

# McKinley Rescue

## has tense moment

YU  
VOL. 15



Members of Ft Wainwright's 242 Avn Co conducted the first high altitude rescue of the spring climbing season on the west buttress of Mt McKinley Tuesday.

A climbing team was having difficulty at the 17,000 foot level of the mountain with one member having an injured leg. In other circumstances the injury would have been routine, but at the high altitude it became potentially fatal. He was lowered to an established site at the 14,300 foot level for rescue.

The Sugarbear Chinook helicopter flew first to Talkeetna then to the mountain. Crew members were oxygen equipped due to the thin air. Also, it was necessary for the crew to program each move as there was little room for error due to the low performance of the aircraft in the thin air.

Co-pilot CW3 Reuben Johnston said, "The aircraft we were flying isn't designed for that type of altitude. Kind of an uncomfortable feeling in the aircraft."

The landing site had a severe slope that prevented the landing gear from making full contact. "I looked out the window and I thought we were a 150 feet off the ground and I realized they had set down the rear end," according to the flight surgeon MAJ David Lam.

The injured man was then loaded on the aircraft and later transported to Anchorage.

Aircraft Commander CW3 Steven Davidson reflected on the mission saying, "We were breaking out in a cold sweat to say the least. It was a very apprehensive landing and the aircraft was at its max power. We had no room to maneuver the aircraft other than right in the landing zone itself. It was kind of touch and go for a while."

Davidson and Johnston were assisted by flight engineers SP6 Gordon Higgins and SP6 Frank Steele. Battalion Commander LTC Hershell Murray was aboard to observe the first-hand procedures for the special mission.

**INJURED CLIMBER**--An injured member of a climbing team was lowered to have his leg examined by MAJ (Dr) David Lam, flight surgeon for the 222d Avn Bn. Working with members of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service from Elmendorf, Alaska, Sugarbears recovered the victim by Chinook from the 14,300 foot level of Mt McKinley.

## Up to 20 Poop for the troop *9/22/76*

### Salary pay raise relocation sought

DoD legislative proposal recently...

The proposal also requires that the annual pay plan for reallocating the upcoming pay raise be given to Congress 30 days in advance of the hike.

Pay raise reallocation plans for subsequent years will be based on assessments of the market value of

travel was not approved for the three-year-old daughter- or so they thought

Under a recent reg change (AR 600-10 Oversea Service), the wife can now be granted a 90-day deferral to wait with the child daughter for quarters. If quarters are



**RESCUED CLIMBER**--An injured member of a climbing team prepares to have his leg examined by MAJ (Dr) David Lam, flight surgeon for the 222d Avn Bn. Working with members of the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service from Elmendorf, the Sugarbears recovered the victim by Chinook from the 14,300 foot level of Mt McKinley.

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AFZT-AV-SO

2 June 1976

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Aviation Accident Prevention Award of Honor

THRU: Commander  
US Army Agency for Aviation Safety  
ATTR: Safety Awards Program Officer  
Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362

TO: Headquarters  
Department of the Army  
(DAPE-MPS)  
Washington, DC 20310

1. The unit below is nominated for the Department of the Army Aviation Accident Prevention Award of Honor IAW AR 385-10, para 7-2b(2) for maintaining an accident free flying record for the period indicated.

a. UNIT: 242d Aviation Company (ASH), 222d Aviation Battalion, APO Seattle 98731.

b. UIC: WDYDAA A

c. PERIOD: 25 April 1973 to 25 April 1976

d. HOURS FLOWN: 9,457

2. The 242d Aviation Company (Sugar Bears) is continuing to pursue an active and effective accident prevention program.

HERSHELL B. MURRAY  
LTC, FA  
Commanding

AFZT-PDS-AV (2 Jun 76) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Accident Prevention Award of Honor

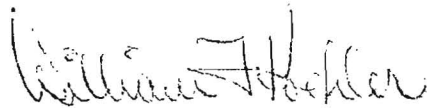
DA, Headquarters, 172d Infantry Brigade (Alaska), APO Seattle 98749

21 JUN 1976

TO: Commander, 222d Aviation Battalion, APO Seattle 98731

Your request is returned without action. The nominated unit, 242d Aviation Company, has been nominated for the Award of Excellence. The Award of Excellence is presented to an aviation unit that has completed six years of accident free flying. A unit can not receive two awards for the same period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



WILLIAM F. KOEHLER

Colonel, GS

Director of Plans, Training,  
and Security

# UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND



## CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

*This Certificate of Achievement is awarded to the 242d Aviation Company, 172d Infantry Brigade, Alaska, for exceptional performance of duty in accident-free aircraft operations during Fiscal Year 1976. The diligence and devotion to duty of all assigned personnel in making possible this exceptional accomplishment are recognized and reflect great credit upon the unit, the United States Army Forces Command and the United States Army.*

*Sam S. Walker*

SAM S. WALKER  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Commanding General