

16 Awards Go To Men Of 71st Rescue Unit

Sixteen awards including the Silver Star and six Distinguished Flying Crosses were presented to members of the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron in a recent ceremony at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Col. Howard E. Lysaker, senior representative from the Military Airlift Command made the presentations.

Topping the list of honored airmen was Sergeant Richard G. Beasley, a pararescue specialist, who received the Silver Star for gallantry in action against an opposing armed force and the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

Beasley, who was assigned with Detachment 1, 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, was returning to his base last Jan. 2, 1970 when the HH3 Jolly Green Giant he was in was diverted to recover a downed Navy pilot.

The helicopter reached the area where the pilot was down, they spotted his parachute canopy, but there was no activity noted.

Sergeant Beasley volunteered to descend into the area to render assistance. As he reached the pilot, the helicopter came under enemy ground fire. "undaunted, Sergeant Beasley freed the man from the tangled parachute canopy," the citation reads.

"Before he could secure him to the rescue device," the citation reads, "the helicopter was forced to withdraw in order to avoid certain destruction from the intense and accurate hostile fire." During the rapid and sudden retreat, Sergeant Beasley was left suspended 30-40 feet below the damaged helicopter until the craft made its way out of the valley.

During his 12 month tour in Southeast Asia, Beasley participated in 80 combat missions and accomplished eight actual pick-ups. As well as having the Silver Star and



RECEIVES SILVER STAR

Sgt. Richard G. Beasley displays the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross he was awarded recently to his squadron commander, Lt. Col. Dale A. McGuire. Beasley, a pararescue man serving with the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, and 12 other squadron members received a total of 16 awards and decorations.

T.Sgt. James E. Bowen, for his performance as a loadmaster aboard a C124 flying in a hostile area on Feb. 23, 1970.

His citation reads in part, "although forward air controllers and fighter escorts were required because of intense ground activity throughout the high threat area, Sergeant Bowen's aircraft made ten sorties into a tiny beleaguered airstrip. His carefully planned actions and quick, precision off-loads held to a bare minimum the exposure times of the aircraft and crew while delivering over

Rescue and Recovery Service from July 15, 1968 to March 24, 1970.

M. Sgt. Joseph Fernandez received the first thru sixth oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal and the first oak leaf cluster to the Air Force Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Sgt. Terry E. Caffery was awarded the fourth oak leaf cluster to the Air Medal for achievements while assigned with the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand.