

APPENDIX # 6

20-54
4 Pages
Page 1

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.)

CONTENTS

Section	Page
I Definitions	1
II General	1
III Organization	2
IV Responsibilities	2

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) OB-I-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.

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- 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.

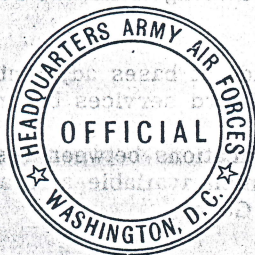
8. The Chief, Air Rescue Service, is responsible for providing rescue service within the continental United States and along air transport routes, or portions of such routes, as are not covered by theater or department rescue units. He will:

- 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:



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