

8 AIR RESCUE GROUP

MISSION

8 Air Rescue Squadron mission was rescue of SAC crews if and when extended missions over the polar region into the Soviet Union or across the Pacific against Communist China. The 8 Air Rescue Squadron flew SC-47s specially equipped with detachable skis for landing in the icy polar regions or the flat snow-covered expanses of the central Eurasian landmass.

LINEAGE

8 Air Rescue Squadron

STATIONS

Peterson AFB, CO

Norton AFB, CA, 19 Sep 1957-30 Jun 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 8 ERS arrived in China in May of 1945 with R-6 helicopters and C-47 search support aircraft. Designed for land rescue, the 8 ERS completed 43 saves in difficult, mountainous terrain that more than proved the value of the vertical lift R-6s.

The 8th Emergency Rescue Squadron was activated and, on October 21, 1950, assigned to the 3904th Composite Wing (SAC) at Camp Carson, Colorado.

In September 1954 the 8th ARG was established to perform the mission of Strategic Air Command aircrew recovery in the polar region and Pacific Ocean. As part of the global rescue concept made viable during the 1950s, SA-16As provided coverage for air transport and tactical fighter units during the Lebanon and Formosa crises in 1958.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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