



U.S. Air Force Photo
 Captain O'Brien, second from left, and Major Stanley, enjoy cigars following their rescue. Pararescuemen on the mission were Sgt. William D. Brinson, left, and MSgt. Leon Fullwood.

Major airlift milestone

150th C-5 arrives in 'Nam

CAM RANH BAY -- The 150th C-5 Galaxy arrival here recently marked a major milestone in the giant aircraft's

base at Travis AFB, Calif., three hours ahead of schedule.

A prime mover of U.S.

With this 150th landing and departure, the Galaxy fleet operated by the U.S. Air Force

F-4 crew rescued in Laos

TAN SON NHUT -- A U.S. Force F-4 Phantom crew was rescued from the jungles of Laos near North Vietnam border recently after spending nearly 23 hours on ground.

The Phantom pilot, Maj. William Stanley, and the navigator, Capt. Lester O'Brien, were supported by friendly forces over Laos when they were diverted from their original mission to aid in the search and rescue of a downed F-4.

After expending ordnance on ground targets in Laos, they attempted to engage threatening MIG aircraft. MIGs were initially engaged and their Phantom reached "go-home fuel," they were fired upon by anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles and were attacked by MIGs. They took evasive action, which ranged over North Vietnam from high to low altitude, causing the aircraft to rapidly exhaust its fuel before either landing base or tanker could be reached.

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After expending ordnance on ground targets in Laos, they attempted to engage threatening MIG aircraft. No MIGs were initially engaged and as their Phantom reached "go-home fuel," they were fired upon by antiaircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles and were attacked by MIGs. They took evasive action, which ranged over North Vietnam from high to low altitude, causing the aircraft to rapidly exhaust its fuel before either a landing base or tanker could be reached.

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Forward air controllers operating in the area established and maintained voice contact with the pair throughout the night. The rescue force of HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopters, A-1 Skyraiders, tactical jet fighters, and HC-130s launched at dawn the following day.

One of the helicopters contacted the downed crew shortly after 8 a.m. but had to withdraw from the area because of bad weather and enemy ground fire. At approximately 4 p.m., after the weather began to clear and the ground fire was silenced by fighters, the Super Jolly moved in to pick up the crewmen. Both were in good condition.



U.S. Air Force Photo

ing their rescue. Pararescuemen on

in 'Nam

With this 150th landing and departure, the Galaxy fleet operated by the U.S. Air Force has carried more than 10,700 tons of cargo and passengers in its Vietnam runs.

It has averaged about 75 tons per mission or 37.5 tons for each leg of the flight.

One hundred forty of the -5's Vietnam runs landed here. The other 10 Galaxies flew into and out of Tan Son Nhut AB near Saigon.