

27Jun72 North Vietnam SAR

Sgt. McGrath wins AF Cross

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii— An Air Force pararescueman assigned to the 6594th Test Group here has been awarded the Air Force Cross for conspicuous heroism in combat.

Sgt. Charles D. McGrath was presented the Air Force's second highest medal for his heroism against hostile forces while rescuing the downed pilot of an Air Force F-4 jet aircraft.

Sergeant McGrath was lowered
Harmon International Trophy

Longest flight earns nomination

Twelve 57th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron crewmembers, who last year established a world's record for the longest unrefueled flight nonstop by turbo-prop aircraft, recently were nominated for the 1973 Harmon International Trophy (Aviator Category).

The historic flight covered a distance of 8,790.5 miles from Ching Chuan Kuan AB, Taiwan, to Scott AFB, Ill. Thus they eclipsed the old record of 6,842.5 miles set by a U.S. Navy Lockheed P-3 Orion aircraft which flew from Atsugi, Japan, to Patuxent River, Md., in January

by cable from a hovering Air Rescue helicopter to retrieve the injured pilot.

After locating the injured man, he carried him, amid intense enemy ground fire, to a clearing in a bamboo forest. Sergeant McGrath shielded the injured pilot with his own body as they were hoisted aboard the rescue helicopter. While suspended beneath the helicopter, the injured pilot was wounded by enemy fire, as well as a pararescueman who

was assisting the men from the door of the helicopter.

Once inside the rescue helicopter, Sergeant McGrath rendered life-sustaining medical treatment to the pilot and the wounded pararescueman during the flight back to a base in Thailand.

The commander-in-chief of the Pacific Air Forces, (PACAF) Gen. Lucius D. Clay, Jr., awarded Sergeant McGrath the heroism medal in ceremonies held here.

1971.

The Harmon International Trophy, a symbolic bronze statue, includes four awards—one for aviator, one for astronaut, one for aviatrix and one for spherical ballonist.

The award is given annually for the "most outstanding international achievement in the art/science of aeronautics for the preceding year, with the art of flying receiving first consideration."

Selection for the award is made by the Harmon Selection Committee and is awarded by the trustees of the

Clifford Harmon Trust Fund.

Those included in the award winning flight are: Lt. Col. Edgar L. Allison, aircraft commander; Maj. Anthony V. Liparulo, pilot; Maj. Kenneth S. Wayne, flight surgeon; Capt. Carl E. Bennett, navigator; Capt. David E. Gardner, pilot, Capt. Richard E. Racette, pilot; TSgt. Robert K. Landry, crew chief; TSgt. Morelle E. Larouche, flight engineer; TSgt. William F. Litton, flight engineer; TSgt. Theodore F. Trainer, loadmaster; SSgt. Pat E. Carrothers, radio operator and SSgt. William L. Hippert, radio operator.

Former Jolly pilot Wins Valor Award

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — A former HH-3 Jolly Green Giant commander, Lt. Col. Joseph F. Mudd, was presented the 1971 Aviators' Valor Award by the American Legion in New York recently.

Now a member of the 22nd Bomb Wing, March AFB, Calif., Colonel Mudd won the award for actions as commander of a Jolly Green Giant in rescuing a survivor of a downed Air Force A-1 Skyraider in Vietnam March 6, 1971.

During the action, one of the two Skyraiders which were assisting him in rescuing survivors from a downed Army UH-1 was hit by enemy forces.

Within seconds Colonel Mudd placed his Jolly Green in a high-speed descent to a position over the pilot and hoisted him to safety.

According to the citation accompanying the Aviators' Award, Colonel Mudd, "without benefit of prior reconnaissance, escort, or groundfire suppression, rescued a U.S. Air Force pilot from certain death or capture by a hostile armed force."

A 1954 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with 120 combat missions, Colonel Mudd was born in Detroit.

34,000 awards for

ARRS since 1965

Between Jan. 1, 1965 and Dec. 31, 1972, the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service was lauded by approximately 34,000 awards and decorations. Not included are those citations which are still pending. Included in the list were four Presidential Unit Citations, five Vietnamese Crosses for Gallantry with Palms and five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.

Individual decorations included: one Medal of Honor, 38 Air Force Crosses, over 600 Silver Stars and more than 6,000 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

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After illustrious lifetime

Popular Pedro put to pasture



"No. 60-0263," stands gleaming on the flight-line at Scott AFB, Ill. The aircraft recently underwent a facelifting prior to flying to the museum. In its lifetime it broke numerous records including an 888-mile one-way trip without landing to refuel. (Air Force photo by Sgt. Ted Brieding)

By A1C Al Larsen

A man's lifetime consists of many firsts. One rarely forgets the first real date or first turn behind the wheel of dad's car.

Recently here at Scott AFB, this reporter experienced another interesting and exciting first—a rescue helicopter.

Although reading and writing about all the various kinds of Air Rescue equipment for several months, the introduction to the record breaking HH-43B No. 60-0263 "Pedro" was something else.

No 60-0263 stopped here while enroute from Kirtland AFB, N.M., to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. I felt

sad, when I learned that this was its last flight ever. No. 60-0263's future was tagged. It would be placed to rest at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson to serve as a memory vase for some and an education for others.

Piloting the aircraft on the three-day, 1,200-mile trip was Maj. Alex Lupenski, commander, Det. 3, 42nd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, based at Kirtland. The two crew members were Capt. Marvin D. McLaughlin and Crew Chief, SSgt. Donald L. Layberger.

Watching these men prepare for the upcoming leg of the trip, it was obvious how much pride and care

(Continued page 6)

Det. 8 grabs top honor, bows out

BERGSTROM AFB, Tex. —Bergstrom's recently disbanded Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Helicopter detachment reached the life-saving pinnacle last week when Headquarters MAC selected the unit as the Air Force's Outstanding Local Base Rescue Detachment for 1972.

Det. 8, 43rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here, affectionately known as "Pedro" outscored 60-plus units throughout the world to win the award.

"Pedro" was selected on its total performance in eight categories by MAC officials.

Categories evaluated included: aircrew upgrading and training, safety record and progress, inspector general reports, number of

suggestions approved and implemented housekeeping.

Also included were: number of saves credited, number of scrambles and maintenance (MSET) results.

Det. 8 first opened its doors March 8, 1971, under the command of Maj. Harry E. Raisor. The unit's primary mission was to provide local base rescue coverage to the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing's RF-4C Phantoms.

During Det. 8's two years at Bergstrom, assigned personnel were credited with saving seven burned children, two men injured in falls and two automobile accident victims.

For one of their life-saving

efforts, "Pedro" people were lauded by 10th District U.S. Congressman J. J. Pickle.

"It is because of men like you," Mr. Pickle said, "who respond to the need of their fellowmen, that this program (Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic — a federally funded program designed to assist public safety) is a success."

While "Pedro" officially was deactivated May 1, much of the paperwork and helicopter disassembly had been completed.

In the last year, many detachments including "Pedro," have been deactivated by Air Force as part of a massive realignment.