

567 rescues in SEA

Jolly Greens DEROS after five years

DA NANG —The last HH-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopter used by the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service in Vietnam left here recently after having participated in 567 rescues of American servicemen from the jungles and waters of Southeast Asia.

The Jolly Green Giants, in service since 1965 with the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, have been replaced by the HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant.

"While the HH-3 was an excellent aircraft for rescue work and has an outstanding record, its replacement, the Super Jolly Green Giant, is an improvement in that it has increased range, more power, plus three 7.62mm miniguns, each capable of firing 4,000 rounds per minute," stated Col. Albert L. Holcomb, 37th ARRS commander.

The last HH-3 was flown to Naha Air Base in Okinawa. "Three of the original 12 Jolly Greens were lost in combat," explained Capt. Dale R.

Clark, pilot on the last flight. "Three others previously were sent to Osan AB, Korea; two to Clark AB, R.P.; one to Albrook AFB in the Canal Zone; and the remaining two to Naha AB."

Of the 567 saves the Jolly Green Giants have made since 1965, the years

1967 and 1968 were the busiest with 174 and 263 saves.

The Jolly Green crew members assigned to the 37th ARRS since 1965 have earned the Medal of Honor, 11 Air Force Crosses and 106 Silver Stars.