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MSGT. LEON FULLWOOD: FOUR MEDALS

-- MSgt. Leon Fullwood, a pararescue-man with the 40th ARRSq, Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, was recently awarded four medals for his heroic actions in Southeast Asia.

He received the Bronze Star for being part of a three-man team which attempted to recover the crew of a T-28 aircraft which had crashed into a river in a known insurgent area on Aug. 30, 1968. He made repeated dives in the river, fighting a 12-knot current.

Two months later as a crewmember on an HH-53 helicopter, he earned the oak leaf cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross while recovering an injured fighter pilot downed by enemy fire in a hostile territory.

The HH-53 came under heavy automatic fire during the recovery and Ser-

geant Fullwood, while unprotected on the rear ramp, poured "devastatingly effective fire into the hostile positions," the citation reads. The pickup was a success.

Early this year, the pararescueman earned the second oak leaf cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross by again firing on enemy positions as his helicopter hovered for 22 minutes to pick up an injured pilot.

He also received the eighth oak leaf cluster to the Air Medal for being a member of a backup helicopter crew which circled over a pickup area to draw ground fire away from the recovery helicopter.

The medals were presented by Lt. Col. Chester R. Ratcliffe Jr., then 40th ARRSq commander.

SGT. ROBERT KOECHER: THREE MEDALS

-- Sgt. Robert P. Koehler, a pararescue-man with the 40th ARRSq, was awarded the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross and the first oak leaf cluster to the DFC.

He received the DFC for a Nov. 9, 1968, mission in which he aided the successful recovery of an injured fighter pilot by manning an automatic rifle at the exposed helicopter door and supplying suppressive fire at enemy gun po-

sitions.

Three months later he earned the first oak leaf cluster to the DFC for again providing suppressive fire from an exposed gun position to aid the rescue of a downed airman in hostile territory.

He received the Air Medal for participating as an combat aircrew member in Southeast Asia from Aug. 24, 1968, to Nov. 25, 1968. Colonel Ratcliffe presented the medals.