



RESCUE

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3rd ARRGp earns Presidential Unit Citation

TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN -- The Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism was presented to the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group. It was the third Presidential Unit Citation awarded the 3rd ARRGp for service in the Republic of Vietnam.

Gen. John W. Vogt, commander, Seventh Air Force, made the presentation of the award which covered the period of Feb. 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970.

The citation stated that "during this period, aircrews of the 3rd ARRGp daily risked their lives by exposing themselves to intense hostile fire to rescue other downed crewmembers. Their selfless courage and dedicated professionalism resulted in the rescue and recovery of 714 American and allied personnel. Of these personnel, 516 were saved from almost certain death or capture by enemy forces."

The citation further noted "the profound impact on the morale of combat aircrew members serving throughout Southeast Asia."

The following units share in the award for the same period unless otherwise indicated: 37th, 38th, 39th and 40th ARRSqs; Detachments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of the 38th; and Detachment 1 of the 40th. Det. 10 of the 38th received the award for the period Feb. 1, 1969 to Dec. 27, 1969.

The Department of the Air Force Special Order GB-162 is dated March 24, 1972.

In addition to the Presidential citations, the group has received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with V device and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for its service in Vietnam.

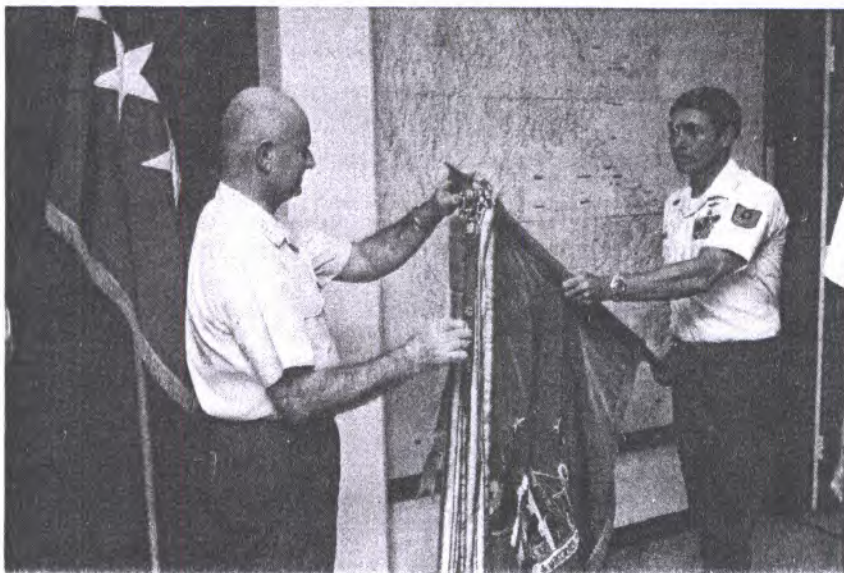
A strange pet?

DA NANG AFLD, RVN -- The pararescue-man stands perfectly still as an Indian Rock Python slowly wraps itself around his neck.

A frightening experience in the jungle?

Not really, it is just an average day at the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron's pararescue ready room.

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THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION for extraordinary heroism is presented to the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group by Gen. John W. Vogt, commander, Seventh Air Force. General Vogt places the streamer signifying the third Presidential Unit Citation on the group's streamer-laden flag. MSgt. Aaron D. Farrior holds the unit's flag.

Units win Commanders Trophies

TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN -- The 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and Det. 5, both of the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, have been named the outstanding rescue units of 1971 by the Military Airlift Command.

Gen. Jack J. Catton, commander, MAC, presented the Commanders Trophies to the units at a ceremony held at the 3rd ARRGp's headquarters.

The 37th ARRSq performs search and rescue operations out of Da Nang AflD, while Detachment 5 is responsible for base rescue operations at Udorn RTAFB, Thailand.

The 37th was cited for saving 118 men from either death or certain capture by the enemy. Last year, its HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant and HH-43 Pedro helicopters flew 5,721 combat hours.

It was pointed out that the 37th preserved a perfect safety record last year while operating out of one of the most congested areas of the Republic of Vietnam without a flying accident.

Last year, men assigned to the 37th earned 12 Silver Stars, 99 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 8 Bronze Stars, 395 Air Medals, 100 Air Force Commendation Medals and 17 Purple Hearts.

In the three years the ARRS Commanders Trophy has been presented, this is the second time a 3rd ARRGp squadron has received the award.

Detachment 5 became the first unit to ever receive the new Commanders Trophy for units of its type.

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...A strange pet?

The snake, a 10-foot relative of the boa constrictor, is the mascot of the PJs. Nicknamed "Stretch," the python has been with the PJs for almost three years and is an accepted member of the closely-knit organization.

The PJs chuckle a little as they watch the first-time visitor's eyes widen in disbelief as he takes in every inch of the snake stretched out on the floor of their office.

"Fear is always the reaction when someone sees Stretch for the first time," comments Sgt. Michael L. Wagner, "but in researching the subject we found that the pythons don't become a threat to man until they are 15 feet long. Stretch is only 10 and 1/2 feet long."

Stretch is handled without fear by the PJs, but most visitors are a little bit cautious about grabbing the 60-pound snake.

Stretch's frequency of eating is determined by the heat. When its extremely warm, he eats regularly, but when its cold he gets a little bit finicky. During one rainy season Stretch went for three months without eating.

Although the snake is not housebroken, a few of the PJs have even let Stretch share their bedrooms.

"I don't know why so many people think that's so weird," Sergeant Wagner said, stooping over as he allowed over three yards of tubular muscle to unwrap itself from his body, "A lot of the guys on base have dogs..."



A RESCUED CREWMAN steps down from a HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant after being pulled to safety from the jungles of southern Laos. He was one of 15 airmen who bailed out of an AC-130 gunship and was rescued by members of the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

40th ARRSq rescues Spectre crew

TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN -- All 15 crewmembers of a downed AC-130 Spectre were rescued from Laos in one of the most successful recovery efforts in the Vietnam war.

The gunship was hit by communist antiaircraft artillery fire while on an interdiction mission over the lower panhandle of Laos. Although the aircraft was seriously damaged, the gunship pilot managed to keep the plane airborne long enough for all crewmen to bail out.

The 15 men successfully parachuted to the ground, and forward air controllers established radio contact with all the men. Each airman's location was pinpointed and rescue aircraft remained overhead throughout the night to assure the safety of the downed men.

At first light, the rescue forces began the actual recovery. The first man was picked up at 8:30 a.m. by an HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant commanded by Maj. Kenneth E. Ernest.

Other rescues were made by helicopters commanded by Majors Frederick C. Hartstein and David G. Daus and Capt.

Dale E. Stovall. Captain Stovall recovered eight of the downed airmen.

Sgt. Charles D. McGrath and SSgt. Charles D. Morrow descended on jungle penetrators to aid injured men on board the rescue helicopters.

The last crewman was hoisted aboard at 10:30 a.m. Several men experienced minor injuries during bail out. However, one airman did sustain a leg fracture and another a wound in the neck. None were listed as serious.

The four rescue helicopters, from the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, experienced no ground fire in the rescue operation.

41st aircrew catches rocket nose cone

HAMILTON AFB, Calif. -- An aircrew from the 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron has returned to Hamilton AFB after performing an aerial recovery of a Nike rocket nose cone.

The launch at Wallops Island, Va., was made by NASA to test stresses on the nose cone.

Though hampered by poor weather conditions, the rocket was launched and the Hercules, commanded by Maj. Tom

Turey, was waiting at 18,000 feet for the descending nose cone.

The rocket pushed the cone to an altitude of 41,000 feet where the nose separated and parachuted toward earth.

Immediately spotting the parachute, the recovery crew flew two inspection passes to make sure the parachute had deployed properly and there are no irregularities in the payload (nose cone).

They then made ready for the catch.

During the recovery, the rear ramp of the aircraft is opened and two 25-foot long poles connected by a cable with grappling hooks are extended out at a downward angle. The cable is attached to a winch which acts like the drag on a fishing rod.

Satisfied with the inspection passes, Major Turey made his first recovery pass. He flew a few feet above the

parachute, allowing the hooks to grab it. The cable disengaged from the poles and played out from the winch to absorb the shock and prevent the line from snapping.

Within 10 minutes the nose cone was safely hauled aboard the aircraft.

Crewmembers manning the recovery equipment were MSgt. Edward Anderson, Technical Sergeants Norm Taul and Grady Coleman, and Sgt. Oakley Allen.