

escaped from their hit at Saigon after being hit by enemy ground fire.

When word of the downed aircraft was received, two F-4H Super Jolly Green Scout rescue helicopters on mission were sent to the scene. Called by A-1 Sandys, the Jolly Greens located marginal weather and enemy ground fire to rescue the two downed men.

The second man had been deserting 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 Mason.

"Apparently we had been hit in 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 so we tried to get further east. Somehow the engine control cable had been severed and we couldn't maneuver the aircraft, so we were forced to bail out less than a mile away from where we had taken the hit," continued the lieutenant. "Going down with the parachute, I felt like a duck in a shooting gallery. I was sure someone down there had me in his sights."

He landed safely in a tree on a steep ridge line and lowered himself on to the ground to await the rescue aircraft.

The second downed pilot, Major Ross, landed slightly further up the ridge line from the lieutenant's position. "I was remembering so many things from survival school that it amazed me," commented the major. "There was a thick jungle canopy but not much where I landed. I found a large stump to use for cover and established radio contact with the aircraft in the area.

"They told me the rescue effort was already underway," he recalled.

One evening, I was in command of our unit's helpline," commented Major Ross. "I knew it wouldn't come 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 those skills."

Major D.L. Jensen, who had been credited with three previous saves, was the aircraft commander in 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 in 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 hovered over him and made the pickup.

"The second survivor was then instructed to mark his position with smoke which he did," continued the major. "At first we had difficulty seeing it because of the thick jungle canopy, but we pretty much knew his location and went in to get him out."

Two of the paratroopers on the rescue aircraft were Capt. Allen J. Avery and A-1C George R. Ande.

## Flyby, parade mark holiday

TAN SON NHUT — Over 100 Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) aircraft will fill the skies over downtown Saigon when the country celebrates Armed Forces Day Saturday.

The 4 a.m. ceremony, when Thieu State Street in front of the Presidential Palace, will open with a flight of A-1 Falcons, will open with a flight of A-1 Falcons from the RVNAF 1st Air Division based at Binh Hoa AB, trailing red and yellow smoke in an aerial salute.