

STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname) GRADE AND DATE
DO	COORD	<i>Stewart</i> 11	6		
CS	COORD	<i>ALEXANDER</i> (123)	7		
APRS/CC	COORD	<i>Stewart</i> 21	8		
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			10		

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE

SYMBOL

PHONE

TYPIST'S INIT

SUSPENSE DATE

Capt Stewart

XPX

5821

nkb

SUBJECT

Draft AFM 2-6 Final Review

DATE

18 APR 1984

SUMMARY

Our Draft AFM 2-6, Combat Rescue Forces, (TAB 1) is for your final review before forwarding to MAC/XPPD. This draft incorporates changes recommended during previous 23 AF review and is to supersede AFM 2-36, Search, Rescue, and Recovery Operations, per AFR 1-2.

Richard W. Nelson
RICHARD W. NELSON
Colonel, USAF
/Plans

1 Tab
Draft AFM 2-6

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akb/24 Apr 84

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24 APR 1984

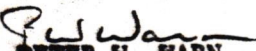
XP (Capt Stewart, 5821)

AFM 2-6 Draft

HQ MAC/XPPD

1. Our Draft AFM 2-6, Combat Rescue Forces, is attached for your review. This manual is to supersede AFM 2-36, Search, Rescue, and Recovery Operations, per AFR 1-2.
2. Request you review and forward to HQ USAF for publication.

FOR THE COMMANDER


PETER W. WAIN
Colonel, USAF
Asst DCS/Plans

1 Atch
Draft AFM 2-6

COORD: XPXM

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2-6

COMBAT RESCUE (CR) FORCES

1. Mission. Worldwide rescue of downed US combat aircrew members is the mission of USAF combat rescue forces. Although sized and postured against the tactical air forces, CR forces can support any combat aircrews in distress. This specialized task enhances combat effectiveness by:

a. Recovering and returning downed personnel to duty, thus preserving critical combat resources.

b. Denying the enemy a source of intelligence and an exploitable propaganda weapon.

c. Improving the morale and motivation of USAF combat aircrews by assuring them that every possible effort will be made to rescue them if they are downed.

2. Humanitarian Services. Humanitarian rescue and recovery is correlative to the combat mission and, during peacetime, CR forces support US forces with rescue and recovery services. Civilian rescue and recovery operations may also be conducted if there is no interference with the CR force primary mission. Additionally, there can be no conflict of interest with a commercial

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rescue and recovery agency. Air Force Manual 64-2, The National Search and Rescue Manual, provides detailed guidance concerning the peacetime employment of USAF rescue and recovery forces. These operations may include:

a. Participation in humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

b. Assisting civilian or DOD personnel in distress, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) signatories, International Maritime Organization (IMO) signatories and, when requested, other foreign governments.

3. Development of Combat Rescue Forces. Combat rescue forces began developing during World War II. During this war, a lack of equipment and experience limited rescue aircraft operations. In addition, rescue forces were assigned to individual commands, so no centralized control was available for development of procedures. The solution to this problem was achieved by establishing a dedicated aerial rescue force with a single organization managing its resources. In March 1946, the Air Rescue Service was established and assigned to Air Transport Command, a forerunner of Military Airlift Command (MAC). This organization provided both centralized management and control, as well as an advocate for a modern and capable rescue force. In January 1966, the name was changed to the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service to reflect the expanded mission of space hardware recovery. In March 1983, USAF Aerospace Rescue and Recovery forces and USAF special operations forces were consolidated under 23 Air Force, Military Airlift Command.

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4. Combat Rescue Forces Capabilities:

a. Dedicated Assets: Combat rescue forces operate a combination of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Each type of aircraft possess unique characteristics which provide a spectrum of capabilities for the CR force.

(1) Light lift helicopters (LLH) are effective for short range CR missions. Survivor recovery is simplified because they do not need a prepared area to land. Survivors can also be recovered from a hover using various rescue devices. LLHs are relatively small and can be transported/ deployed in a variety of fixed wing aircraft.

(2) Heavy lift helicopters (HLH) are relatively large and designed for long range CR missions. Like the LLH, they can recover survivors from either a landing or hover. HLH range is extended through air refueling and they can self-deploy to virtually any area.

(3) Fixed wing aircraft may escort aircraft along aerial lines of communication or provide precautionary orbit, airborne command and control, and communication assistance and relay. They also provide a long range search capability, a delivery platform for pararescue teams and equipment, and air refueling for HLHs. Self-deployment to virtually any area is possible.

b. **Augmenting Assets:** Other USAF or DOD aircraft may be tasked for CR missions either in a direct recovery mode or in a support role such as close air support (CAS), air interdiction (AI), or airborne battlefield command and control center (ABCCC).

c. **Specialized Assets:** Pararescue personnel provide CR forces with additional capabilities essential for search, rescue and recovery, special operations, and aerospace hardware recovery. They can function as an extension of the CR weapons system during recovery operations or they can operate independently of the air assets to accomplish surface tasks. They can be inserted or extracted by any method ranging from parachute, air-land, underwater, or surface. Pararescue mission capabilities include:

(1) Facilitating the search, contact, authentication, security, medical treatment, movement, and exfiltration process for recovery of personnel and materiel.

(2) Receiving control of personnel and materiel from friendly forces.

(3) Safeguarding the integrity of designated areas of recovery (DARs), potential evasion locales (PELs), and selected areas for evasion (SAFEs), through clandestine entry and withdrawal.

5. **Deployment.** Combat rescue forces are equipped and organized to rapidly deploy and establish CR operations.

a. There are two primary methods for deploying CR forces.

(1) Strategic airlift, whereby an entire unit is airlifted to a point of debarkation. Strategic airlift is required to deploy LLHs inter-theater or over long distances intratheater. It is also the preferred method to deploy HLHs intertheater.

(2) Self-deployment, whereby aircraft, aircrews, support personnel, and critical spares deploy using organic unit resources. CR fixed wing aircraft provide air refueling for HLHs and transport equipment and personnel. Follow-on spares and support personnel may still require airlift support/surface transportation.

b. The method of deployment depends primarily upon the following:

(1) Required delivery date (RDD).

(2) Airlift availability.

(3) Deployment distance.

(4) Tanker availability.

(5) En route support capability.

(6) En route weather.

c. Deployment location base support. CR forces will not normally deploy to less than a limited base fully augmented by host equipment and personnel capable of receiving deployed forces. If deployed to a bare base, sustained CR operations require additional host resources. As a minimum this includes:

- (1) Petroleum/oil/lubricants.
- (2) Communications.
- (3) Security/civil engineering.
- (4) Messing/billeting.
- (5) Intermediate maintenance and maintenance facilities.
- (6) Supply requisition and issue.
- (7) Medical facilities and services.
- (8) Central base personnel office services.
- (9) Finance services.
- (10) Access to intelligence information.
- (11) Vehicles and vehicle maintenance support.

6. Concept of Operations. Combat rescue force operations are based on the following concepts.

a. Survivors of an aircraft incident must be quickly recovered. If not, the probability of survival rapidly decreases due to such factors as injury, severe climate, or capture.

b. Combat rescue forces must be able to conduct operations in the physical environments of all theaters. They must have the capability to either avoid or operate against threats covering the entire conflict spectrum. CR forces must also be able to operate at night in adverse weather to ensure survival and, although not a present capability, that goal is one of the highest priorities.

c. To be effective, CR forces must be able to rapidly respond to the downing of an aircrew. This CR response force, however, must be tailored and commensurate with the threat in the area of operations. Tailored responses may vary from a single helicopter scrambled in a low threat environment to a single helicopter, clandestinely flown across the FLOT at night, for a coordinated time-on-target pickup; or depending upon the threat, one or two helicopters accompanied by fixed wing aircraft for air refueling and protective escort to effect the survivor recovery.

d. Recovery is initiated when survivors are located and authenticated. Authentication is normally done by radio, but may also be done through visual signals or human contact. Recovery may require a physical link which is provided by pararescue teams. They can penetrate incident sites from CR

aircraft and physically contact survivors. Then if required, they give survivors emergency medical treatment and assist with recovering them to the aircraft. Hostile forces may deny rescue aircraft immediate access to survivors. When this occurs, if the ground environment permits, CR aircraft may insert pararescue teams as close to survivors as possible. The teams will then link up with survivors and assist with survival, evasion, and rendezvous with an evacuation vehicle.

e. Aircrew Survival Preparation. Probability of rescue improves if survivors are materially, physically, and psychologically prepared for a survival situation. Aircrews must prepare for the possibility of being downed and becoming survivors by applying survival training concepts both before and after becoming a survivor, establishing a personal evasion plan of action (EPA) and becoming knowledgeable of area evasion and escape (E&E) procedures.

f. Specific details and responsibilities during combat rescue missions are contained in AFR 64-3, Combat Search and Rescue Procedures.

7. Planning. Theater Air Force component war plans identify and task CR forces. Since effective plans are continuously updated, there must be continuous coordination between air component commanders and Military Airlift Command (MAC). This will ensure CR forces are available where required and supported for sustained operations.

a. The Commander-in-Chief of Military Airlift Command exercises world-wide command of combat rescue forces through 23 Air Force. Therefore, the primary coordination channels are:

(1) Command elements planning from within CONUS coordinate directly with MAC.

(2) European command elements coordinate with the Commander, Detachment 1, 23 Air Force (USAFE/DOS), Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

(3) Pacific command elements coordinate with the Commander, Detachment 3, 23 Air Force (PACAF/DOS), Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

b. The Commander, Detachment 1, 23 Air Force, and Commander, Detachment 3, 23 Air Force act as the 23 Air Force Commander's theater representatives. They coordinate with the air component commanders to identify CR force requirements and support. These requirements are passed through command channels and identified in the area commander's plans which are approved by JCS. When these plans are exercised during tactical deployments, CR exercise participation validates current doctrine and capabilities while maintaining peak readiness.

8. Command and Control:

a. The Military Airlift Command provides command of CR forces through the Commander, 23 Air Force and subordinate units. Effective combat rescue force employment is accomplished through centralized command and control with decentralized execution.

b. Commanders of unified commands provide operational command of theater assigned CR forces, and exercise operational control through the air component commander. Military Airlift Command exercises operational control of CONUS assigned CR forces through the Commander, 23 Air Force.

c. Tactical employment of CR forces is exercised by the SAR mission commander at the Rescue Coordination Center (RCC), the focal point for processing specific CR missions. The RCC is responsible for real time prosecution of SAR missions and may be joint or combined as a function of manning.

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