

RESTRICTED

INTRODUCTION

Air Rescue Service was brought about largely through the efforts of Colonel Wallace S. Ford and associated officers, whose wartime experiences in rescue work throughout the theaters of war made them fully aware of the need for an organization for the post-war Air Forces which could organize, supervise, direct, and control the rescue activities of the Army Air Forces, and also coordinate rescue matters with other U.S. agencies. It is the mission of Air Rescue Service to provide rescue service in conformity with AR 95-125.

To plan, coordinate and obtain approval of requirements for personnel, equipment, installations, and facilities of the Air Rescue Service; to inform all components of the U.S. Army on plans, programs, and facilities of the Air Rescue Service; to inform all components of the U.S. Army on plans and programs for rescue service operated by government agencies other than the Army Air Forces when such plans or programs involve changes in AAF requirements for rescue personnel, equipment, facilities and fixed installations; to provide trained rescue personnel and units as required to coordinate rescue matters with other U.S. agencies; and where authorized with the rescue services of other governments.

Air Rescue Service, as it is constituted as of this writing, was Evolved through a series of organizational and command changes. Prior to the organization of the 62d AAF Base Unit, a search and rescue within

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the continental U.S. was the responsibility of the numbered air forces, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Air Forces within the boundaries of their designated area. The history of Air Rescue Service goes back properly speaking, to December 5, 1945, when the 62d AAF Base Unit (Search and Rescue was designated and organized under Continental Air Forces.

62d AAF Base Unit (Continental Air Forces Designated. The 62d AAF Base Unit (Continental Air Forces was designated effective 0001 hours, December 5, 1945. The mission of the 62d AAF Base Unit (CAF) as set forth in General Order No. 39, was to plan and execute search and rescue activities over land areas of the zone of interior and airborne rescue over such coastal water areas as AAF operations may require. The 62d AAFBU was directed to assume and carry out the responsibilities as directed in AAF Letter AFRET, dated 23 October 1945, subject AAF Assistance to Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. The strength and forces for this organization were to be authorized by the Commanding General, CAF, from bulk allotments to CAF under approved Tables of Distribution in accordance with AAF Reg 150-1. The equipment required for this organization was authorized by Tables of Allowance 20-1, "Equipment for Army Air Forces Zone of Interior Installations, and Tables of Allowance 1-42, "Continental AAF, Search and Rescue and current changes thereto.

1. General Order No. 39, Hq, Continental Air Forces, as amended by 00 No. 5, Hq, CAP dated 18 January 1946.

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Redesignation and Assignment of the Army Air Forces Weather Service and the Army Airways Communications System; Establishment of certain Army Air Forces Activities. (Continued)

Effective 13 March 1946, the following activities are established at the Indicated and assigned to the Air Transport Command;

Activity	Location
Headquarters, Flying Safety Service	Langley Field, Virginia
Headquarters, Aeronautical Chart Service	Washington, D.C.
Headquarters, Air Rescue Service	Washington, D.C.
Headquarters, Flight Services	Washington, D.C.
a. Equipment for Headquarters, Flying Safety Service, is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended.	
b. Equipment for Headquarters, Aeronautical Chart Service, is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended.	
c. Equipment for Headquarters, Air Rescue Service, is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended. Necessary additional equipment required will be authorized in accordance with T/A 1-43 (Proposed).	
d. Equipment for Headquarters, Flight Services, is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended.	

5. Effective 13 March 1946, the following units are relieved from their previous assignments and assigned to the Air Transport Command for further assignment to Headquarters, Air Weather Service, without change of authorized strengths or locations;

53d Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather
54th Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather
55th Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather
59th Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather

6. When the actions directed herein have been accomplished, a report will be submitted to this office by letter and copies furnished the Service Commander concerned.

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Major Kenneth O. Bennington was assigned duty as an Air Rescue liaison officer with the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, D.C.

At the end of this reporting period, the strength of Air Rescue Service, (62d AAF Base Unit), is 369 officers and 462 enlisted Men (these figures include personnel assigned to the 5th ERS).

The following is a brief narrative account of each squadron and detachment under Hq, Air Rescue Service, as of June 30, 1946:

5th Emergency Rescue Squadron

The 5th ERS was assigned to ATC and further assigned to Hq, Air Rescue Service, effective May 21, 1946. Also see separate historical report.

Rescue Control Center "A"

This Control Center was originally a Sector Control Center for The 1st Air Force, with station at Andrews Field, Maryland. From the period of activation of the 62d AAF BU, until the Hq. Air Rescue Service (62d AAF BU) moved to Washington National Airport on May 29, the history of this Control Center and Headquarters 62d AAF BU was more or less synonymous, since both activities were at the same location. On March 26, this unit was designated Sector Control Center under the command of Lt. Colonel Joseph F. Westover.

10. ATC Ltr 20-408 (27May46) dtd 7 June 46, Subject: Organizational Changes Within the Air Rescue Service pursuant to Authority Contained in par2. Ltr, Hq, AAF, ATC-OB-1, Movement Directivew, 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron, dtd 3 May 46.

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS AIR RESCUE SERVICE

(62d AAF BASE UNIT)

AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND

MORRISON FIELD, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HISTORICAL RECORD REPORT

FOR PERIOD

ACTIVATION TO 1 JULY 1946

Prepared by Intelligence Section, Headquarters, Air Rescue Service, (62d AAF Base Unit), Morrison Field, Florida.

Containing historical data compiled and prepared in accordance with AAF Regulation 20-8, ATC Regulation 20-20, and AR 345-105.

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INTRODUCTION

Air Rescue Service was brought about largely through the efforts of Colonel Wallace S. Ford and associated officers, whose wartime experience in rescue work throughout the theaters of war made them fully aware of the need for an organization for the post-war Air Forces which could organize, supervise, direct, and control the rescue activities of the Army Air Forces, and also coordinate rescue matters with other U. S. agencies. It is the mission of Air Rescue Service to provide rescue service in conformity with AR 95-125: To plan, coordinate and obtain approval of requirements for personnel, equipment, installations, and facilities of the Air Rescue Service, to inform all components of the U. S. Army on plans, programs, and facilities of the Air Rescue Service; to inform all components of the U. S. Army on plans and programs for rescue service operated by Government agencies other than the Army Air Forces when such plans and programs involve changes in AAF requirements for rescue personnel, equipment, facilities and fixed installations; to provide trained rescue personnel and units as required to coordinate rescue matters with other U. S. agencies; and where authorized with the rescue services of other governments.

Air Rescue Service, as it is constituted as of this writing, was evolved through a series of organizational and command changes. Prior to the organization of the 62d AAF Base Unit, a search and rescue within

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Redesignation and Assignment of the Army Air Forces Weather Service and the Army Airways Communications System; Establishment of certain Army Air Forces Activities. (Continued)

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<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Headquarters, Air Rescue Service	Washington, D. C.
Headquarters, Flight Services	Washington, D. C.

a. Equipment for Headquarters, Flying Safety Service, is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended.

b. Equipment for Headquarters, Aeronautical Chart Service, is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended.

c. Equipment for Headquarters, Air Rescue Service is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended. Necessary additional equipment required will be authorized in accordance with T/A 1-42 (Proposed).

d. Equipment for Headquarters, Flight Services is authorized in accordance with T/A 20-1, as amended.

5. Effective 13 March 1946, the following units are relieved from their pre-assignments and assigned to the Air Transport Command for further assignment: Headquarters, Air Weather Service, without change of authorized strengths or locations:

53d Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather
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55th Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather
59th Reconnaissance Squadron, VLR, Weather

6. When the actions directed herein have been accomplished, a report will be submitted to this office by letter and copies furnished the Service Commander concerned.

7. Twenty (20) copies of the order issued pursuant to this letter will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces (Attention: Publication Section, Air Adjutant General), in addition to the distribution directed in paragraph 17 e, AR 310-50. No other distribution will be made to offices of Headquarters, Army Air Forces.

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10. ATC Ltr 20-408 (22 May 46) dtd 7 June 46, Subject: Organizational Changes Within the Air Rescue Service pursuant to Authority Contained in par 2. Ltr, Hq, AAF, ATC-OB-1, Movement Directive, 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron, dtd 3 May 46.

AAF REGULATION
NO 20-54

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON, 24 APRIL 1946

ORGANIZATION

Air Rescue Service

(This Regulation supersedes AAF Regulations 20-54, 3 February 1945 and 20-54A, 7 March 1945.)

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SECTION I - Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions will apply:
 - a. Rescue Service is the search for, and rescue of, personnel in aircraft incidents, including aircraft accidents, crash landings, abandonment, and the like which do not occur in the proximity of air bases and which require:
 - (1) Determining the location of the incident, or
 - (2) Rescuing the survivors or providing them with the means for survival.
 - b. Rescue Control Centers will be those installations so designated and charged with directing AAF search and rescue operations within specified areas.
 - c. Rescue Control Area is a geographical area with specified boundaries, so designated for facilitating control of rescue information and operations by the rescue control center located therein.
 - d. Rescue Detachment is a detachment of personnel and equipment from a parent unit whose specific purpose is rescue service.
 - e. Rescue Squadron is a numerically designated and activated squadron, organized under an approved T/O & E designed for rescue service.
 - f. Rescue Group is a numerically designated and activated unit composed of a group headquarters organized under an approved T/O & E, and two or more rescue squadrons.
 - g. Rescue Base Unit is an organization of rescue detachments and control centers, combined into one constituted unit for administrative and command control.

SECTION II - General

2. Headquarters, Air Rescue Service was established and assigned to the Air Transport Command by AG Letter, subject, "Redesignation and Assignment of the Army Air Forces Weather Service and the Army Airways Communication system; Establishment of Certain Army Air Forces Activities, file AG 322 (8 Mar 46) OE-1-AFCOR (926(d))-M, dated 13 March 1946, which had a limited distribution. The Air Rescue Service will:

- a. Provide rescue service in conformity with AR 95-125.

- b. Plan coordinate and obtain approval of requirements for personnel, equipment, installations and facilities of the Air Rescue Service.
- c. Inform all components of the United States Army on plans, programs, and facilities of the Air Rescue Service.
- d. Inform all components of the United States Army on plans and programs for rescue services operated by Governmental agencies other than the AAF when such plans and programs involve changes in AAF requirements for rescue personnel, equipment, facilities, and fixed installations.
- e. Provide trained rescue personnel and units as required.
- f. Coordinate rescue service matters with other United States agencies and where authorized with the rescue services of other governments.

3. The Chief, Air Rescue Service, or his local representative, is authorized direct communication with base commanders in order to obtain assistance in the performance of a rescue mission.

4. The Chief Air Rescue Service is authorized through the Commanding General Air Transport Command, and with due regard to command channels, to station operating units of the Air Rescue Service on bases under the control of other AAF commands within the continental United States, as necessary in the performance of its mission.

5. Rescue personnel and equipment will be assigned to appropriate rescue units and will not be assigned to other duties or for other purposes, except their proportionate share of housekeeping duties, without the prior approval of the senior air commander responsible for rescue in the area.

SECTION III - Organization

6. The Air Rescue Service is the parent organization for rescue service within the AAF. It will consist of the Headquarters, Air Rescue Service, base units, groups, squadrons and detachments, and such other special units as may be required.

SECTION IV - Responsibilities

7. The Coast Guard operates task units for the assistance of persons in distress in the Great Lakes and waters adjacent to the United States which, in general, are considered adequate for the needs of the AAF.

8. The Chief, Air Rescue Service, is responsible for providing rescue service within the continental United States, and along air transport routes, or portions of such routes as are not covered by theater or department rescue units. He will:

- a. Organize, supervise, direct, and control the activities of the Air Rescue Service.
- b. Act as advisor to the Commanding General, Air Transport Command, and his staff on all matters pertaining to rescue service.
- c. Serve, when so directed, as a representative of the Commanding General AAF or designate an alternate, for appropriate rescue committees working groups and conferences.
- d. Be responsible for the preparation of rescue directives, including new or revised technical operating instructions and standing operating procedures.
- e. Provide trained and equipped rescue units for assignment to oversea theaters and departments, as directed by the Commanding General, AAF.

- f. Designate boundaries and appoint area control officers for air rescue control areas within the continental United States and along such oversea transport routes as are not covered by theater rescue units, and transfer personnel between and within the areas.
 - g. Establish liaison with theaters and departments to coordinate plans for inter-area co-operation, communications, and rescue service along transport routes within their respective areas of responsibility.
 - h. Establish and maintain units for rescue service at bases adjacent to inland waters and coastal waters where augmentation of Coast Guard services becomes necessary.
 - i. Establish liaison and insure adequate communications between rescue control centers and equivalent Coast Guard activities and furnish available aircraft to assist in a rescue mission when requested by the Coast Guard.
9. In each air rescue control area, the area control officer will:
 - a. Supervise and operate rescue activities within his area.
 - b. Maintain technical supervision over all Army rescue activities within his area, in accordance with Army Regulation 95-125.
 - c. Move rescue facilities and units as required to accomplish a specific mission.
10. The commanding officer of the rescue unit or detachment on a station will be the station rescue officer for rescue service other than that defined in AAF Regulation 20-48. He will:
 - a. Furnish rescue service as directed by the appropriate area control officer and assist staff rescue officers of the other Army organizations in the performance of their duties.
 - b. Within the continental United States, perform first and second echelon maintenance of rescue equipment, outside the continental United States perform in addition, necessary third and fourth echelon maintenance, where not furnished by other agencies.
11. Commanding officers of bases under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, AAF where detachments or units of the Air Rescue Service are located are responsible for:
 - a. Cooperating to the fullest extent with the requests of the commanding officer of the rescue control centers pertaining to the accomplishment of rescue missions.
 - b. Exercising the local administrative control necessary to the application of post regulations or policies which pertain to the conduct, bearing, appearance, and passes of military personnel.
 - c. Providing housing, medical attention, messing, common supplies, and local security.
 - d. At class III installations, performing such installation and third echelon maintenance as is within the capacity of the base.
 - e. Providing normal administrative services requested by an Air Rescue Service detachment or unit which pertain to matters, such as personnel services, personal affairs, and physical training.
12. The Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, is responsible for fourth echelon maintenance and such installation and lower echelon maintenance as is beyond the capacity of class III installations and for the stocking of parts for the performance of such maintenance.

13. Commanding officers of all bases under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, AAF, are responsible for reporting immediately to the nearest rescue control center information of aircraft incidents, including aircraft accidents, crash landings, abandonment, and the like, or personnel in distress.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SPAATZ:



OFFICIAL:

H. G. CULTON
Colonel, Air Corps
Air Adjutant General

IRA C. EAKER
Lieutenant General, United States Army
Deputy Commander, Army Air Forces

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Major Albert W. Moon reported to Headquarters Air Rescue Service and was appointed Public Relations Officer July 17, 1946. Major Moon departed 29 July for twenty-two days TDY in connection with Public Relations activities with Project "Airmail" in Los Angeles.

Lt Thomas L. Barr was released from TDY with "Crossroads Project" and returned to duty as Assistant PRO on August 20, 1946. Lt Barr was appointed Assistant Project Officer and Public Relations representative for Headquarters Air Rescue Service on Project "Airmail" in Chicago and was on TDY from September 14, 1946 to October 24, 1946.

On October 23, 1946, Major Moon departed this station for Reception Center and on October 24, 1946, Lt Barr was appointed Public Relations Officer.

Public Relations and detachment in Air Rescue Service has been reorganized. Public Relations Officer, additional duty.

Public Relations activities have been published and

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MEDICAL

This section began to function on July 20, 1946 when Captain Charles D. Hedden, Medical Staff Unit, Morrison Field was appointed Acting Surgeon for Air Rescue Service. It was necessary,

for Captain Bodine to initiate immediately a system of reporting for all units and establish a policy for non-emergency medical care for headquarters personnel.

Major Frank A. Perri, Flight Surgeon, was assigned and reported August 19, 1946. Major Perri was also given the duty of Group Surgeon for 1st Air Weather Group (Prov), and Chief of Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at the station hospital.

A request for additional medical officers was submitted to Headquarters Air Transport Command, and on September 18, 1946, four officers; Lt R.J. Goodall, M.C; Lt M.B. Pate, M.C.; Lt H.N. Hunsader, M.C; and Lt F.E. Miller, M.C., reported to headquarters Air Rescue Service⁸. These officers, who were not aviation medical examiners, were transferred out by Headquarters Air Transport Command and replaced by three officers who were graduates of the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Texas, and the Airborne Training School, Fort Benning, Georgia⁹. These three officers reported to Headquarters Air Rescue Service on September 27, 1946, and for the next few days were given instructions as to their duties and responsibilities in their pending assignments. On October 7, 1946, they were assigned as follows: 1st Lt. Albert G. Lewis, Assistant Surgeon of Headquarters Air Rescue Service; 1st Lt. Randolph W. Briggs to Squadron "B", Hamilton Field; and 1st Lt. Truett V. Bennett to Squadron "A", Andrews Field.

On October 28, 1946, twelve medical enlisted men reported to Headquarters Air Rescue Service and after a series of orientation lectures were reassigned to units requiring medical personnel.

8. SO #198, Par 9, Hq 503rd AAFBU, ATLD,ATC, 31 Aug 46.

9. SO #198, Par 9, Hq 503rd AAFBU, 17 Aug 46.

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In early October the Surgeon of Air Reserve Service attended a conference of all Aero Medical Directors and Division Surgeons of AUC. This conference dealt with many problems applicable to aviation medicine; such as immunisation of trans-continental and inter-continental travelers; discussion on pressurized cabin aircraft, safety precautions to be observed in military and civilian aircraft, and rescue and survival technique.

The shortage of medical supplies and equipment continues to be a serious problem. In some cases the T/As are not adequate, and in others authorized supplies are not available. A revision of T/As has been recommended and a special effort to improvise and acquire authorized material is being made.

The medical Section was inspected by an ATC Inspector on November 19 1946. Of course, discrepancies were found and corrective suggestions made.

Lt Pope T. Hilday reported to Headquarters Air Rescue Service November 27, 1966, and was reassigned to the 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron.

During September this section conducted a monthly physical inspection of all enlisted personnel in Headquarters, in addition to normal administrative functions. The Surgeon continued in his capacity as Chief of Ear Nose and Throat Clinics at Base Hospital. The function of this Section was seriously handicapped when Lt. Lewis, Assistant Surgeon was ordered to the AAF Examining Board in Boston, Mass., for a period of three months.

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Personnel assigned to this section as of December 31, 1946, includes two officers and one enlisted man.

STATISTICAL CONTROL

During Captain Roger's TDY at school, 1st Lt. Spotswood Allen was assigned as Statistical Control Officer. Due to the loss of the civilian clerk, through reduction in force, and the impending separation of Lt. Allen, only the minimum routine activities were performed by this section.

Upon Captain Roger's return, October 10, 1946, reports controls and procedures were established and the section began to function in its capacity as Statistical Control. At the end of this period the section has one officer and one enlisted man assigned.

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