

81st AIR RESCUE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

81st Air Rescue Squadron constituted, 12 Aug 1952

Activated, 1 Sep 1952

Inactivated, 8 Dec 1957

Redesignated 81st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron and converted to provisional status, 14 Apr 2003

Activated, 14 Apr 2003

Inactivated, 6 Jan 2005

Activated, 14 Jun 2007

Inactivated, 1 Oct 2008

STATIONS

Palm Beach IAP, FL, 1 Sep-20 Oct 1952

Bordeaux, France, 30 Oct 1952

Sembach AB, Germany, 21 Sep 1953-8 Dec 1957

Jacobabad, Pakistan, 14 Oct 2003-6 Jun 2005

Djibouti, Djibouti, 14 Jun 2007-1 Oct 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

12th Air Rescue Group, 1 Sep 1952-8 Dec 1957

438th Air Expeditionary Group, 14 Apr 2003-6 Jun 2005

449th Air Expeditionary Group, 14 Jun 2007-1 Oct 2008

United States Air Forces Europe to activate or inactivate at any time after 1 Oct 2008

WEAPON SYSTEMS

SA-16, 1952-1957

C/SC-47, 1952-1957

H-19, 1953-1956

H-19B

C-47D

COMMANDERS

Maj Truett O. Nance, 1 Sep 1952

Maj Benjamin F. Armstrong (temp), 18 Aug 1954

Maj Truett O. Nance, 15 Oct 1954

LTC Thomas B. Wood, 1 Jul 1955-1957

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Global War on Terrorism: GWOT-E.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Approved, 5 Jul 1957

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Search and rescue and aeromedical evacuation in Europe, primarily in Germany, Austria, northern Italy, and the low countries, Nov 1952-1957.

On 7 July 1953, the 66th TRW was reassigned from TAC to USAFE and its subordinate 66th ABG took control of the base. The next day, the wing's first aircraft arrived, RB-26s of the 30th TRS, followed by RF-80s and T-33s of the 302d and 303d TRSs. Air Rescue Service established a tenure at Sembach with the arrival of the 12th ARG and the subordinate 81st ARS on 25 September 1953. The 11th TMS, the first Matador missile squadron at Sembach, arrived on 1 July 1956. The 587th TMG activated on

15 September 1956 and became the 11th TMS's higher headquarters.

In 1958, aircraft operations began to decline. The 12th ARG wound down operations and inactivated on 18 February, followed by the 81st ARS within a month. Until the end of August, the final elements of the 66th TRW had left Sembach for Laon AB, France. The 512th FIS arrived from RAF Manston on 28 March with F-86Ds and operated from Sembach until its inactivation on 1 July 1959. The 7127th SG took over as host unit on 18 June 1958, the official transfer date of the 66th TRW. Concurrently, the 11th TMS inactivated and was replaced with the 822d TMS to preserve the latter's heritage.

The 12th Air Rescue and Recovery Service Group stationed the 81st, 82d and 83d ARS Squadrons at Bordeaux-Merignac from 1952 to 1955. These squadrons operated SA-16 amphibians and H-19B air rescue helicopters. They practiced pilot recoveries at Lake Cazaux near Arcachon.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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