

38th is most famous rescue squadron

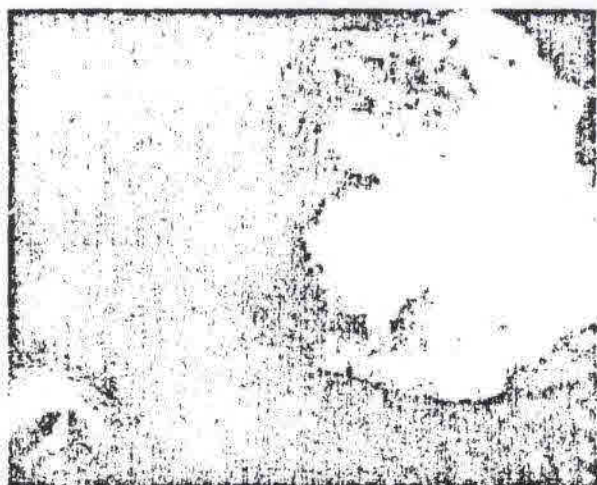
The story of one of the most famous rescue squadrons in the Republic of Vietnam came to an end a few months ago with the unit's inactivation. The 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, based at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN, was inactivated on July 1 (1970), marking the end of six years of service as a part of its parent organization, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, also headquartered at Tan Son Nhut.

During the past six years, the unit has operated its HH-43 Pedros throughout Southeast Asia. With the advent of the HH-3 Jolly Green Giants and the larger HH-33 Super Jolly Green Giants, the mission of the Pedro unit became one of base rescue. HH-43s equipped with fire suppression equipment were often found hovering over crashed and burning aircraft, using their rotor wash and firefighting equipment to keep the flames away from the pilots and aircrews until firemen could extract them from the wreckage of the aircraft. On occasion, however, the reliable Pedro has still filled in for its bigger brothers. Recently, an HH-43 crew from the Da Nang Aftd detachment of the 38th ARRSq pulled two F-4 Phantom crewmen from the South China Sea only three minutes after they were forced to eject from their battle damaged aircraft.

During its period of operations, the 38th ARRSq controlled 10 rescue detachments. The aircraft operated by the 38th ARRSq will be absorbed by other squadrons in the group, as will the aircrews of the HH-43s.

The 38th ARRSq retires with the record for the total number of rescues in Southeast Asia. Since it began operations in 1965, the unit has effected the rescue of over 1,700 men. Official records kept since January 1967 reflect 1,253 saves of which 666 were in combat.

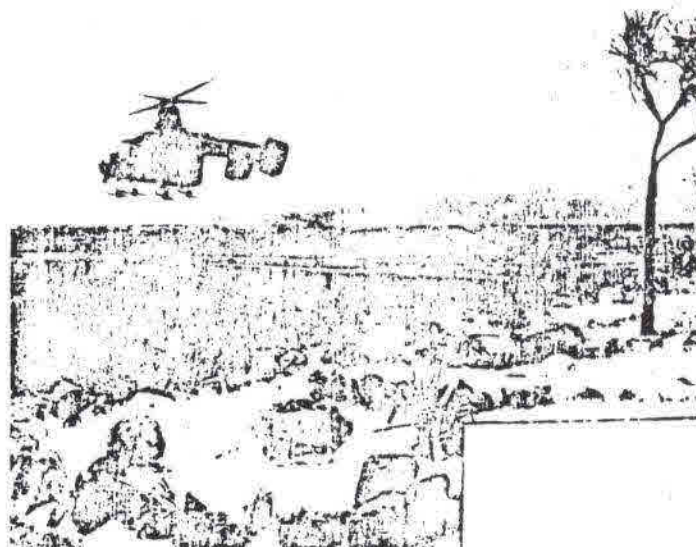
The unit will be long remembered in Southeast Asia by all those who came to depend upon it for dependable rescues in case of trouble, more than living up to the ARRS motto, "That Others May Live."



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW of an HH-43 rescue helicopter (lower left) from the 38th ARRSq rescuing the crew of a battle-damaged F-4 Phantom (right) which plunged into the sea near Da Nang.



A RESCUE IN ACTION as the rain-streaked lens catch an HH-43 hovering over a wounded during jungle battleground rescue. This is a USAF photo taken approximately six years ago.



A MEMORIAL ERECTED amid the stark loneliness of Vietnam's central highlands reads "In memory of Major David H. Pittard, That Others May Live." Major Pittard, pilot of an HH-43 Pedro from the 38th, was killed in an enemy ambush while trying to save the crew of a downed Army helicopter.