

37th Crew Saves Five Vietnamese

Rescue crews from the 37th ARRS have picked up five Vietnamese Air Force crew members last Saturday after their

UH-1E 'Huey' helicopter went down approximately 12 miles east-southeast of Hue. be the first time that VNAF personnel had been rescued by the 37th.

The five rescued men, all from the

VNAF's 213th Helicopter Squadron, were 1st. Lt. Ngoc Tran Van, an instructor pilot, 2d Lts. Boi Hoang and Nhiep Dang, two student pilots; Sgt. Bat Mai Van, the crew chief, and Capt. Hao Do Huu, a passenger.

After their rescue, the VNAF airmen and the rescue crew received a traditional hosing down to welcome them to Da Nang, much to the surprise of the Vietnamese airmen.

(Continued on Pg. 5)

VNAF Rescued

(Continued from Pg. 1)

U.S. Air Force Maj. Ryland R. Driebelbis was the aircraft commander of the HH-53 "Buff" that brought the VNAF airmen in. The co-pilot was Capt. Karlton I. Bakke and PJ's (pararescuemen) on the crew were MSgt. Gordon C. Bailey and ALC James W. Meulch. Crew chief was SSgt. Robert H. Rogers.

Operating out of Da Nang, two A-1 Skyraiders from the 56th Special Operations Wing, at NKP Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand flew as protective escort for the rescue aircraft.

The Huey went down in an abandoned rice paddy just inland from the coast of the South China Sea, according to Major Driebelbis. "They apparently had mechanical problems and had to land in the paddy. When we got to the scene they were on top of the chopper and we just dropped the penetrator down and pulled them up one by one."

The Skyraider pilots said they saw what appeared to be a crane-type helicopter coming on the scene to retrieve the Huey.

Living up to their motto, "That Others May Live", the men of the 37th have made 605 'saves' since coming to Da Nang in 1969.