

C. SIGNIFICANT RESCUE

AIR FORCE JOLLY GREEN RESCUE CREWS SAVE TWO DOWNED PILOTS

Air Force HH-1E Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopter crews plucked two downed U.S. fliers from the hands of North Vietnamese soldiers July 18 in a daring rescue effort in the North.

Crews from the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group rescued both crew members of an Air Force F-4 Phantom downed near the northern tip of Mu Gia Pass.

The Air Force pilots, Captains Robert R. Headley, 25, of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Gregory A. Kuehner, 25, of Tucson, Ariz., were hit after striking their target, an enemy bridge.

The Jolly Green that rescued Headley was co-piloted by First Lieutenant Mark H. Mutchler, 24, of Palisade, Colo. Airman First Class John C. Jeffers, 25, of Blue Springs, Mo., was the pararescueman of board.

Headley was spotted in a tree after he notified the rescue chopper of his position with his rescue radio. The captain said, "The first attempt with the penetrator missed me by 10 feet and the second time around it was put right down my throat."

Kuehner was picked up a short distance away. He was hoisted into the rescue helicopter from near a waterfall.

The Jolly Green rescuing Kuehner was piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Victor Goudney of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Other members of the crew were First Lieutenant Robert Levins, 26, of Collingswood, N.J., co-pilot; Staff Sergeant John H. Hazzard, 31, of Wichita Falls, Tex., flight engineer and Airman Second Class Robert F. Gabourel, 21, of New Orleans, pararescueman.

The air-to-air helicopter refueling capability recently inaugurated in the 3rd ARRG units, was used for the first time. when one of the Jolly Greens was refueled by an HC-130 Hercules tanker during this mission.

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