

GIs Rescue 9 Fishermen From Sinking Ship

Wednesday 06 Nov 1974 SAR

OSAN AB, Korea (Special) — Two helicopter crews from Det. 13, 41st Air Rescue and Recovery Wing here, rescued nine Korean fishermen from their sinking ship in the Yellow Sea on Wednesday.

Two base helicopters, a C130 from the 33rd Air Rescue Sq. at Kadena AB, Okinawa, and a C46 from the ROK Air Force

participated in the search and rescue mission.

The Five Chin Yang Ho, a 40-ton vessel, first advised ROK authorities early Tuesday evening that it was sinking and that it had minimal survival gear. The ship's position was reported as approximately 180 miles west southwest of Kwang Ju.

Det. 13's Air Rescue Center

was notified of the sinking ship and sent two helicopters to the area. Additionally the C130 was dispatched from Kadena.

The C130 crew spotted the fishermen shortly after midnight and reported that a C46 aircraft from the ROK Air Force was on-scene and dropping flares.

At approximately 5 a.m., the C130 escorted the helicopters to the site of the sinking ship. Two

hours and 30 minutes later, the helicopter flown by 1st Lt. Edward L. Fleming safely hoisted the fishermen aboard.

Other members of Fleming's crew were 1st Lt. Larry G. Brooks, co-pilot; S. Sgt. Dennis W. Hales, flight mechanic, and S. Sgt. Clegie Chambers Jr. and Sgt. Robert L. LaPointe, rescue specialists.

Crew members of the second helicopter were Capt. Charles W. Hinkle, aircraft commander; 2nd Lt. William W. Naumann III, co-pilot; T. Sgt. Teddy W. Carter, flight mechanic, and S. Sgt. David W. Young, rescue specialists.

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Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1974

OSAN AB - Two helicopter crews from Detachment 13, 41st Air Rescue and Recovery Wing here rescued nine Korean fishermen from their sinking ship in the Yellow Sea Wednesday morning. The rescue culminated joint efforts by U.S. Air Force and Republic of Korea (ROK) Air Force people to save the nine seamen. Two base helicopters, an HC-130 from the 33rd Air Rescue Squadron at Kadena AB, Okinawa, and a C-46 from the ROK Air Force participated in the search and rescue mission. The "Five Chin Yang Ho," a 40-ton vessel, first advised ROK authorities early Tuesday evening that it was sinking and that it had minimal survival gear on board. The ship's position was reported as approximately 180 miles WSW of Kwang Ju. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center was notified of the sinking ship and sent two HH-3 helicopters to the area. Additionally, an HC-130 was dispatched from Kadena to aid in the rescue efforts. The C-130 crew spotted the distressed fishermen shortly after midnight and reported that a C-46 aircraft from the ROK Air Force was on-scene and dropping flares. At approximately 5 a.m., the C-130 escorted the helicopters to the site of the sinking ship. Two hours and thirty minutes later, the helicopter flown by 1st Lt. Edward L. Fleming safely hoisted the fishermen aboard. "Our first problem up on arriving at the scene," said Lieutenant Fleming, "was getting close enough to the raft without blowing it away with our rotors." According to Lieutenant Fleming, the pararescue men (PJs) had a difficult time job hoisting the seamen into the helicopter. "The sailors didn't want to trade the raft for a cable hoist leading to the copter. We had to send one of our pararescuemen (SSgt Chambers) down to the raft and practically force them on to the rescue hoist. Lieutenant Fleming praised the efforts of the C-130 crew and a Korean Radar man stationed at one of the sites around Kwang Ju. He said, "Without the help of the radar man, we would have had to spend additional time plotting courses and all, but he (radar man) took care of that phase and directed us right to our destination." Other members of Lieutenant Flemings crew were: 1st Lt. Larry G. Brooks, copilot; SSgt. Dennis W. Hales, flight mechanic; and SSgt. Clegie Chambers Jr. and Sgt. Robert L. LaPointe, rescue specialists. Crew members of the second helicopter were: Capt. Charles W. Hinkle, aircraft commander; 2nd Lt. William W. Naumann III, copilot; TSgt. Teddy W. Carter, flight mechanic and SSgt. David W. Young, rescue specialist.