

STATEMENT OF
ADJ3 EDWIN E. RUST

hoisted up I noticed several F-4 Phantoms in the sky overhead. I also saw flashes on the beach which looked to me like artillery fire directed our way. I didn't notice any puffs of smoke or tracers, however.

When we neared the bottom of the helo I pushed away from it so neither myself or the survivor would hit it. As we reached the cargo door, the first crewman John MASAVEG positioned the survivor between the doorway and myself and gave slack on the cable as he pulled the survivor in and I pushed in. After we were both safely aboard, the first crewman informed me that there was another man in the water and we were going after him too. So I got squared away for another water entry, and got the first survivor forward, out of the way so we would have room to make another pickup. The second pickup was just like the first one except that the second survivor was injured on his right leg. While I was in the water with the second survivor, I asked him if he was alright and he did not mention his leg hurting, however, as we were getting him inside the helo he told us to be careful of his right leg as it was sore. After we had him safely aboard I looked at his leg, but it did not appear to be too serious so I decided it was best to leave it inside his flight gear which was tight enough to serve as a improvised splint.

At this time I put my helmet back on and plugged into the I.C.S. and found out that we were going to land as quickly as possible on the USS STERETT where corpsmen would be waiting to check the survivors condition.

I figured it would be a little while before we landed so I opened a can of soda and gave each survivor a drink and took one myself. After we landed on the STERETT I put the injured survivor on a stretcher provided by the ship and turned both survivors over to the corpsman.

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