

Jolly Greens drop line, reel in pair of FACs

DA NANG AFIELD — Rescue crews from the 11th Airmagroup Rescue and Recovery Squadron "Jolly Greens" pulled two FACs to safety smoothly from the heavily enemy-infested area near Bolaven's Plateau in Laos.

The two rescued men, Maj. Samuel R. Huff and 1st Lt. Arthur L. Moon, ejected from their OV-10 Broncos after being hit by enemy ground fire.

When word of the downed aircraft was received, two HH-33 Super Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopters on airborne alert raced to the scene. aided by A-1 Sandys, the Jolly Greens braved marginal weather and enemy ground fire to rescue the two downed men.

The rescued men had been directing an air strike against an enemy position in the area when they were struck by the ground fire. "We were coming in to mark the target for a second time when a loud bang and a jolt hit the aircraft," related Lieutenant Moon.

"Apparently we had been hit on a fuel tank and under the belly of the aircraft. My left engine burst into a ball of flames and smoke started to fill the cockpit.

"We didn't want to punch out over this environment as we tried to get further east. Somehow the engine con-

"I don't think I can say enough to praise the teamwork of the people involved in this SAR effort. Immediately after FAC aircraft came into the area and the last movers that we had been directing remained there as long as their fuel held out," he added.

"When we heard the Jolly Greens were coming, I was so damned happy I couldn't believe it," commented Major Huff. "I knew if anybody could get us out, they would do it. I knew what kind of people they were and there's just something about the word Jolly Green — it stays with you from the first time you hear it until the time you need their skills."

Major D.L. Jensen, who had been confined with these previous men, was the aircraft commander on the rescue helicopter that made the pickup. His co-pilot was U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Joseph L. Crowe Jr., who was working with the Jolly Greens on an exchange program between the two services.

"The Sandys lined up smoke rockets into the location of the first survivor and we followed them in," recalled Major Jensen. "The first survivor popped his smoke to indicate his position and we hoisted our line and made the pickup.

"The second survivor was that it seemed to work his position with