

24-27Nov65

Pararescue Pair Save Life of Shark Victim by BOB JONES

When Air Force SSgt Phulemon Resos splashed down in the Pacific with plasma and medicine for a shark bitten fisherman at 6:20 p.m. last Wednesday, it was his 8th military parachute jump.

Resos, a pararescue specialist with the 76th Air Rescue Squadron here, yesterday told the story of the rescue jump to bring aid to the stricken fisherman Takashi Kamaya, some 250 miles at sea off Oahu.

With him on the mission was SSgt Jim Souza (who is now in Australia preparing for the Gemini emergency rescue force), and A2C Glenn Frickey, the jumpmaster.

We sighted the boat Taihei Maru about 5:15 p.m. jumpmaster Frickey said, and I threw out a spotter parachute to check the wind drift. But the boat picked up the chute and we had to do it all over again. The second time they picked up the chute again. So I just use Kentucky windage to spot the jumpers.

Resos jumped with Souza from the HC-97 plane. He was carrying a medical kit, and Frickey was standing by to drop five pints of plasma once the rescue men were picked up by the Taihei Maru.



HC-97 Rescuemaster

The spot was so good that I hit about 30-feet from the boat. In fact, I was worried that I was going to slam into it.

Souza go on board first and he went down to check the man's blood pressure. I waited for the blood to be dropped. The fishermen helped us take off our wet clothes, dried us off, and gave us dry things. They even wanted to feed us before we took a look at the patient. Every half hour or so, they would bring us a can of something, fruit cocktail or something else.

We stayed up with the man (Kamaya) all Wednesday night and the next day, taking four-hour watches between myself and Souza. We gave him two bottles of plasma, then stopped

when his blood pressure went up to normal. We wanted to hold on to the other three pints in case we did not get picked up.

Every 12 hours, we administered one and a half million units of penicillin to the man. We were going to change his dressings until we got a close look at his arm.

The tourniquet had been left on 48 hours before we even got there and the whole forearm had turned black. Gangrene had set in.

The Coast Guard cutter Buttonwood arrived at 3 a.m. Friday, but the skipper decided to wait until daylight to bring Kamaya over. At 9 a.m., the cutter sent over a line, a radio, and tetanus shots.

At 9:30, in waves cresting 15 feet, Resos and Souza put Kamaya into a life raft for the transfer. They almost dropped him a couple of times while lowering him. The raft was bobbing up and down, Souza said. Kamaya was transferred okay, but soon lapsed into shock and had to get more blood.

Everything turned out well. Kamaya's life was saved, even though his arm had to be amputated. The pararescue men were helicoptered back to Oahu. It was just a day's work for the 32-year old Resos, and jumping partner Souza 31, who has 95 parachute jumps to his credit.

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Staff Sergeant James Souza has received special recognition at Hickham AFB, Hawaii. Souza, son of Mr. and Mrs. Antone P Turtado of 440 Bay Street was presented a scroll of appreciation and an engraved cup by the Japan Maritime Safety Agency. He was cited for helping save a Japanese fisherman who had been attacked by a shark.

The parascuba rescue specialist parachuted into rough seas, then boarded the Japanese fishing boat and administered emergency medical aid to the injured man.

The sergeant, who attended Diman Vocational High School is a member of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service which flies combat and peace time air rescue and aeromedical evacuation missions.

His wife, Arlene, is the daughter of Mrs. Annie M. Gill who resides on New Boston Road, Fall River.

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hei Maru about 5:15 p.m.," jumpmaster Frickey said, "and I threw out a spotter parachute to check the wind drift."

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Fisherman Takashi Kamaya was in guarded condition last night at Queen's Hospital.

Rear Adm. Theodore J. Fabik, 14th Coast Guard District commander, yesterday praised the Air Rescue Squadron and Coast Guard units for the rescue, saying "your actions exemplified most appropriately that no call for help from the sea shall go unanswered."

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