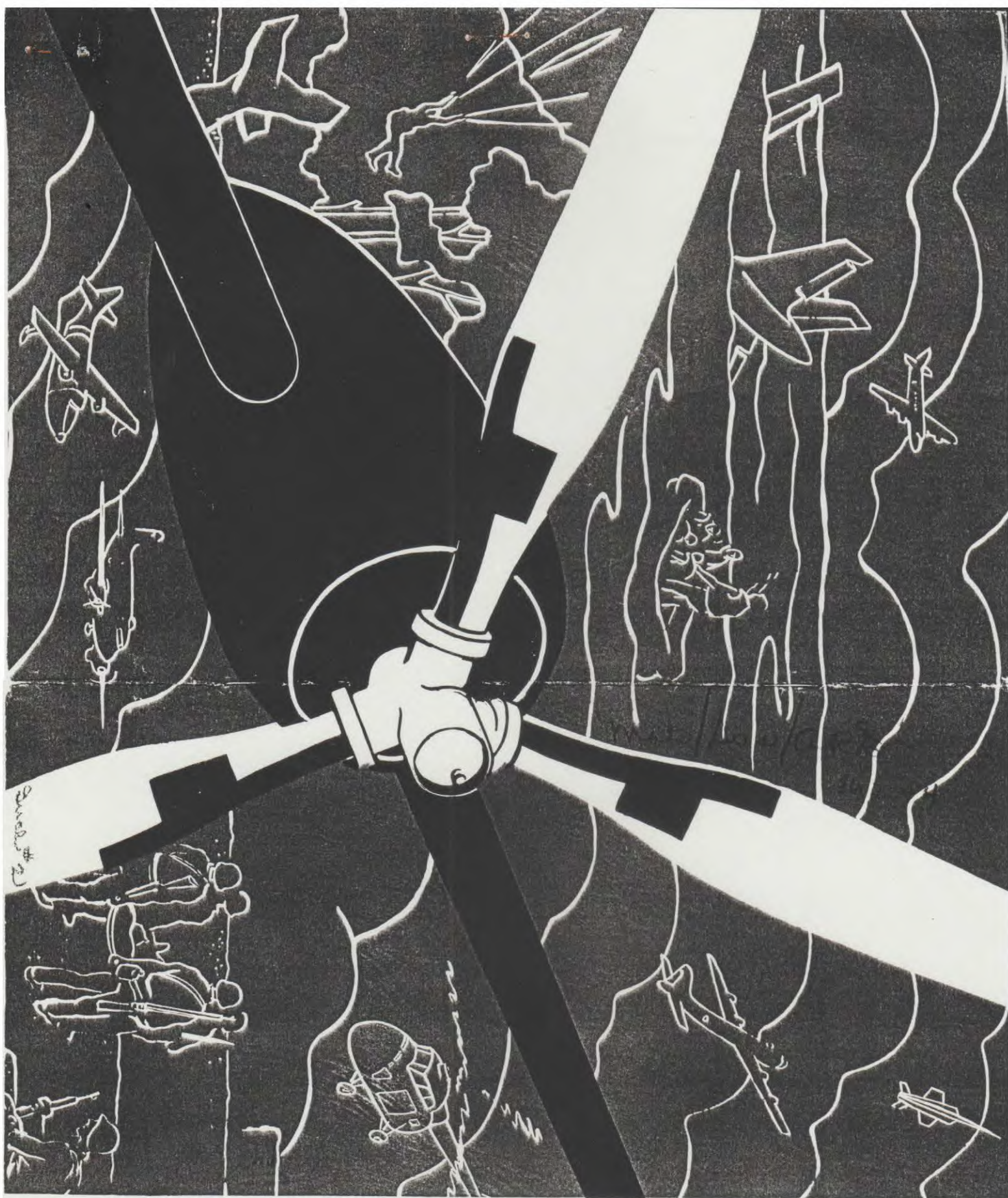




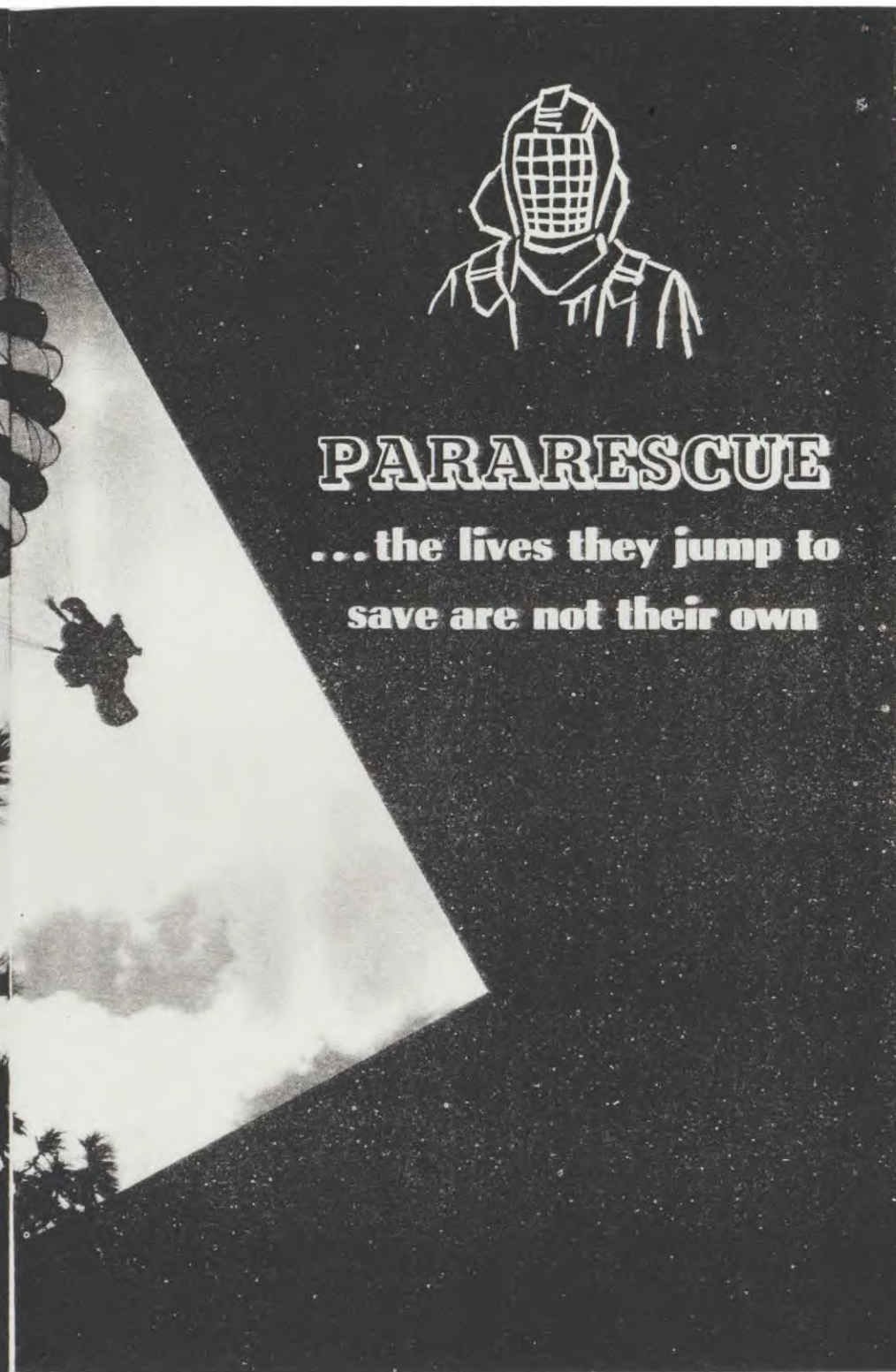
Air Rescue Service

10TH ANNIVERSARY
1946 - 1956



PARARESCUE

**...the lives they jump to
save are not their own**



... the jumpers

CONSTITUTING AN ELITE CORPS within the Air Rescue Service are the Paramedics. They are a breed apart and certainly among the best trained men in the armed forces today.

Precision parachutists, highly trained medical experts on survival under any earthly conditions, these men will jump anywhere anytime a possibility exists that there is a life to be saved. They live to jump, they jump to save lives and the lives they jump to save are not their own.

Though their backgrounds differ just as backgrounds do in any large group of military men, because of their homogeneous training or because of their common interest in jumping and medicine, Rescue's Paramedics are a tightly knit and quietly proud clan.

They have a right to be. Any man who would aspire to become a Paramedic must first go through a highly selective screening both physical and mental. Once his application was accepted, he would then be sent to the Army's Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Here each trainee receives instruction in parachuting techniques and completes five "live" jumps to qualify as a rated parachutist. But this is just the beginning. A Paramedic's biggest job begins after he has landed safely at the side of the survivors he has jumped to save.

For this training, the student would proceed to the School of Aviation Medicine at Gunter AFB, Alabama to go through the Air Rescue Specialist School. During this four week stint he would be given the latest work in all types of advanced first aid. He would learn how to determine the nature and extent of all but the most serious and complex injuries. To deal with those cases he cannot handle himself, he would learn to describe exactly a survivor's condition over the radio so as to receive and execute a physician's recommended measures.

There was a time when completion of this school qualified the Pararescue student for additional training in what was prob-

ably the most colorful of all the Air Force's schools. This was the Pararescue and Survival School which held its classes in some of the least hospitable places on the North American continent. Coastal survival instruction was conducted at Boca Grande Key, southwest of Key West, Florida. The Mojave Desert of California was the location for desert survival training. In the Rocky Mountains near McCall, Idaho, the students were taught how to survive and travel under simulated arctic conditions.

This school was deactivated in December, 1953 but most of



They jump that others may live. Around the world Rescue's paramedics stand by to jump anytime, anywhere to the aid of people in distress.

Rescue's present Paramedics had gone through the course before the school closed its doors.

Among them heroism is not uncommon. Guts are stock in trade. Every time they step out of an aircraft—in training or when it's the real thing—they take their life in their hands.

One Paramedic was compelled by circumstances to jump alone on a high mountain to aid a man suffering from a broken leg. He treated the man's injury and got him down the mountain to where he could be picked up and taken to a hospital. The only aspect of the mission considered noteworthy is that the jumper himself had broken a leg in landing on the treacherous terrain.

It takes some of the best of the species *homo sapiens* to qualify as Pararescue men. In any other branch of the service the deeds they perform as daily routine would be considered worthy of special commendation. To them it's the life they love and few would have it any other way.



Photo
by
Zeisloff

The deeds they perform as daily routine would be considered worthy of special commendation in any other branch of the service. . . . 'Gallant is a precious word; they deserve it.'



The sole purpose of the Air Rescue Service is to save lives. Pararescue work is but one phase of this aerial rescue concept. The world over, flyers can be confident that, should trouble strike, this highly trained, very proficient group of men—Rescue's Paramedics—are available to jump to their aid.

Famed radio commentator Eric Sevareid was in a group of survivors saved by jumpers during World War II. Of the men who risked their lives to save his, he later wrote, "Gallant is a precious word; they deserve it."