

PJs jump to aid injured seaman

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii -- Two Air Force pararescuemen parachuted into the open seas 500 miles northeast of Midway Island to aid a badly injured seaman aboard a merchant vessel.

The man had been hurt severely in a shipboard fall and was bleeding internally when the ship, "Eastern Diamond", radioed for help.

The distress call was answered by a HC-130 from the 76th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Hickam AFB. The Hercules lifted off from Honolulu just after noon and made its way toward the

vessel's reported position, almost four hours away.

TSgt. Don A. Beasley and Sgt. Michael W. McKendry, pararescuemen, left their aircraft just before sunset and descended to a lifeboat put over the side by the ship.

After they were safely aboard the vessel, Capt. Richard L. Cecil, the HC-130 aircraft commander, dropped a kit containing blood plasma to the waiting pararescuemen.

Communicating by radio with Maj. Ira Cox, a flight surgeon who was aboard the aircraft, the PJs were able to administer a transfusion and stabilize the patient's condition.

After the lifesaving treatment given by Sergeants Beasley and McKendry, the patient's condition was reported as stable.

The rescue aircraft circled overhead to enable Major Cox to maintain constant radio contact with the medically trained PJs until the patient was out of danger.

The precision navigation required to find the ship, a "needle in the haystack" in miles of empty ocean, was provided by Maj. Sadayoshi Sakamoto, navigator, 1st Lt. James P. Crisp, copilot; MSgt. David R. Scott, radio communications; MSgt. Kenneth J. Reilly and TSgt. David F. Newell, loadmasters; and TSgt. Alfred W.F. Kam and SSgt. Franklin P. Bell, flight engineers; were the other members of the Hercules crew.



LT. COL. PHILIP S. PRINCE has assumed command of the 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Hamilton AFB, Calif. His previous assignment was as Director of Research and Equipment Development Planning at HQ ARRS.

41st aids climber, hiker

HAMILTON AFB, Calif. -- An HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant from the 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron headed for Yosemite National Park, an hour flight away. For the eighth time in four months 41st rescue crews were going there to assist injured park visitors. This crew, commanded by Capt. John Lindgren, was heading for the park to airlift an injured camper to safety.

Upon arrival at the park, the helicopters landed at a ranger station and picked up a park ranger and two members of the injured man's camping party who had gone for help. The rescue crew learned that the injured man was part of a party of 25 students and teachers from Mill Valley, Calif.

The injured man, a teacher at the high school, was climbing up the side of a snow covered mountain when he lost his footing and slipped several hundred feet down the side of the mountain. The accident occurred at the 10,000 foot level. The victim was brought down to the 9,200 foot level, where the group had set up their campsite.

Captain Lindgren landed his helicopter at the camp site and deployed Sgt. George Ande, pararescueman, to assist the victim. He had sustained a fractured forearm, back injuries, and cuts and bruises in the fall. Sergeant Ande fixed a splint on the arm and administered required first aid.

The next day another Super Jolly Green Giant crew was launched on a rescue mission. This crew, commanded by Capt. Charles Hagerhjelm, headed for the Lake Tahoe area. The helicopter landed at Lake Tahoe airport and picked up a deputy sheriff who would lead them to the area where a 17-year-old youth had sustained a severe cut on his foot. He had been hiking without shoes on and had stepped on a piece of glass. The wound had exposed the bone.

The deputy took them to Lake Aloha, seven miles south of Lake Tahoe. Because of the terrain and trees, Captain Hagerhjelm was unable to land the helicopter. He brought the helicopter into a hover and lowered Staff Sergeants Mike Howard and Tim Reynolds, PJs, down the hoist. They checked the injured youth's foot, which had been previously bandaged, and assisted him into a litter so that he could be hoisted on board the helicopter. The victim then was flown to Lake Tahoe airport where a waiting ambulance was standing by.



TSgt. DON A. BEASLEY, a pararescueman with the 76th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, jumps to the aid of a badly injured seaman aboard the merchant vessel, "Eastern Diamond."

Two Pedro's pickup Phantom crewmen

TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN -- Two HH-43 Pedro's of Det. 14, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, effected a fast pickup of two F-4 Phantom crew members who were forced to eject from their aircraft.

The fighter-bomber was enroute to Bien Hoa AB, after a strike when the crew discovered they could not lower its gear.

As soon as the emergency was declared, a Pedro was launched from Bien Hoa. As the helicopter circled near the crippled aircraft, another HH-43 which was enroute from Tan Son Nhut to Bien Hoa joined the rescue.

One Pedro followed each of the crewmen to the ground after they ejected from their aircraft.

Lt. Col. Gerald Foss, commander of Detachment 14, landed the helicopter he commanded in a rice paddy and picked up 1st Lt. Vance C. Parkhurst, the pilot of the F-4.

Meanwhile, Capt. Howard A. Pandall, pilot of the second HH-43, set down in a small clearing near the Song Dong Nai River and rescued 1st Lt. Mike Delong, the back-seater of the F-4.

Both of the F-4 crewmen were airborne within 90 seconds after touching the ground.

Colonel Foss' crew consisted of Capt. Donald H. Eudy, copilot, and Sgt. Richard A. Johnson, medical technician.

Captain Pandall's crew included 2nd Lt. Billy E. Meslip, copilot, Sgt. Stephen T. Missy, medical technician and Staff Sergeants Truman O. Blake and Clifton R. Davis, firefighters.