

**From:** John Cassidy <johca55@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 10, 2023 5:03 PM  
**To:** rlapointe@gci.net  
**Subject:** RE: PJ AFSC code history

Bob,

Great to hear from you. I was away from my computer for the past few days.

The AFSC origins of the PJ AFSC is somewhat murky as source documents giving specifics are lacking as neither the Army or Army Air Force had any sort of SSN or MOS to identify these positions prior to the 5 February 1947 request by the ARS/CC to permanently constitute such teams. These teams initially comprised of one medical office, one medical technician (SSN 409 or SSN 861), and two other enlisted personnel (MOS or SSN) not specified, but duties were as survival specialists. The award of enlisted MOS at the time required attending and completing an MOS awarding technical training school. Sometime prior to 1950 the team composition became 1 medical officer, 2 medical technicians and 2 rescue-survival technicians. Which by 1952 became rescue-survival technicians that were medics and rescue survival technicians. Basic distinction is ARS has Rescue-Survival technicians and Alaska Air Command and SAC had Survival Instructors.

The lack of any means to identify the personnel ARS was training and qualifying spurred ARS/CC to request a new SSN for the survival specialist positions during 1947 and approved NLT June 1948, which apparently was considered to be a fair use SSN by SAC and the Alaskan Air Command for their Survival Instructors. There is much about this fair use as ARS apparently required completion of the rescue-survival School it was running at MacDill as perquisite for assignment to its Land Rescue and Parachute Rescue teams, but SAC, and Alaskan Air Command did an OJT program of some sort. The OJT method was sort of inadequate particularly for performing parachute rescue team operations. This was one of the problems identified in the aftermath of the Clobbered Turkey rescue which resulted in PJs (those who were qualified by ARS) being assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron although it wouldn't be until the mid-1950s that the 10<sup>th</sup> ARS would be functionally aligned under HQ ARS.

Regardless between 1947 and 1952 the land and parachute rescue teams lost the physician, medic SSN and rescue-survival composition and further SSN as SSNs were being eliminated and assigned an AFSC code. It appears during this period AFSC didn't exist, but ARS required all assigned to the parachute rescue teams to be parachutist qualified. Its unclear if the designation was P3383 or 3383P.

The Air Force FIDO discloses AFSCs 92130, 92131 92170 and 92171 Rescue and Survival exiting effective 15 May 1951. The FIDO identifies AFSCs 92131 and 92171 (no 5-skill level for the rescue-survival specialty) being deleted and effective 28 February 1954 these two AFSCs changed (merged into) 92130 and 92170. This AFSC deletion and change happens after it was officially announced AFSCs 92131 and 92171 are being deleted from the Air Rescue Service manning documents. This announcement also advises those Air Rescue Personnel holding AFSC 921X1 Rescue-Survival will have their AFSC converted to AFSC 92130/92170 Rescue-Survival.

ARS historical records disclose:

Effective 31 October 1953 the Aircrew Protection Career Field is established. ARS historical record indicates the AFSC 92130/70 as being inadequate in human performance specifications (swimming ability for water rescue jumps) and requiring Parachutist qualification and was requesting Shred out codes for pararescue.

Effective 1 July 1967, AFSCs 92330/50/70/90.

The specialty code changes to 115X0 effective 31 MAY 1975. Moves the specialty from the (92) Aircrew Protection career field to the (11) Aircrew Operations career field.

Effective 31 October 1993, AFSCs became 1T230/50/70/90

Effective 31 October 2019, AFSCs became 1Z130/50/70/90 concurrent with establishment of the enlisted Special Warfare Career Field.

To get actual performance specs during period 1947 thru 1955 requires researching various ARS regulations, manuals and publications as the earliest AFSC description I have is 1995.

Respectfully your friend,

John

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**From:** [rlapointe@gci.net](mailto:rlapointe@gci.net)

**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:01 AM

**To:** [johca55@outlook.com](mailto:johca55@outlook.com)

**Subject:** RFI

What year was the PJ AFSC created. Do you have a copy of that original AFSC description. My guess is late 50's or early 60's

Working on the associations history website. Plan to break the website navigation into time periods. Everything prior to the official PJ AFSC creation will go into the first time period.

All is well here. Hope same is true for you.

Take care

**From:** John Cassidy <johca55@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 7:39 PM  
**To:** davidmilsten@msn.com; Robert Lapointe  
**Subject:** 1955 Aircrew Protection Career Field Question  
**Attachments:** 1955\_March-Aircrew Protection.pdf; 1955-September Aircrew Protection AFSC descriptions.pdf

Chief:

Hope all is well with you and family.

Anyhow/way Bob Lapointe is following up with the PJ association to have a digital archive of the PJ AFSC. His basic concept at the moment is to do a SSN (3383) and subsequent AFSC timeline frame work for organizing the archive. Certainly, IMO, the more efficient way to do so as although the basic duties and responsibilities have not changed much since the 3388 Serial Specification Number (SSN) was requested to be established during 1947 and approved NLT June 1948, the human performance and qualification requirement evolved to include aircrew (1953) SCUBA and SCUBA parachute (1963) and MFF (1984). There is also the establishing of the PJ Indoc course (1964).

Consequently I need to pick you recollection of how things were when you crossed trained from survival into pararescue. Please read attached classification info from 1955 as while I realize you were an input from survival other were not.

So question 1 is did you have any sort of AFSC change when cross trained?

Question 3 is the only AFSC awarding tech school I've been able to identify is the Rescue-Survival Specialist course run by the Air Rescue Service during period 1950-1952 at MacDill AFB. Otherwise it appears everything was an OJT process unique to SAC, Alaska Air Command, and the Air Rescue Service.

Question 4 is medical training, PJ for the most part went through the medical course at Gunther and while Survival Instructors got medical Training I'm not sure the where this training was obtained and if all SAC and Alaska Air Command Survival Instructors were required to obtain medical quals and certifications. Reference Sept 1955 documents stating: "Completion of an Air Rescue Specialist-medical course is mandatory for airmen engaged in pararescue activities. Completion of this course desirable for airmen not engaged in pararescue activities." It should be noted Air Rescue land rescue teams were eliminate in 1952/53 and SAC and Alaska Air Command survival schools weren't given "official" role and mission or funding to have this operational capability.

Question 5 is a bit more complicated as I need to get some sort of clue of how the process worked for those who weren't in survival. It may require you putting me in contact, if they haven't made the final jump, to determine how the process worked for them.

Respectfully,

John

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