

# **2<sup>nd</sup> AIR RESCUE GROUP**

## **LINEAGE**

2<sup>nd</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron constituted, Nov 1943  
Activated, 15 Dec 1943  
Redesignated 2<sup>nd</sup> Rescue Squadron  
Redesignated 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Rescue Squadron, 10 Aug 1950  
Redesignated 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Rescue Group, 14 Nov 1952  
Inactivated, 24 Jun 1958

## **STATIONS**

Hamilton Fld, CA  
Gulfport AAF, MS, Feb 1944  
Mokmer Airdrome, Biak Island, New Guinea  
Sorido Strip on Biak  
Morotai Island  
Kadena, Okinawa, 31 Mar 1947-4 May 1950  
Clark AFB, Philippines, 4 May 1950-7 Nov 1955  
Wheeler AFB, HI, Nov 1955

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Fourth Air Force  
AAF Eastern Technical Training Command)  
Fifth Air Force  
V Bomber Command  
Thirteenth Air Force  
301<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing  
Air Rescue Service, Apr 1949

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

### **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

AT-11  
41-27623

B-17G  
44-83870

C-47A  
43-47994  
42-92613

L-5  
42-99482

L-5E  
44-18147  
42-99441  
44-18009  
44-17943

L-5G  
44-17316

OA-10A  
44-33877  
44-33927  
44-34071  
44-33944  
44-34088

R-6A  
43-45356  
43-45387  
43-45355  
43-45355

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

### **UNIT COLORS**

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron was the first of the Emergency Rescue School graduate units to see combat when it arrived on Biak Island off the coast of New Guinea, in July of 1944.

2<sup>nd</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron worked jointly with Naval and Marine air and surface units to effect combat rescues of downed crewmen. The B-29 bombing campaign and Navy carrier strikes of mainland Japan and the numerous small island assaults by Naval air and surface forces produced a number of shot down crewmembers. During the first six months of 2<sup>nd</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron operations, 300 airmen were rescued.

1 May 1949 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Rescue Squadron was reassigned from the Far East Air Forces to MATS, with further assignments to Air Rescue Service.

At the outbreak of the Korean war on 28 Jun 1950, two SAR units served the Far East Air Forces; the 2nd and 3rd Rescue Squadrons.

Aug-Sep 1950 Rescue Squadrons were redesignated Air Rescue Squadrons.

The 2d Air Rescue Squadron, based on the Philippines and Okinawa furnished SB-29s for long-range rescue escort missions to and from the coastal ingress/egress points where aircraft crossed into enemy territory and where rescue aircraft could orbit, just off the enemy coast, while bombers carried out their missions inland.

The air rescue squadron with operational responsibility for the Korean War theater was the 3d ARS, but the 2d ARS at Clark AB also contributed to the war effort by sending SA-16s and crews on a temporary basis to augment the 3d in the theater. From Nov 1952 through May 1953, the 2d provided two aircraft and crews operating from K-3 (Pohang AB) on the southeast coast of Korea in support of the wartime mission.

Sgt Leonard J. Graf, a rescue scanner and engine mechanic assigned to the 2d ARS's Flight C, served at Kadena AB between 1949 and 1951. Sgt Graf recalled the escort work performed by Okinawa-based SB-17s in the war's first year: We were kept real busy escorting B-29s on bombing raids to North Korea & on max effort days we could see 90 B-29's go by us as we orbited Amami-O-Shima island south of Japan. We would then go back to Oki & do our days work, then back up to Amami-O-Shima to wait until the last B-29 limped back home.

12 Apr 1953, after shooting down an eighth Mig in Korea, Captain Joseph McConnell felt his F-86 shudder and slow. After radioing for help, he ejected over the Yellow Sea. Within a few minutes, he was rescued by an H-19 from the 2d Air Rescue Squadron.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.