

top floor and 40 per cent of office equipment on that floor destroyed.

The squadron set up temporary offices immediately.

MSgt. Everett L. Clark, maintenance and procedures chief, said "We never really ceased operation. We were hit at about 2 p.m. and by three the processing and research sections had moved their essential publications documents to the chief of maintenance building and were back in business."

To the men of the 366 Civil Engineering Squadron's Bomb Damage Repair Team — the "Fast Fix Team," an attack team's time to go to work. The Fast Fix Team repairs taxiways and runways damaged by a rocket attack.

The team consists of two crews of eight men each.

Some rockets cause only minor damage and require only a quick fix for repair. The larger ones require sand, aggregate and fast cement," said SSgt. Wayland, NCOIC.

The fast fix hardens in 30 minutes to a compressive strength of 10 to 2,200 pounds per square inch," he added. Fighter aircraft can be supported within one hour of the time we start our repairs."

Red Glare, Repair

AF C-123 and the third exploded about 50 feet from the top.

The three men discovered that something was done quickly, they might not have a chance to fix. The VNAF C-123 was burning, and if the fire became worse, its fuel tanks would explode and the Hercules would almost certainly be lost.

To tow the C-130 with the flatbed might cause more damage. A mechanic suggested that the C-130 men get their bird ready to fly while others fought the C-



Evacuated men are safe now and can sport big grins.

Copters Evacuate 132 From Embattled City

TAN SON NHUT AB, Vietnam (7AF) — Five U.S. Air Force HH-53 helicopters performed the largest evacuation of the Southeast Asian conflict May 1 evening when they airlifted 132 Americans and Vietnamese out of Quang Tri to Da Nang.

Three of the HH-53s, of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang Airfield, were responsible for carrying out the evacuees. A fourth helicopter landed to make sure all persons were evacuated and a fifth stood by in case it was needed.

Air Force and Navy air strikes paved the way for the helicopters, which still had to weave through ground fire from North Vietnamese tanks and anti-aircraft guns

took a fire extinguisher into the cargo compartment while Grange and Monville parked their truck under the wing, climbed to the top of the cab and sprayed the wing's interior with carbon dioxide. The flames finally disappeared.

As for the maintenance men, another C-130 landed later and they were instructed to return to Tan Son Nhut. Enroute after the hectic day, Laboard grinned and shook his head, "Why me Lord? Why did I volunteer for this..."

394 Refugees

ON ONE PLANE

See Page 32

on their way into and out of the provincial capital.

Miraculously, no one was injured aboard the helicopters during the rescue operation.

While supporting the effort, an Air Force O-2 Forward Air Control (FAC) aircraft and A-1 rescue support fighter were shot down. The FAC pilot bailed out and was rescued by friendly ground forces. The fighter pilot ditched his A-1 in the ocean and was picked up by an Army helicopter.

The first Super Jolly Green Giant to land received sniper fire from two enemy soldiers. Parar-

escue specialist SSgt. Robert L. LaPointe silenced them with his mini-gun.

After his helicopter landed, LaPointe jumped out and organized the persons on the ground so the operation would go smoothly. He remained on the ground and boarded the second helicopter to land.

The fourth helicopter landed to make sure that all the persons had been picked up. When it was on the ground it received automatic weapon and sniper fire. PJ Sgt. William J. Thompson, knocked out the automatic and the sniper fire was suppressed by PJ Sgt. Daniel G. Manion.

All the HH-53s returned safely to Da Nang.

Besides LaPointe, the crew on the first Jolly Green Giant to land included Maj. Jackson R. Scott Jr., Capt. David E. Mullenix, Sgt. Ronald W. Blackwell, and Sgt. David Young.

Why do so many military world travelers retire in San Diego?

The world's best climate. Lifelong friends. An "at-ease" lifestyle. And Rancho Bernardo... America's first and finest "new town." Report to Rancho Bernardo before you retire. Or see it via our 20-page color booklet.

To: Rancho Bernardo, Dept. MR
17000 Bernardo Center Drive