

To The Rescue

HILL AFB, Utah — The article entitled "1748 Owe Lives to ARRS Efforts," (Feb. 7) made a gross oversight. The article states that the largest rescue of the year 1972 was 30 people. Not true. The largest rescue took place on May 3 at Quang Tri where 132 Air Force and Army advisors, including some ARVN and popular forces, were rescued from the besieged old Citadel by the 37th ARRS.

Despite close air support provided by AF and Navy fighter bombers, the Jollys received considerable ground fire from inside and around the city, with mortar and artillery rounds coming in from the surrounding areas and ground and sniper fire from inside the Citadel itself. At the time of rescue, Quang Tri was surrounded by three NVA divisions.

The first HH-53C Super Jolly Green to go in was piloted by Maj. Jackson K. Scott and Capt. David E. Mullenix. They rescued 37. The second bird in was flown by Capt. Rodney S. Griffith and Maj. Anthony A. Gates, who snatched up 45, and the third chopper crewed by Capt. John B. Welmer and Capt. Gary A. Dake pulled out the remaining 50.

The fourth helicopter was suckered in by the VC, who opened fire on it from ambush when it landed. The alert PTs returned the fire and sapped a number of the bad guys and made a hasty retreat.

Score: a history-making combat rescue mission.

COL. WILLIAM HARRIS IV
Former 37th ARRS Cmdr.

That's a real edge of the chair account, Colonel. Congratulations on your former unit's accomplishments. Our story was based on official ARRS statistics —ED.

— DATE WAS 1 May 72

— THE ACTUAL COUNT BY
MY CREW WAS 57 +
MY CREW OF 6

63 TOTAL

NO WONDER MY ENGINE
TORK WAS OVER 110%

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