

## 79<sup>th</sup> RESCUE SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

79<sup>th</sup> Air Rescue Squadron

Redesignated 79<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron

Redesignated 79<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron

Redesignated 79<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Rescue Squadron

### **STATIONS**

Andersen AFB, Guam, 14 Nov 1952-18 Sep 1960

Andersen AFB, Guam, 10 May 1961-30 Jun 1972

Davis Monthan AFB, AZ.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

H-43

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## Decorations

## EMBLEM



## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

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. Other early USAF units that operated the Albatross abroad included the 31st ARS at Clark AB, Philippines, the 33rd ARS at Naha Air Station, Okinawa, the 36th ARS at Tachikawa, Japan, the 55th ARS at Thule AB, Greenland, the 79th ARS at Guam, and the 95th Strategic Wing at Goose Bay, Labrador. Stateside units assigned Albatrosses included the 10th ARS at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, the 41st at Hamilton AFB, California, the 42nd ARS at March AFB, California, the 71st ARS in Alaska, the 74th ARS at Ladd AFB, Alaska, and the 48th ARS at Eglin AFB, Florida, where Albatross training was conducted from 1964 to 1968.

Among the changes that took place in 1965 and 1966, was the introduction of the HC-130 to replace the HC-54 in the airborne mission control function. Colonel Brooks officially accepted the first HC-130H aircraft from the Lockheed-Georgia Company on July 26, 1965. In August an accelerated transition and rescue training program began at the 48th Air Rescue Squadron, Eglin AFB, Florida. In December 1965, two HC-130Hs, one from the 79th Air Rescue Squadron on Guam and one from the 36th Air Rescue Squadron in Japan, arrived at Udorn as replacements for the HC-54s.

Rescue forces from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., earlier this month conducted the base's first multilift HC-130 airdrop on its own flightline. HC-130 aircrew from the active duty 79th Rescue Squadron practiced with pararescue jumpers from Air Force Reserve Command's 943<sup>rd</sup> Rescue Group so that the latter could accomplish their jump training requirements. In the past, such exercises have been conducted at more remote locations, with the long transit times limiting the amount of training per flight. But use of the Davis-Monthan flightline enabled "accomplishing literally several months' worth of training" in a single day, said Lt. Col. Michael Hinsch, 79th RQS director of operations. During the Aug. 15 exercise, the PJs were able to complete seven drops from different altitudes. This flightline exercise was "very successful," said Hinsch. "We hope to complete this type of event on a regular basis," he said.

USAF Activates HC-130P Rescue Force in Afghanistan: The Air Force officially activated the 79th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, April 22, but the airmen deployed to the unit from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., set up alert operations April 8 and flew their first alert sortie April 9. The squadron comprises some 86 airmen—aircrews, maintainers, and pararescue jumpers. The PJs can care for wounded troops in transit or airdrop from the unit's fixed-wing HC-130Ps into a combat zone to help injured personnel. The last time the HC-130 appeared in the Afghan theater, according to Lt. Col. Michael Hinsch, 79th ERQS commander, was five years ago, when they flew missions out of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. At Bastion, the HC-130 force is on 30-minute alert status. Hinsch said, "Helmand Province is the busiest spot right now in Afghanistan; being here puts us right where they need us." 2010

Martin turned over the first HC-130J Combat King II personnel recovery aircraft to Air Combat Command. Gen. Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff, ferried the new aircraft from Lockheed's production facility in Marietta, Ga., to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., where it will join the 79th Rescue Squadron. "This is such a significant milestone for the personnel recovery community. The capabilities of the new HC-130J are a magnitude greater than any of its predecessors," said Schwartz after touching down on Sept. 24 with the airplane. The J model is capable of being refueled in flight and boasts feature like new electro-optical sensors, improved navigation, and enhanced-life wing structures. ACC's 1965-vintage HC-130P/N fleet will gradually retire as J models enter the inventory. Air Force officials expect HC-130Js to begin regular duty at Davis-Monthan in early 2013. The Air Force has 11 HC-130Js on order, but plans to procure 37 in total. 2011

The remaining 24 members of the 79th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., returned home on Oct. 14 from a deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, according to a base release. The airmen were among the 1,200 from the base deployed this year in support of operations around the globe, marking the "largest deployment at D-M since World War II". The airmen, who were assigned to the Personnel Recovery Task Force, were "providing 24-hour personnel recovery, seven days a week, in the Middle East," said Lt. Col. Jim Brunner, 26th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron commander. 2015

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Air Force Order of Battle

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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.