

Choppers team up for rescue



Pilots are hoisted down after a successful rescue. (U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Tim McCants)

An Air Force F-105 was severely damaged by a missile from a MIG-21 east of Haiphong Saturday. The plane's crew managed to fly the disabled bird back to Da Nang before they ejected over the coast and were rescued by helicopters from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

Maj. Thomas J. Ceady, the 105's pilot said, "We were east of Haiphong in a flight of four 105 aircraft. I got a MIG warning from my wingman and saw a MIG-21 coming at me from nine o'clock. He passed me, and my backseater, Maj. Harry Murphy, said the MIG made a 180 degree turn and launched two missiles at us. One of them either exploded near or hit the right wing, causing severe damage to the wing and making control of the plane difficult. We made it back to Da Nang but the landing gear wouldn't operate so we flew to the coast and bailed out."

An HH-43 Pedro helicopter and an HH-53 Super Jelly Green Giant helicopter were on a training mission in the area when they received the call that two pilots had bailed out. Within minutes the Pedro crew picked up Murphy and the Jelly picked up Ceady. Both men were in good condition.

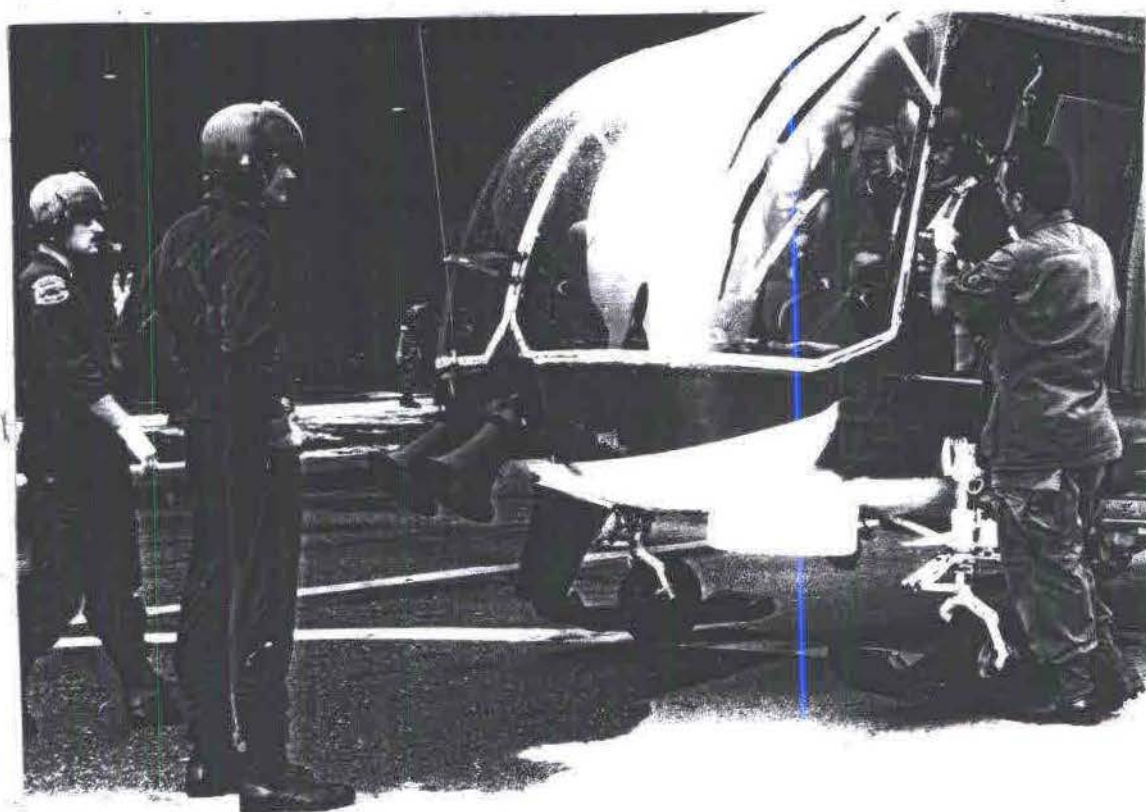
The crew of the Jelly included aircraft commander Capt. Dennis Bercozk, co-pilot Lt. Mike McDaniel, flight engineer SSgt. Gary L. Trotter, and pararescuemen SMSgt. Charles R. Chapman, Sgt. Mike Wagner, Sgt. Arden Conard and Sgt. Steve Caldwell.

Crewing the Pedro were aircraft commander Capt. Don Wagner, co-pilot Capt. Al Spitler, flight engineer SSgt. Charles Worley, medical technician Sgt. Robert Parrish, and firefighters SSgt. Samuel McElheney and Sgt. David Newman.

PILOT: DONALD R. WAGNER, Capt CO-PILOT: ALLAN C. SPITLER, Capt
CREWMEN: CHARLES R. MORLEY, SSgt, HM SAMUEL J. MCELHANEY, SSgt
Hoist operator. DAVID NEWMAN, SSgt, FF. ROBERT W. PARRISH, Sgt, MT

At 1528L, as Pedro was shutting, down from a previous scramble, notification was received that two F-105's, on with severe battle damage, one with emergency fuel, were inbound to Da Nang. Pedro scrambled at 1531. During engine start, the two F-105's were observed breaking off from their approach and heading to the east of the field. One minute after takeoff, Pedro received a call that the two crew members of the F-105 call sign Circle 03, had bailed out. Pedro received immediate clearance across both runways at Da Nang and proceeded eastbound to the site. At 1538 Pedro arrived at the scene and spotted one of the survivors. A HH-53C from the 5/ARRSQ had been on a training flight in the area and was in contact with the other survivor. The Pedro crew was in radio contact with Maj Murphy and ask him for a smoke flare. The smoke indicated we were in a position to establish final approach, so I established final at that time. I came to a hover at 75' out and approximately 30' above the water. Maj Murphy requested Pedro delay the pickup until he could free himself from his parachute. I remained 75' out for 4 minutes until cleared in by Maj Murphy. The pickup was made and the survivor was in good condition. As I began my takeoff the Jolly Green was observed in the process of retrieving the other crewmember. I departed the scene at 1548 and returned to base. Pedro arrived back at Da Nang at 1600 and Maj Murphy was deposited at the 5/ARRSQ ramp. Pedro returned to its ramp to resume alert.

29 JULY 72 SPK



1972				SURVIVOR, NAME RANK SSAN & ORGAN		
DATE	CREW	XT	SAVE #		LOCATION	TYPE SAVE
29 JUL	BIROCK	72	854	COADY, THOMAS J.	1607 N 10819 E	COMBAT
	MCDANIEL			MAJ. REDACTED		
	HOPPER					
	TROTTER					
	WAGNER					
	CONARD					
	CALDWELL					
	WAGNER	7200	855	MURPHY, JERRY F.	1607 N 10819 E	COMBAT
	SPITLER			MAJ. REDACTED		
	COARLEY					
	MCELHANEY					
	NEWMAN					
	PINKISH					
ALG				AUGUST		
8 AUG	HARRINGTON	65	856	FERRELL,	226/08/77	NON COMBAT/M
	MCDANIEL			DONALD C, E-T		
	TROTTER			REDACTED		
	WAGNER			1ST STRIKE TEAM		
	CALDWELL			AAGFTC		
	ASHLEY					
	TESDAL					