

2156 AIR RESCUE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

2156 Air Rescue Squadron

STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL, 1952

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 2156th Air Rescue Unit, Technical Training Unit (TTU), MacDill AFB FL, organized and developed the Pararescue and Survival School. Recruited and trained "experienced" enlisted medics (combat surgical technicians, preferred) and Medical Service Corps officers from any and all military

services. Lt Perry C. Emmons, an Office of Strategic Service (OSS) pilot during World War II who had, along with his six flying sergeants, flown prisoners of war out of Thailand and earned the nickname "Perry and the Pirates," assigned as the school's first Commandant.

1950/51: The pararescue and survival specialty training programs provided by the 2156th Air Rescue Squadron (TTU), MacDill AFB, Florida established as an approved Air Force school.

School of Aviation Medicine, Rescue and Survival Technician- Medical, ALR 92170-1, enhanced, provided instruction in all areas of field medicine. Curriculum emphasized knowledge and skills needed for independent field operations. Provided knowledge and skill levels needed to attend emergency medical course provided by the pararescue school.

The Pararescue School officially sanctioned, December 1981, by the State of New Mexico as a certifying school for paramedics.

CY 1988: Pararescue School curriculum separated into six AFCAT 36-2223 courses: medical operations; advanced casualty care; aerial operations; field operations; team leader; and advanced tactics. Courses opened to DOD occupations needing the training provided at the pararescue school, i.e., Marine Recon, Navy Seals, and Army Rangers. Allowed experts from other military occupational specialties to be assigned as instructors.

October 1989: HQ MAC established physician position, Director of Pararescue Medicine-AFSC 9356, at the pararescue school. Provided professional medical supervision for all USAF pararescue medical qualifications, procedures, and equipment. Reported direct to HQ MAC/SG concerning level of training, medical procedures, certification issues, and effective use of 129 pararescue to render emergency medical care.

Position location and responsibilities dictated by recent USAF forces alignments: Air Force Special Operations Command, established; HQ Air Rescue Service, without control of the pararescue school, reestablished; and HQ MAC controlling and managing headquarters for the USAF pararescue program. HQ MAC also controlling and managing headquarters for the USAF pararescue school and training pipeline

CY 1993: Major realignments of Air Force Structure; HQ Air Education Training Command gains responsibility for pararescue school, 542 TCHTS/TTJ, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

Produces trained personnel well qualified to render emergency medical services in sensitive, denied, and hostile locations with the ability to conduct operations in any climate, terrain, or land and water environment, day and night.

Curriculum development continually revised. Goal is to train new, novice, and experienced pararescuemen to be globally deployable from an emergency medical and tactical combat skills standpoint. Emphasis is on capabilities needed to retrieve downed-airmen from the battlefield.

June 1989. Quads, motorcycles, and special vehicle operations added to advanced tactics course.

June 1989. Satellite Communications (SATCOM) added to team leader course.

June 1992. Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) certification, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, established as a requirement needed to receive medical course completion documents.

June 1992. Advanced weapons course established. Focus is night optical devices and foreign weapons. Increased courses conducted at pararescue school to seven.

June 1993. Global Positioning System (GPS) uses and methods added to field operations course.

January 1994. Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) certification, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, established as a requirement needed to receive medical course completion documents.

January 1994. Rigged Alternate Method Zodiac (RAMZ) added to aerial operations course (12 days). Students instructed in procedures and methods for air dropping motorized zodiac boats to perform rescue and recoveries at sea.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.