

5 Pararescuemen Save Lives Of 2 Wounded AF Sergeants

BIEN HOA AB, Vietnam (Special) — Five pararescuemen (PJs) from here were credited with saving the lives of two Air Force sergeants who had been lying injured for six days near their crashed C123 Provider transport.

SGTS. Gary Aldredge and Vincent Fairbrother were the only survivors of the crash that claimed 44 lives.

The pararescuemen, from Det. 1, 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Sq. here, administered emergency medical treatment to the pair before they were carried down the mountain to a waiting helicopter. Also lending medical assistance was Capt. (Dr.) Raul M. Montmayer, 6251st USAF Dispensary here.

Pararescuemen involved were M.Sgt. James D. Scott, S. Sgt. Robert T. Martin, Airmen I.C. William P. McDonald, Randy L. Zonter, and Donald J. Recoraro. T. Sgt. Charles S. Tilley served as chief flight engineer for the pick-up of the PJs and the physician following the evacuation of the wounded survivors.

McDonald, who served as chief PJ for the rescue mission, described the events that even-

tually saw the two survivors airlifted from their mountainous nightmare. "They put five PJs and the flight surgeon down into an area about 900 yards from the survivors, and we had to make our way up a steep incline to reach the crash site."

Aldredge, the less injured of the two, had managed to crawl some distance from the wreckage. The two-man U.S. Army ground team, which had reached the site a day earlier along with their regional forces, had placed the two men under protective covering from the monsoon rains.

McDonald continued. "After taking a quick evaluation of the patients, we started an 'i-v' intravenous feeding on Fairbrother and dressed both men's wounds, treated them for shock, got their vital functions stabilized and warmed them up. Aldredge was able to take food and water orally, so intermittently we gave him water and warm rice."

The five PJs and the doctor, along with the U.S. Army ground team and seven Montagnard soldiers, began the long trek back down the mountain with the two

survivors to a waiting U.S. Army and the Air Force HH33 helicopters.

The two survivors were airlifted to the U.S. Air Force hospital at Cam Ranh Bay AB for additional medical treatment.

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ually saw the two survivors airlifted from their mountainous hideout. "There were five PJs and the flight surgeon down into an area about 900 yards from the survivors, and we had to make our way up a steep incline to reach the crash site."

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The five PJs and the doctor, along with the U.S. Army ground team and seven Montagnard soldiers, began the long trek back down the mountain with the two

survivors to a waiting U.S. Army and the Air Force HH-43 helicopters.

The two survivors were airlifted to the U.S. Air Force hospital at Cam Ranh Bay AB for additional medical treatment.

January 1971: Bien Hoa AB, RVN. Five pararescuemen are credited with saving the lives of two Air Force sergeants who survive the crash of, and lie injured for six days near their C-123 Provider. Forty-four other people die. When the crash site is finally located, Det. 1, 37th ARRS pararescuemen William P. MacDonald, Robert T. Martin, Donald J. Pecoraro, James D. Scott, and Randy L. Zonker are inserted to the site where they administer emergency medical treatment to the two survivors before carrying them down the mountain to a waiting helicopter.

PJ 50 YRS