

12 AAF EMERGENCY RESCUE BOAT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

926 Quartermaster Boat Co, Aviation activated, 2 Jul 1942

Redesignated 12 AAF Emergency Rescue Boat Squadron, 2 Jun 1944

Inactivated, 15 Oct 1946

Disbanded, 15 Jun 1983

STATIONS

Howard Fld, Panama

Albrook Fld, Panama

Howard Fld, Panama, 1944

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

All combat theaters of WWII had American rescue boat squadrons that originally belonged to the Army Quartermaster. Later in the war, this rescue function was transferred to the USAAF. The equipment of the rescue boat crews ranged from 16-foot swamp gliders and 22-foot shallow draft boats to seagoing vessels up to 104 feet in length. The USAAF eventually developed a standard 85-foot rescue boat. The boat crews were trained at New Orleans Army Base, Louisiana, starting in February 1943. By early 1944 the rescue boat school and the Aircrew Training Branch were merged at Keesler Field, Mississippi, to form the AAF Emergency Rescue School. This school eventually trained at least ninety-five boat crews and many aircrews. From 1943 on, in the Mediterranean, operating under British control and at times alongside the 1 ERS, were the 5th, 8th, 11th, and 12th USAAF Emergency Rescue (ER) boat crews. Sadly, the work of the boat crews in the MTO was restricted by the size of their boats and lack of equipment and thus they were not used in the most efficient manner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 21 Apr 2011

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.