

MATS NEWS SERVICE

EGLIN ARS SQUADRON
GETS FIRST HC-130H

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Hq. MATS (MNS) -- Air Rescue Service has its first HC-130H rescue aircraft. First operational unit to receive the Lockheed-built Hercules is the 48th Air Recovery Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Col. Allison C. Brooks, ARS commander, personally delivered the first HC-130H from the Lockheed plant at Marietta, Ga., to Eglin. On hand to accept the HC-130H was Lt. Col. Maynard R. Rhoads, commander of the 48th Air Recovery Squadron.

The New HC-130H, an adaptation of the C-130 cargo aircraft, is designed specifically for search, rescue and recovery operations.

Colonel Brooks said the HC-130H will be used for ARS' primary mission of searching for, locating and recovering personnel and material in support of USAF global air and space operations. This includes support of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Department of Defense space programs.

With its new Allison T-56-A15 engines, plus two 1,000 gallon fuselage tanks; the HC-130H will have a range well over 2,000 miles. It is able to loiter for a significant period of time around a spacecraft landing area and perform as many as three recovery operations in which pilot astronauts and pararescuemen will be lifted from the sea and hoisted aboard the aircraft.

Another major change is in communications and electronic equipment carried aboard the "H" recovery model. Because of the importance of its role in support of various space programs, equipment is installed in duplicate so that should one system fail, extra equipment will permit the mission to continue.

For support of various NASA projects, the aircraft will have UHF spacecraft reentry tracking equipment. This will give accurate bearings on the spacecraft as it hurtles overhead and when it reenters the Earth's atmosphere.

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