



air force news

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U.S. Air Force photo

Welcome spray

Major Heeter receives greeting after landing at Da Nang

9,000-mile journey

'Super Jolly Green' choppers span Pacific

DA NANG — Two Air Force search and rescue helicopters arrived here recently, successfully completing a 9,000-mile trans-Pacific flight.

The two helicopters, HH-53 "Super Jolly Green Giants," will be assigned to the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here where they will fly combat rescue missions. They will replace older and smaller HH-3s.

The flight began at Eglin AFB, Fla., and made six intermediate stops before completing the journey.

The Pacific Ocean crossing demon-

strated the capability of the Military Airlift Command's Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service to deploy its rescue aircraft, through the aid of in-flight refueling, to meet any contingency world-wide.

The helicopters were manned by crews from the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Training Center at Eglin and ARRS headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill.

Crews from the 54th ARRS at Pease AFB, N.H., and the 55th ARRS at McCoy AFB, Fla., flew the HC-130

Hercules tankers which refueled the HH-53s in flight during the mission.

Brig. Gen. Frank K. Everest Jr., ARRS commander, who is visiting rescue units in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, joined the crews for the final portion of the flight.

The crews on the flight were augmented by Maj. James L. Butera, who acted as mission commander; Maj. (Dr.) Gordon K. Lochridge, an ARRS flight surgeon who accompanied the flight to measure stresses on the body caused by long helicopter flights; and Capt. Robert Meyer, mission navigator.

Pilots on the first helicopter were Maj. Frederic M. Donohue, Capt. Larry N. Young and Maj. Clarence C. Campbell. Helicopter mechanics included TSgt. David V. McLeod and SSgt. Edward F. Pinnero.

Piloting the second craft were Majors William F. Williams, William E. Cowell, and Owen A. Heeter. TSgt. Charles S. Tilley and SSgt. Donald LaBarre were the mechanics on board.