

LETTER OF APPRECIATION is presented by the Japanese Maritime Agency's Katsumi Kuze, chief of the rescue division, and Y. Ohno, foreign liaison officer, to Capt. Thomas R. Van Winkle Jr., TSgt. Floyd E. Cupp and SSgt. Gary P. Bryant, members of the HC-130 crew who assisted the Anshin Maru survivors.

RESCUE OF F-100 PILOT WINS PARARESCUEMAN SILVER STAR

SCOTT AFB, Ill. - - A 22-year-old pararescueman who risked his life in Vietnam to save an American pilot received the nation's third highest award for gallantry here recently.

Sgt. Paul E. Fatka of West Hartford, Conn., flew here here from Pease AFB, N. H., to be presented the Silver Star by Maj. Gen Allision C. Brooks, ARRS commander.

While in Vietnam, Fatka was assigned to Detachment 11, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Tuy Hoa Air Base.

On Jan. 31, 1969, Fatka's HH-43 Pedro helicopter crew was alerted that an F-100 pilot had been forced to eject from his fighter. The pilot had landed in a bowl-shaped mountain valley near Tuy Hoa known to contain hostile forces.

Fatka's Pedro arrived 30 minutes after the alert to find the densely jungled area already the scene of a search by Army helicopters. The Army aircraft were not equipped with a rescue hoist. In the dense jungle, they could not land

The first problem for Fatka's crew was to find the pilot.

"The pilot, in his haste to conceal himself from the enemy, had not turned off the parachute beacon which broadcasts automatically when a pilot ejects," he recalled. "It interfered with communications to the ground."

The Pedro crew asked the pilot to fire a flare to mark his position. Two smoke flares were sighted, then a pen gun flare. Guessing that the enemy might have popped the smoke flares, the Pedro crew went after the pen gun flare.

The fighter pilot later denied having fired any flare.

The jungle overgrowth was too dense for the Pedro crew to see the pilot. Fatka volunteered to ride the 150 feet on the rescue hoist to the ground and search for the pilot.

"I was on the ground about 20 minutes looking for him." Fatka said. "I didn't have a machete, so I had to pick my way through the undergrowth carrying a medical kit and other equipment.

The valley was interlaced with caves used by the enemy. Fatka found several during his search and thought the pilot might have crawled in one to hide.

"I found him sitting under a tree," the pararescuemen said. "He had a sprained ankle, which swelled up like a balloon the next day, but was in good condition."

The hovering Pedro again lowered the rescue hoist cable. Fatka placed the pilot on the seat and watched him reeled up to safety. The hoist returned, this time for the pararescueman, and Fatka was soon back in his helicopter

SQUADRON FLIES AID TO SAILOR, SHIPLESS CREW

The 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing's Japan-based units continued their flurry of rescue activity in March.

The Wing's Detachment 1 at Fuchu AS (a Joint Rescue Coordination Center) teamed with the 36th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Yokota AB for two missions only days apart during the last week of March. Det. 1 controlled both missions with the 36th ARRSq aircrews doing the flying.

The action began on March 24 after a Japanese fishing vessel, the Anshin Maru No. 12, sank some 900 miles east of Tokyo. Flying to the scene, the HC-130 crew, under the command of Capt. Thomas R. Van Winkle Jr. spotted a life raft with 15 persons aboard.

MA-1 sea survival kits and a portable radio were dropped to the raft. Then two pararescuemen, SSgt. M. P. McManus and SSgt. G. P. Bryant, parachuted to the survivors. They stayed with the distressed crew until all were picked up by a passing ship

It was only two days later when a merchant vessel, the Texas Trader, radioed for help, saying a member of the ship's crew was critically ill and needed immediate medical attention. Another 36th ARRSq HC-130, commanded by Maj. George E. Glazier, flew to the scene with a flight surgeon aboard

After medical supplies were dropped, pararescueman TSgt. Victor H. Madamba and Sgt. Donald H. Goodlet parachuted to the ocean near the ship. They evaluated the man's condition, provided what medical relief they could and called for a helicopter evacuation. A Navy helicopter evacuated both the ill man and the pararescuemen to medical facilities in Japan.





THE TARGET for the pararescuemen who jumped to the Texas Trader was the ship's whale boat and a smoke float (first photo). They made a successful jump and the second photo shows them being hoisted aboard the ship in a small boat.