

CHAPTER II

OPERATIONS

Operationally, the quarter has been one of great significance in the 37th ARRSq.

As a result of unprogrammed deployments, the daily alert posture has been quite flexible. At the beginning of the quarter the squadron had four aircraft on home alert, two with a fifteen minute response and two with a thirty minute response. At quarters end, the alert posture was two aircraft on home alert and two on alert at a southern operating location.

Operational data for the quarter is as follows:

	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Combat Saves	30	6	20	56
Noncombat Saves	0	0	0	0
Total Sorties	198	249	172	619
Total Flying Hours	469.7	479.9	430.1	1379.7

The squadron, this quarter, has complied with the annual flying requirements and check flights as outlined in AFM 60-1 and AFM 51-14.

The first HH-53C aircraft arrived at DaNang on 18 April. The aircraft was assembled at Sattahip, Thailand and flown to DaNang by a crew commanded by the Squadron Commander, LtCol Albert L. Holcomb. Two more HH-53C aircraft were flown in on 24 April. At quarters end, the squadron had a total of 3 HH-53C aircraft on station. The first aircrew save by a squadron HH-53C occurred on 5 May.

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On 24 May, the squadron ferried HH-3E's 67-14704 and 67-14708 to Clark AB, P.I. for transfer to Det 13, 41 ARRWg. The seven hour flight uneventful, with two air refueling accomplished enroute. An HC-130P from the 39th ARRSq, Tuy Hoa AB, RVN provided escort, refueling and navigational assistance.

The three aircraft deployment to Nakhom Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, which commenced on 22 March was terminated on 18 April. On 30 May, the squadron deployed two aircraft with associated aircrew and maintenance personnel to Pleiku AB, RVN. This action was necessary to provide SAR coverage for USAF aircrews operating in Cambodia. On 30 June, this force was moved to a southern operating location. As of the end of the quarter no firm date was available for the return of these deployed aircraft.

During this quarter the following personnel have been upgraded or qualified in the positions noted:

HH-53 Pilots

LtCol Albert L. Holcomg to Instructor Pilot

Lt Col Royal A. Brown to Instructor Pilot

Maj Albert W. Palmer to Aircraft Commander and Instructor Pilot

Capt Jerald A. Brown to Flight Examiner (Udorn)

Capt John O. Lindgren to First Pilot

HH-3E Pilots

Maj James Z. Elkinton to Aircraft Commander

Maj Lewis E. Garrett to Flight Examiner

Maj George C. Hitt to Aircraft Commander

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Maj John A. Raper to Aircraft Commander

Maj David E. Vaughan to Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner

Capt Charles C. Adams to Aircraft Commander

Capt Jimmie Blackwood to Aircraft Commander

Capt John V. Hamiga to First Pilot

Capt Charles W. Hoilman to Flight Examiner

Capt Leonard A. Seagren to Aircraft Commander

Capt Royce W. Terrell to First Pilot and Aircraft Commander

Rated NCO's

MSgt Malcolm E. Williams to Instructor and Flight Examiner, PJ,
Dual Qualified

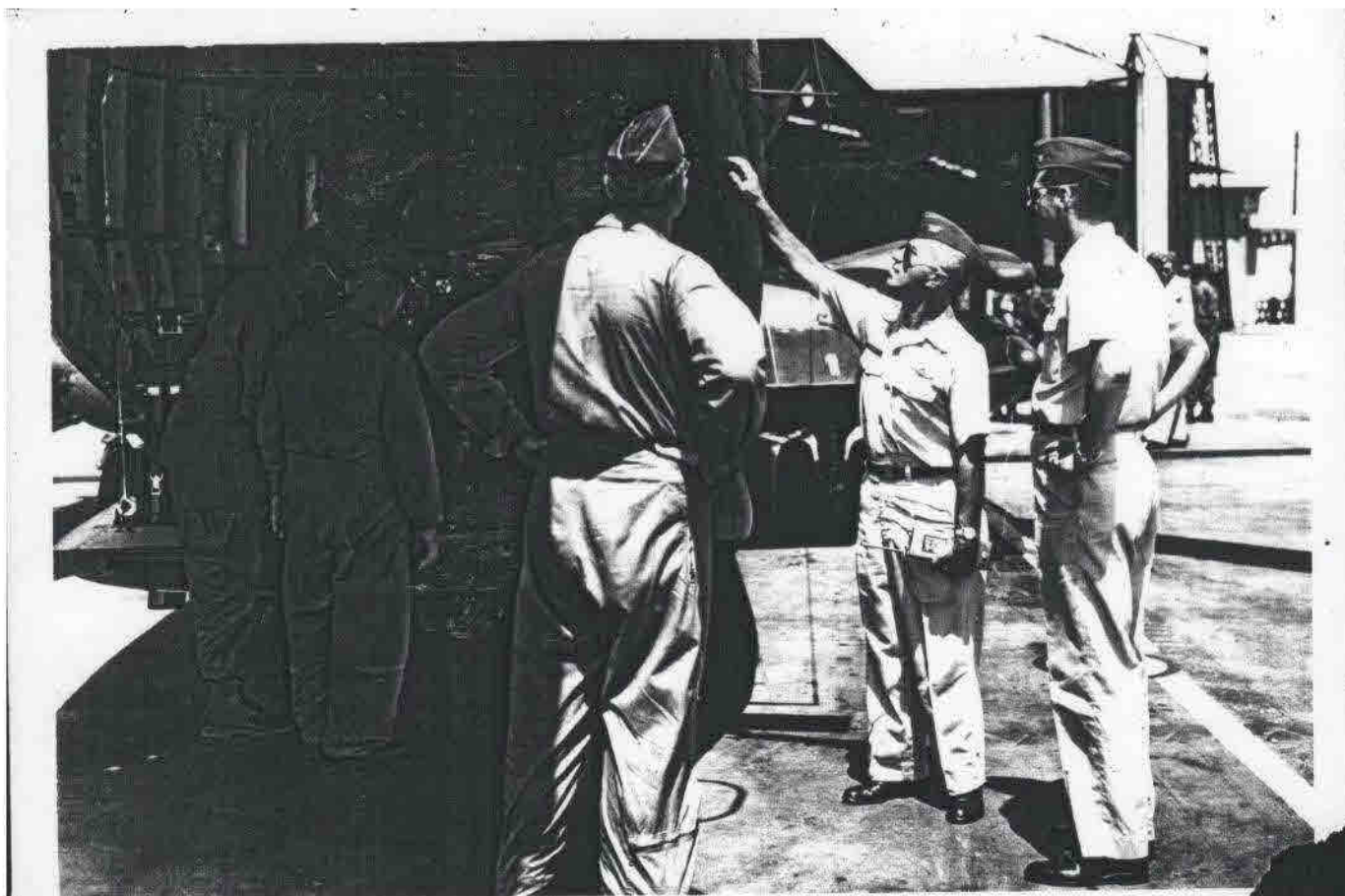
SSgt John W. Alcorn to Instructor Flight Engineer, HH-3E

SSgt Edward J. Koebernik to Flight Examiner and Flight Engineer, HH-53

Sgt John C. Kriletich to Instructor Flight Engineer, HH-53

Sgt Robert J.P. LaFramboise to Instructor Flight Engineer, HH-3E

SSgt Joseph J. Vai to Flight Examiner and Flight Engineer, HH-3E



37th ARRS Gets First 'Buff'

It's officially designated the Sikorsky HH-53 Rescue Helicopter, but has been dubbed the "Buff" (Big Ugly Friendly Fellow) by Southeast Asia (SEA) aircrews.

Recently arrived here and now being flown by the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) here the "Buffs" will eventually replace the HH-43 Jolly Green Giant presently being utilized in SEA for search and rescue operations (SAR). The "Buffs" at Da Nang AB are the first operational in the Republic of Vietnam.

"The Jolly Greens have been the mainstay for SAR

operations here in SEA since 1965," explained Lt. Col. Albert L. Holcomb, 37th ARRS commander. "According to our records the Jolly Greens here at Da Nang have been responsible for rescuing 550 downed airmen since beginning operations in 1965," further commented Colonel Holcomb.

"However, as versatile and reliable as the Jolly Greens are the "Buff" has increased capacity and speed, plus three 7.62mm miniguns for self-defense and providing protective cover during rescues in heavily defended

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'Buff'....

(Cont. From P-1)
areas," explained the colonel.

Thus, far in 1970 the 37th ARRS has been credited with 43 rescues with 39 of them taking place since March 6.

"That Others May Live" is the motto of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, and the arrival of the "Buffs" at Da Nang will certainly be welcome news to pilots and crews flying combat missions in the Republic.

18 APRIL 1970 ARRIVAL DATE