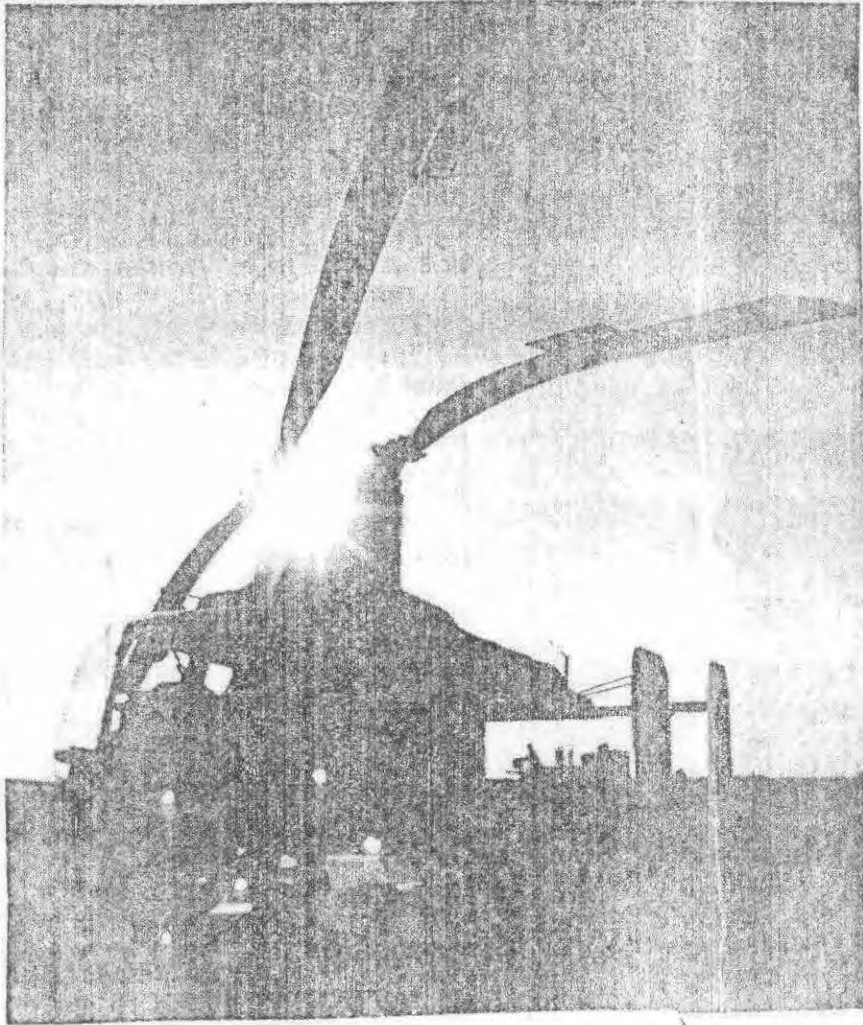




10 AUG 72



## Rescue Units Combine

The first unit to accomplish a "save" within the borders of North Vietnam more than 1,000 other saves during its eleven-year history was recently (Aug. 10) merged with another helicopter unit.

Detachment 7, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group (AARG) flying HH-43 Pedro helicopters arrived at Da Nang October 1964 as one of the first two rescue units in the Republic of Vietnam. It was known as Det. 5, Pacific Air Rescue Center.

In its first three years in-country the unit made numerous rescues. Many of them were combat saves, including the first from North Vietnam on May 2, 1965, though they also flew aeromedical evac-

uation flights and flood relief missions. During the last four years the small "Pedros" have decreased their activities, with the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here taking over most of the combat role.

The 37th AARG is also part of the 3rd AARG, Tan Son Nhut AB, and in the interest of manpower economy, the smaller unit was combined with the 37th which flies the large, twin-engined HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopters.

The squadron is now responsible for all U.S. Air Force helicopter operations at this sprawling airfield. This includes all rescues and airborne fire suppression activities which were formerly handled by the "Pedros."