

58th ARR Sq.: Constant Global Mission for 14 Years

For 17 years of the 20 year lifespan of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service a rescue unit has been permanently assigned to Wheelus A.B. Known at separate times as a rescue flight and a detachment, the 58th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, known as the 58th Air Rescue Squadron prior to Jan. 1, 1966, has been performing their part of the constant global mission for more than 14 years.

"VOLAMUS UT VITAS SERVEMUS, 'We Fly to Save Lives'", the motto of the 58th expresses the essence of the mission of world-wide search, location and recovery of personnel and aerospace hardware. The 58th area of responsibility includes the entire continent of Africa, portions of southern Europe, the Mediterranean area, the Middle East nations and part of Asia extending to the eastern boundaries of India. In all, this colossal area totals 22.5 million square miles, an area six times the size of the United States or about a third of the land area of the globe.

The 58th is under the operational control of the Atlantic Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Center located at Ramstein AB, Germany. Mission coordination and cooperation is maintained with foreign search and rescue centers scattered throughout her area of responsibility.

Fifteen aircraft, 60 officers and more than 200 non-commissioned officers and airmen are the allocated resources of this small squadron with the big mission. Since June 3, 1966 Lt. Col. Jerry W. Noble has shouldered the command responsibility of the ever-changing rescue profile. The first two HC-97G aircraft have left the squadron under the fiscal 1967 phaseout. One of the four HC-130H Hercules replacing HC-97s is already at Wheelus and is being heavily flown to meet the myriad of crew requirements necessary to be operationally qualified in the new aircraft. These are just larger examples of the numerous changes involved in the constant effort to improve their mission capabilities.

In addition to the mission requirements in its own area of responsibility the 58th may be called upon at any time by one of her 14 sister squad-

rons to assist in a mission in another part of the world. From November 1965 through April 1966 the 58th directly supported the overall combat

recovery mission of the rescue service in southeast Asia by furnishing two HU-16B crew during this period. To a man they all partici-

pated in combat support operations resulting in location and/or recovery of downed American fliers.

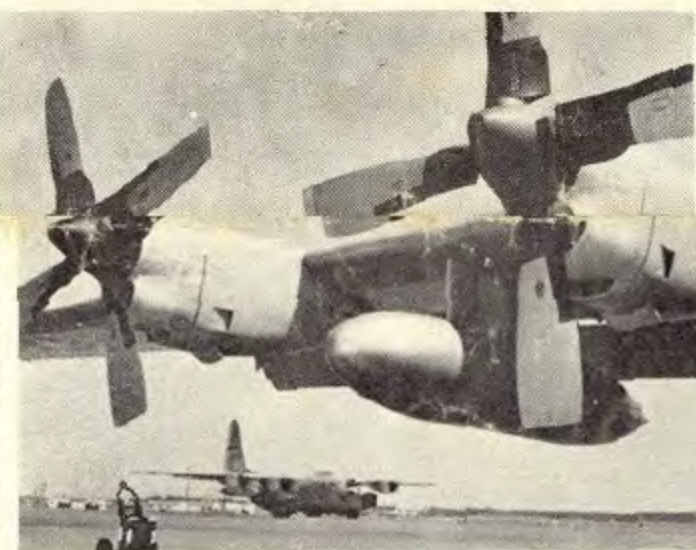
For meritorious achievement Maj. Glenn H. Higginson received the first oak leaf cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross. Capt. Gary Nelson the Distinguished Flying Cross, Capt. Frank J. Linselsen, first and second oak leaf cluster to the Air Medal, A1C James C. Davis the Air Medal and first oak leaf cluster, 1st Lts Carl Lemon and Lynn E. Martinson and SSgt. William O. Nuckoles the Air Medal. Citations were received for recovery of a downed navy flier from the Gulf of Tonkin off the Coast of North Vietnam and the location and direction of the rescue of four survivors of a downed American bomber from the same gulf.

Over the past fiscal year the 58th has flown more than 300 varied and different missions in addition to the many training sorties required to gain and maintain peak skill. Included in the missions were precautionary helicopter scrambles on landing emergency aircraft at Wheelus and El Uotia gunnery range, orbit coverage of fighter aircraft, fighter aircraft on water overflights, at least one phase of the search, location and in some cases recovery of personnel from aircraft crashes in Turkey, Greece, and Spain as well as the Kingdom of Libya and the adjoining Mediterranean Sea. Personnel by the score have been deployed in support of the space program projects Gemini and the initial shots of Apollo. Airlift of freight from continental Europe in support of Wheelus and the transportation of personnel have taken many additional hours.

Services rendered, missions accomplished, all testaments to the effectiveness and ability of the 58th as a ready force, in being, trained and on continuous alert for instantaneous reaction to meet emergency situations in their area of responsibility and elsewhere around the world. From Athens to Madrid, Nairobi to Saigon the men and aircraft of the 58th have flown to prosecute the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service mission in the motto, "That Others May Live".



STANDBY FOR EMERGENCY — In the 58th Rescue Control Coordination center intense concentration lines the faces of 58th operations personnel (left to right) Lt. Col. Donald M. Walker and Captains Frank J. Linselsen and Milton A. Ramsay as a distress message comes in. As is the case in every mission the duty controllers (here Capt. Richard D. Anderson and TSgt. Russell D. Toliver) maintain a running log of all information surrounding a mission.



SISTER SHIPS — Purring in from a 7-hour training mission the queen of the fixed wing rescue force, the HC-130 Hercules, is smoothly integrating into squadron operations. Four HC-130 Hs will take over the functions of the HC-97s, and eventually part of the mission of the HU-16B.

Photos by

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SIGNIFICANCE — The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against a background of a globe displaying the general area of this unit's responsibility, an orbital symbol encircling the globe indicates ARRS support of aerospace projects and suggests the present and future role of the USAF in manned space

activity. The helmet and olive branches symbolize the dual war (especially the recovery aspect) and peace mission of the squadron, while the silhouette of the dove represents the humanitarian efforts of ARRS. The emblem bears the Air Force colors, ultra marine blue and golden yellow.



SKIMMING ALBATROSS — Whipping up a flurry of Mediterranean salt spray, one of three 58th HU-16Bs accomplishes practice landings north of Wheelus. Its seven-man crew includes two parascuumen.