

1967 (cont)

2 Apr 67 (cont) Because of the size and shape of this gear, the pickups were called "Ash Can" missions.

31 May-1 Jun 67 First Nonstop Transatlantic Helicopter Flight. Two ARRS HH-3Es, assigned to the 48th ARR Squadron, flew nonstop from New York to Paris, with the aid of aerial refueling by HC-130Ps, only one assigned to the 48th ARR Squadron. The aerial route closely paralleled the flight path of Charles A. Lindbergh 40 years earlier. The HH-3s, piloted by Majors Herbert Zehnder and



Standing in front of one of the two HH-3s which completed the nonstop transatlantic crossing are: Major Herbert Zehnder, Mr. Igor I. Sikorsky, and Major Donald B. Maurras.

Donald B. Maurras, completed the 4,270-mile flight in 30 hours and 46 minutes.

2 Jun 67 An HC-130 crew from the 57th ARR Squadron was credited with saving 46 crewmen from the West German ship *Essberger Chemist*, which had been ripped apart by an explosion. Pararescuemen jumped to aid the crewmen, and the Norwegian ship *Tomar* was vectored to the scene.

11 Jun 67 Captain John A. Firse and his H-3 aircrew from the ARRS detachment at Udorn, rescued two downed A-1E pilots in North Vietnam. The first downed pilot was rescued without difficulty, but enemy fire was encountered during the second attempt. The second survivor was pulled into the H-3, but the pararescueman was

DET 2 3D ARRS HH-3E

PJ ADC LUTHER DAVIS
CO-PILOT CAPT GILBERT HASTER
FE SSGT ROGER A ELY

PILOT CAPT JOHN FIRSE

1967 (cont)

11 Jun 67
(cont)

wounded and the helicopter was heavily damaged before departure. Captain Firse later received the Air Force Cross.

2 Jul-
3 Jul 67

Captain Gregory A.M. Etzel, an HH-3 pilot from the 37th ARR Squadron, rescued a downed F-105 pilot from a heavily defended area in North Vietnam. Captain Etzel located the survivor on 2 July, but darkness prevented a rescue attempt. On 3 July Captain Etzel returned with a rescue task force. After enemy ground fire had been silenced, Captain Etzel went down and hoisted the survivor aboard. Later Captain Etzel received the Air Force Cross.

18 Jul 67

Two HH-3s assigned to the 37th ARR Squadron searched for two downed Navy pilots located about 38 miles south of Hanoi. The SAR task force, consisting of both Navy and Air Force aircraft, located the survivors. A Navy H-3 suffered damage and was forced to exit the area. Major Glen P. York and his HH-3 crew went down through the enemy fire and hoisted one of the Navy pilots aboard. Major York also contacted the second survivor, but fuel approached a critical point and he was forced to leave. The second ARRS HH-3, piloted by Captain Gregory Etzel, went down but failed to locate the second survivor. Major York received the Air Force Cross as a result of this mission.

8 Nov-
9 Nov 67

Captain Gerald O. Young, an HH-3 pilot assigned to the 37th ARR Squadron, won the Medal of Honor while participating in a combat rescue mission to recover a group of United States soldiers surrounded by enemy forces near Khe Sanh, Vietnam. Other members of Captain Young's crew were posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross. They were: Captain Ralph W. Brower, co-pilot; Staff Sergeant Eugene L. Clay, flight engineer; and Sergeant Larry W. Maysay,



Captain Gerald O. Young was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

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NARRATIVE TABLE OF RESCUE MISSIONS

1. (S)(Gp4) On 9 April Capt Lisko, Maj Gardner, AIC Graham, and SSgt Stemple rescued Justin C. Bryant, a Dornier Pilot for Continental Air Lines in Laos. During this rescue the PJ's from both planes and Capt Lisko's co-pilot were put on the ground.
2. (S)(Gp4) On 14 April Lt Col Fletcher, Maj Moore, SSgt Rogerson, and A2C Bowers rescued Maj Paul R. Graw, an Air Force F-105 pilot in Laos.
3. (S)(Gp4) Maj Lloyd, Lt Mutchler, A2C Malone, and A2C Benno picked up Capt Wallace L. Meekers, an F4C pilot in North Vietnam.
4. (S)(Gp4) On 24 April Lt James, Maj Shows, SSgt Picklesimer, and A2C Brotton rescued 1/Lt John B. Millhollen, an F4C pilot in North Vietnam.
5. (S)(Gp4) An F-105 pilot, Maj C.C. Vas, was picked-up by Capt O'Mara, Capt Fechsner, SSgt Watson, and AIC Benno on 3 May.
6. (S)(Gp4) Capt Webster, Capt Bradley, SSgt Godsey, and MSgt Williams rescued Maj Glen Wilson, an F-105 pilot in North Vietnam on 14 May.
7. (S)(Gp4) On 21 May Lt Col Fletcher, Capt May, SSgt Rogerson, and A2C Benno rescued Lt Hugh Wisely and Ensign Jim Laing, Navy F4B pilots in Laos. On the same day Capt Svoboda, Lt gonos, SSgt Riley, and A2C Brotton picked up Navy SH-3A crew members, Lt david Georgus, Lt JG Samuel Payne, Dale B. Kome, and Teddy R. Ray, in Laos.
8. (S)(Gp4) Two USAF A1E pilots, Maj Raush and Maj Russel, were rescued by Capt Firse, Capt Hester, SSgt Ely, and A2C Davis in North Vietnam on 11 June: A2C Davis, his PJ, was wounded by ground-fire.
9. (S)(Gp4) Capt Dowdy, Maj Shows, SSgt Andrews, and A2C Pighini picked up Lt Col William L. Janssen, an F-105 pilot, on 16 June in Thailand.
10. (S)(Gp4) On 21 June Capt Firse, Capt Fechsner, SSgt Ely, and A2C Klenovich rescued Capt Robert E. Patterson, an RF-101 pilot, in North Vietnam. During this pick-up SAM's were fired at the high bird.
11. (S)(Gp4) Lt James, Maj Wells, SSgt Picklesimer, and A2C Pighini rescued an F-105 pilot, Maj Ralph Kunster, in Laos on 30 June.

HISTORY DET 2 37th APR-JUN 67

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