

22nd TRAINING SQUADRON



LINEAGE

STATIONS

Fairchild AFB, WA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV Tet 69/Counteroffensive Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969 Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970 Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

2 Presidential Unit Citations:

(Southeast Asia) 1 Nov 68-1 May 69 1 Oct 60-30 Apr 70

EMBLEM

Approved 12 December 1984

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

The landscape represents the State of Washington, location of the squadron and field training activities. The barbed wire symbolizes resistance training activities. The compass points refer to the teaching of global survival principles. The parachutist symbolizes the aircrew member who may come down anywhere on earth and have to use skills to survive and return.

MOTTO

That They Shall Return

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 22nd Training Squadron conducts combat Survival Training, which all Air Force aircrew members must attend. Forty-nine classes are taught per year, with each class lasting 17 days. The majority of the course is taught at Fairchild; however, six days are spent in the mountains of the Colville and Kaniksu National Forests, approximately 70 miles north of Fairchild. Instruction at Fairchild begins with classroom training on the physical and psychological stresses of survival. This is followed by hands-on training in post ejection procedures and parachute landing falls, various life supports of equipment procedures, survival medicine, and recovery device training. Students then transition to the mountains where they receive additional training including shelter construction, food procurement and preparation, day and night land navigation techniques, evasion travel and camouflage techniques, ground-to-air signals, and aircraft vectoring procedures. Finally, students are returned to Fairchild and given training in conduct after capture.

22d Training Squadron

The 22d Training Squadron conducts the combat survival training course for United States Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard aircrew members as well as selected Department of Defense and international military personnel at Fairchild AFB, Washington.

This unit incorporates the heritage of the 22d Special Operations Squadron and 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron.

The 22d Special Operations Squadron was activated on 25 October 1968 and assigned to the 56th Special Operations Wing operating out of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Operating A-IE Skyraider attack aircraft, the squadron flew both day and night interdiction missions, as well as search and rescue support missions in Southeast Asia. During its brief history, the 22d Special Operations Squadron flew in seven separate Southeast Asia campaigns. The unit was inactivated on 30 September 1970.

Air Training Command activated the 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron on 1 April 1971 at Fairchild and assigned it to the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing. It conducted combat survival training.

On 1 January 1993, HQ USAF consolidated the 3612th with the 22d Special Operations Squadron. Air Training Command then redesignated the new squadron as the 22d Crew Training Squadron, effective 28 January 1993. The squadron again underwent a name change on 1 April 1994, becoming the 22d Training Squadron.

During its nearly 25-year history, the squadron has trained more than 100,000 students in survival, evasion, resistance, and escape techniques.

3612th COMBAT CREW TRAINING SQUADRON FAIRCHILD AFB, WASHINGTON

The 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron dates back to 1 April 1971 when it was activated. On

that day, the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group was redesignated a Wing and the worldwide concept of survival training, with centralized survival training authority, became the focal for all aircrew training.

This worldwide concept of survival was first proposed at the Worldwide Life Support Systems Conference at Langley AFB, Virginia in March 1966. The survival schools were consolidated for the purpose of standardizing survival training to better train officer/enlisted flying personnel and other selected personnel in the employment of principles, procedures, equipment and techniques. Feasibility studies were done to analyze the different methods of worldwide survival and discussions followed as to who should be the lead unit for such an Air Force mission. At the hub of that reorganization came the parent 3636th Combat Crew Training Group and the 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron (Basic).

Today, the 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron continues as the hub of survival training and conducts the Combat Survival Training Course consisting of both academic and hands-on field instructions, the 17-day course includes instruction in parachute landing falls, life support equipment procedures, shelter construction, food procurement and preparation, day and night land navigation, ground to air signaling, vectoring rescue aircraft, helicopter hoist training, evasion travel, camouflage, and resistance training. Six days of this training is conducted in the mountains of the Colville and Kaniksu National Forest, 70 miles north of Spokane, Washington. The 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron has been the mainstay of the Wing for nearly two decades and continues as the teaching pulse of the Wing so that they shall return.

Emblem Approved: 21 June 1981

Basic Combat Survival Course S-V80-A

The 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron conducts the Combat Survival Training Course at Fairchild Air Force Base, and in the mountains of the Colville and Kaniksu National Forests, 70 miles north of Spokane. The 17 day course includes instruction in parachute landing falls, life support equipment procedures, shelter construction, food procurement and preparation, day and night land navigation, ground and air signaling, vectoring rescue aircraft, helicopter hoist training, evasion travel, camouflage, and resistance in captivity.

The Combat Survival Course begins on a Wednesday with four days of academic and laboratory training. The following Monday is spent in the School's Exhibits Training Laboratory and the pyrotechnic field. Tuesday morning students travel two hours to the Colville National Forest where they spend six days in the field practicing what they were taught in academics. Students return on Sunday and the following morning is spent in Resistance Training academics. The rest of the week is divided between resistance and parachute training with graduation Friday afternoon.

The 3612 CCTS controlled the Combat Survival Training Course held at Fairchild AFB. Students attending the Combat Survival Training Course spent six days of the 17-day course surviving in the Selkirk mountains. The Wing had access to over 320,000 acres of the Selkirk mountains in the Colville and Kaniksu National Forests located 70 miles north of Spokane. For the remainder of the course, the students resided at Fairchild AFB.

Survival School also continued to support the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFROTC) and the USAF Academy's survival training program. Each summer, Wing survival instructors taught AFROTC cadets the basics of Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) at AFROTC encampments throughout the United States. Wing survival instructors also traveled to the Air Force Academy each summer to teach cadets the Combat Survival Training Course and water survival, both mandatory courses for the Academy cadets.

"THE SURVIVOR'S MISSION: To return to friendly control without giving aid or comfort to the enemy; to return early and in good physical and mental condition.

This statement greeted each student in the academic classroom as they entered to begin the Combat Survival Training Course, and set the mode for the atmosphere surrounding Survival School. If each student departed Survival School with the ability to fulfill the above statement, the Wing's mission had been accomplished.

S-V80-A students began their training in the classroom where survival instructors taught on a wide range of survival topics. The students learned survival basics, such as: food and water procurement and preparation, shelter construction, basic first aid, land navigation, evasion travel, and camouflage. These basics were reinforced when the students went to the woods, a field training area near Cusick, Washington, 70 miles north of the base. For six days, survival instructors reviewed the survival basics, with the students learning in the best way possible: hands-on experience.

Divided into elements (a group of 7-10 students, led by an instructor), the students lived in shelters built by their own hands, and replenished the small amount of food given them (8 ounces of meat, a few vegetables, and carbohydrate food bars) by setting snares for small animals and identifying, collecting, and eating various edible plants and insects. During their 6-day trip, the elements hiked across the mountains with backpacks the students had constructed themselves, learning day and night navigation and vectoring techniques. The last two days, students learned how to evade with camouflaged faces and hidden movements. Survival instructors acted as aggressors searching for the students as they proceeded to a pre-selected destination. Survival instructors posing as partisans (friendly forces) fed the students and hid them for their last night in the woods. The students earned their "freedom" the next day by once again evading to a pre-selected destination where an Air Force bus awaited them, taking them back to Fairchild AFB.

When the students arrived at Fairchild AFB, they spent the next two days in academics learning resistance training principles and the Code of Conduct in preparation for their visit to the resistance training laboratory. To more effectively train the students, they were divided into two smaller groups—one group began the capture and interrogation phase in resistance training, and the other group began parachute training. Parachute training consisted of learning and mastering the basic steps of landing in a parachute, first in a parachute landing fall (PLF) pit, then on a swing-land trainer. The students underwent static hoist training and then experienced a live helicopter hoist recovery to simulate a real rescue recovery.

Meanwhile, the first group had been captured and transported to the Resistance Training (RT) compound. At the RT compound, the students learned the importance of the Code of Conduct, and

had the opportunity to practice resistant techniques while undergoing interrogations in a training environment. The students also learned how to survive and resist as a group in a prisoner of war (PW) camp by working, together rather than independently. When the students finished the RT compound phase of training, they participated in seminars with RT instructors, discussing the students' experiences in the resistance training phase. Following the seminars, the first group moved on to parachute training, and the second group began resistance training.

On 31 August 1987 twenty-one individuals from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) attended a survival course at the 3636 CCTW. The fifteen astronaut candidates, as well as six engineers and technicians, spent three days learning the basics of survival in a condensed course created especially for the NASA students. NASA officials asked Survival School to provide survival training to the astronaut candidates because the candidates would be frequently flying in T-38 aircraft during their astronaut training. After attending survival training, they would be better equipped to survive if they had to bail out of the aircraft.

The astronaut candidates spent their three days of training in the Sullivan Lake training area in Eastern Washington, approximately 90 miles from Fairchild AFB. The training consisted of learning immediate survival techniques. The survival instructors did not teach long-term survival basics because searches would begin immediately if the students ever bailed out and they would not spend much time on the ground. They learned how to care for their clothing and equipment, construct shelters, procure water, start fires, and how to signal and vector aircraft for rescue. Instructors also taught on basic medical self-aid, sanitation and hygiene, and personal survival kits. NASA officials remained pleased with the training the astronaut candidates received and planned to continue sending candidates to Survival School for survival training.

The Wing continued to assist the USAF Academy from 7 May through 7 August 1987 by sending eight instructors to the Academy to help conduct the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) program. The Academy had four survival instructors permanently assigned, but with approximately 2000 cadets being trained each summer, the Academy required a larger cadre. In March 1987, the SERE Training Director chose the eight instructors from the Wing after arriving at Survival School and interviewing volunteer survival instructor

The Academy SERE course closely resembled the Wing's Combat Survival Training Course. The Academy added three days to their training: a day of water survival, and an extra day in both field and resistance training.

The Academy's program included:

Survival academics and laboratory

Code of Conduct academics and laboratory

Field survival

Field evasion

Water survival

The survival instructors led the senior cadets in conducting the SERE course. The instructors taught the academic portions of training and supervised the senior cadre during the laboratory phases of training. The senior cadre instructed the students (beginning sophomores) during the laboratory training and received grades based on their instruction and leadership. The students

received four days of academic training and divided into four groups of approximately 100 students each for the laboratory phases of training. Two groups underwent survival and evasion training, while another group began resistance training, and the last group accomplished water survival training and signaling and vectoring techniques. Each group worked through each phase until they had completed their 20-day Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape training. Students graduating from the Academy's SERE program had fulfilled their survival training requirement and did not have to complete the Wing's Combat Survival Training Course or water survival training.

The Wing continued to benefit from sending survival instructors TDY to the Academy. The instructors received experience in supervision and allowed them to experience a different training environment, which improved their job performance upon returning to Survival School. Supporting the Academy's SERE training enabled the Wing to further accomplish their mission as sole manager of all Air Force survival training.

Between July and December 1987, the Wing supported six exercises worldwide, including COPE THUNDER 88-2 and FOAL EAGLE. The Wing continued to provide survival instructors to assist in Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), US Central Command - Air Forces (USCENTAF), and Air Force exercises.

Survival School participated in COPE THUNDER 88-2 from 27 November to 21 December 1987. The Wing sent seven survival instructors to Clark Air Base (AB), Philippines, where the exercise was being conducted. The exercise involved tactical air and support forces from the United States Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Army. COPE THUNDER included over ten different aircraft: fighters, search and rescue helicopters, reconnaissance aircraft, and refueling aircraft. For the Wing's participation, the survival instructors trained 41 survivors both on land and in the water in daytime SAREXs (Search and Rescue exercises). The instructors accompanied the "survivors" throughout the exercise, which included escape and evasion, until the survivors were rescued by friendly forces."

The Wing continued to support the annual Combined Forces Command (CFC) FOAL EAGLE exercise in 1987. Seventeen survival instructors went to Camp Humphreys (near Osan AB) in the Republic of Korea (ROK) from 14 October to 11 November 1987 for the exercise. Participants included the US Armed Forces (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy), the US Army National Guard, the ROK Air Force, and the ROK Army. The Wing assisted in providing theater-specific training to ROK and US personnel in survival, evasion, resistance to interrelation, escape, and rescue procedures and techniques (SEREREX).

Throughout the SEREREX portion of the exercise, survival instructors supported US forces, teaching resistance academics, accompanying the survival teams, and interrogating US personnel. Including ROK personnel, 321 military members were trained during the 1987 exercise, an increase of 111 percent over the 1986 SEREREX. The Combined Forces Command remained pleased with Survival School's participation and planned to assign the Wing's Chief of Resistance Training Branch as the FOAL EAGLE SEREREX Officer in Charge for the 1988 exercise.

3612TH COMBAT CREW TRAINING SQUADRON COMMANDER
Lt Col William F. Weaver, 11 Jan 86



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Sources