



DA NANG (7AF) - FLIGHT ENGINEER DECORATED - The silver Star Medal is presented to Air Force Sergeant Duane I. Beland, 20, Bloomington, Ind., by Lt. Gen. James W. Wilson, vice commander of the Military Airlift Command. Beland, a flight engineer with the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang AB, was cited for his heroism in rescuing six American helicopter crewmen in the face of heavy enemy fire.

Maj Olsen Scores 25 Saves In HH-3

DA NANG AB, Vietnam - Maj. Don E. Olsen, formerly assigned to Da Nang's 37th ARRSq, has ended his tour with 25 combat saves.

According to rescue officials, the 25 saves recorded by Major Olsen are probably tops for any helicopter pilot in SEA.

Just prior to his departure from Da Nang, he received the Silver Star from Lt. Gen. James W. Wilson, vice commander of Military Airlift Command. The major won the award on his first mission, when he picked up a pilot who had been downed in North Vietnam.



Two A-1 "Spads" of the 6th Special Operations Squadron escort a 37th ARRSq "Jolly Green Giant" helicopter. More than 1500 men have been saved by these teams.

FROM THE COMBAT ZONE

DA NANG JOLLY GREEN SQUADRON PROVIDES FLYING AMBULANCES

DA NANG AB, Vietnam - The versatile HH-3E Jolly Green Giant is used for flying missions that mean life or death to many in Southeast Asia. But another assignment has been handed to rescue helicopter crews - flying patients from local hospitals to the Air Force's major casualty staging areas.

Crews from the 37th ARRSq at Da Nang fly daily to the 95th U. S. Army Field Hospital to pick up wounded soldiers prepared for evacuation to major Far East and U. S. hospitals. The helicopter trip to the 22nd Casualty Staging Flight is the soldier's first step on his way out of Vietnam.

"Each morning people at the 95th call and give us the number of individuals who are ready to make the trip to the local casualty staging flight," related Maj. Russell G. Mills, a veteran rescue pilot. "Using their figures, we schedule the number of missions we have to fly to transport the patients."

"We carry a maximum of 10 patients each mission. In addition to the four-man crew, the medical evacuation choppers carry two medical technicians."

The medics take care of the patients during loading, while flying and during offload. "It is a real help in moving patients to the staging area," declared

Army Sergeant First Class Joseph Satagat assigned to the 67th Medical Group Headquarters. "Before we started using 'Jolly Green Giants' from the 37th, patients had to be transported by bus. It was a slow, drawn-out ride over bumpy roads. This is a much better way."

PHU CAT PEDROS SAVE B-57 CREW

PHU CAT AB, Vietnam - HH-43 Pedro rescue crews from Phu Cat recently rescued two pilots shot down about 12 miles south of the base.

The pilots were flying a B-57 Canberra when it was hit by ground fire. They tried to make an emergency landing at Phu Cat, but when they lowered the gear a fire started and forced them to eject.

A Marine F-4 Phantom pilot flying in the area of the crash spotted the men parachuting to the ground. He stayed to guide the Pedro pilots to the downed crew.

First Pedro on the scene was piloted by Capt. Richard J. Buckhout. Aboard his ship were A1C Barry D. Herber, a pararescuer, and Sgt. Daniel L. Lang, a firefighter. The Marine directed them to one of the downed pilots who had landed in a valley. The rescue crew quickly extracted him.

Piloting the second HH-43 to arrive was Maj. Juan H. Migia, commander of Det. 13, 38th ARRSq. Also on board was SSgt. Delbert B. Dunn, flight engineer. The second extraction was complicated because the pilot had landed near the top of a mountain, and his parachute was tangled in trees.

Sgt. James E. DeGraw, an aeromedical specialist aboard the second Pedro, was lowered to the downed crewman by means of the penetrator. Sergeant DeGraw cut the pilot loose from his chute and both men were pulled into the helicopter.

Twenty minutes after the second Pedro had arrived on the scene, both B-57 crewmen had been removed from hostile territory and returned to Phu Cat.

DET 13 38 ARRS
PHU CAT

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