

5th AIR RESCUE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

5th Rescue Squadron

Redesignated 5th Air Rescue Squadron

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STATIONS

Ellington Field, TX, 1947 - 1949

Lowry AFB, CO, 1 Sep 1949-20 Feb 1951

Westover AFB, MA, 20 Feb 1951

MacDill AFB, FL

Westover AFB, MA

Maxwell AFB, AL

Selfridge AFB, MI

Morrison Fld, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-82A

H-5G

L-13A

L-5

SA-16A

SB-29

COMMANDERS

Col Raymond L. Curtice

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In June 1950, neither of the two Pacific-region Air Rescue Service squadrons; the 2d ARS at Clark AB, Philippines nor the 3 ARS based at Johnson AB, Japan; possessed a single SA-16, the newest Air Rescue Service aircraft. Consequently, Air Rescue Service headquarters directed the 5th ARS to send four SA-16s and crews to Japan to fill the gap until 3d ARS received its own amphibians. By the end of July, the four Dumbos of the newly designated Detachment E, 5th ARS, had arrived in Japan after a five-day transpacific flight. A week after its arrival in Japan, the SA-16 detachment; twelve officers and twenty-two airmen performed its first rescue mission, with results that boded well.

In 1951 the Midwestern portion of the United States was inundated by floods. Floodwaters rose to record levels in Kansas and farms and livestock were stranded by the deluge. To assist in disaster relief, the U.S. government authorized the use of USAF and Air National Guard units in the location and rescue of flood victims. At Ellington Air Force Base, the 5th Air Rescue Squadron was ordered to assist local and state authorities in the search and rescue missions. The 5th Air Rescue Squadron flew in SA-16 to Kansas to help with the search and rescue operation. Once the victims were located, SA-16 crews dropped food and supplies to isolated farm families. In serious cases, amphibious planes dropped life rafts and small powered boats to help ground units rescue victims.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 16 May 2013

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit history. *Westover AFB, MA. @1954*