

Wonderful Life . . .

By DAN MILES

"That Others May Live."

That was the title of a television documentary several years ago narrated by Walter Cronkite.

It told of an elite corps of men in Vietnam — and throughout the world — trained to save lives.

They are called "pararescue" teams, a segment of Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, Department of Military Airlift Command.

Living under the motto "that others may live" is the job of native Doverite, S-Sgt. Tommy

Miles Jr., a 18-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Miles' job, which has taken him to North Africa during the Middle East crisis, Korea during the Pueblo incident and numerous other spots throughout the world, heads for Vietnam Feb. 12 — 6 days before his 32nd birthday.

Currently, he is on leave at his mother's home at 1131 3rd st. NW, New Philadelphia. He is the son of Mrs. Mildred Miles and the late Thomas Miles.

During the first 4 months in Vietnam, he will be stationed at Nha Trang air base north of Saigon, working as a local base pararescue man, responsible for "downed" jet pilots and other incidents within a 45-mile radius.

During the second 6-month period, he will fly rescue missions in the Gulf of Tonkin and north of the demilitarized zone into North Vietnam.

"We go in and get anything the government wants back, but mostly jet pilots who 'punched out,'" Miles said.

Toting a 35-pound medical bag, Miles is qualified to perform any lifesaving medical assistance, including such operations as appendectomies and tracheotomies — under extreme emergency conditions.

Miles said from the time his rescue unit gets the call, he is on his way in a helicopter 15

learning skin diving and scuba techniques.

In Washington, his training included rescue and survival. At one point, he was put through an 8-day simulated prisoner-of-war camp.

From there he completed the medical school course in Texas learning every lifesaving measure including fractures, splinting, suturing and basic field medicine.

A fifth school took him through pararescue technician courses which comprised, mountain climbing, ranger skills and hand-to-hand combative measures.

He also has worked on recovery missions for NASA's Gemini, Mercury and Apollo spacecraft flights.

Miles, however, is not totally "gung-ho" pararescue. He is the current lamball champion at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire and Bunker Hill AFB (now Grissom AFB) in Indiana and also holds a 1st degree brown belt in Judo.

When not on a mission, he is a husband to the former Lois Ann Baumann of Wisconsin, who was a first lieutenant in the Air Force, and father to a 4-year-old daughter, Laurie Jane.

His wife, a registered nurse, plans to reside and work in New Philadelphia during his tour of Southeast Asia.



Wearing a murren-colored beret signifying the pararescue man, Tommy Miles Jr. looks over some of his gear. The emblem (insert) is attached to the beret and is worn by only 300 qualified men in the Air Force.