

The 33 Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron has a vast number of missions. Many emphasize professional humanitarian efforts. The unit is on a constant alert to provide immediate response to emergency situations.

These missions all have one thing in common, a selfless attitude that reflects the high value that people of the United States have always placed on human life.

According to SMSgt. Kerry Kelly, enlisted supervisor of the Pararescue Section, "Our job at Kadena is training for combat aircrew recovery."

"Most people think of an aircrew as a pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer, and navigator, but the pararescueman is one member of our team that deserves special credit," he says.

Nicknamed a "P.J.," he is a member of an elite force — there are less than 300 in the entire Air Force. All are volunteers and hand-picked for one of the military's most demanding occupations.

A P.J. volunteers for his career while he is still a basic trainee. He's a volunteer until he shows that he is qualified physically and mentally for the job requirements. Not all of the many persons testing for the career make it. Some fail to accomplish the physical requirements, some are disqualified because military test scores aren't up to Pararescue standards. Others that test can't "hack it" once entering training because of the physical or mental demand put upon them.

Pararescue Specialist training consists of one year of schooling and physical conditioning. A P.J. must maintain a high standard of physical condition. To help him

dures for deploying from the aircraft, steering his parachute during flight, and how to land safely without injury.

From Georgia it's a hop to the other coast for SCUBA School at the Naval Station in San Diego. Here the specialist is trained in the use and maintenance of SCUBA gear. The P.J. is ready for his next class when he successfully completes the qualification dive to 115 feet.

Survival is the most necessary bit of knowledge any person should know and understand. The will and knowledge to survive has saved many lives in itself. For this reason the Pararescueman must attend the survival course at Fairchild AFB, Wash. Here, he is instructed in the different ways to survive, living off the land, finding his way when in unfamiliar areas and, during combat situations, how to stay alive.

Finally the P.J. has arrived at his last school, the Pararescue School at Hill AFB, Utah. Combining all of his previous and adding along with mountain climbing and advanced medical training, the P.J. is tested for five days in mountainous terrain. A

team of pararescuemen jump to a designated site, litter load a patient through a mile of rough terrain, set up camp, mountain climb to different areas and conduct simulated emergency medical training.

Successfully completing this course and all of the others, the P.J. trainee graduates and receives the coveted maroon beret.

Is this what all of this training was for, for a simple hat? Not a chance! Ask a P.J. what it symbolizes, you'll probably get an answer, "The hat distinguishes a pararescuemen as one of the elite forces. But that's not the major thing. When you see a person with that hat on, he displays and wears it with pride! He knows that he is now qualified to lend a helping hand to his buddy or any other person."

"The men of the 33rd pride themselves on the full expression of the philosophy that no man is expendable. Across the street or half way around the world, on the land or in the open sea, night or day, the P.J. may be called upon for aid, risking his life and sometimes even losing it so "That Others May Live."

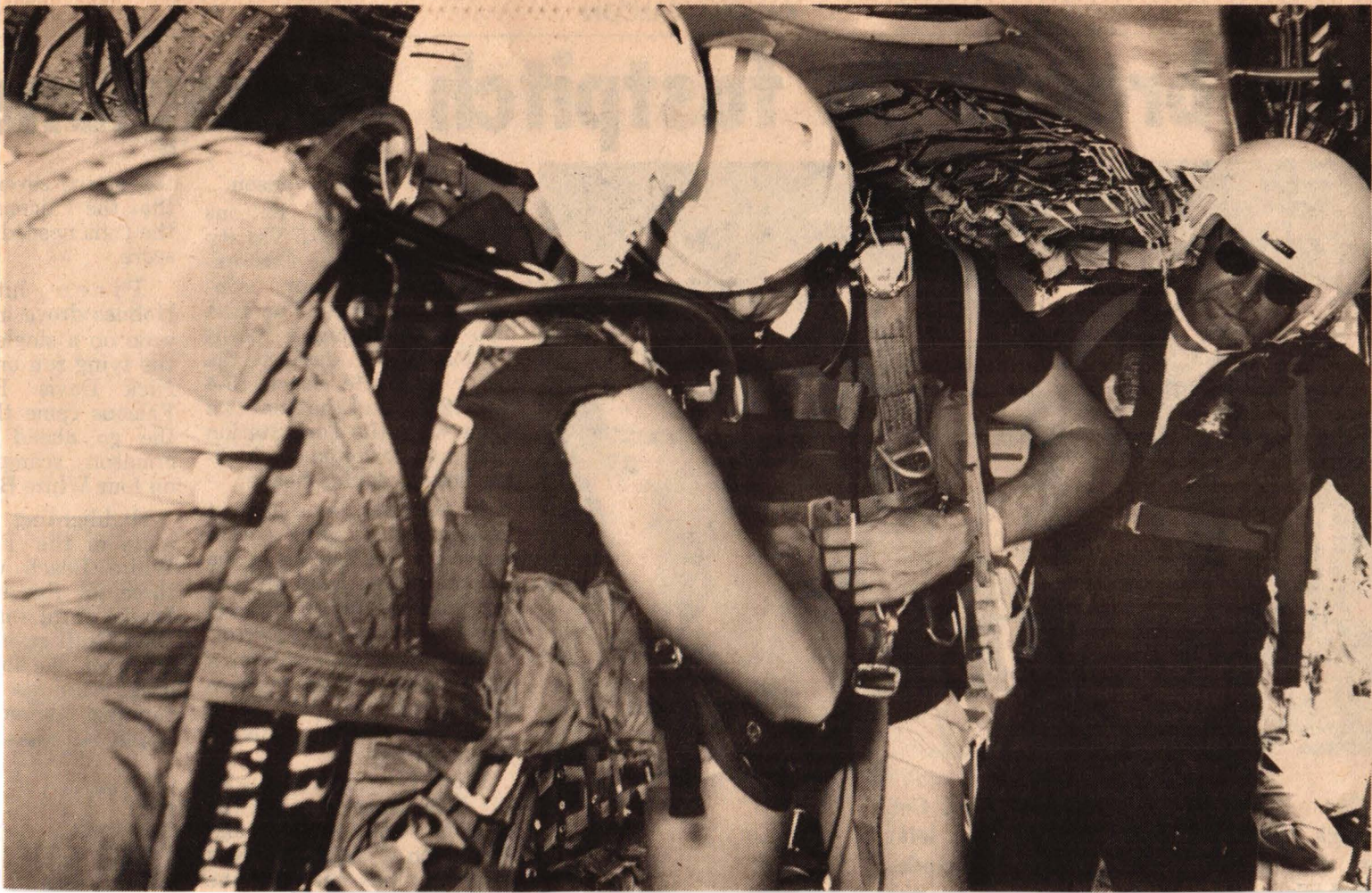
achieve this standard, his first training phase is just that . . . physical conditioning, conducted at Lackland AFB. The P.J. goes through four weeks of strenuous body building. He is required to run up to seven miles, swim another four miles, and do body building exercises for about three hours each day.

This conditioning aids the trainee in the rest of his schooling by making him alert and able.

From Lackland, the trainee moves to Sheppard AFB, Tex. for medical training. This four-week training phase teaches the P.J. the many different emergency situations and how to efficiently handle the problem so the patient arrives at the medical facility in as good or better condition when found.

Not all of the emergencies the Rescue team may encounter are reachable by vehicle, so the P.J. is trained as a precision parachutist, too. Attending the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., he learns the basic maneuvers required to reach his target. He is taught correct proce-





SSgt. Randy Carmichael safety checks MSgt. Larry Wellington and SMSgt. Pappy La-Casse double checks everything before the P.J.s parachute from their aircraft.



ABOVE—Sgt. Steve Thomson models the pararescue “tree suit” for parachuting onto land. RIGHT—TSgt. Leif Arvidson and Sgt. Tom Boeker prepare for a touchdown.