

To The Rescue

Copters Save Five in SEA

TAN SON NHUT AB, Vietnam — A sergeant has been plucked from the midst of hostile forces in Cambodia, and F-4 crews have been rescued in Thailand and Laos by members of the 3d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group.

Men of the 40th ARRS made two of the pickups.

SSgt. William E. Silva, of the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron, bailed out near Phom Penh when enemy ground fire disabled his O-2 and killed the pilot.

He found himself surrounded by enemy troops. He contacted a forward air control plane, and a force of helicopters, A-1s and an HC-130 flew to the rescue.

The A-1s moved in on the enemy gunners while an HH-53 successfully picked up Silva. Maj. Fred Hartstein piloted the rescue craft.

Capt. John S. Murphy and 1st Lt. Thomas W. Dodson were rescued in the lower panhandle of Laos after a 12-hour effort. One helicopter, operating in the dark, couldn't get them aboard after their F-4 crashed. In the morning, however, a second copter, flown by Capt. James W. McIntyre, made the rescue.

Two other F-4 crewmen parachuted to safety near Ubon RTAFB, Thailand, and were picked up in short order by an HH-43 from Detachment 3 of the 3d ARRG. Capt. Charles T. Jernigan was commander of the rescue craft.

technician, and SSgt. Harry Spivey, mechanic, took an HH-3E to the village.

Dr. Signorino immediately took the child to a small hospital in the village and closed the wounds and made plastic surgical repairs on her face. The major has extensive plastic surgery experience. He credited the fact that he was able to save the girl to the quick response by the helicopter crew.

SAWYER AFB, Mich. — The crew of a KC-135 from the 410th Bomb Wing directed rescuers to the scene of a bizarre and nearly fatal mishap in Lake Superior.

Four persons had set up a fishing shack on ice in the lake. A crack developed and set them adrift in the lake. The tanker, commanded by Capt. Carl Gamble, was diverted from a training flight to the area.

After 40 minutes of searching, the drifting floe was spotted and a ship from the Copper Harbor Area Conservation Service was dispatched to the area.

BEALE AFB, Calif. — A crew member on an American tuna boat that was fishing off the coast of Ecuador recovered from a serious illness with some "long distance" medicine prescribed from here.

The crewman was suffering

pain from an infection. The boat, the Ocean Queen, attempted to reach a radio contact in Florida. Chuck Hall, a civilian with the 9th Avionics Maintenance Squadron here, overheard the call on his amateur radio receiver. He broke in and offered help. Capt. (Dr.) Thomas C. MacCaugherty was summoned to hear the sailor's complaints. From symptoms described, the doctor figured the man had a urinary tract infection and prescribed antibiotics that the boat had on hand. It worked. The sailor was, at last word, well on the road to recovery.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, N.C. — An HH-43 from Detachment 7, 44th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here, assisted in the rescue of an 8-year-old boy who had been lost in the woods for three days.

Jeff Jenkins and Don Cooke Jr. disappeared from the Kennedy Home for Children in Kinston, N.C. Three days later, Don walked out of the woods and said Jeff was in the woods unable to walk.

Ground searchers found the child and directed a helicopter piloted by Maj. Richard H. Heitz to the scene. Jeff was hoisted into the copter and flown to a hospital suffering from frostbite, scratches and hunger.

SEMBACH AB, Germany — SSgt. Joel Hardee saw a hand sticking out of a grate in a coal chute and his quick action saved the life of a German workman.

The man had been buried when he fell into the chute while it was being filled at Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart. That was when Hardee came by. He yelled for help and with several soldiers nearby dug the man out. The German suffered only a broken arm and bruises.