

minus his left leg, made his last flight on his favorite "bird" ... the HH-53 "Super Jolly Green Giant."

During 13 months in Southeast Asia, Sergeant Pope flew a total of 142 combat missions and compiled more than 324 hours of combat flying in the HH-53. He was personally responsible for saving the lives of four persons during this time and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal, and the Purple Heart for his actions.

18 and 19 February 1969 -- Sergeant Michael E. Fish, a pararescueman from Detachment 11, 38th ARR Squadron, responded to the crash of an Army UH-1 in a hostile area approximately 25 miles southwest of Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam. Five personnel were reported trapped inside the aircraft wreckage. An HH-43 reached the scene and lowered Sergeant Fish and a fire fighter to the ground. Despite sporadic enemy fire, three of the trapped survivors were quickly freed and hoisted aboard the helicopter. Another survivor and a deceased soldier were picked up by an Army UH-1. One injured man remained trapped, and Sergeant Fish refused to leave the scene. Enemy forces attempted to infiltrate Sergeant Fish's position. They were repelled. Early on 19 February, the task force returned, encountering small arms fire. The trapped survivor was freed and evacuated from the area. Sergeant Fish received the Air Force Cross for his actions and was nationally recognized on the television show "This Is Your Life" for his heroic exploits.