

Isle GI stays with Viet rangers

KHE SANH, South Vietnam (UPI) — A wounded U.S. Army sergeant from Hawaii is directing the defense of a besieged South Vietnamese ranger base inside Laos.

"These people are depending on me to get them out," Sgt. Dennis Fujii of Hanapepe, Kauai, radioed from his position on a hilltop five miles inside Laos.

Capt. James Sadden, 25, of Miami, Fla., said he received the message from Fujii Saturday while Fujii was directing Sadden's helicopter gunship to positions from which North Vietnamese forces were shelling the base.

"He sounded like he knew what he was doing," said Sadden.

U.S. military advisers

here said Fujii, the only man at the base who speaks good English, has become a "liaison officer," directing aerial and artillery support of the base. No one else there can adequately direct the support, they said.

Fujii, a former infan-

A Department of Defense spokesman in the Pentagon yesterday would not speculate on what might happen to Fujii if he gets out of the ranger base in Laos. He said, "He belongs to Gen. Creighton Abrams (U.S. commander in Vietnam)," and that any action "would be decided in the field."



Fujii, in photo he sent to his parents.

tryman, arrived at the base last Thursday as a crew chief aboard a U.S. medical evacuation helicopter. He gave up his space on the aircraft to make room for a wounded South Vietnamese soldier, pilots said, and has refused to leave the base on other helicopters that

have been able to land there since then.

The Nixon Administration has said no U.S. troops will be used on the ground in Laos in either combat or advisory roles. Fujii apparently is there by his own decision.

"Fujii said he is going to be the last man out," said one pilot on returning to Khe Sanh from a mission to the base yesterday.

Fujii received a wound in his left shoulder shortly after arriving at the base, pilots said, but it has not hampered his ability to call coordinates to the artillery battery and guide helicopters through a maze of fire the North Vietnamese have been pouring into the base for several days.