
**AIR FORCE RESCUE
COORDINATION CENTER**



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	3
AFRCC ORGANIZATION/MISSION STATEMENT.....	4
TEN YEAR SYNOPSIS.....	5
INCIDENT/MISSION/SAVE SUMMARY.....	6
BEACON SUMMARY	7
BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS	8
NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY	9-10
NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS	11
AIRCRAFT SUMMARY.....	12
AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS.....	13
RADAR/CELL FORENSICS SUMMARY	14
SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT DATA	15 - 17
UPDATE YOUR BEACON INFO	18
AFRCC CONTACT INFO.....	19

GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION

The Commander, Air Forces Northern is the Inland Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) is designated as the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC) for the aeronautical Search and Rescue Region (SRR) corresponding to the continental US other than Alaska. The AFRCC seeks to encourage a cooperative SAR network and help coordinate assistance for persons in distress.

AUTHORITY

The AFRCC mission is derived from international treaty requirements in the Chicago Convention (as amended in 2006) and the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual. These requirements are satisfied by the U.S. via the National Search and Rescue Plan (NSP) and the National Search and Rescue Supplement (NSS). The NSP and NSS provide the United States a national plan for coordinating SAR services to meet our domestic needs and international commitments. Further implementation guidance is provided in Department of Defense Instruction 3003.01; Support to Civil Search and Rescue and Air Force Policy Directive 10-45; Air Force Support to Civil Search and Rescue.

TASKING AUTHORITY

The AFRCC has no command or control authority. The AFRCC supports domestic civil authorities by coordinating Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal SAR services to the fullest extent practicable on a non-interference basis with the unit's primary duties, according to applicable national directives, plans, guidelines, and agreements. No DoD or other federal resources are assigned or tasked for the aeronautical civil SAR mission.

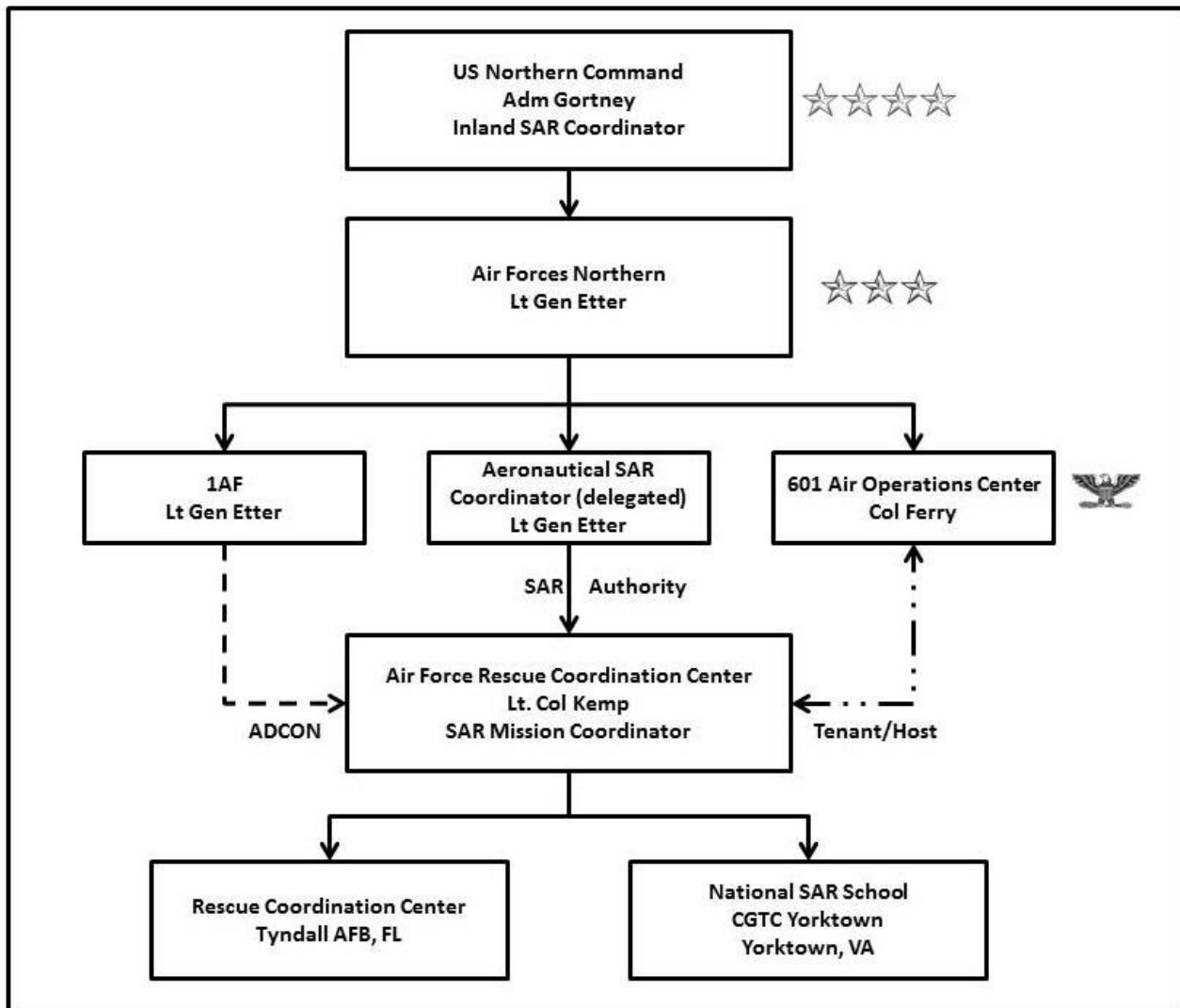
RESPONSIBILITIES

When managing SAR operations the AFRCC has the full operational authority of the Inland SAR Coordinator.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Coordinating SAR operations involving missing/overdue general aviation (GA) interstate aircraft flights, DoD aircraft, and commercial aircraft.
- Coordinating SAR operations in response to Emergency Beacon Alerts. The AFRCC receives all COSPAS-SARSAT emergency beacon distress signals registered to the United States or those originating from within its SRR. The Center investigates the signal in coordination with federal, state, and local officials and determines the required type and scope of response.
- Coordinating federal SAR capabilities (both Aeronautical and Inland) at the request of other designated Rescue Control Centers (RCC), Federal and State SAR coordinators in support of their civil SAR operations. Through SAR Agreements with other SAR Coordinators (SCs) and their SMCs, the Center may be a coordinating authority for specific SAR events outside their SRR. These events include mercy, patient transport, search, rescue, and search and rescue unit (SRU) transport. And may include all elements of federal capabilities, to include active, guard, and reserve units, unmanned aerial systems, and satellite technologies.

AFRCC ORGANIZATION



AFRCC MISSION STATEMENT

To save lives by providing expert coordination capability, while fostering cooperation, and providing first responder education in support the National Search and Rescue Plan.

TEN YEAR SYNOPSIS

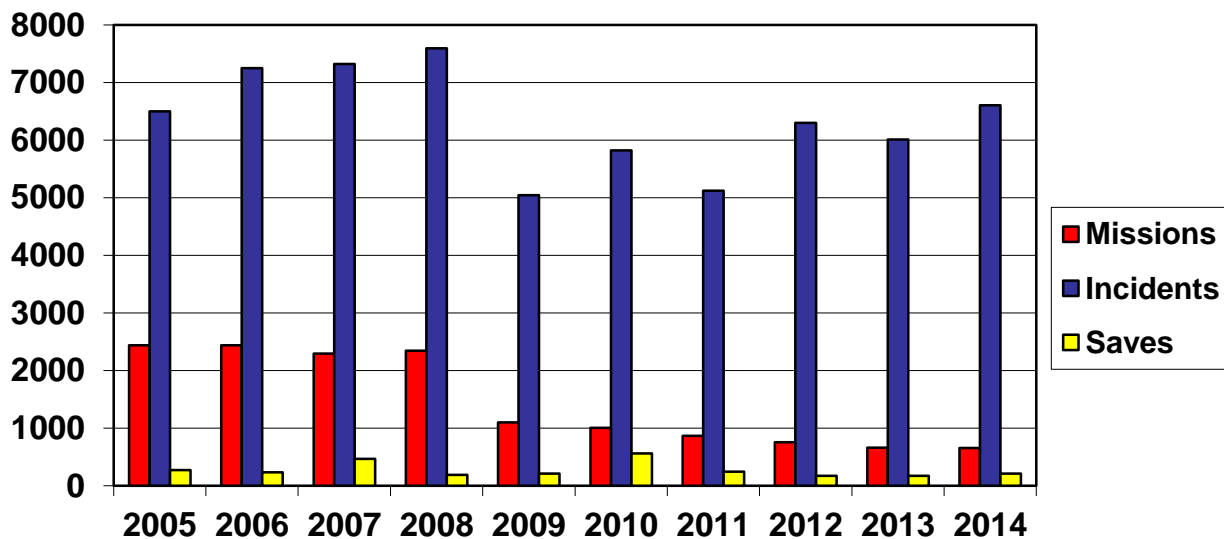
The AFRCC's yearly activity table illustrates the unit's total operational workload (missions, incidents and saves) over the past ten years.

INCIDENT: A SAR investigative operation by the AFRCC, conducted without deploying a SRU.

MISSION: A SAR operation that requires the activation of federal asset(s) in order to reach a resolution.

SAVE: An objective was in a distress situation, could not affect a self-recovery, and was recovered alive.

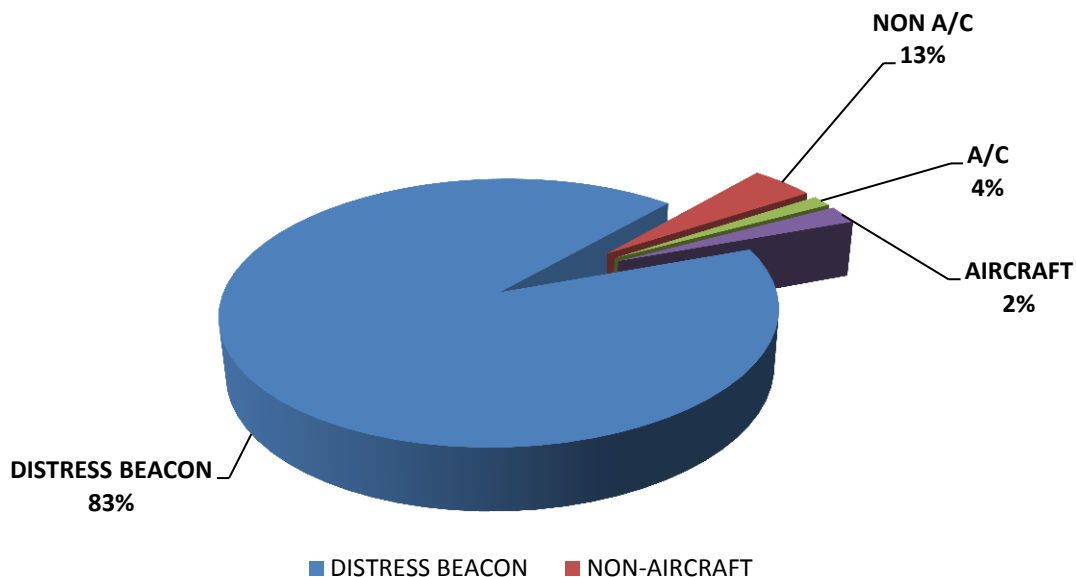
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incidents	6,500	7,249	7,322	7,595	4,179	5,823	5,120	6,299	6,010	6,603
Missions	2,441	2,438	2,296	2,344	1,100	1,004	866	755	660	654
Saves	275	237	468	190	214	561	245	172	171	212



INCIDENT/MISSION/SAVE SUMMARY

The incident/mission/save summary identifies the number of distress beacon incidents, non-aircraft incidents, aircraft incidents, number of missions and the number of saves the AFRCC prosecuted during 2014.

Through telephone and internet investigations, the AFRCC resolved 5,949 (90%) of the 6,603 incidents without expending federal resources, saving approximately \$2.2 million dollars and 471 thousand work hours. The AFRCC coordinated 654 missions resulting in 212 lives saved.

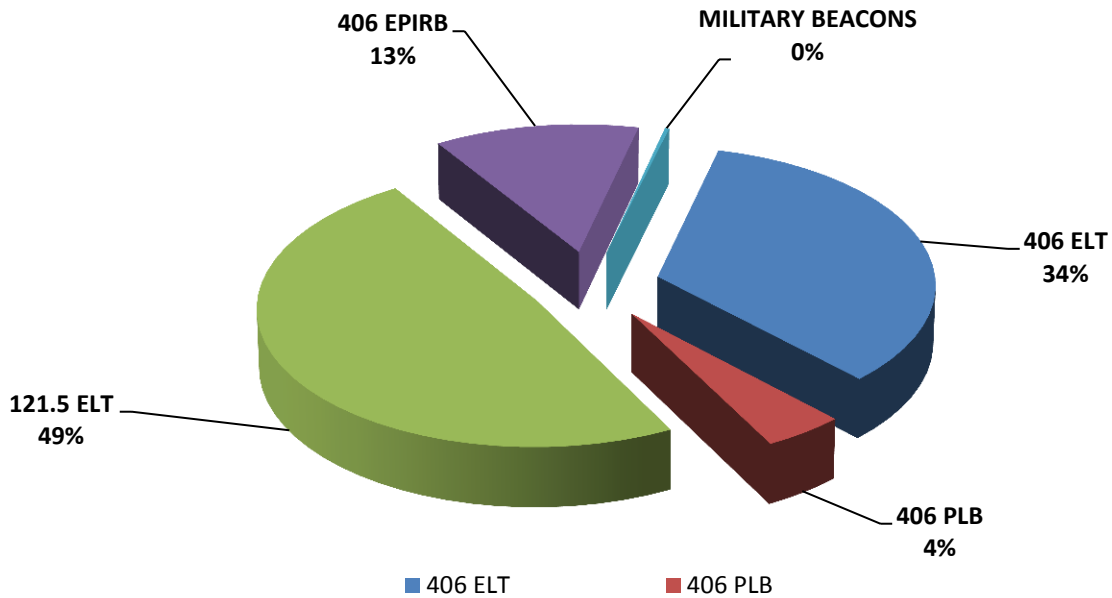


NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

SUMMARY	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Distress Beacon Incidents	6,069	380	43
Non-Aircraft Incidents	292	221	162
Aircraft Incidents	150	49	6
Other	92	4	1
Total	6,603	654	212

BEACON SUMMARY

During 2014, the AFRCC investigated numerous beacon incidents. This chart indicates the type of beacons and number of incidents involving federal assets (missions) and the resulting lives saved.



BEACON INCIDENT TYPES

TYPE	INCIDENTS ¹	MISSIONS	SAVES
406 ELT	4,355	129	7
406 PLB	438	17	31
121.5 ELT	289	185	4
406 EPIRB	237	48	0
Military Beacons	750	1	1

Note 1: 894 Incidents were beacons coordinated with overseas agencies in more than 50 countries.

BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS

This chart indicates the results of all distress beacon incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC during 2014.

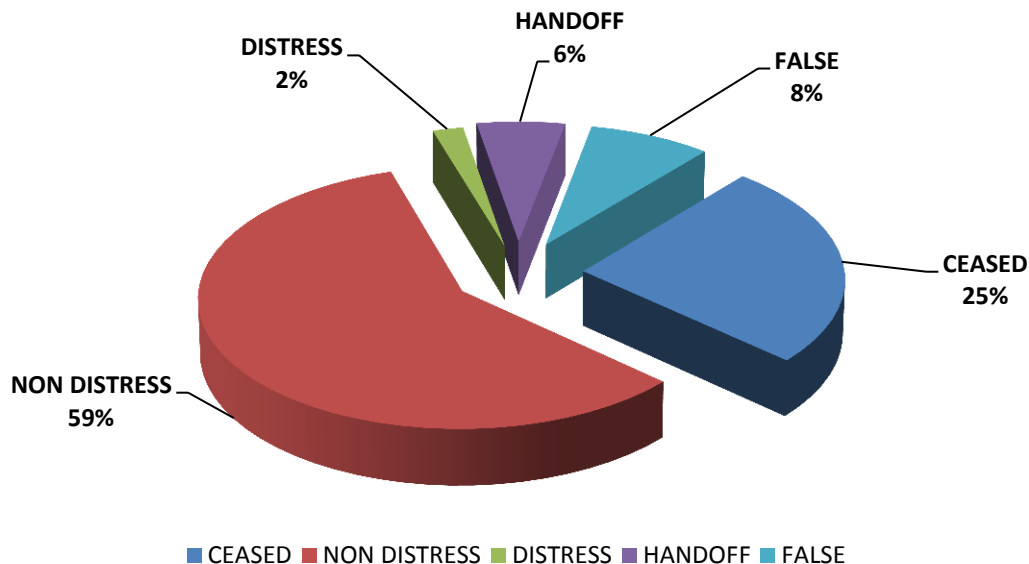
NON-DISTRESS: Upon investigation it was revealed that there was not an actual distress situation, e.g. accidental activation.

HAND-OFF: The incident/mission was passed to another Search and Rescue Region/Agency.

CEASED: The beacon was no longer picked up by the source(s) that originally heard the signal (SARSAT, aircraft, ground station).

DISTRESS: Upon investigation it was revealed that the beacon activation was caused by an actual distress situation.

FALSE: Erroneous reporting of an emergency situation, e.g. activating a beacon and the entire SAR system in order to test the beacon, rather than following approved test procedures.



BEACON MISSIONS

RESULT	NUMBER
Non Distress	3,557
Ceased	1,550
Handoff	351
Distress	122
False/Request Cancelled	489

NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

In 2014 the AFRCC prosecuted several different types of Non-Aircraft related incidents. This chart breaks down the various types and number of missions involving federal assets and the resulting lives saved.

MISSING PERSON: The search for a person or persons, whose location is not known.

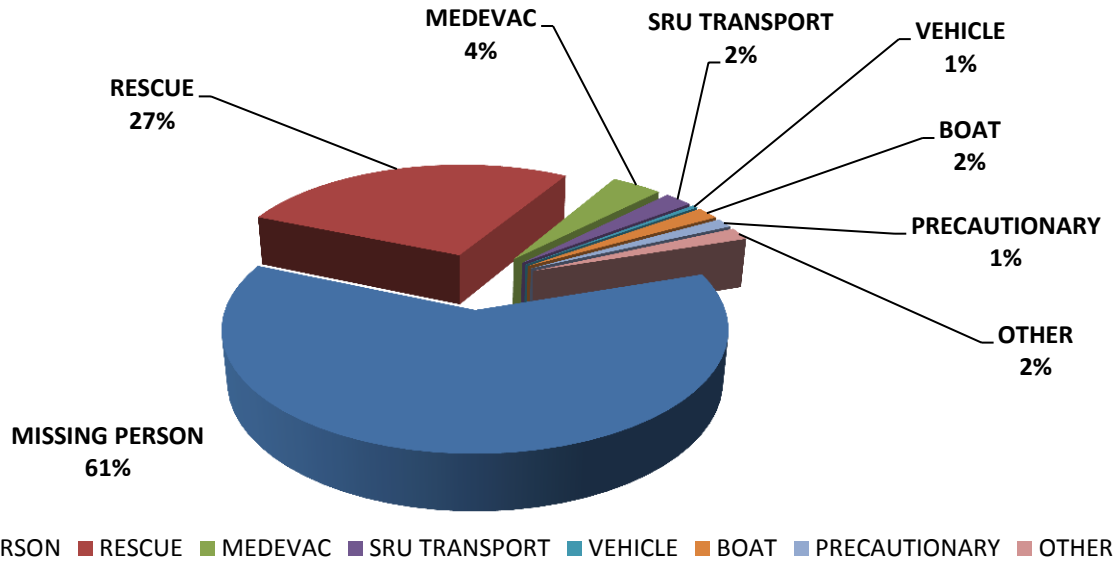
RESCUE: The extraction of a person or persons in distress from a known location.

MASS RESCUE: Extraction of persons in distress from an accident/incident involving a large number of persons.

MEDEVAC: Evacuation of persons for medical reasons and hospital-to-hospital patient transfer.

MERCY: Delivery/Transportation of life saving vital materials (organs, blood, etc).

SRU TRANSPORT: Transportation for the Search and Rescue Unit to and or from a mission location.



NON-AIRCRAFT MISSIONS

NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY CONTINUED

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Missing Person(s)	190	138	72
Rescue	72	61	75
MEDEVAC	14	9	10
Mercy	0	0	0
SRU Transport	5	5	1
Recovery	0	0	0
Mass Rescue	0	0	0
Boat	4	4	3
Vehicle	3	1	1
Precautionary	4	3	0
Other	92	4	1

NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart indicates mission results for non-aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2014.

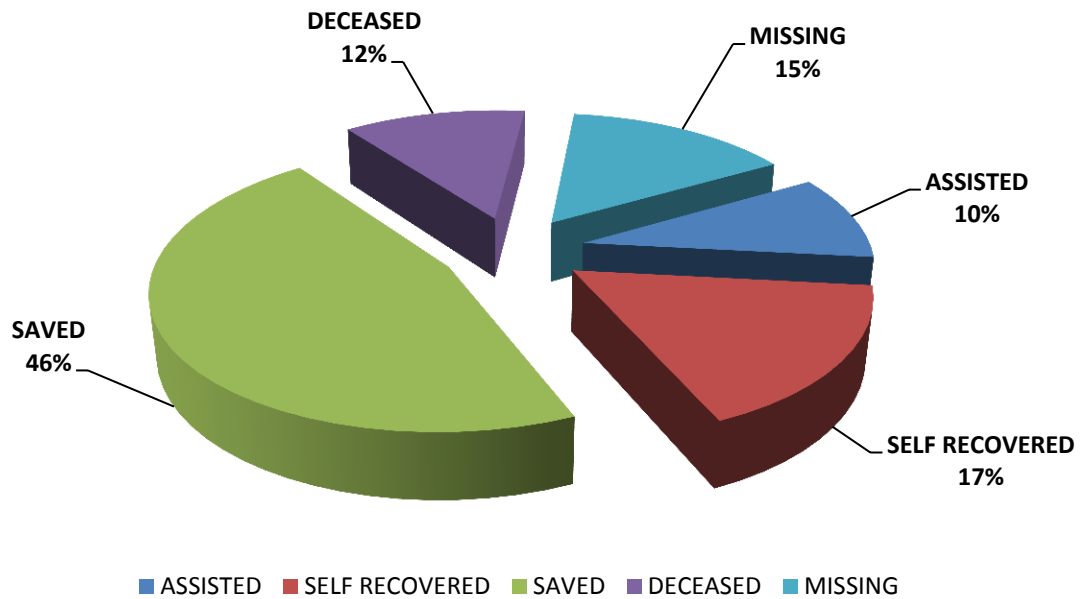
SAVED: The subject of the mission was located/recovered as a result of the AFRCC's participation.

MISSING: The subject of the mission was not located/recovered during the AFRCC's participation.

DECEASED: The subject of the mission was located but found to be deceased.

ASSISTED: The subject of the mission was located/recovered by another agency during the AFRCC's participation.

SELF RECOVERED: The subject of the mission presented themselves to authorities without any SAR assistance.



NON-AIRCRAFT SAVES

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	162
Missing	52
Deceased	42
Assisted	35
Self Recovered	59

AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

The chart shows the types of aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2014, the number of incidents overall, missions involving federal assets, and lives saved.

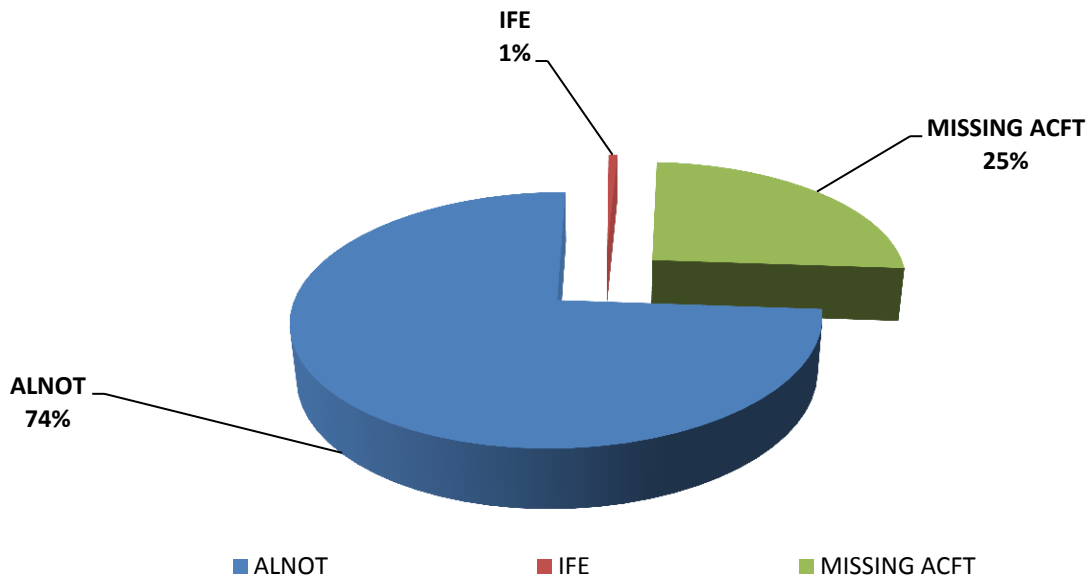
MISSING AIRCRAFT: The investigation of the report of an overdue aircraft which remains missing.

CRASH: An aircraft accident which was reported or located but did not require federal support.

ALNOT: An Alert Notice issued by the FAA for overdue aircraft requiring action by the AFRCC.

IFE: In Flight Emergency – A reported emergency involving an aircraft in flight.

PRECAUTIONARY: Mission opened with SAR resources on “standby” for major events such as for an air show.



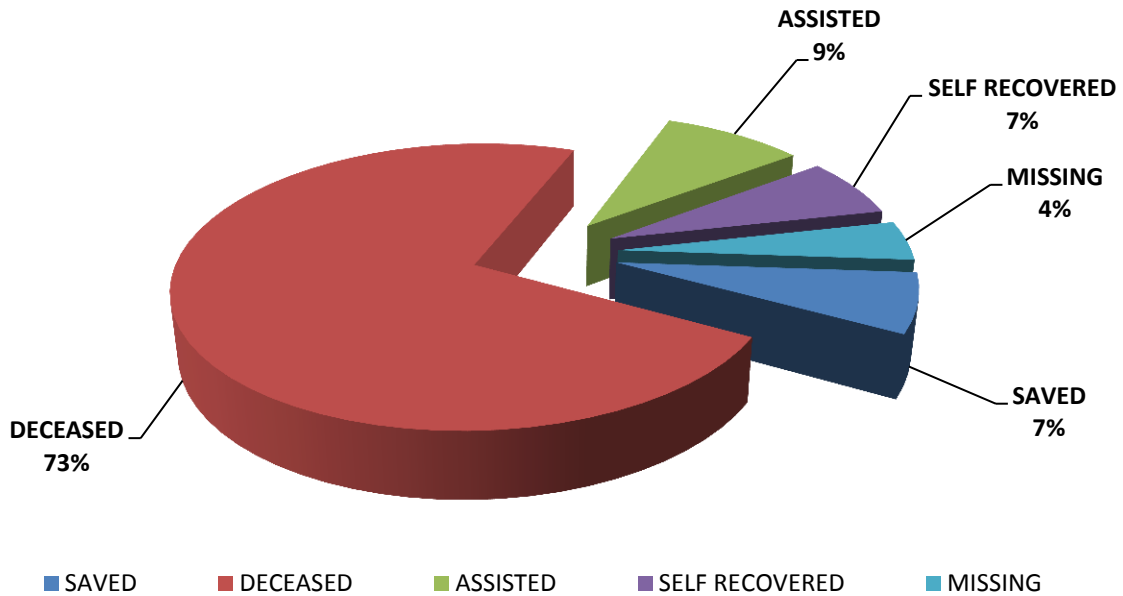
AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
ALNOT	111	31	4
IFE	1	1	0
Crash	0	0	0
Missing Aircraft	38	18	2
Precautionary	0	0	0

AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart indicates mission results for aircraft related incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2014.

Please see the results definitions on page 11.

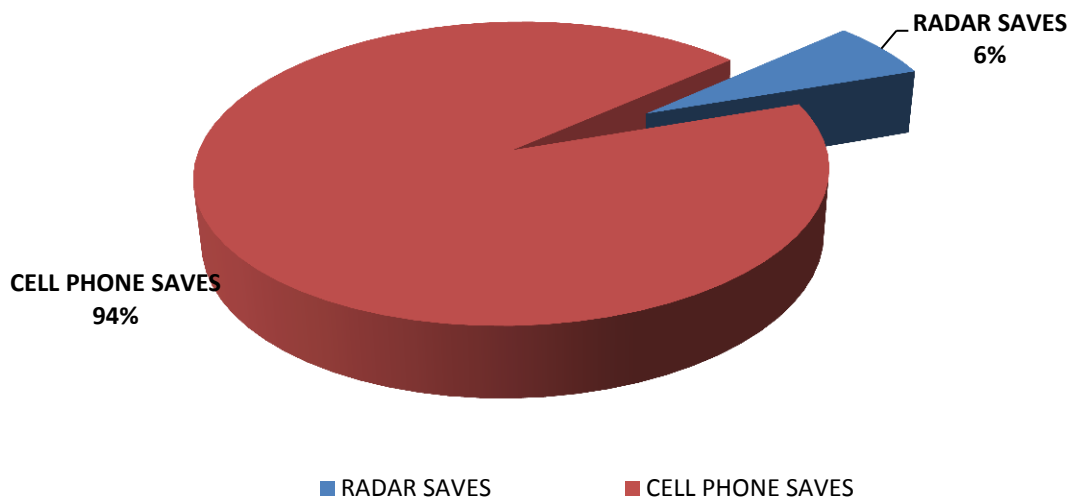


MISSION RESULTS

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	6
Missing	4
Deceased	64
Assisted	8
Self-Recovered	6

RADAR AND CELL PHONE FORENSICS

The below chart indicates the number of missions in which radar and cell phone forensics were involved and the number of corresponding lives saved. Often both types of forensics are used on a mission.



RADAR AND CELL FORENSICS

TYPE	MISSIONS	SAVES
Radar Forensics	47	5
Cell Forensics	126	73

The AFRCC is authorized to request cell phone forensics IAW 18 U.S.C. § 2702 (b)(8)

- § 2702. Voluntary disclosure of customer communications or records
- (b) Exceptions for disclosure of communications.-- A provider described in subsection (a) may divulge the contents of a communication--
- (8) To a Federal, State, or local governmental entity, if the provider, in good faith, believes that an emergency involving danger of death or serious physical injury to any person requires disclosure without delay of communications relating to the emergency.

SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT (SRU) MISSION

The total number of missions by SRU is determined by extensive data mining and may be different than what each SRU has. The total on this page is higher than the actual annual number due to multiple SRUs being involved in the same mission.

COAST GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
CGD01	1	1
CGD05	1	0
CGD07	2	1
CGD08	1	0
CGD09	4	1
CGD13	3	2
CG PUGET SOUND	1	0
CGAS ASTORIA	2	2
CGAS HOUSTON	1	2
CGAS NORTH BEND	3	2
CGAS PORT ANGELES	2	2
CGAS TRAVERSE CITY	3	2
USCG TOTAL	24	15
ARMY		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
Fort Carson	1	0
USA TOTAL	1	0
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
HAATS	22	20
AASF	16	17
BRAVO COMPANY 1ST/214TH	3	1
AASF BOISE	2	2
ARNG TOTAL	43	40
NAVY		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND	23	34
NAS CHINA LAKE	6	4
NAS FALLEN	3	5
USN TOTAL	32	43
AIR FORCE (AD/RESERVE)		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
36th RQF	5	4

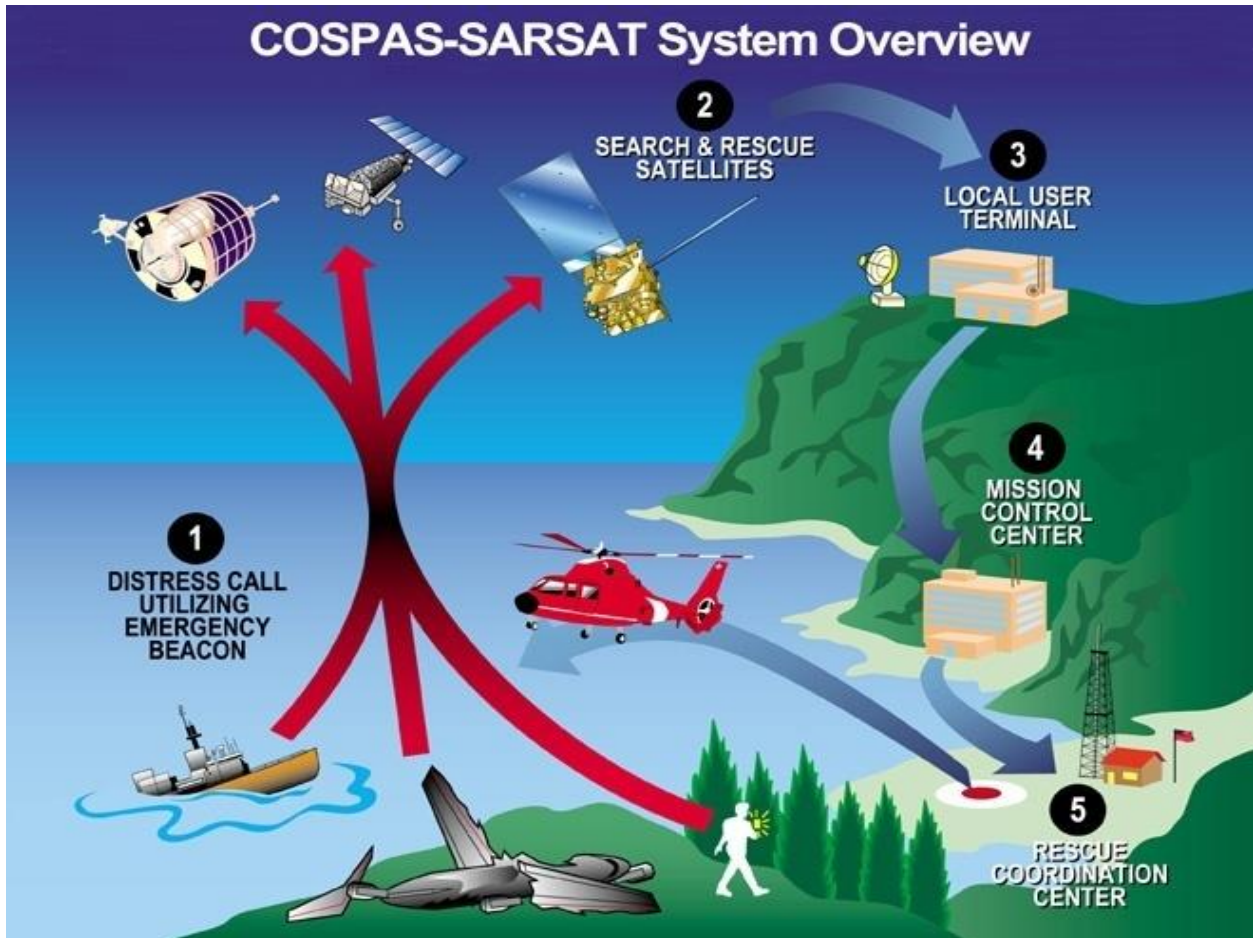
37th HS	3	0
40th HF	8	9
48th RQS	1	2
54th HS	1	2
55th RQS	1	1
71st RQS	1	0
79th RQS	1	2
101st ARW	1	0
304th RQS	1	0
AF TOTAL	23	20
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
129th RQW	3	5
ANG TOTAL	3	5
MARINES		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
MCAS YUMA	3	3
MCAS Miramar	1	1
USMC TOTAL	4	4
CIVIL AIR PATROL		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
NHQ CAP	173	78
AL CAP	9	0
AK CAP	0	0
AZ CAP	16	0
AR CAP	6	0
CA CAP	49	0
CO CAP	20	0
CT CAP	5	0
DE CAP	2	0
FL CAP	81	0
GA CAP	16	2
HI CAP	0	0
ID CAP	0	0
IL CAP	9	0
IN CAP	5	0
IA CAP	1	0
KS CAP	4	0
KY CAP	2	0
LA CAP	7	0
ME CAP	3	0

MD CAP	7	0
MA CAP	5	0
MI CAP	6	0
MN CAP	8	0
MS CAP	2	0
MO CAP	9	0
MT CAP	1	0
NE CAP	2	0
NV CAP	4	0
NH CAP	5	0
NM CAP	3	0
NJ CAP	6	2
NY CAP	15	0
NC CAP	9	0
ND CAP	3	2
OH CAP	10	0
OK CAP	5	1
OR CAP	12	1
PA CAP	13	0
RI CAP	1	0
SC CAP	7	0
SD CAP	5	0
TN CAP	8	0
TX CAP	34	0
UT CAP	5	0
VT CAP	0	0
VA CAP	7	0
WA CAP	7	0
WV CAP	2	0
WI CAP	5	0
WY CAP	7	1
PR CAP	2	0
CAP TOTAL	623	87
ALL SRUs TOTAL	751	214

**REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR 406 MHz BEACON
UPDATE IT ANYTIME A CHANGE IS MADE!**

HELP US SAVE LIVES!

<https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov>



For more information about the AFRCC annual report or if you have questions or concerns addressing the information in this product, please contact Mr. Stephen Bell at 850-283-5427 or stephen.bell.8@us.af.mil.



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"These Things We Do ... That Others May Live"