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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SERVICE (MAC)
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 62225



TO
N OF

CC

10 July 1978

SUBJECT

Pararescue Combat Tactics Conference

TO

Conferees

1. During this conference you are charged with assessing our combat readiness program. Insights into rescue responsibilities will be briefed to broaden your understanding of the combat role the pararescue force will play. The combat mission role has been slightly altered from our previous thinking. We will desist from training in more than two man elements, with more emphasis placed in certain areas of training.
2. The reasons for this will be made clear by Headquarters Combat Readiness and Intelligence personnel during this conference. We will continue to insure that pararescuemen receive training that will enable them to operate effectively as combat aircrew-members with the ability to perform ground missions/feet wet operations in a hostile environment.
3. At present the feasibility of working pararescue ground teams in a medium to high threat combat environment is uncertain. However, we must be capable of inserting and operating pararescue teams in areas near hostile forces. The pararescue team must be able to evade, using land navigation and route selection, camouflage discipline and concealment, perform proper medical treatment on survivors and use proper authentication and communication procedures for extraction.
4. The potential combat environment we face today, particularly the European scenario, is uniquely demanding. There is a tendency among some to throw up their hands and quit; to set back and wait for things to get better. We do not subscribe to this approach, we must be careful not to overextend ourselves, not to give our aircrews--our pararescuemen--more of a mission than is practical. I am confident the mission of Rescue can be accomplished, threat or no threat. Your job is to carefully consider the alternatives and determine how.

THIS IS THE ARRS/CC LETTER THAT
BASICALLY SHUT PJS OUT OF TACTICAL GROUND OPS.
HIS EXACT WORDS TO WING CCS WAS TO "TIE
PJS TO THE HOST"

GLOBAL IN MISSION -- PROFESSIONAL IN ACTION



5. I am hopeful that your stay here at Scott AFB will be productive and that you will provide realistic inputs from the experiences you have gained over the past year and a half.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Saunders", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RALPH S. SAUNDERS, Major General, USAF
Commander

