

JANUARY 19, 1972

AIR FORCE TIMES

Pilots Saved by Choppers In Cambodia and Vietnam

BIEN HOA AB, Vietnam — Helicopters from here recently rescued an American pilot downed in Cambodia and, in record time, a Vietnamese pilot who crashed in a rice paddy.

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 Aflid.

Captain Moore was shot down by enemy ground fire near Kompong Thom, Cambodia. His wingman contacted a rescue command aircraft at Cam Ranh Bay, which passed the word to the rescue coordination center at Tan Son Nhut. The center dispatched two HH-53s and an A-1 fighter from Bien Hoa.

On the first try, the helicopters were forced away by heavy hostile ground fire. The A-1s went after the enemy guns and friendly forces on the ground found Moore and escorted him to safer territory. There, the copters picked him up.

Capt. Stephen Tyler was commander of the rescue craft. Capt. Norm Foley was copilot, and TSgt. John Young, A1C Charles D. Alden and Sgt. John Drayer made up the crew.

The record rescue — four min-

utes flat — was made by an HH-43 from Detachment 6 of the 3d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group.

A Vietnamese A-1 crashed off the end of the Bien Hoa runway into an unsecure area. The HH-43 happened to be making a training flight at the base and dashed to the rescue.

The crew of Maj. Kenneth S. Smith, Capt. Verl K. Diamond and SSgt. Ronald L. Wilson had the Vietnamese aboard the plane exactly four minutes after the crash.

HQ ARRS, SCOTT AFB, Ill. — Two pararescuemen saved an Air Force pilot and a Coast Guard cutter two crew members when their C-7 crashed and sank in the Pacific southwest of San Francisco.

The propeller-driven Caribou, originally from Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, was part of a flight of 12 C-7s enroute to Langley AFB, Va., for maintenance.

The plane suffered an oil loss

that caused an engine to freeze, and it was forced to ditch. The pilot, Capt. Donald Henderson, remained in the cockpit while the two other crew members went to the rear of the plane.

It ditched as an escorting HH-53 from the 41st ARRS at Hamilton AFB, Calif., hovered overhead. Two men scrambled out the back into a life raft, but SSgt. Michael Fish and TSgt. Lewis Craig, the pararescuemen, spotted a third man with his arm sticking out the cockpit window.

They went into the water and discovered Henderson pinned in the cabin. The two got Henderson out only moments before the C-7 sank. The Coast Guard picked up the men on the life raft.