

Jolly Green Giant rescues O-2 pilot

TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN -- 1st Lt. Craig Dunn, an O-2 pilot with the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron, was rescued by an HH-3 Jolly Green Giant after his plane crashed in the mountains 80 miles northeast of here. The reason for the crash is unknown.

"I was flying at altitude when I heard a loud noise and felt the plane lurch right," said the O-2 pilot. "I remember giving it full left aileron and the next thing I knew I was wandering around on the ground." He made immediate contact with aircraft in the area and an HC-130 King, the rescue airborne coordinator, was dispatched to control the rescue effort.

The rescue force consisted of four Jolly Green Giants and two King aircraft of the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group and two Sandys of the 56th Special Operations Wing.

The downed pilot was on a mountain ridge in thick jungle vegetation and clouds were completely covering his position when the rescue forces first reached him. There were several attempts to fly through the clouds and

for to him, but each time the force was unsuccessful. The Sandys, who normally locate survivors for the helicopters, were unable to find him through the clouds, rain showers and high winds, and the rugged terrain made it impossible for the Jolly Green Giants to fly blindly through the weather.

Finally, after nearly six hours of trying and numerous refuelings of the HH-3s by the HC-130s, there was a break in the weather. One of the Jolly Green Giants, flown by Maj. Walter E. Barnes, flew around the mountain ridge and came in behind the survivor under the clouds and fog which had lifted slightly. The jungle canopy was too thick for the helicopter crew to see the lieutenant so he had to vector them to his position.

When Lieutenant Dunn shouted that the helicopter was over him, Major Barnes brought the craft into a hover

and MSgt. William J. Warren, flight engineer, lowered the jungle penetrator 200 feet through the trees to the ground.

On the first attempt the penetrator fell less than 10 yards from Lieutenant Dunn but he was unable to fight his way through the underbrush to reach it. On a subsequent attempt the penetrator landed next to him and he strapped himself on and was hoisted aboard the Jolly Green Giant.

Upon returning to Tan Son Nhut he was reported to be in good condition with minor injuries.

Other crewmembers on the HH-3 were: Capt. John C. Woefel, copilot; Sergeants Kim Robinson and Larry E. Smith, pararescuemen, and Tim Hasan, combat photographer.



1ST LT. CRAIG DUNN, an O-2 pilot with the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron, is escorted by Sgt. Larry E. Smith from the HH-3 Jolly Green Giant that rescued him.

41st helps climbers stranded on mountain

HAMILTON AFB, Calif. -- When four climbers became stranded midway up the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, the 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron was there.

Shortly after two college students began their climb up the sheer face of the famous El Capitan one was struck on the head by a rock. According to park officials, the men continued in the climb but were halted when the injured man began to experience fainting spells which prevented their climbing up or down.

Two Swiss climbers ascended to the stricken man and although they were unable to speak much English, they let the ground parties know the man needed medical attention.

An HC-130 Hercules, piloted by Maj. Bill Howe, was dispatched from Hamilton to El Toro MCAS to pick up a 1,000 foot continuous length of rope to aid in the rescue.

The rope was flown to Castle AFB, picked up by an HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant from Hamilton and flown to the site in Yosemite.

Capt. John Jadrosich, the helicopter pilot, explained his crew's role in the rescue attempts.

"When we arrived at Yosemite we picked up a ranger and flew him and the rope to the top of El Capitan, which is about 8,000 feet above sea level and 4,000 feet above the valley floor. We then made two more flights to the top carrying 15 rescue climbers and their equipment."

Explaining that helicopters have trouble flying at high altitudes, Capt. Jadrosich said he experienced power loss as he neared the top of the cliff.

According to Major Howe, the C-130 pilot, landing the helicopter on the top of El Capitan was no easy thing to do. "That must have been some tricky job, but of course he did it perfectly."

The landing area surrounded by trees was 100 feet by 50 feet.

Rescue operations continued the next morning and by 11:30 a.m. the stricken climber and his partner were safely on the valley floor with the aid of the Swiss climbers.

12 March 72 SAR

Thunderchief crew rescue team effort

TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN -- Rescue forces teamed up in a near perfect example of their respective rolls when the crew of a Air Force F-105 Thunderchief was forced to eject 45 miles southwest of Korat RTAFB, Thailand.

An HC-130 from the 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron flew to the area to pin-point the downed crew's locations while an HH-43 Pedro from Det. 4, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group was launched from Korat. When Pedro arrived, the Hercules had made contact with the survivors and had located both of them.

Capt. Daniel Biezad brought the Pedro to a hover above the nearly 200 foot trees, lowered the jungle penetrator to Maj. Harold W. Stoll. The major climbed on and was hoisted aboard.

Captain Biezad then flew the Pedro to the pilot, Capt. James P. Verstrete, who was approximately 100 yards away

from the major. The Pedro lowered Sgt. Gerardo Ramos, medical technician, to aid the injured captain.

Meanwhile, two HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giants from the 40th ARRSq arrived.

The Pedro led a Super Jolly Green Giant in for the pickup of the injured pilot and then returned to Korat with Major Stoll.

Maj. Ralph Allred, aircraft commander of the HH-53, then lowered Sgt. William M. Hughes Jr., pararescueman, who placed the captain on the stokes litter to bring him on board the helicopter.

Crewmembers on the HH-53 were Capt. Douglas C. McGraw, copilot; Sgt. Dennis L. Christwell, flight engineer; and A1C Raymond T. Crow Jr., PJ.

Also on the Pedro was Sgt. Dwight L. Berry, helicopter mechanic.