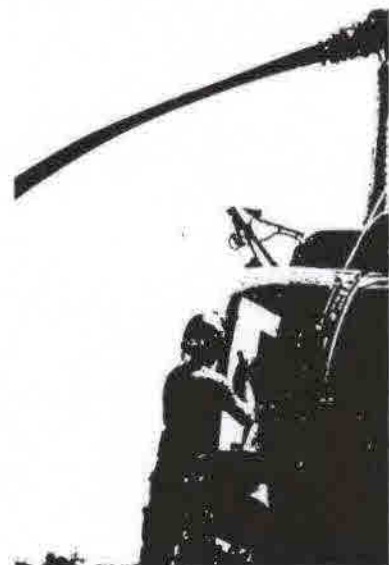
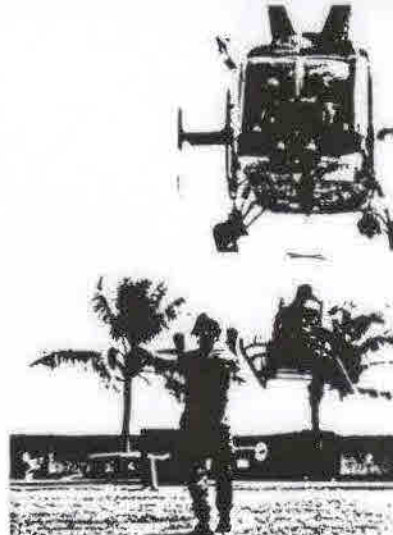


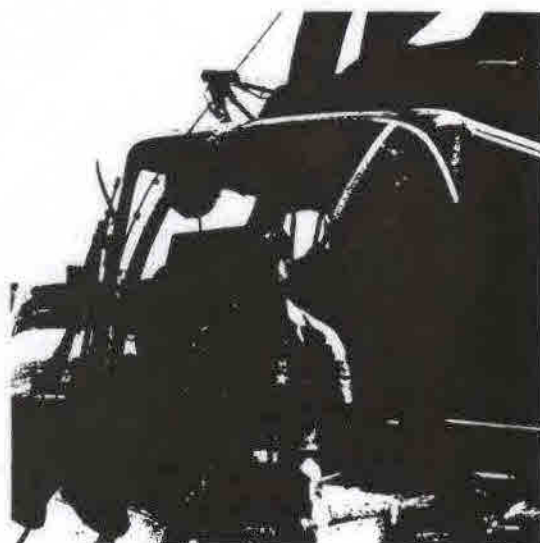


FLIGHTLINE BALLET—A U. S. Air Force flight engineer of Det 13, 38th ARRSq, Phu Cat AB, does an arm ballet on the landing pad as he "talks in" one of the squadron's HH-43 Pedro helicopters following a mission. From the time the helicopter comes into sight, upper left, until touchdown, left, the pilot is guided by the engineer. Following touchdown, the flight engineer gives the crew the thumbs up-okay sign. (USAF photo by SSgt Paul J. Harrington, 7th AF)

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BIEN HOA AB (7AF)—MSgt David D. Rhody, below, a pararescue technician assigned to Det 6, 38th ARRSq here, recently received the Air Force Silver Star for his recovery of three seriously wounded personnel.

BrigGen Allison C. Brooks, ARRS commander, presented the medal which is the United States' third highest military award for heroism. It is awarded for gallantry in action.



Last year, Sergeant Rhody flew in an HH-43 Pedro to assist in the recovery of three members of a U. S. Army long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP), 22 miles northwest of Bien Hoa City. When the Sergeant first arrived on the scene, enemy automatic weapons fire was directed toward his aircraft. The helicopter took 24 hits and was forced to return to the base for repairs. Another helicopter was exchanged for the damaged one and Sergeant Rhody was flown back to the scene. In the interim, an Army AH-1 Cobra helicopter gunship crew moved in to clear the area and a quick reaction team of eight soldiers formed a 40-yard perimeter around the LRRP soldiers for additional protection.

Sergeant Rhody was lowered into the area. While raising the first two litter patients, sporadic ground fire again erupted and he instructed the HH-43 pilot to evacuate the scene to avoid further damage to the aircraft. He remained behind for an hour to provide protection for the third wounded man. The rescue team returned with another armored helicopter to pick up the injured soldier and Rhody. On their way back out, their aircraft was pierced with five enemy bullets, but continued on to Lai Khe where the wounded were given medical attention. Sergeant Rhody escaped harm on the hazardous mission. (USAF photo by A1c John S. Gurley)