

AIR FORCE REGULATION }
NO. 20-54 }

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, 23 MAY 1958

ORGANIZATION—GENERAL

Air Rescue Service

This regulation prescribes the mission, organization, and responsibilities of the Air Rescue Service.

1. Mission. Air Rescue Service will provide a professional rescue force, specially trained and equipped to support global air operations. The mission of the Air Rescue Service is to provide rescue support according to the following priority:

I—USAF aircraft incidents.

II—Preplanned and precautionary type rescue missions to support USAF operations.

III—Other bona fide search and rescue (SAR) incidents.

The Air Rescue Service also will:

a. Maintain all squadrons in a state of readiness to deploy in support of USAF air operations.

b. Participate in joint SAR operations in accordance with AFM 1-1 and National SAR plan.

c. Assist in retrieving and safeguarding hazardous cargoes (special weapons) in accordance with AFR 55-14.

2. Definitions:

a. *Search and Rescue (SAR).* The location of, rendering aid to, and the recovery of aircrew personnel from friendly or hostile areas in peace and war.

b. *Rescue Operations Center (ROC).* A facility established and maintained by Air Rescue Service for planning and direction of SAR operations.

c. *Operational Control.* The control exercised by a commander to deploy and use rescue forces in support of air operations.

d. *Technical Control.* The control exercised by a commander to develop and apply SAR procedures, policies, techniques, and training standards.

3. Organization. The Air Rescue Service is under the command jurisdiction of the Commander, Military Air Transport Service. It will consist of a headquarters and such other units,

facilities, and equipment as authorized by the Chief of Staff, USAF.

a. Air Rescue Service will be organized and deployed to provide search and rescue in support of world-wide air operations.

b. Air Rescue Service deputy commanders will be appointed as required.

c. Rescue Operations Centers will be established as required.

4. Responsibilities:

a. *The Commander, Air Rescue Service* will:

(1) Exercise command, administrative, and technical control over all assigned units.

(2) Exercise operational control over Air Rescue Service facilities within the zone of interior and other areas as directed by the Chief of Staff, USAF.

(3) Prepare appropriate directives pertaining to search and rescue, including new or revised technical operating procedures and standing operating procedures to insure uniformity of training standards, techniques, and procedures.

(4) Plan and coordinate rescue force requirements for USAF.

(5) Appoint deputy commanders for overseas areas to:

(a) Supervise the ROC assigned to the area.

(b) Act as staff rescue advisor to major air commanders being served and assist in:

1. Establishing an integrated SAR system to support Air Force operations.

2. Insuring Air Force participation in the Joint Search and Rescue Coordination Centers operated by JCS designated area commander.

3. Reviewing major air commands plans, operations orders and train-

*This regulation supersedes AFR 20-54, 15 October 1952.

ing programs to insure proper use of the rescue force.

4. Determining rescue force requirements for their areas and establishing liaison to coordinate plans for interarea cooperation in SAR operations.

b. *Major Air Commands* will provide administrative and logistical support in accordance with AFR 11-4.

c. *Major Air Commanders, Overseas*, will:

- (1) Exercise operational control over Air Rescue Service units assigned within their area. Normally, this control will be exercised through the Air Rescue Service area deputy commander, Rescue Operations Center.
- (2) In coordination with the Commander, Air Rescue Service, plan for and

establish an integrated SAR system to support Air Force operations within their area of responsibility.

- (3) Insure that Air Rescue squadrons attached for operational control are not overcommitted or used for non-rescue tasks.

5. Direct Communications:

a. The Commander, Air Rescue Service, is authorized direct communication with Headquarters USAF, major air commanders, and other agencies on matters pertaining to search and rescue.

b. Air Rescue units are authorized direct communication with Air Force and other military and civil agencies to accomplish air rescue operations.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

J. L. TARR
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administrative Services

THOMAS D. WHITE
Chief of Staff

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