

TODAY IN PJ HISTORY - 12 OCTOBER 1972: an HH-53C (call sign JOLLY 72) from the 37th ARRS based at DaNang Air Base and crewed by Coast Guard LT Robert E. Long (AC), Jerry D. Stout (CP), SGT Charles J. Rouhier (FE), SGT Delbert 'Buzz' Beauchamp (PJ), Dennis C. Baker (PJ), SSGT James Hathcox (AP) and CPT William J. Howell (FS), medically evacuated Jorge Enrique from a 142-foot ocean-going tug "Timberjack") from the South China Sea .



Charles J. Rouhier sends:

"Timberjack, not sure it is the ships name or a call sign, was an ocean-going tug towing a barge 200-300 miles from Saigon harbor. A sailor ruptured his appendix. We launched before first light. Linked up with the tug, dropped a PJ to the deck, then sent the stokes litter down. Hoisted the sailor and then the PJ on board and landed on the military side of the Saigon airport and offloaded the sailor. As I recall, it was a pretty easy hoist work with the tug. Seas were very calm and the tug maintained headway throughout. When we went to depart, the rotor tach generator stopped working. Fortunately, there was a H-3 rescue unit there. They had a spare and even changed it out for me. One of few common parts between the HH-3e and the HH-53C. We departed and landed at Phan Rang Air Base, for fuel and a bite to eat. Then we proceeded back to DaNang. Long day. Never heard what happened to the guy. He said he was from Columbia and that he liked the ride up the hoist. The stokes was spinning some, but not a enough to be an issue."