

PARARESCUE

22 Feb 66

Distinctive Headgear for Pararescue Personnel

Commander
76th ARRSq

1. The following request is submitted in accordance with para 3,6,11 of ARODC Pararescue Letter #1. Pararescue personnel are seeking a distinctive headgear and insignia.

2. Considerations and Recommendation:

a. A sample of the desired headgear and a photograph of an individual wearing the headgear is forwarded for evaluation. The headgear will be worn under the following restrictions:

(1) The beret will be worn only with two piece fatigue uniform with bloused boots; only during working hours.

(2) It will not be worn with 1505's or AF Blues.

b. Procurement and Supply Source: The maroon beret and insignia can be procured easily and the cost is minimal. Pararescue personnel are willing to support the initial cost.

c. Justification: Pararescue personnel are assigned to Air Rescue Service for, and serve in a career capacity. Pararescue plays a vital role in the Air Rescue mission which warrants much individual effort on the part of every pararescueman. Their mission denotes some distinction which corresponds with other active units in the armed services today. The beret has had a definite effect in creating high morale and dedication which is required in any specialist field. The wearing of the maroon beret with two piece fatigue uniform will not lower the Air Force uniform standards. Other units such as the Forward Air Controllers use distinctive headgear. Pararescue performance in the combat areas and in the support of the space program warrants some note of distinction. The beret will become a symbol and will have a definite effect in retaining younger airman in the service and attracting a high calibre individual required for the pararescue field.

d. Conclusion: The adoption of the beret as a distinctive headgear for pararescue will promote the much desired "Esprit De Corp" and induce incentive which pararescue badly needs. The cost of a beret and insignia is very little compared with the effect it will have in retention of younger airman who are receiving costly specialized training.

RODNEY E HOUGHTON, Major, USAF
Pararescue Officer

2 Atchs
1. Front view of beret
2. Side view of beret

of these qualifications create a man of unusual capabilities. He is available 24 hours a day to respond to any emergency, anywhere, at any time. He may parachute into the sea, without surface assistance, to aid the crew of a downed aircraft, sinking ship, or a spacecraft on recovery. If required, he will parachute or hike into the mountains to save survivors from an isolated aircraft. His services are available to non-military personnel, and the lives pararescuemen have saved during past years have contributed significantly to our cold war operations around the world. In Southeast Asia they have been lowered into dense jungle growth, alone, to render aid to downed aircrews and return them to safety. On occasion they have been required to stand off hostile forces during the rescue mission, and have refused recovery until the mission was completed.

4. These men, small in number and scattered throughout the world, perform a truly outstanding service. Because they are such a unique force, we feel they should be recognized as such. ARRS is presently authorized only 244 such highly trained men to cover the globe. Today, and even more in the future, the bulk of the input will be from basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. These young, aggressive, dedicated volunteers deserve the distinction that goes with a tough, challenging and demanding job.

5. The maroon beret was selected to indicate the medical duties and life saving qualifications of the pararescuer. Green is utilized by the Army Special Forces, and the bright blue is worn by PACAF and SAC Security Control Forces. The parachutists emblem would be worn on the beret until a silver replica of the ARRS emblem could be manufactured. A graphic reproduction of the desired emblem is attached.

6. The beret would be awarded to each graduate of the Pararescue Technician Training School. The rise in morale that could be gained by such a simple and inexpensive expedient could well have a positive effect on the reenlistment problem that is becoming apparent within the pararescue field. Due to a lack of recognition in terms of such factors as Dual Hazard Pay, Proficiency Pay, and Variable Reenlistment Bonus, information available to us indicates that a significant number of pararescuemen will probably not reenlist at the conclusion of their first term. Loss of such a highly trained and skilled resource is a cause of deep concern.

7. In the interest of recognition, retention, and morale, it is requested that authorization for this distinctive item of uniform clothing be favorably considered.

ALLISON C. BROOKS, Colonel, USAF
Commander

1 Atch
Emblem

PABARESCUE

22 Feb 66

Distinctive Headgear for Pararescue Personnel

Commander
76th ARRSq

1. The following request is submitted in accordance with para 3,6,11 of ABODC Pararescue Letter #1. Pararescue personnel are seeking a distinctive headgear and insignia.

2. Considerations and Recommendation:

a. A sample of the desired headgear and a photograph of an individual wearing the headgear is forwarded for evaluation. The headgear will be worn under the following restrictions:

(1) The beret will be worn only with two piece fatigue uniform with bloused boots; only during working hours.

(2) It will not be worn with 1505's or AF Blues.

b. Procurement and Supply Source: The maroon beret and insignia can be procured easily and the cost is minimal. Pararescue personnel are willing to support the initial cost.

c. Justification: Pararescue personnel are assigned to Air Rescue Service for, and serve in a career capacity. Pararescue plays a vital role in the Air Rescue mission which warrants much individual effort on the part of every pararescueman. Their mission denotes some distinction which corresponds with other active units in the armed services today. The beret has had a definite effect in creating high morale and dedication which is required in any specialist field. The wearing of the maroon beret with two piece fatigue uniform will not lower the Air Force uniform standards. Other units such as the Forward Air Controllers use distinctive headgear. Pararescue performance in the combat areas and in the support of the space program warrants some note of distinction. The beret will become a symbol and will have a definite effect in retaining younger airman in the service and attracting a high calibre individual required for the pararescue field.

d. Conclusion: The adoption of the beret as a distinctive headgear for pararescue will promote the much desired "Esprit De Corp" and induce incentive which pararescue badly needs. The cost of a beret and insignia is very little compared with the effect it will have in retention of younger airman who are receiving costly specialized training.

RODNEY E HOUGHTON, Major, USAF
Pararescue Officer

2 Atchs

1. Front view of beret
2. Side view of beret

26-1 Distinctive Uniform for Pararescue Personnel

A. ACTION REQUESTED:

1. To authorize Pararescue Personnel to wear a maroon beret with the blue uniform.

2. Blouse trousers over combat boots with all uniforms when wearing the beret.

B. REQUESTING AGENCY:

Commander, Military Airlift Command

C. REASON FOR REQUEST:

To increase the attractiveness of a career in the Pararescue Service.

D. DISCUSSION:

1. The following letters are quoted, in part, as justification for the approval and nonconcurrence by the DCS/Personnel.

a. Extract from letter from MAC, dated 24 February 1966 signed by General Estes:

Attached request for authorization to permit ARRS Pararescue personnel to wear a maroon beret and bloused trousers in combat boots is forwarded with approval strongly recommended. Development of an "elite corps" concept is an integral and necessary part of our program to increase the attractiveness of a career in pararescue. If ARRS is to effectively accomplish its assigned missions, we must obtain these additional personnel.

b. Letter from Hq Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, dated 21 February 1966 is quoted:

"1. Request that authorization be granted under AFR 67-57, paragraph 5, Uniform Clothing Allowances for Airmen, for ARRS Pararescue Personnel to wear a maroon beret and bloused trousers in combat boots with all uniforms.

"2. This distinctive item of uniform clothing is needed to increase the attractiveness of a career in pararescue. The effectiveness of an 'elite corps' concept is evident

[REDACTED]

in the Army Special Forces. In the early days of this specialized Army unit, a need was seen for a banner or badge to improve the morale of those in a tough and dirty job. The esprit de corps which has been established in the Special Forces is such that the men have been known to take a demotion rather than lose the now famous green beret. We believe that the capabilities and specialized talents of our pararescuemen place them in the same category as these and other uniquely qualified personnel, i.e., forward air controllers, and SAC security control forces.

"3. This small, handpicked group of pararescuemen have been selected from thousands of aspiring airmen throughout the Air Force. Everyone is a volunteer. Each applicant is individually screened to determine his mental and physical capabilities. In January 1966, a pararescue team interviewed over 2500 basic trainees to obtain the students for a forthcoming class. A total of 16 were found qualified to enter training. With present attrition rates only 12 or less will become fully qualified pararescuemen. A pararescueman is a highly qualified parachutist. He is trained as a medical technician to be capable of advanced first aid and minor surgery. He is trained to an extremely high degree of proficiency in rescue and survival techniques for any terrain or climate in the world. He is qualified in all types of SCUBA equipment for underwater operations, and is skilled in mountaineering. He is qualified in NASA spacecraft recovery operations, and a recent new requirement will qualify him as a firefighter with local base rescue units. All of these qualifications create a man of unusual capabilities. He is available 24 hours a day to respond to any emergency, anywhere, at any time. He may parachute into the sea, without surface assistance, to aid the crew of a downed aircraft, sinking ship, or a spacecraft on recovery. If required, he will parachute or hike into the mountains to save survivors from an isolated aircraft. His services are available to non-military personnel, and the lives pararescuemen have saved during past years have contributed significantly to our cold war operations

[REDACTED] OFFICIAL USE ONLY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

around the world. In Southeast Asia they have been lowered into dense jungle growth, alone, to render aid to downed aircrews and return them to safety. On occasion they have been required to stand off hostile forces during the rescue mission, and have refused recovery until the mission was completed.

"4. These men, small in number and scattered throughout the world, perform a truly outstanding service. Because they are such a unique force, we feel they should be recognized as such. ARRS is presently authorized only 244 such highly trained men to cover the globe. Today, and even more in the future, the bulk of the input will be from basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. These young, aggressive, dedicated volunteers deserve the distinction that goes with a tough, challenging and demanding job.

"5. The maroon beret was selected to indicate the medical duties and life saving qualifications of the pararescueman. Green is utilized by the Army Special Forces, and the bright blue is worn by PACAF and SAC Security Control Forces. The parachutists emblem would be worn on the beret until a silver replica of the ARRS emblem could be manufactured. A graphic reproduction of the desired emblem is attached.

"6. The beret would be awarded to each graduate of the Pararescue Technician Training School. The rise in morale that could be gained by such a simple and inexpensive expedient could well have a positive effect on the reenlistment problem that is becoming apparent within the pararescue field. Due to a lack of recognition in terms of such factors as Dual Hazard Pay, Proficiency Pay, and Variable Reenlistment Bonus, information available to us indicates that a significant number of pararescuemen will probably not reenlist at the conclusion of their first term. Loss of such a highly trained and skilled resource is a cause of deep concern.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"7. In the interest of recognition, retention, and morale, it is requested that authorization for this distinctive item of uniform clothing be favorably considered."

- c. See Attachment 1 - copy of Memorandum from General Woodrow P. Swancutt, Deputy Director for Forces, Directorate of Operations, and copy of Memorandum from General Hewitt T. Wheless, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff.
- d. Letter from General W. S. Stone, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel dated 31 March 1966 is quoted:

"1. We do not concur with the MAC request of 24 February 1966 to permit ARRS pararescue personnel to wear a maroon beret and combat boots with all uniforms.

"2. The short-term beneficial effects such approval might foster are acknowledged. However, our experience with special concessions to elite groups is that they lead to further concessions for other select or specialized groups. Authorizing distinctive uniforms for certain segments of the Air Force is not consistent with the long-standing Air Force one team, one force policy, although exceptions have been made. Further exceptions would soon dilute whatever desirable effects distinctive uniforms have by making such uniforms common-place and confusing or meaningless to the general public without constant publicity.

"3. If the Uniform Board believes some concessions should be made for pararescue personnel we recommend that consideration be given to limiting the wear of the maroon beret and combat boots to utility uniforms only. This would conform to the wear restrictions which govern the 'Aussie' hat worn by Air Commando personnel. It would also retain the integrity of our plain, yet distinctive, service uniform policy."

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Date 25 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR GEN WHELESS

431-3470
EXT 544

This photograph of Captain Peter A. Rundquist, Chief of the Pararescue Operations, Headquarters Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, illustrates the distinctive headgear proposed for adoption by Pararescue personnel.

This elite force of 178 men commanded by Captain Rundquist performs a highly distinctive, essential, and hazardous duty for the Air Force. Recognition of their superior state of training and challenging mission by a distinctive headgear is recommended.



WOODROW P. SWANCUTT
Brig Gen, USAF
Dep Dir for Forces
Directorate of Operations

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE ASST. VICE CHIEF OF STAFF

DATE 25 Feb 66

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL RAMME

General McConnell has given tentative approval to this recommendation. Request you staff according to normal procedures to work out the details.

HEWITT T. WHELESS
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



FROM: AFCCS

SUBJECT: Uniform Changes

1 June 1966

TO: AFCVC AFXDC
AFCV AFODC
AFAAC AFRDC
AFIGO AFSDC
AFPDC

CHIEF OF STAFF DECISION

1. On 26 May 1966, the Chief of Staff approved the pararescue uniform and the Shade 1549 shirt and trouser uniform.

2. The Chief of Staff noted:

a. Pararescue personnel are highly trained specialists who perform extremely hazardous duties demanding the very highest of mental and physical discipline and thus deserve to wear the distinctive attire consisting of maroon beret, bloused trousers with combat boots, and special badge, both on and off base (ACTION: AFSDC).

b. The shirt and trouser combination, Shade 1549, provides the Air Force with a light weight, blue, wool/polyester long-sleeve shirt and trouser uniform. For off-base wear, the tie will be worn (ACTION: AFSDC).

3. It is requested that appropriate action be taken.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hewitt T. Wheless", is written over the typed name and title.

HEWITT T. WHELESS, Lt General, USAF
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

AFC 5/50

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



8 MAR 1967

USAFMPC (AFIT:SAU)
RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS 78148

SUBJECT: Criteria for Wear of the Pararescue Distinctive Uniform (ARRS (ARODC)
Ltr, 5 Jan 67)

TO: MAC (HAPPSF)

1. We have determined that the CSAF Decision Paper 5/50 which authorized pararescue personnel to wear a maroon beret, distinctive emblem, and bloused trousers in combat boots applies only to those pararescue/recovery personnel assigned to ARRS.
2. It is our understanding that the current Air Force Classification System does not provide distinct identification for pararescue/recovery personnel. However, for airmen, the specialty that most closely approximates those highly trained specialists referred to by the Chief of Staff is AFSC A921X03, Rescue and Survival Specialist/Technician. The July 1967 change to AFM 39-1 will completely revise the Airmen Aircrew Protection Career Field (92) and will provide separate, distinct identification for airmen pararescue/recovery personnel. Your headquarters will then determine on an individual basis, those personnel qualified for conversion to the new pararescue/recovery AFSC. Those individuals qualified for conversion to the new AFSC should be those authorized to wear the distinctive uniform items. Officers to be authorized should be determined on an individual basis by your command.
3. We believe the eligibility criteria for wear of these uniform items should be determined by your headquarters, and no attempt should be made to include this criteria in the uniform manual. The next formal change to AFM 35-10 will indicate that the maroon beret, distinctive emblem, and bloused trousers in combat boots are authorized for wear by pararescue/recovery personnel specifically designated by MAC.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

SIGNED

JOHN W. ROBINSON, MAJ GEN, USAF
Associate Director
Directorate of Personnel Services

1 Atch
ARRS Ltr, 5 Jan 67

Copy to: ARRS (ARODC)

Ch, AROAS	
Ch, AROASA	1000
HU-16	PIR FM
HC-97	PIR FET
HC-130	PIR FM IM
HELI	
NO	
NAV	
PADA	

(OBoz) Jenkins

ROUTINE

COLAC BROOKS

CAPT RUNDQUIST

54

TORONTO 17, CANADA. PARARESCUEMEN MAY PURCHASE DIRECTLY FROM THE COMPANY AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. ONCE THE BERET IS DELIVERED TO THE FIELD, IT WILL BECOME MANDATORY WEAR WITH ALL UNIFORMS. ~~REPLACEMENT OF THE INITIAL ISSUE WILL BE WITH THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE. THE BERET WILL BE PROCURABLE THROUGH THE CLOTHING SALES STORES IN THE FUTURE.~~ PART III. THE STANDARD SIZE PARACHUTIST BADGE WILL BE WORN ON THE BERET UNTIL A NEW SILVER EMBLEM IS APPROVED AND MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EXCHANGE SYSTEM. THE BERET WILL BE WORN WITH THE EMBLEM TO THE LEFT FRONT. PART IV. ONLY FULLY QUALIFIED PARARESCUE PERSONNEL, ASSIGNED TO ARRS AND AF RESCUE RESERVE SQUADRONS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE BERET. STUDENTS OF THE PARARESCUE TECHNICIAN TRAINING SCHOOL WILL BE AWARDED THEIR BERET UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE SCHOOL. A PARARESCUEMAN WHO LOSES HIS QUALIFICATION WILL NO LONGER BE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE BERET. PART V. THIS ITEM OF UNIFORM CLOTHING IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINCTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNIQUE CAPABILITIES OF PARARESCUEMEN. IT SHOULD BE WORN PROUDLY,

UNCLAS

ROUTINE

COL AC BROOKS

CAPT RUNQUEST

544

AND IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH TRADITIONS OF THE AEROSPACE RESCUE
AND RECOVERY SERVICE AND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

AEROSPACE RESCUE and RECOVERY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

15 October 1967

Office of Information

SOMETHING NEW FOR PARARESCUE. Pararescuemen of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service have adopted a new emblem to be worn on the maroon beret. - Designed by Capt Peter A.



Rundquist, ARRS Standardization Section, the new device incorporates the ARRS emblem --the Guardian Angel with the world in her grasp and the motto "That Others May Live." The pararescueman's role in the ARRS mission is portrayed by the parachute and shroud lines affixed atop the ARRS insignia. The new badges will be available through Base Exchange facilities in the near future and through regular Air Force Supply channels in approximately one year. A1C Duane D. Hackney, the only living enlisted man to be presented the Air Force Cross, was awarded one of the seven "proof" badges by Brig Gen Allison C. Brooks, ARRS Commander. The General presented the badge to Airman Hackney

at the annual Michigan Air Force Association Convention on October 7 in Detroit where he addressed some 200 AFA members as the convention's featured speaker.

From: Robert Zontini [mailto:zontinib@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2006 1:52 AM
To: John Cassidy
Subject: Beret; 301st jumps the gun.

John;

Some of the mid '60s PJs know this story but, as Roger Porter points out, it's news that some of the post '67 troopers might find interesting.

When the five reserve rescue units were formed (exact dates I don't know but the 301st has there 50th Reunion scheduled at Patrick for April 10-13in. PJ Air Reserve Technician slots were hard to fill. CONAC, the HQ Command for reserve units of all types had to amend the personnel regs to staff certain AFSCs. Retirees were, under the original regs prohibited from filling ART slots. CONAC in order to staff the slots had to waive their prohibition for retirees in C124 flight engineers and loadmasters as well as Pararescue Technicians and start looking at retiree files.

Bob Seale was hired on a waiver to staff the 301st at Homestead.

Raleigh Curtis went on board at the 302nd at Luke

Dennis Jackson (a SSgt) assumed the 303rd at Burbank CA and the military grade of MSgt.

Eugene Engram was hired at Portland for the 304th and,

Udo Fischer the 305th at Selfridge although I don't know exactly when.

Bob Seale got lucky from the git-go. He Shanghaied a fully qualified SF E-5 from a local FLA NG Special Forces unit. When the guy showed up for his first drill he brought 6 of his team members with him so Bob had 7 fully qualified (minus SCUBA) troops out of his allotted 11 at one blow. Would you believe that every one of them were full time cops from 3 units in the Metro area.

I joined the unit in July '64 fully Qualified and that made the team of 11 complete.

On New Years Eve '64-65 Bob was admitted to the base hospital for tummy cramps with a BP of something like 76/30. They opened up his gut on Jan 1st and found that he had an old (very old) ruptured appendix and that about five feet of his small intestine was one big knot of adhesions.

I got a call from SMSgt Troy Gay our First Sgt and personnel guy on Jan 2nd to see if I was available to take Bob's slot as NCOIC for 90 days which I did. Bob was in the hospital for five

months so I was given an extension for 90 more days. Bob was still DNIJ in Sept so the commander asked for and received from CONAC a second ART Slot so I went permanent. I was an E6 (TSgt) and the base personnel shop cut orders to MSgt which they had to rescind 2 weeks later as Bob Seale though still DNIJ was still in the MSgt slot and CONAC would not authorize another. No sweat, Bob and I both carried the same GS Grade. I asked Bob if we could do a records check on our people and get everyone up to an active duty level of preparedness. He approved and we immediately started sending guys to Ft Sherman, CZ for Jungle School, one new guy Mike Coontz to Portland to Jump School and slots for everyone else to Key West.

Back in April of '65 I had a team inspection by Marty Juback and Paul Jenkins from ARRS in Orlando. Paul was carrying a Maroon Beret which I borrowed and modeled for our Ops Officer Major David Stanford. His only comment at the time was "that sure looks neat, you guys should try to get it made part of your uniform as it sure beats that cunt cap and patch.

Well in Sept when I was officially team NCOIC I was having lunch with Stanford when he brought up the beret. He told me to write him a letter requesting permission for all reserve PJs to wear it as official uniform. I wrote the letter; he endorsed it as "RECOMMEND APPROVAL" got Col. Mark West (our CO) to endorse it and fired it off to CONAC HQ along with a photo of me under a beret with jump Wings.

I figured that was the end of that but we received a TWIX about ten days later that "BY ORDER OF THE CG, CONAC" all fully qualified CONAC PJs would wear the Beret w/ Jump Wings, Bloused trousers into Jump Boots as part of all AF authorized uniform combinations to include Class A. I had to run down Paul Jenkins to find a source. He was a little upset because ARRS was just getting started fighting with HQ USAF to get authorization for "ALL" fully qualified PJs to wear the beret and we were afraid I might have screwed the pouch for everyone.

Anyway, Col West told me that he had all the go ahead he needed and to get the team under maroon effective 11/15/65 per CONAC. I ordered a dozen from Dorathea Mills in Montreal on a Squadron Fund PO at \$9.00 each About two weeks later I got a call from the base PO to come sign for a package and bring a certified check to the US Customs Service for \$11 in import duty.

Our first two SCUBA grads were A1C Gene "Buzz" Nardi and A2c Jim Wilson (real job a fire LT. for Dade Metro). Next came T/Sgt Joe Davis and SSgt Bob Monroe (both detective Sgts for FL States Attorney's office). Like the 58th in '61 was the first 100% SCUBA qualified active duty team, the 301st had the (except for Seale) the first 100 percent fully qualified, in all areas required for active duty teams, reserve PJ Force. The Photo on Pages 121 of "Pararescue 50 Years" was taken in January 1966 and shows, left to right T/Sgt Joe Davis, NCOIC Bob Zontini, A1C Gene Nardi and SSgt Bob Monroe. Page 46 top right photo back and third row r. end are A2C Jim Wilson and A1C Gene Nardi respectively.

Major Dave Stanford, the Ops Officer who started us on our road to "jumping the gun" went on active duty in late '66 and many of you older guys may have met him during inspection visits to your teams. He was a hell of a patron for pararescue. Assignments included deputy for ops, SAC, deputy CO 23rd AF and he retired as a Major General to Key Largo.

That ends this note which seems to have become a small book.

My best to all members of the Brotherhood, present and future.

John, thanks for putting up with my rantings.

Bob Z.

Dear Bob and Kevin;

The 301st ARS Squadron, (Reserve) was formed in Aug 1965. Bob Seale (as well as 4 other retired or former AD PJs, Raleigh Curtis of the 302nd, Luke AFB, AZ. Dennis Jackson of the 303rd, in Riverside, CA. Eugene Enghram, of the 304th, Portland, OG, and Udo Fischer of the 305th, Selfridge MI) were the first 5 PJ Air Reserve Technicians. I was the 6th. All 5 units (except the 301st after I was hired full time in Jan. '65) had a manning authorization when they were formed of 11 PJs including 1 full time ART (Air Reserve Technician) and 10 reservists with the ART slot an E-7 until the early '70s when the 301st was raised to 35 PJs total with three ARTs one of whom was a GS-12 and a WAF slot for maintaining training records.

There was a unit (reserve or otherwise) designated as the 308th. When the 301st moved to Patrick following the destruction of Homestead by Hurricane Andrew, it remained the 301st and was co-based with the 902nd Air Rescue Wing, an all C130 unit, that drew it's PJ support from the 301st.

During my stint as NCOIC from Jan 1 '65 to Aug 12, 1968 we had a fully staffed team which included the following:

TEAM MEMBER	MIL GRADE & (CIVIL JOB)
1) BOB SEALE	MSgt... Civil Service GS-9... (Off Status DNIJ but still employed for pay). (Retired AD PJ)
2) BOB ZONTINI	TSgt ... Civil Service GS-9... (NCOIC & Stan Board P.J. Beginning 1/1/'65). (Former AD PJ.)
3) JOE DAVIS	TSgtAsst NCOIC (Under-cover Investigator for States Attorney's Office). (Former SF.)
4) FRED KEMPER	TSgt... (SGT Hialeah Police Dept... in charge of Motor Division). (Former SF.)

- 5) CLIFF PITTARD TSgt... (SGT City of
Miami PD... in charge of Vehicle Patrol during his shift (Former SF.)
- 6) BOB MONROE SSgt... (CPL Metro Dade
PD...Under-cover Investigator for State's Attorney). (Former SF.)
- 7) BOB CANOULS SSgt... (Inhalation
Therapist....Baptist Hospital Pediatrics' Dept.). (Former SF.)
- 8) RON COLEMAN SSgt.... (SGT FHP... Road
Patrolman). (Former SF)
- 9) MIKE COONS A/2C.... (Road Patrolman
FHP).
- 10) EUGENE NARDI A/1C.... (Cross-Trainee
into P-Rescue from A/C Engine Mech. Sky-Diver).
- 11) JIM WILSON A/2C... Trainee PJ and was
a unit leader for Dade County Fire Rescue (Former SF.)

We did, of course, have a few ins and outs including Gene Nardi's going on EAD in '67 where he stayed until he retired following several volunteer tours in Nam. The 301st as a Squadron and also as a team accomplished a lot. Including our ops officer Maj Dave Stanford, a great PJ supporter who got us permission to go into berets a full year before the AD troops. He ended up a Major General, Deputy CO of 23rd AF and supported Pararescue well after retirement. Our '64--'67 First Sgt, Troy Gay ended up as Director of Personnel for Air Force Reserve.

If I can help you guys in any way you've got my email and my phone number is below.

Best of luck living "BY THE MOTTO",

BOB Z

About the 302nd at Riverside:

At the time in 62, 63, & 64 there were no formal PJ Classes as we know them today. The airborne, medical, scuba, and others were at other services Army and navy schools. So we were trained as well as any active duty team at that time. The OJT does not apply to us as the only training we received. Even today Our PJ's are OJTing, you never stop learning and if you do you are dead in this game. Again, I was in med school with Pitt and the NCOIC of 302 at Gunter AFB, Jump with Pitt at the Brick Yard at Hamiton AFB just before their deployment to Southeast Asia.

Well I need to go. I will contact all of the team that are still with us. Dennis the last time I heard was not in good shape. Nick David is close by, Sam Jeromn, Bob Watkins, Jim Murphy, Keith Chaney and other. Last Q I don't know the last Canopy Roster I have do to the project I was working on did not forward the mail for security issue.
Keep in contact I'll help if I can.

Kindest regard.
GF (George Lee)

The 303rd ARRS (at March) was closed in 1985. Tom Gleisberg (PJ 1970-1981)