

46 EXPEDITIONARY RESCUE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

46 Air Rescue Squadron

Activated

Inactivated

Redesignated 46 Expeditionary Rescue Squadron

Activated

Inactivated

STATIONS

Westover AFB, Massachusetts, 14 Nov 1952-15 Sep 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

SA-16

H-19

COMMANDERS

Maj Vern F. Falkner

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 46th AR Squadron evacuated seven survivors from a civilian aircraft which had crashed at Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. 16 Aug 1958

Rescue Operations Wind Down at Kandahar: The Air Force's combat rescue mission at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan is coming to a close after 11 years. On Jan. 30, airmen at Kandahar came together to mark the inactivation of the 46th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. This Guardian Angel pararescue unit was based at Camp Bastion northwest of Kandahar but also operated a detachment at Kandahar. The ceremony also recognized the forthcoming departure of the 59th ERQS, an HH-60 helicopter unit, from Kandahar. There is no planned replacement for these rescue helicopters at the base. "Because of Guardian Angel efforts in Afghanistan, many lives have been saved, even more enemies have been deterred," said Maj. Joseph Barnard, 46th ERQS commander. "Now, coalition troops' need for advanced access to sophisticated care under fire is lessening," he noted. Rescue forces at Kandahar have saved nearly 1,200 lives, evacuated nearly 1,800 additional personnel from the battlefield, and stood alert for 97,000 hours since they began operating from there in February 2002. "You have aced every test and crushed every challenge," said Lt. Col. Andrew Smith, 59th ERQS commander. 2013

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 25 Jan 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Westover AFB, MA. @1954*