

Rescue and Weather wings consolidate

Two Military Airlift Command (MAC) wings, one rescue and one weather recently became the 41st Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance Wing (RWRW) at McClellan.

This Air Force directed action saves 99 management spaces at the wing and Air Weather Service (AWS) headquarters levels, mostly military, with no change in the operational mission.

The 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing (ARRW) at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, combined its mission with that of the 9th Weather Reconnaissance Wing (WRW) at McClellan. The 9th WRW has been inactivated. Only ten military people were transferred from Hickam to McClellan. Several jobs were moved from Air Weather Service (AWS) headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill., to Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service

(AARS) headquarters, also at Scott.

Since ARRS was formed in 1946, it has rescued more than 15,000 people from certain death and has directly aided more than 92,000 people in dangerous situations.

The 41st RWRW is one of two wings responsible for the primary ARRS mission of combat aircrew recovery. The 41st RWRW supports search and rescue (SAR) operations to meet any civil or military aerial rescue need. The wing also provides air recovery forces for manned space flights in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The rescue units of the 41st RWRW include the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group (ARRG), and the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) at

Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand; the 33rd ARRS at Kadena Air Base, Japan; the 41st ARRS here; the 56th ARRS at Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand; and the 71st ARRS at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

The rescue aircraft flown by the 41st RWRW are the HC-130 "Hercules," the HH-53 "Super Jolly Green Giant," the HH-3 "Jolly Green Giant," and the H-1 "Iroquois."

The new weather mission of the 41st RWRW is to provide information on the location, size and movement of hurricanes in the Atlantic, typhoons in the Pacific, and the development of winter storms along America's

east coast. This mission, through the years, has saved thousands of lives and prevented millions of dollars in property damage. Also, the Air Force Global Weather Mission is supported by weather tracking in areas where meteorological data is missing; atmospheric sampling for environmental studies; and reconnaissance flights for deployments and space operations.

The units responsible for the weather mission now under the 41st RWRW are the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (WRS), known as the "Hurricane Hunters" at Keesler AFB, Miss., which flies HC-130 Hercules; the 54th WRS "Typhoon

Chasers" at Andersen AFB, Guam, also flying WC-130s; the 55th WRS at McClellan, which flies both WC-130s and HC-135s. Augmenting the other two squadrons in their hurricane and typhoon missions; and the 11th Consolidate Aircraft

Maintenance Squadron at McClellan.

A new unit, Detachment Headquarters ARRS, activated at Hickam, will act as liaison for rescue weather activities for Pacific Air Forces.