

War Heats Up

Copters to the Rescue

Capt. Donald A. Sutter

2 May 72 TSN HH-3 SAR

Gunship Hit, 7 Rescued

TAN SON NHUT AB, Vietnam — Air Force and Army helicopters rescued seven of ten men aboard an AC-119 gunship that was shot down by ground forces besieging An Loc.

Rescued were Lt. Col. Byron T. Taschioglou, 1st Lt. Jimmie R. Barralow, 1st Lt. Larry D. Barbee, SSgt. Allen W. Bare, SSgt. Francis J. Sledzinski, Sgt. Delanor E. Iman and Sgt. Richard C. Corbett.

Three other men are listed as missing.

The gunship took three hits in one wing as it was supporting South Vietnamese troops.

An observation plane saw the men bail out and contacted an HC-103 airborne rescue command post. It dispatched two HH-3s from Tan Son Nhut's 3d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group.

An Army UH-1 happened to be in the area. It picked up one crew member — and drew ground fire. Several A-1s strafed the area, then led in the HH-3s. Each picked up three men.

Maj. Joe E. Ballinger commanded one Jolly Green, Lt. Col. John J. McGuire Jr. the other. The rescues were the first for the HH-3s.

HH-3 Pilot Joe Bllinger was also an HH-43 pilot at NKP in 1965

In 1967 he flew HH-43s at Det 12 38 ARRS