

Clintonian Aids In Vietnam Evacuation

A young Clintonian was part of an Air Force pararescue team which evacuated 144 persons from Quang Tri just before that city was abandoned to the North Vietnamese Monday.

Sgt. David W. Young, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren C. Young, 1911 N. 6th St., reported to the Associated Press they drew less fire than expected from North Vietnamese troops on the ground but there were explosions going on all over.

"We saw nothing moving. Quang Tri always looked desolate but it's really desolate now," Young said. "There were a lot of shelled-out houses and some military equipment in the streets."

"It looks like maybe some of the South Vietnamese just left everything behind, changed into civilian clothes and went south," he said.

The 144 persons rescued by three helicopters included 80 Americans, 43 Vietnamese and a French photographer. Rescuemen said the refugees apparently didn't realize there would be more than one helicopter and they all scrambled frantically to get on the first one but the mission was successful.

Officials in Vietnam said two supporting aircraft were lost to ground fire during the rescue mission and one pilot is missing.

Young, a 1967 Clinton High School graduate, entered the



David W. Young

Air Force shortly after graduation and recently extended his enlistment by two years.

He took his basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex., and his pararescue training at Sheppard AFB, Tex. Of 750,000 enlisted men in the Air Force, there are only 240 pararescue men.

Their mission is to save lives and their training involves parachuting, scuba diving, mountain climbing, firefighting and medical skills.

They work from helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft and undergo a year of training before being sent on a mission. Young was sent to Kwangju, Korea after completion of his training and has spent 1½ years in Vietnam.

Young's family includes sister Susie, a third grader at Horace Mann; brother, Doug, a junior at Clinton High, and sister, Karen, who attends Clinton Community College.