

Major General Allison C. Brooks June 16, 1917 – December 9, 2006



Maj. Gen. Allison C. Brooks assumed command of the Air Rescue Service (Military Air Transport Service), with headquarters at Orlando Air Force Base, FL on 23 March 1965. ARS was redesignated Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Service (MATS, later Military Airlift Command) on 8 January 1966, and the headquarters was transferred to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., on 20 June 1968. General Brooks had been assigned to various units of the MATS and MAC since June 1952 with the exception of a one-year tour of duty from January 1964 to March 1965, in Southeast Asia as Deputy Commander, 2nd Air Division. During his tenure as Commander, ARS/ARRS, the service was transitioning from peacetime to a wartime combat rescue force.

General Brooks was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1917. He attended high school in Pasadena, Calif., and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Calif., in 1938.

He enlisted a year later as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps, and graduated from Kelly Field in 1940 with a commission as second lieutenant and his pilot wings.

His first assignment after graduation was as an instructor with the Air Training Command at Randolph Field, Texas. On June 11, 1942, he married the former Geraldine Nordell in Las Vegas (Mrs. Brooks died April 22, 2005). In 1943 he went overseas to the European Theater of Operations as Operations Officer of the 401st Bombardment Group. In July 1944 he was assigned as Executive officer and later as Commander of the 1st Air Division Fighter Scouting Force which flew P-51 aircraft. During World War II he flew 65 combat missions for a total of 310 hours in the B-17 and P-51 aircraft. He participated in the campaigns of Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; and Central Europe.

On 3 May 1966, Colonel (later promoted to Brigadier General) Allison C. Brooks and Airman First Class Ronald Doll became the first two men to be picked up together with the Fulton Surface-to-Air Recovery (STAR) system. Besides the tremendous number of combat saves accomplished by Rescue forces in Southeast Asia, other notable accomplishments occurring during General Brooks' command of Rescue include: receipt of 60 HC-130H Hercules aircraft (beginning Jul 65); in-flight transfer of fuel from an HC-130 tanker to an HH-3 helicopter (Dec 1966); first nonstop trans-Atlantic helicopter (HH-3) flight (May-Jun 1967); ARRS SEA forces upgrading to the HH-53 (Super Jolly Green) helicopter (Jun 67); first trans-Pacific helicopter flights of two HH-53's from Eglin AFB, FL to DaNang, RVN; and organization of a provisional squadron and three provisional detachments in Korea in response to the *Pueblo* crisis (Jan 68- Jun 69).

General Brooks was promoted to the temporary grade of major general effective Feb. 24, 1970, with date of rank Aug. 10, 1965.