a 56th U.S. Air Force Dispensary ambulance. She was carried to the hospital in Nakhon Phanom village.

Two pararescue specialists on the flight, TSgt. Dalford Widner and A1C Barry Hebert, helped make her comfortable during the short flight and until she was transferred to the ambulance.

"She was stable during the flight and all we had to do was help keep her comfortable," said Sergeant Widner.

"Actually, our biggest worry was the two babies she had already delivered," said Airman Hebert. "We received training in child delivery in pararescue school, but we don't have an obstetric kit in our medical supplies. As it turned out, we didn't bring the two babies with us. They stayed with the Army medics."

Although not assigned to the 3 ARRGp, A-1 Sandys and Spads of Seven/Thirteenth Air Force are vital members of the combat search and rescue team, providing essential firepower for the relatively slow-flying helicopters.