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PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

DO NOT DESTROY

081720Z JAN 69

PRIORITY

ARRS

No 0010697

3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AB VIETNAM

1.7 SEP 1990

This is a
derivative
classification.

RFOI

For IO. Subject: Rescue News Story. Reference telecon 6 Jan 69
between Major Shershun, 3d Gp and Mr. Ruhl, ARFOI, and your
message 060810Z Jan 69 Secret. Request MACV clearance of
following news story prepared for public and ^{internal} international
release. News story follows:

This msg
classified
as
it reveals
an ARRS
mission.

SCOTT AFB, IL -- You can believe the smiles on each end of a
10,000-mile kinship between Southeast Asia and the state of
Georgia. The Air Force does take care of its own, even "its
own" in the Navy.

When Navy Lt (JG) Richard M. Aaron was forced to ditch his
A-4C at sea recently, he didn't know he would be a statistic,
a "first," -- in fact the first former "member of the family" that
the Air Force Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (ARRS)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

08 1000

JAN 1969

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Mr. Ruhl
Dir of Info

4839

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ROBERT K. RUHL
Director of Information

ARFOI 69-005

Attch 2

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had picked up in its 20-year history of saving lives.

An HC-130 aircraft served as a rescue command post while two HH-3E helicopters, the famed Jolly Green Giants, hovered in the area to make the pickup. One of the choppers made a water landing and flew Lt Aaron to safety.

"When I heard about it, I couldn't have been more elated," said Lt Aaron's father, Air Force Colonel Thomas R. Aaron, a former Rescue Commander who is now the senior advisor to the Georgia Air National Guard, Dobbins, AFB, Ga.

"You can't help but feel proud," Col Aaron continued. "Anybody who has spent time in Rescue feels a special pride in what the command is doing. And when you find out that your old command has picked up your son, well -- it kind of hits home."

Rescue has made a lasting impression on other families. ARRS recently made its 1500th combat save in Southeast Asia. The number includes a high percentage of downed aircrew members, most of whom were rescued from rugged terrain and under heavy enemy fire.

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World-wide, ARRS had 1,326 saves last year, 914 in Southeast Asia and 412 in other parts of the world.

Col Aaron spent four years in ARRS as the commander of the 48th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Eglin AFB, FL; 58th ARRSq, Wheelus AB, Libya; and the Atlantic Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Center, Ramstein AB, Germany.

"You know, I flew many missions with Rescue," Col Aaron said. "But all of them were search missions. I never had a chance to make a save. It must be a great feeling".

One of the Air Force's "own," a Navy man 10,000 miles from home, knows all about the feeling--from the other end. Group Four.

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