

1969 (cont)

22 Jan 69
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Master Sergeant Paul L. Jenkins (right) briefs Staff Sergeant Robert G. Wheeler (left) and Sergeant Gregory Wikel (center) prior to jump.

- 25 Jan-
26 Jan 69 Snow completely covered three-fourths of the village of Arslankoy, Turkey. Detachment 11, Atlantic ARRC, flew HH-43s to the site, carrying medical teams, 1,400 pounds of food and medicine, and 1,100 pounds of fuel oil. ARRS saved 14 lives.
- 8 Feb 69 The Atlantic and Pacific ARRCs were redesignated the 40th and 41st ARR Wings, respectively.
- 18 Feb-
19 Feb 69 Sgt Michael E. Fish, a pararescueman from Detachment 11, 38th ARR Squadron, won the Air Force Cross as the result of a rescue mission following the crash of an Army UH-1 in a hostile area about 25 miles southwest of Tuy Hoa, AB, Vietnam. Five persons were reported trapped inside the aircraft wreckage. The HH-43 aircrew reached the scene and lowered Sergeant Fish and a firefighter to the ground. Despite sporadic enemy fire, three of the trapped survivors were quickly freed and hoisted aboard the HH-43. Another survivor and a deceased soldier were picked up by an Army UH-1. One injured man remained trapped, and Sergeant Fish remained with him overnight following the departure of the rescue task force. Early on 19 February the task force returned, encountering small arms fire. The trapped survivor was freed and evacuated from the area. The pilot of the HH-43, Captain Daniel A. Nicholson, was later awarded the annual Helicopter Heroism Award in 1970.
- 15 Apr-
19 Apr 69 Rescue units of the 41st ARR Wing responded within minutes after notification that a United States Navy EC-121 had gone down in the Sea of Japan about 50 miles from the North Korean coast.