

# Dispensary Commander Is Qualified Pararescueman

Command of the Nakhon Phanom RTAFB USAF Dispensary changed hands for another year recently, when Lt. Col. G. Kress Lochridge replaced Lt. Col. James H. Oliver, who has been assigned to Offutt AFB, Neb.

Colonel Lochridge arrived at NKP May 30, from his assignment as the Staff Surgeon at the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Headquarters, Scott, AFB, Ill., where he served for two and a half years.

The colonel's military career began in 1955 when he entered the U.S. Navy and achieved the rank of second class petty officer before his discharge in 1957.

He then entered Gonzaga University for pre-medical training and attended medical school at Marquette University. He served his internship at Sacred Heart hospital, Spokane Washington where he was on a cardiac research team.

The colonel's first Air Force assignment was to Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.

Between 1966-69, the colonel completed the USAF Aerospace Medicine Residency Specialty Course, studying at the University of California at Berkeley, the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB, Tex., and the Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The colonel became pararescue qualified in 1970 after completing various schools qualifying him in airborne, scuba, mountain climbing and survival training.

He has 450 recorded jumps, 38 of which are military, qualifying him as a senior parachutist.

One of his many important responsibilities while stationed at Scott, was as an emergency medical treatment instructor.

"My job consisted of insuring that all pararescuemen and medical technicians were able to apply life-saving medical aid to an injured person without the supervision of a doctor," explained the colonel.

Not one to sit around and let things come to him, the colonel has undertaken and completed a number of in-depth studies concerning human stress factors.

He helped organize, and took part in, the first Trans-Pacific HH-53 flight which proved that the Rescue Service had a worldwide capability with air-to-air refueling.

"The trip, beginning at Eglin AFB, Fla., lasted a total of 85 flying hours. We flew from Eglin to Alaska, then to Japan, Clark AB and finally landed at Da Nang AB, Vietnam, nine days later," explained the colonel.

During the entire flight, the colonel observed and registered different stress factors of each crew member, to determine whether or not the human body could withstand the arduous trip.

"The tests proved that the human body can stand such stress, and, aside from being tired, function well for long periods of time," he explained.

He was also instrumental in the research and development of human stress factors concerning five types of helicopters and three fixed wing aircraft.

A study to discover a means to eliminate helicopter downwash during rescue operations was also begun by Colonel Lochridge. The study has since become a tri-service Department of Defense program.

"The downwash by some of our choppers can reach as high as 80 knots," he said. "That is quite a force to compete with when trying to rescue an injured person," he added.

He also developed and tested a new environmental diving suit for pararescuemen, to enable them to effect world-wide rescue in 32 degree water and minus 15 degree air temperatures.

Among his many interests are hunting, marksmanship and SCUBA diving. He is also an avid swimming competitor, placing fourth in the 1952 National Olympic tryouts in the 1500 meter freestyle.