

71st RESCUE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

71st Air Rescue Squadron constituted 17 Oct 1952
Activated, 14 Nov 1952
Discontinued and inactivated, 18 Mar 1960
Redesignated 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, 25 Nov 1969
Activated, 8 Mar 1970
Redesignated 71st Air Rescue Squadron, 1 Jun 1989
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1991
Activated, 1 Oct 1991
Redesignated 71st Rescue Squadron, 1 Feb 1993

STATIONS

Elmendorf AFB, AK, 14 Nov 1952-18 Mar 1960
Elmendorf APB, AK, 8 Mar 1970-30 Jun 1991
Patrick AFB, FL, 1 Oct 1991
Moody AFB, GA, 1 Apr 1997

ASSIGNMENTS

10th Air Rescue Group, 14 Nov 1952
Air Rescue Service, 21 Oct 1957-18 Mar 1960
39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing, 8 Mar 1970
41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery (later 41st Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance) Wing,
1 Jul 1974

Air Rescue Service, 1 Aug 1989-30 Jun 1991
Air Rescue Service, 1 Oct 1991
1st Operations Group, 1 Feb 1993
1st Rescue Group, 14 Jun 1995
347th Operations (later, 347th Rescue) Group, 1 Apr 1997

ATTACHMENTS

Alaskan Air Command for operational control, 1 Aug 1954-23 May 1958
Det 1, 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing 8 Mar 1970-30 Jun 1971
Elmendorf Rescue Coordination Center, 1 Jul 1971-24 Jun 1972
Alaskan Air Command Rescue Coordination Center 25 Jun 1972-30 Jun 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

SA-16, 1952-1960
H-5, 1954-1955
C-54, 1954-1955
SH-19, 1954-1956
SC-54, 1955-1958
SH-21, 1956-1960
HC-130, 1970-1987
HH-3, 1975 -1991
CH-3, 1976-1979, 1981-1990
HC-130, 1991
C-130, 1994

COMMANDERS

LTC Joseph C. Mathews, 14 Nov 1952
LTC Richard D. Walrath, 2 Jan 1953
Maj Wilbur M. Hackett Jr., 27 Jul 1954
LTC Arthur W. Beall Jr., 8 Jun 1955
Maj Henry L. Tammenga, 23 Jul 1956
LTC Maurice Speer, 21 Aug 1956
LTC James R. Wesley, 17 Jul 1959-18 Mar 1960
Unkn, 8 Mar-11 Apr 1970
LTC Dale A. McGuire, 11 Apr 1970
LTC Ronald J. Soroka, 1 Mar 1972
LTC Marvin O. Dillman, by 30 Jun 1974
LTC Larry A. Nitz, by 31 Dec 1975
LTC Arthur T. Provencio, 23 Jul 1976
LTC Frank Cardile, 25 Jul 1977
LTC Richard D. Hoover, 22 Jun 1979
LTC John W. Langley, 26 Jun 1980
LTC Eric E. Wheaton, 17 Sep 1981
LTC Stephen D. Howell, 15 Jun 1983

LTC David L. Hamann, 4 Sep 1985
LTC Keith M. Perry, 15 Oct 1988
LTC Larry A. Helgeson, 23 Feb 1990-unkn
LTC Boyd B. Lease, 1 Oct 1991
LTC William P. Stewart Jr., 29 Jul 1993
LTC Donald R. Jozayt, 13 Jul 1995
LTC Robert D. Winston, 23 May 1997
LTC Ralph E. McDonald, 4 Jun 1999
LTC Thomas L. Lutz, 10 Apr 2001
LTC Tom J. Bianco, 11 Apr 2002
LTC Darryle J. Grimes, 6 Oct 2003
LTC William J. Taylor, 28 Jun 2005
LTC Michael R. Outlaw, May 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia

Cease Fire Campaign

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

7-20 May 1956

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1974

1 Jul 1974-31 May 1975

1 Sep 1975-1 May 1977

16 Jul 1977-16 Jul 1979

17 Jun 1979-15 Jun 1981

1 Apr 1984-31 Mar 1986

1 Apr 1987-31 Mar 1988

1 Feb 1993-30 Apr 1994

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

1 Oct 2003-31 Oct 2004

1 Nov 2004-31 May 2006

Meritorious Unit Award

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

EMBLEM

Celeste gridlined as a globe Argent axis bendwise. the cypher K Or shaded Argent bearing in dexter chief a crown of the second lined Cults turned Azure; all within a diminished bordure Yellow. (Approved, 8 Jun 1995, replaced emblem approved, 15 Jun 1956)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Search, rescue and recovery in Alaska, 1952-1960 and 1970-1991.

17 Nov 1957 SA-16 and SH-21 aircrews from the 71st AR Squadron rescued four surviving aircrewman and recovered six deceased aircrewmen from a TB-29 which crashed in the Talkeetna Mountains north of Anchorage, AK

The 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron was activated at Elmendorf AFB on 8 March 1970. Four HC-130s were assigned. Two of these were "P" models, which were capable of refueling helicopters in flight. The assignment of the HC-130s coincided with the arrival of thirteen HH-3E Jolly Green Giants. The first two of these were assigned to the 5040th Helicopter Squadron in April 1970. The helicopters, tail numbers 69-5800 through 69-5812, arrived directly from the Sikorsky Aircraft Factory. All were capable of aerial refueling. The HH-3Es replaced the HC-21s, which were phased out of AAC's inventory. The HH-3s remained assigned to the 5040th Helicopter Squadron until 30 September 1975, when they were transferred to the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron as part of an effort to consolidate all Air Force rescue helicopters to the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service. The 5040th, an AAC unit, was inactivated shortly afterward.

The HC-130s and HH-3Es had been used to support a United States Army, Alaska, search-and-rescue exercise on the frozen Beaufort Sea, 100 miles north of Point Barrow. Nicknamed Polar Cap, it was conducted 26 February-6 March 1971 in temperatures of 35 degrees below zero, and it involved air dropping 122 paratroopers onto the ice to simulate the rescue of passengers from a downed commercial airliner. The idea for the exercises had been "borrowed" from Canadians. It proved successful and has been, with few exceptions, conducted on an annual basis, although with a greatly reduced force and primarily by the 71st Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

The HC-130s, coupled with the HH-3Es, provided a greatly increased search-and-rescue capability, particularly when augmented by the Civil Air Patrol and other military aircraft. Their value was proven 25 July 1971, when an HH-3E, piloted by Maj. William W. Dodd and Robert H. Robinson, made a 900-mile round trip, over-water flight to rescue a Korean seaman who was suffering from an appendicitis attack while aboard a fishing vessel south of Kodiak. An HC-130 accompanied the mercy flight and provided refueling and navigational support.

Oct-Nov 1972 The 71st ARR Squadron joined with elements of other agencies in the search for House Majority Leader Hale Boggs, Congressman Nick Begich, and two other men, who

disappeared in Alaska during a flight between Anchorage and Juneau. Despite a 40-day search, no trace was found.

3 Aug 1977 The 71st ARR Squadron participated in the rescue of 17 persons from the Skookum Glacier in Alaska.

4 Oct 1980 When the Dutch tourist ship, Prinsendam, caught fire 125 miles south of Yukataga, in the Gulf of Alaska, the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Elmendorf AFB coordinated the rescue effort, which involved forces of the USAF, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Canada.

Aerial refueling for search and rescue, 1991.

Supported the combat search and rescue mission in Southwest Asia with aircraft and crews, 1992-.

25 June 1996, a tragic event occurred which brought the reality of terrorism to the forefront. A bomb, attached to a fuel truck, exploded outside the Khobar Towers Housing area, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The bomb took the lives of 19 Air Force members, including five airmen of the 71st Rescue Squadron: Captain Christopher J. Adams, Captain Leland T. Haun, Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser, Staff Sergeant Kevin J. Johnson, and Airman First Class Justin R. Wood. The cowardice act also forced the Wing to move its Southwest Asia operations 200 miles southwest from Dhahran to Al Kharj.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.