

Jolly Green picks up downed A-37 pilot

BIEN HOA -- U.S. Air Force rescue crews saved a A-37 Dragonfly pilot recently after his aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire in Kompong Thom, Cambodia.

Capt. Alvia W. Moore II, was picked up in hostile territory by members of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron on alert here from their headquarters at Da Nang.

The 25-year-old pilot was on a low pass in his twin-engined jet when he felt the aircraft shudder. Moments later, the pilot of an accompanying A-37 radioed Captain Moore that his aircraft was on fire. As flames reached the cockpit, the captain ejected and parachuted into the hostile area.

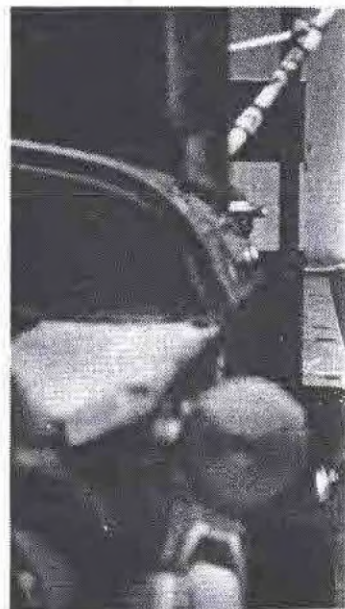
Meanwhile, the wing man contacted an HC-130 Kingbird rescue command aircraft from the 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay. The Kingbird relayed the information to the Joint Rescue Coordination Center at Tan Son Nhut, and two HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopters and a pair of

A-1 Skyraider fighter aircraft were launched from Bien Hoa to make the rescue.

Captain Moore, in good condition with burns on his face, arm and leg, reported to the Kingbird that there were hostile forces in the vicinity. The A-1s escorted the HH-53s in for the pickup but heavy ground fire forced the helicopters to pull out.

As the A-1s moved in to silence the enemy guns, friendly forces on the ground entered the area and helped Captain Moore to a safer location.

On the second attempt, the pickup was successful.



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