



AIR RESCUE SERVICE HISTORICAL REPORT

1 JULY TO 31 DECEMBER 1947



62nd AAF BASE UNIT ✓
AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND
GRAVELLY POINT ✓
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

COLONEL RICHARD T. KIGHT
COMMANDING

HISTORICAL RECORD REPORT

FOR

1 JULY TO DECEMBER 31

1947

Prepared by Historical Section, Intelligence and Security Office, Air Rescue Service, Air Transport Command, Gravelly Point, Washington 25, D. C., containing historical data compiled and prepared in accordance with ATC Reg. 20-1, AAF Reg. 20-8 and AR 345-105, as amended.



placed on TDY at McChord Field during periods of heavy traffic. McChord Field will assume responsibility for the Great Falls Detachment area and will also assume primary responsibility for support of the ALCAN route.

A letter was sent to the Commanding General, Tactical Air Command, Langley Field, Virginia, requesting C-82 crew training for two pilots and two aerial engineers. It was requested that arrangements be made, authorizing the 316 troop Carrier Group, Pope Field, N. C., to train the above personnel to the extent deemed necessary.

During September, ARS units were alerted 131 times, 47 incidents were false, expending 754.03 aerial search hours and 3978.50 Ground Search man
12
hours.

A letter was prepared to AFM and Air Force by Lt. Colonel Littleton J. Pardue, Deputy Commander, requesting that procurement of PBX5A's be stopped and the Grumman be procured instead. After studying and comparing the Grumman with the PBX5A, it has been determined that the Grumman is the more desirable aircraft.

It has been learned through various visits to Washington that there is a possibility that ARS area of responsibility may be increased. This increase will entail considerable staff work in laying out a new program, publishing new directives, etc. All sections were directed to make a concerted effort to complete all outstanding projects as soon as possible so that in the event this extension of responsibility is given ARS, this headquarters will be in a position to assume and carry out the new responsibilities involved.

During October, ARS units were alerted 138 times, 44 of these incidents

12. Analysis, ARS Activities, September 1947 - APP - 11

were false, 637.53 aerial search hours and 1563.15 ground search man
hours were expended in effort to fulfill the mission of Rescue and mercy. 13

During the month of November 1947, five (5) enlisted men, two (2) medical officers and a representative from the A-3 Section, Headquarters, Air Rescue Service (Lt. Elliott), participated in a two-weeks course of training at the Forest Service "Fire Jumpers" school, Missoula, Montana. This was the first active step in implementing plans previously formulated to have para-rescue teams capable of jumping to survivors under all terrain conditions. These parachutists formed the nucleus of instructor personnel in the pararescue survival school conducted by the 5th Rescue Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

In line with previous planning by the A-3 Section, units at Hill Field, Ogden, Utah; Scott Field, Illinois, and Great Falls, Montana, were inactivated. 14 The areas of responsibility of the remaining units were changed 15 to conform to those of Flt Service. This was done in order to take advantage of the best available communications facilities. A small detachment was retained at Great Falls Air Force Base on a TDY basis to insure adequate rescue coverage over the Alcan Air Route. This unit will remain at Great Falls until 15 April 1948.

A survival school was opened under the supervision of the 5th Rescue Squadron which trained students, in conjunction with the para-jumpers' training, in methods of survival in all climates and terrain conditions.

13. Analysis, ARS Activities Chart, October 1947 - APP - 12

14. Hq ARS, GO #7, dated 21 Nov 1947 - APP - 6.

15. Hq ARS, Area of Responsibility - APP - 13

This project was monitored by A-3, Headquarters, Air Rescue Service and S Sgt Weaver from this Section was detailed as one of the school instructors. ARS units were alerted during November 118 times, of these 63 were false. ARS was busy flying 508.20 hours also using 319 ground search man
16
hours for these true alerts.

The greater portion of the month of December 1947 was devoted by Hq personnel to moving Air Rescue Service from MacDill Field to Washington,
17
D. C. This move was made in accordance with ATC orders and was in line with the idea of having all Service Command Headquarters at the same operating location. The A-3 Section of Headquarters, Air Rescue Service was charged with the responsibility of monitoring the movement, providing aircraft for personnel and equipment that could be air-lifted and providing A-4 with necessary logistic data for other shipments.

A C-82/Helicopter team was dispatched from Flight "D", 5th Rescue Squadron, Westover Field to Goose Bay, Newfoundland, Labrador to rescue survivors of an ATC C-54 which crashed after take-off on the evening of December 11, 1947. Six survivors were rescued and evacuated by helicopter to Goose Bay. This was one of the most successful missions of the C-82/R-5 team to date.

Major L. R. Humphreys was transferred from the Operations Division, A-3, Headquarters, ATC to Headquarters, Air Rescue Service and was assigned as Assistant Director of Operations. Routine activities and Holiday
18
leaves of absence were in order for the remainder of the month.

16. Analysis, ARS Activities Chart, November, 1947 - APP - 14

17. Hq ARS, GO #8, 24 Nov 1947. See Appendix 2.

18. Analysis, ARS Activities Chart, December, 1947 - APP - 15

placed and others delayed in their shipment to Washington. Captain Knoll, Sgt Reese and Sgt Brown finally completed the last phase of work at MacDill Field, turned the building over to the 5th Rescue Squadron and departed on the 15th of December.

MEDICAL SECTION

On 1 July 1947 Captain Holliday was in Washington conferring with personnel of Headquarters Army Air Forces concerning the medical organization of the Air Rescue Service. A letter to the Commanding General, Air Transport Command, 5 February 1947 had requested authority for the formation of para-rescue teams, three in number, with each being composed of four men, one medical officer, one medical technician and two other men with training in first aid. Captain Holliday was questioned at length about the need for para-rescue teams. The resultant conclusions of the conference was that para-rescue teams will be a valuable aid in the performance of rescue missions. The Air Rescue Service was given verbal authority by Army Air Forces, pending written authorization, to organize and train six para-rescue teams to be located at strategic detachments and squadrons. Each team was to consist of one para-doctor, two medical corporals and two survival specialists. The formation and training of ten other identical teams was also approved by Army Air Forces, and upon completion of the training by Air Rescue Service would be assigned to other rescue units. Army Air Forces also approved direct negotiations between the Air Rescue Service and the U. S. Forestry Service Jump School at Missoula, Montana for the additional training of the para-rescue teams in jumping into rough terrain and wooded areas. A demonstration by a para-rescue team on Air Force Day (1 August 1947) at Bolling Field,

Washington, D. C. was also planned. A great part of the month was spent with this reorganization program.

Captain Randall W. Briggs was transferred to Randolph Field 30 June 1947. His replacement, Captain Robert Goulding, a para-doctor, did not arrive at Squadron B until 17 July 1947. Sgt Holder is the only other parachutist to be assigned to the Air Rescue Service during July. This brings the total of qualified parachutists to three medical officers and three enlisted men 18 July 1947.

Captain Holliday, Lt. Bennett, Sgt Yrsha, and Sgt Holder began training for the Air Show at Bolling Field. Three training jumps were conducted at Avon Army Air Base, Avon Park, Florida. Two individual and one mass jump, Full Dress Rehearsal, were conducted successfully.

A conference was held with Colonel Harding, MacDill Base Surgeon, to discuss the relationship of the Air Rescue Service medical section to the Base Medical organization. It was decided that the medical officers of Headquarters and the 5th Rescue Squadron would be too busy with their own work to be able to assume regularly assigned additional duties in the base hospital. However, the Air Rescue Service medical organization, Captain Lewis and Captain Holliday will hold sick call at Dispensary "A" each morning for ARS personnel and, time permitting, other personnel. All physical examinations on Air Rescue Service personnel will be conducted by Air Rescue Service Medical Officers.

Several ARS cases of Gastro-Enteritis were seen during the month; the cause was attributed to insanitary conditions of the base mess (dish washing). The Base Surgeon, Base Sanitary Officer and Base Supply Officer

have been contacted on this matter and corrective action has been initiated.

Sgt Robert Weaver has returned from his trip to Detachments #6, #9, #12 and Squadron "B", where he gathered information that indicated need, for bolstering the training, of ground rescue teams, rescue and survival equipment and medical training.

A survey of medical supplies, in coordination with S-4, was conducted to secure a better distribution within ARS units.

The plans for location of para-rescue teams and a standard operating procedure for para-rescue teams are being studied.

Air Force Day the para-doctors of the 5th Rescue Squadron and Squadron "A" plus the enlisted parachutists of both organizations joined forces to form a para-rescue team. This team composed of Captain Holliday, 1st Lt. Bennett, Sgt Holder and Sgt Yrsha jumped from a C-47 over Bolling Field to a simulated crash on the field. A search L-5 came over the field, located the accident and called for the aid of a jump team. The team jumped from 1000 feet, landing approximately 40 yards from the plane, quickly assembled at the plane where they evaluated the situation and signalled for medical supplies which were expediently dropped. The patients were treated and prepared for evacuation by means of helicopter. This entire demonstration was televised; after which Captain Holliday was interviewed by a news reporter over a National Broadcast Company hook-up. Captain Goulding, Surgeon

of Squadron "B", and medical technician, Corporal Thompson, also made a demonstration parachute jump from a C-47 on 1 August 1947. Medical supplies to be utilized in the treatment and evacuation of the victims of a crash were dropped to them. Both of these demonstrations indicated how much progress had been made during the past year in this phase of Air Rescue and offered considerable promise for the future of para-rescue teams in the Air Rescue Service.

Captain Lewis made an inspection trip to all the following Squadrons and Detachments; Squadron "B", Detachments 5, 8, 11, 10, and 12. Particular attention was devoted to the medical first aid equipment and to the status of medical training. At each base either the Base Surgeon or the Base Flight Surgeon was contacted and in all cases the problems peculiar to the Air Rescue Service were discussed. The "6A" files were inspected and the status of the maintenance of Immunization Records was also determined. In almost every case supplies were inadequate as the requisitioned supplies had not arrived. There was also a need for more and regular medical training of Air Rescue Service personnel. A smoke jumpers suit was delivered to Captain Goulding to be utilized by smoke jumpers of the U. S. Forestry Service and parachutist of the Air Rescue Service.

The Medical Section has contacted S-3 and S-4 to organize and equip an Air Rescue Service museum which will house displays on survival and rescue. This Museum will in all probability be located in the 5th Squadron area and will be used for training as well as for exposition purposes.

Four medical enlisted men of the Air Rescue Service and 5th Rescue Squadron are to be sent to school on 10 September 1947 for formal training

as technicians medical (409) and technicians surgical (861). Two will attend 409 school and two will attend 861 school. This practice will be continued until every medical enlisted man is formally trained as either a 409 or 861.

A list of equipment for the medical section of the Air Rescue Service has been completed and coordinated with all of the para-rescue Surgeons, Supply Officers and Medical enlisted men of the Air Rescue Service. This will be submitted to S-4 for inclusion in the new T/OE. It is believed that this practice of coordination with personnel in the field will have a practical utilization result as the need for a particular type of equipment is better ascertained by experience in the field.

The sanitary inspection of the housing facilities of the Air Rescue Service showed many discrepancies during the early part of August which were corrected.

The research talent survey which is being conducted by Army Air Forces had been brought to the attention of all medical officers of the Air Rescue Service.

Colonel Don Flickinger and Major Roadman of the School of Aviation Medicine visited the Air Rescue Service. A definite liaison has been established with them so that rapid progress can be made in the solution of our problems. They have promised to conduct research on the following problems:

- (1) Medical Aerial Delivery Kit
- (2) Bundle identification (Bell) etc.
- (3) An oxygen Therapeutic Assembly for Aerial Delivery.
- (4) Insect Repellent (Improvement).

This new equipment will be utilized experimentally to determine its efficiency and suitability. Lectures pertaining to the organization of the

Air Rescue Service will be prepared by Major Perri and Sgt. Weaver (Survival Specialist) to be presented to the Aviation Medical Classes at Randolph Field, Texas.

The Medical Section of Air Rescue Service, in addition to carrying out its usual staff functions, concentrated on certain pressing projects. Para-rescue teams have only verbally been approved by Headquarters AAF and final written approval is still pending, but parachutists are being assigned to the Air Rescue Service every day. There have been several problems connected with para-rescue teams which have occupied our attention during this report period.

The first of these problems has been one of acquiring and placing the three types of personnel which constitute a para-rescue team, namely: Para-doctors, Medical Corpsmen and Survival Specialists. Since the Survival Specialist is a new creation, a new SSN has been requested.

Secondly, a training program for the training of para-rescue teams has consumed considerable time.

In connection with the para-rescue teams during the early part of September, we received word that ARS would participate in the coverage of the Alcan project which would begin October 1st. It was at first thought that ARS would be responsible for covering this project along its entire route, but since our personnel will probably not have to go into Alaska, special immunizations, i.e., Shick testing and immunizations will be done only as is necessary, a para-rescue team consisting of four men has been sent to Great Falls, Montana on 30 days TDY, and necessary equipment is being obtained for their use.

Completing a current project was the consolidation of the "E" ration reports submitted by all ARS units for submission to AAF. The overall response to "E" rations was highly favorable and felt to be superior to both ten in one and "C" rations.

The Medical Section of Headquarters ARS was used to man the staff of the Emergency Hospital for the day and half alert caused by a hurricane striking MacDill.

An ARS Training Regulation on sun stroke and heat exhaustion was prepared and approved.

The four members of the Para-rescue Team assigned at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, have returned from the specialized forestry jump training received at the Forestry Smoke Jumpers School, Missoula, Montana. All the trainees who have completed the course have been lavish in the eulogy of the course. It has been determined that the type of training offered by the Forestry School is essential for parachutists associated with rescue activities. For this reason the curriculum of the Smoke Jumpers Course has been included in the Rescue and Survival School of the Air Rescue Service.

The newly assigned para-doctor presently located at McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Washington, will be sent to Great Falls, Montana on TDY for a period of six weeks to captain the para-rescue team covering the Alcan Route.

Ten parachutists, from different para-rescue teams, underwent training at the Forestry School. This class, the last to be trained at Missoula, completed its training on or about the 27th of November.

The table of Organization of the Medical Section of the Air Rescue Service has been revised. It is believed that the new Table of Organization

will be adequate for an efficiently operating medical section. Upon receipt of the approval of the reorganization program the Air Rescue Service will require a large number of trained EM possessing an MOS of 409.

Captain A.G. Lewis, Assistant of the Surgeon, Air Rescue Service, was assigned to the 5th Rescue Squadron as Squadron Flight Surgeon, and in addition, he will assume the duties of Medical Instructor in the Rescue and Survival School.

The Air Rescue Service Surgeon's Staff Manual has been completed and disseminated to all Air Rescue Service Units.

All the parachutist medical officers of the Air Rescue Service have signified their intentions in regard to separation. Three are requesting separation from the service and were separated by 31 December 1947. The Assistant Surgeon, Air Rescue Service, who is a Flight Surgeon, was also separated 31 December. Two newly assigned para-doctors have been reassigned to para-rescue teams. Four para-rescue teams will be lacking para-doctors. A formal requisition has been submitted to A-1, Air Transport Command for four para-doctors and three flight surgeons.

Reports of unit medical inspections have been indorsed to Surgeon, Air Transport Command. These reports were first sent to the subordinate units for corrective action of discrepancies noted on inspections, and comment, prior to their submission to Air Transport Command.

Major Frank Perri, MC, has been reassigned to Walter Reed General Hospital to pursue an ENT residency. He has been replaced by Major Victor Young, MC.

Three new medical officers have been assigned to Air Rescue Service;

Lt. Charles Deal to the 5th Rescue Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Lt. Holbrook Bonney to Air Rescue Squadron "B" at Hamilton Air Force Base, and Lt. Robert Wiese to Air Rescue Detachment #12 at Lowry Air Force Base.

Plans are being formulated for sending all Para-rescue Team personnel not presently trained in both survival and para-rescue techniques to school in Survival and Para-rescue Jump Training to begin at MacDill Air Force Base in February.

One enlisted man will be ordered to Surgical Technician (861) course at Brooke General Hospital in early February.

There exists a shortage of six Flight Surgeons and two Medical Officers, Parachutists, and one Medical Officer (Assistant Surgeon, Hq. Air Rescue Service).

Presently, medical supplies and equipment present no significant problem.

Liaison activity with other Army or Air Force Agencies continued good.