

22d TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

The 22d Training Squadron conducts combat Survival Training, which all Air Force aircrew members must attend. Forty-nine classes are taught per year, with each class lasting 17 days.

Students began their training in the classroom where survival instructors taught on a wide range of survival topics. The students learned survival basics, such as: food and water procurement and preparation, shelter construction, basic first aid, land navigation, evasion travel, and camouflage. These basics were reinforced when the students went to the woods, a field training area near Cusick, Washington, 70 miles north of the base. For six days, survival instructors reviewed the survival basics, with the students learning in the best way possible: hands-on experience.

Divided into elements a group of 7-10 students, led by an instructor, the students lived in shelters built by their own hands, and replenished the small amount of food given them; 8 ounces of meat, a few vegetables, and carbohydrate food bars by setting snares for small animals and identifying, collecting, and eating various edible plants and insects. During their 6-day trip, the elements hiked across the mountains with backpacks the students had constructed themselves, learning day and night navigation and vectoring techniques. The last two days, students learned how to evade with camouflaged faces and hidden movements. Survival instructors acted as aggressors searching for the students as they proceeded to a pre-selected destination. Survival instructors posing as partisans (friendly forces) fed the students and hid them for their last night in the woods. The students earned their "freedom" the next day by once again evading to a pre-selected destination where an Air Force bus awaited them, taking them back to Fairchild AFB.

When the students arrived at Fairchild AFB, they spent the next two days in academics learning resistance training principles and the Code of Conduct in preparation for their visit to the resistance training (RT) compound. At the RT compound, the students learned the importance of

the Code of Conduct, and had the opportunity to practice resistant techniques while undergoing interrogations in a training environment. The students also learned how to survive and resist as a group in a prisoner of war (PW) camp by working together rather than independently. When the students finished the RT compound phase of training, they participated in seminars with RT instructors, discussing the students' experiences in the resistance training phase.

LINEAGE¹

22d Special Operations Squadron
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1970

3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron activated, 1 Apr 1971

22d Special Operations Squadron and 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron consolidated, 1 January 1993. Consolidated squadron redesignated 22d Crew Training Squadron

Activated, 28 Jan 1993
Redesignated 22d Training Squadron, 1 Apr 1994

STATIONS

Nakhon Phanom, Thailand
Fairchild AFB, WA

ASSIGNMENTS

3636th Combat Crew Training Wing
336th Training Group

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-1

COMMANDERS

Lt Col William F. Weaver, 11 Jan 1986
Lt Col Louis A. Caporicci

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations:

1 Nov 68-1 May 69

1 Oct 60-30 Apr 70

EMBLEM



22d Special Operations Squadron emblem

22d Training Squadron emblem: The landscape represents the State of Washington, location of the squadron and field training activities. The barbed wire symbolizes resistance training activities. The compass points refer to the teaching of global survival principles. The parachutist symbolizes the aircrew member who may come down anywhere on earth and have to use skills to survive and return. (Approved, 12 Dec 1984)

MOTTO

That They Shall Return

OPERATIONS

This unit incorporates the heritage of the 22 Special Operations Squadron and 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron.

The 22 Special Operations Squadron was activated on 25 October 1968 and assigned to the 56th Special Operations Wing operating out of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Operating A-1E Skyraider attack aircraft, the squadron flew both day and night interdiction missions, as well as search and rescue support missions in Southeast Asia. The 22 SOS at Nakhon Phanom inactivated in September 1970, by which time all of its A-1s were redistributed to other wings.

The 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron dates back to 1 April 1971 when it was activated. On that day, the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group was redesignated a Wing and the worldwide concept of survival training, with centralized survival training authority, became the focal point for all aircrew training.

On 31 August 1987 twenty-one individuals from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) attended a survival course at the 3636 CCTW. The fifteen astronaut candidates, as well as six engineers and technicians, spent three days learning the basics of survival in a condensed course created especially for the NASA students. NASA officials asked Survival School to provide survival training to the astronaut candidates because the candidates would be frequently flying in T-38 aircraft during their astronaut training. After attending survival training, they would be better equipped to survive if they had to bail out of the aircraft. The astronaut candidates spent their three days of training in the Sullivan Lake training area in Eastern Washington, approximately 90 miles from Fairchild AFB. The training consisted of learning immediate survival techniques. The survival instructors did not teach long-term survival basics because searches would begin immediately if the students ever bailed out and they would not spend much time on the ground. They learned how to care for their clothing and equipment, construct shelters, procure water, start fires, and how to signal and vector aircraft for rescue. Instructors also taught on basic medical self-aid, sanitation and hygiene, and personal survival kits. NASA officials remained pleased with the training the astronaut candidates received and planned to continue sending candidates to Survival School for survival training.

Survival School also continued to support the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFROTC) and the USAF Academy's survival training program. Each summer, Wing survival instructors taught AFROTC cadets the basics of Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) at AFROTC encampments throughout the United States. Wing survival instructors also traveled to the Air Force Academy each summer to teach cadets the Combat Survival Training Course and water survival, both mandatory courses for the Academy cadets.

Between July and December 1987, the Wing supported six exercises worldwide, including COPE THUNDER 88-2 and FOAL EAGLE. The Wing continued to provide survival instructors to assist in Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Central Command - Air Force, and Air Force exercises.

Survival School participated in COPE THUNDER 88-2 from 27 November to 21 December 1987. The Wing sent seven survival instructors to Clark Air Base (AB), Philippines, where the exercise was being conducted. The exercise involved tactical air and support forces from the United States Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Army. COPE THUNDER included over ten different aircraft: fighters, search and rescue helicopters, reconnaissance aircraft, and refueling aircraft. For the Wing's participation, the survival instructors trained 41 survivors both on land and in the water in daytime SAREXs (Search and Rescue exercises). The instructors accompanied the "survivors" throughout the exercise, which included escape and, evasion, until the survivors were rescued by friendly forces."

The squadron continued to support the annual Combined Forces Command (CFC) FOAL EAGLE

exercise in 1987. Seventeen survival instructors went to Camp Humphreys (near Osan AB) in the Republic of Korea (ROK) from 14 October to 11 November 1987 for the exercise. Participants included the US Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, the US Army National Guard, the ROK Air Force, and the ROK Army. The squadron assisted in providing theater-specific training to ROK and US personnel in survival, evasion, resistance to interrelation, escape, and rescue procedures and techniques (SEREREX). Throughout the SEREREX portion of the exercise, survival instructors supported US forces, teaching resistance academics, accompanying the survival teams, and interrogating US personnel. Including ROK personnel, 321 military members were trained during the 1987 exercise, an increase of 111 percent over the 1986 SEREREX.