
**AIR FORCE RESCUE
COORDINATION CENTER**



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION

The Commander, Air Forces Northern, is the Inland Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator for the aeronautical Search and Rescue Region (SRR) corresponding to the continental US other than Alaska, also known as the Langley SRR. The Commander, Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), is designated as the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC). 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 (ninth addition, 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) to the IAMSAR Manual. 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 tasking 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.

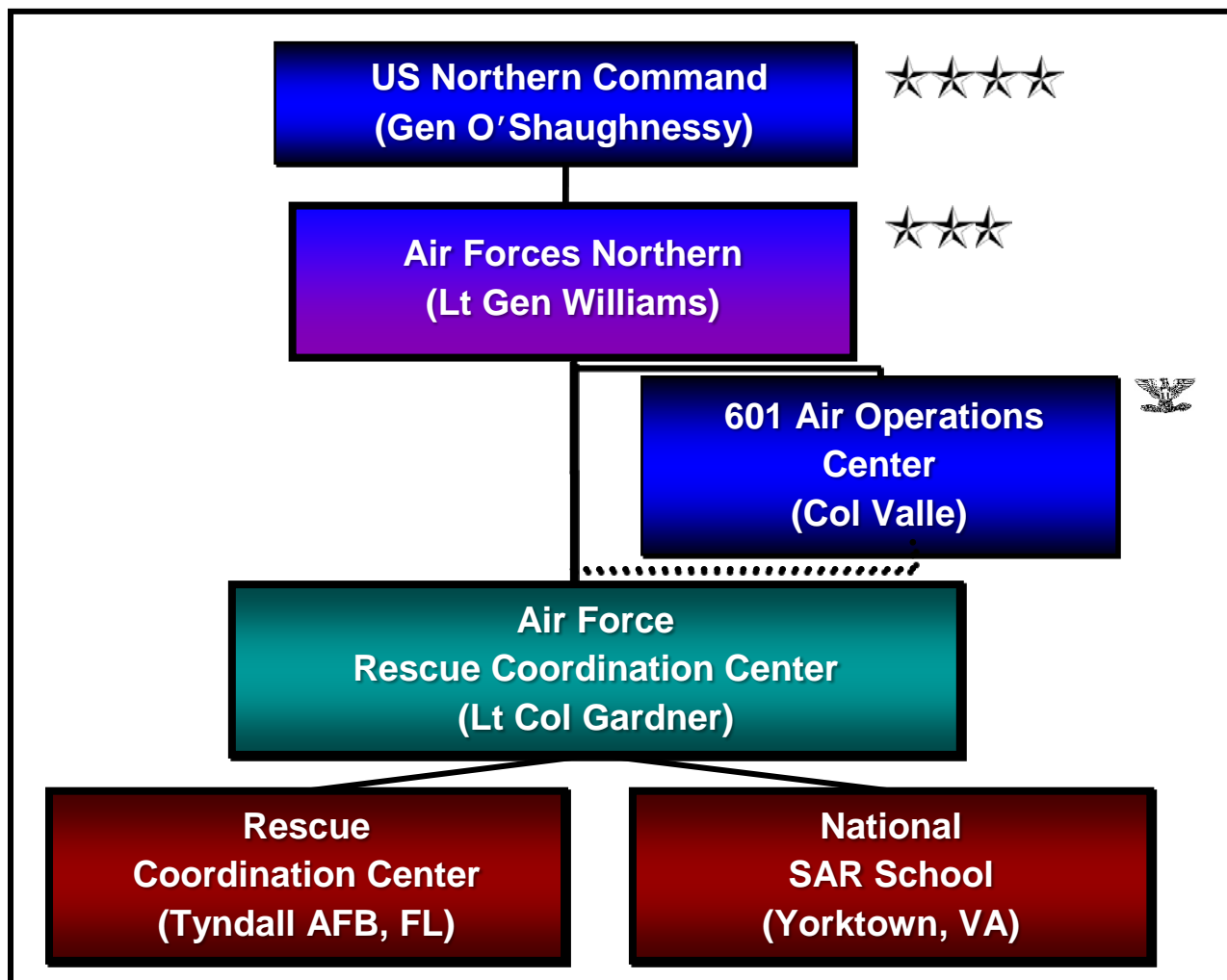
Specific responsibilities include:

- Coordinating SAR operations involving missing/overdue general aviation (GA) flights, 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 AFRCC 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 AFRCC may be a coordinating authority for specific SAR events outside the Langley SRR. These events include mercy, patient transport, search, rescue, and search and rescue unit (SRU) transport.

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

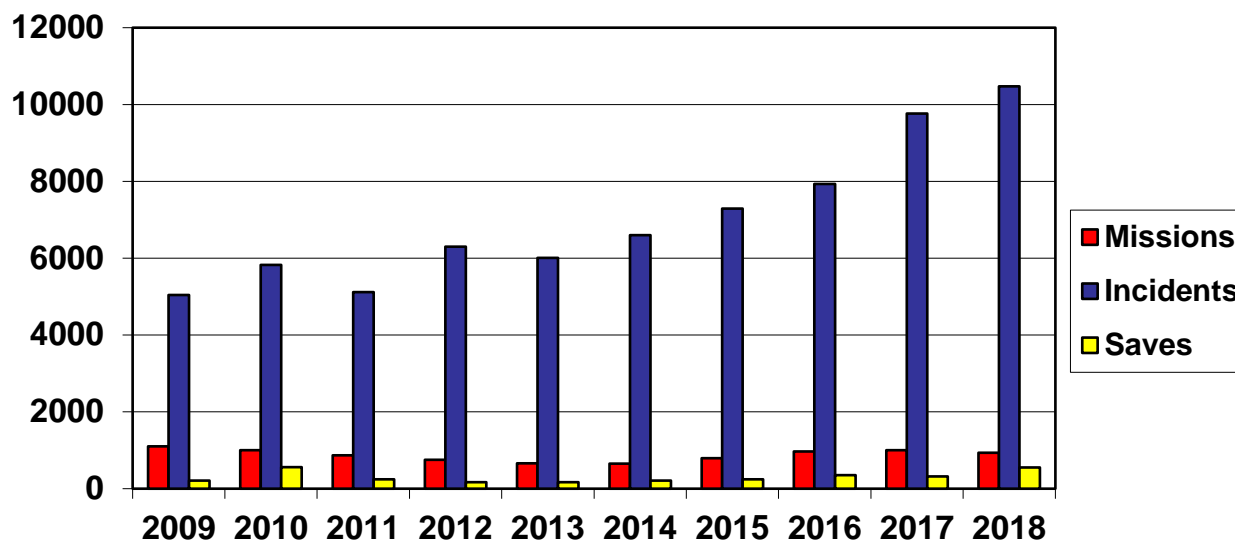
The AFRCC's yearly activity table illustrates the unit's total operational workload (missions, incidents and saves) over the past ten years.

MISSION: A SAR operation that requires the activation of federal asset(s) in order to reach a resolution. Note that all missions are also incidents.

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

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

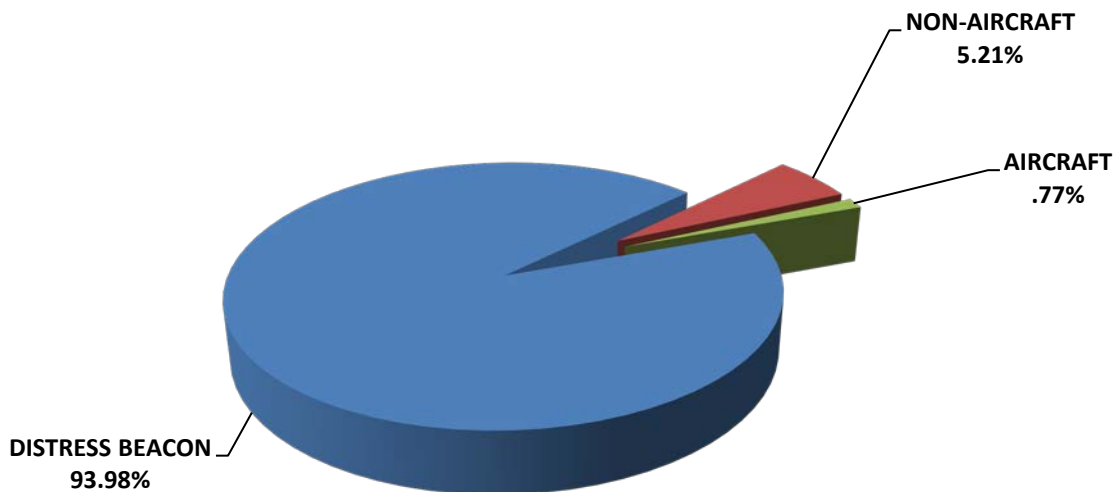
Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Missions	1100	1004	866	755	660	654	797	969	997	933
Incidents	4179	5823	5120	6299	6010	6603	7293	7936	9762	10469
Saves	214	561	245	172	171	212	244	354	323	550



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 coordinated during 2018.

Through telephone and internet investigations, the AFRCC resolved 9,537 (92%) of the 9,839 incidents without expending federal resources, saving approximately \$11 million dollars and 686,592 work hours. The AFRCC coordinated 933 missions resulting in 550 lives saved.

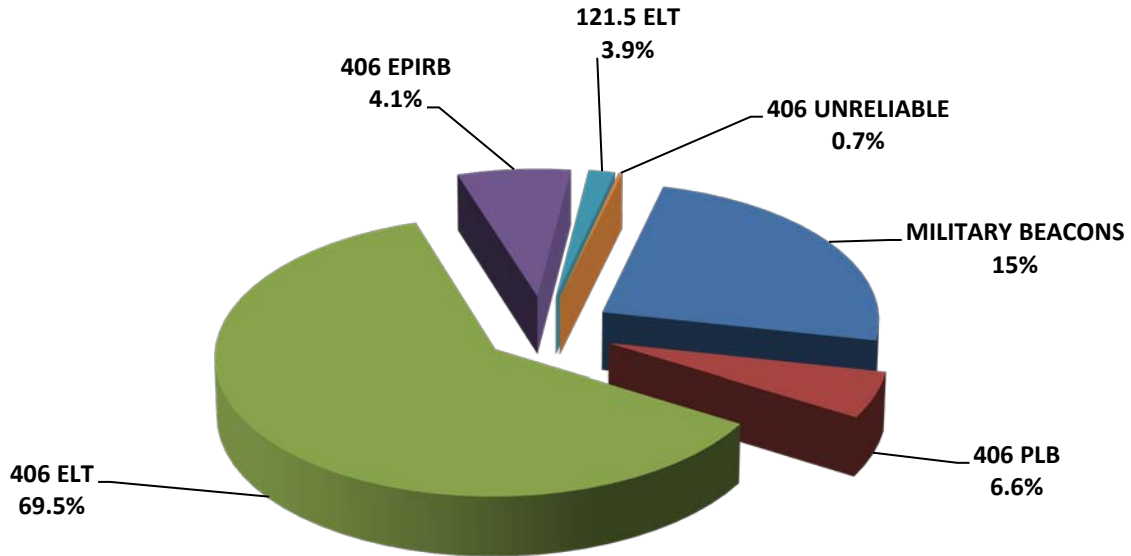


NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

SUMMARY	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Distress Beacon Incidents	9839	371	80
Non-Aircraft Incidents	545	490	468
Aircraft Incidents	81	67	2
Total	10465	928	550

BEACON SUMMARY

During 2018, the AFRCC investigated numerous beacon incidents. This chart and corresponding table indicate the type of beacons and number of incidents involving federal assets (missions) and the resulting lives saved.



BEACON MISSION TYPES

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
406 ELT	6847	118	24
406 PLB	650	12	54
406 – Unreliable	76	1	0
121.5 ELT	385	208	1
406 EPIRB	395	24	0
Military Beacons	1486	8	1

Note 1: 1,224 beacons were coordinated with overseas agencies in more than 50 countries.

BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS

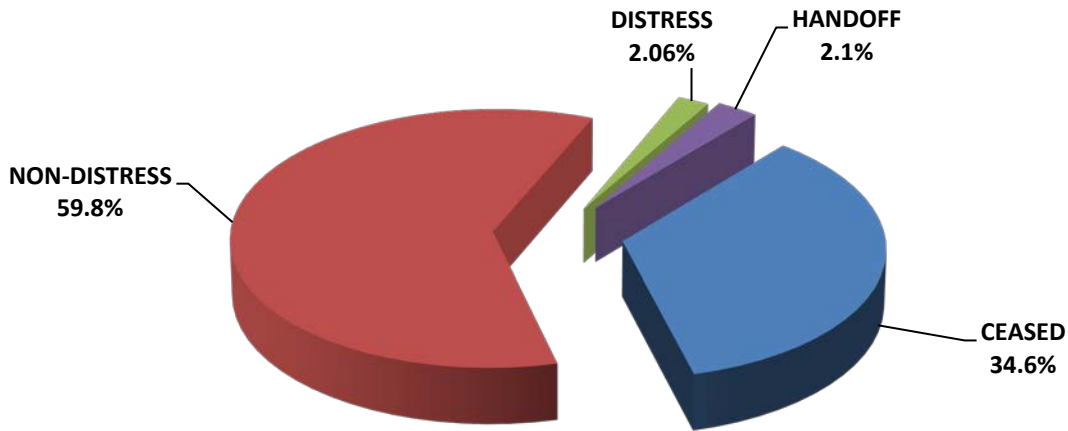
This chart and corresponding table indicate the results of all distress beacon incidents coordinated by the AFRCC during 2018.

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

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), prior to investigative resolution.

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



BEACON INCIDENTS

RESULT	NUMBER
Non-Distress	5884
Ceased	3407
Handoff	209
Distress	203

NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

In 2018 the AFRCC prosecuted several different types of Non-Aircraft related incidents. This chart and corresponding table break down the various types and number of missions involving federal assets and the resulting lives saved.

MISSING PERSON/BOAT/VEHICLE: The search for a person or persons/boat/vehicle, whose location is not known.

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

MASS RESCUE: SAR services characterized by the need for immediate response to large numbers of persons in distress, such that the capabilities normally available to SAR authorities are inadequate.

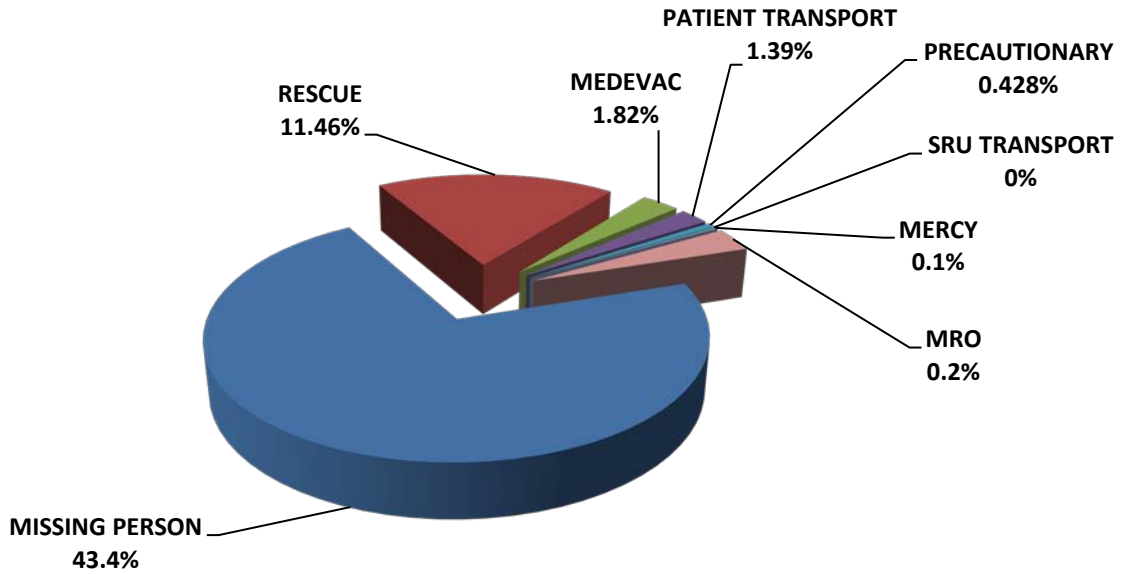
MEDEVAC: Evacuation of persons for medical reasons and hospital-to-hospital patient transfer.

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

PRECAUTIONARY: Pre-positioning of SAR forces for use during a scheduled activity where the potential for SAR is high, such as air shows.

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

NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY CONTINUED

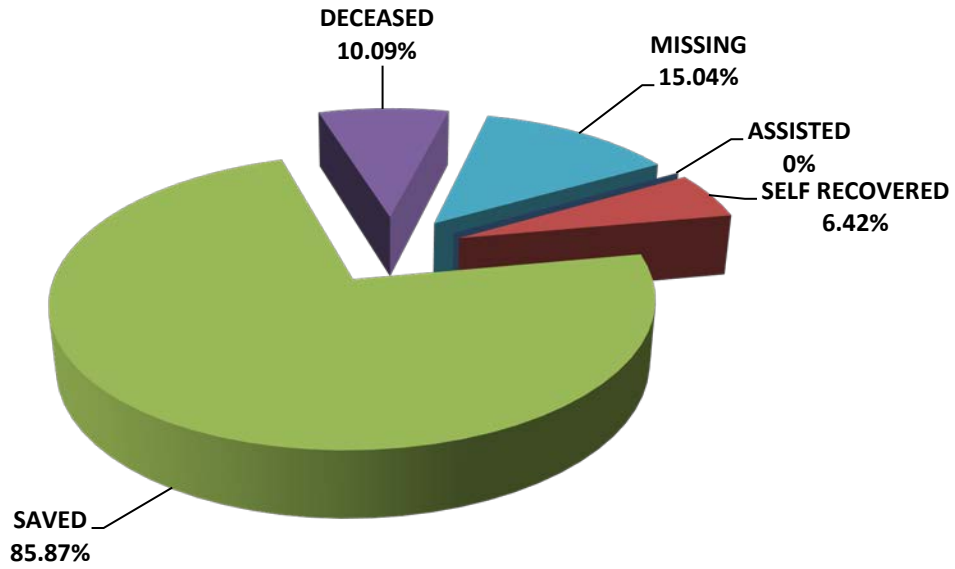


NON-AIRCRAFT MISSIONS

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Missing Person/Boat/Vehicle	405	373	195
Rescue	107	92	255
MEDEVAC	17	13	10
Mercy	1	1	0
SRU Transport	0	0	0
Mass Rescue	2	2	140
Patient Transport	13	10	8
Precautionary	4	4	0

NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart and corresponding table indicate mission results for non-aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2018.



NON-AIRCRAFT SAVES

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	468
Missing	82
Deceased	55
Assisted	0
Self-Recovered	35

AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

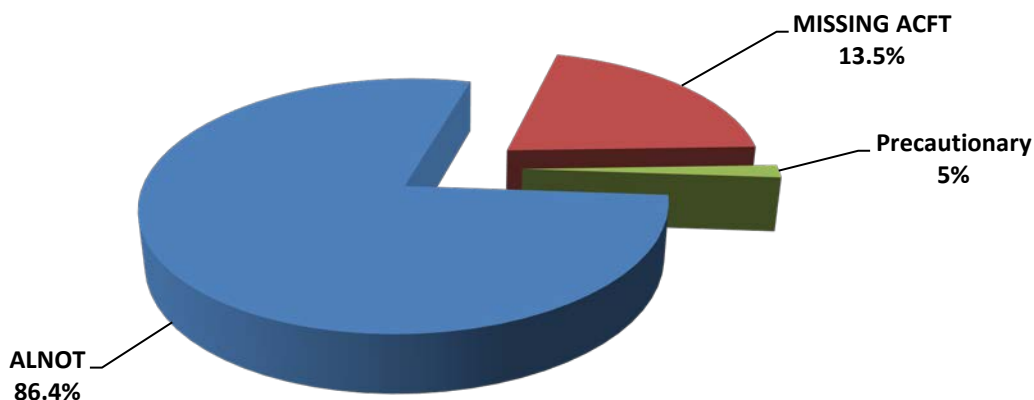
This chart and corresponding table shows the types of aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2018, the number of incidents overall, missions involving federal assets, and lives saved.

MISSING AIRCRAFT: The investigation of a missing or overdue aircraft.

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: Pre-positioning of SAR forces for use during a scheduled activity where the potential for SAR is high, such as air shows.

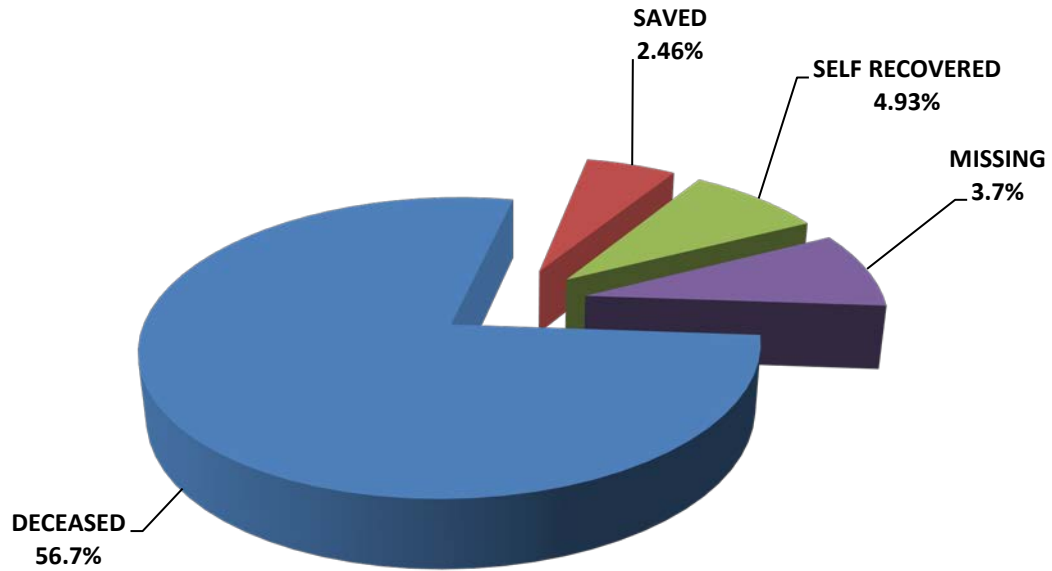


AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
ALNOT	70	57	1
Missing Aircraft	11	10	1
Precautionary	4	4	0

AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart and corresponding table indicate mission results for aircraft related incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2018.

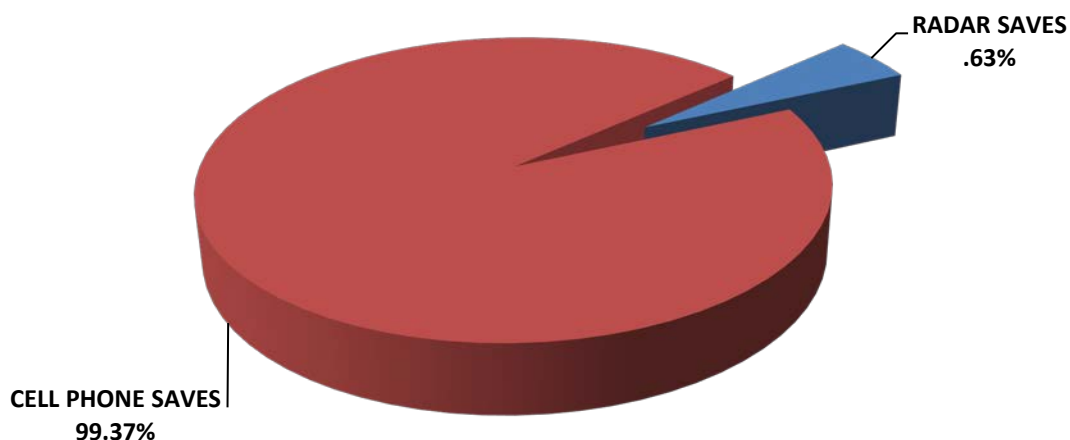


MISSION RESULTS

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	2
Missing	3
Deceased	46
Self-Recovered	4

RADAR AND CELL PHONE FORENSICS

This chart and corresponding table indicate the number of missions in which radar and/or cell phone forensics were involved and the number of corresponding lives saved. Often both types of forensics are used on a single mission.



RADAR AND CELL FORENSICS

TYPE	MISSIONS	SAVES
Radar Forensics	63	1
Cell Forensics	278	158

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 reports internally. The totals on this page may be higher than the actual annual number due to multiple SRUs being involved in the same mission.

COAST GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
CGAS ASTORIA	5	3
CGAS PORT ANGELES	3	2
CGAS TRAVERSE CITY	3	3
USCG TOTAL	11	8
ARMY (AD/RESERVE)		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
CHARLIE COMPANY 158th	1	1
YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER	9	10
USA TOTAL	10	11
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
2-135 th AVIATION REG	1	2
2-211 AVIATION REG	2	3
AASF BUCKLEY	6	4
AASF BANGOR	1	1
AASF GOWEN FIELD	3	5
AASF HELENA	3	140
HAATS	15	13
ARNG TOTAL	31	168
NAVY		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND	59	70
NAS FALLON	5	4
NAS LEMOORE	4	4
VX-31	10	6
USN TOTAL	78	84
AIR FORCE (AD/RESERVE)		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
36th RQS	3	
37th HS	1	1
40th HF RQS	4	3
54th HS	1	1
58th RQS	2	4
58th SOW	3	1

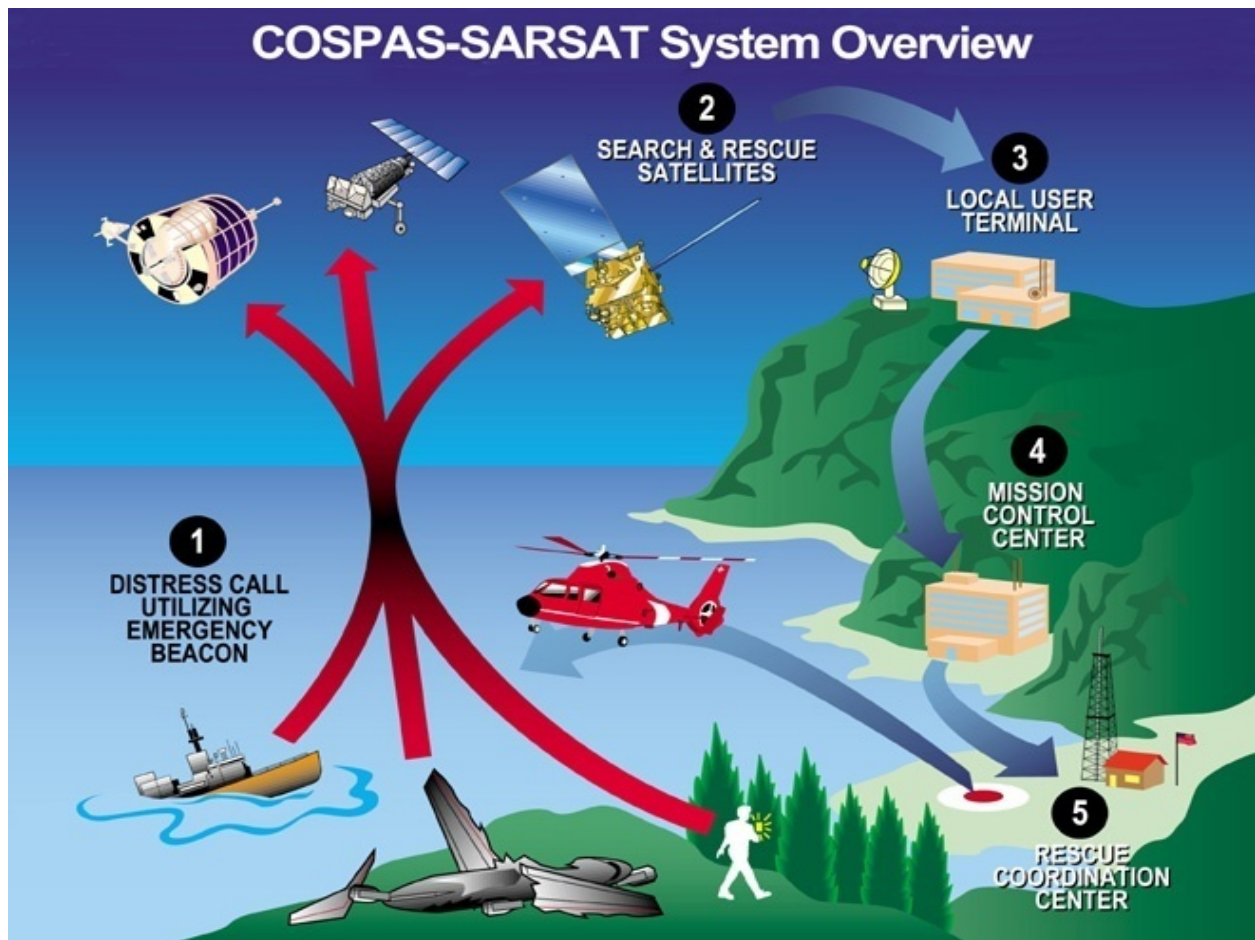
66th RQS	3	7
79th RQS	3	7
91 ARS	1	
304th RQS	3	9
512th RQS	1	3
USAF TOTAL	25	36
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
163rd ATTACK WING	1	
ANG TOTAL	1	
MARINES		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
MCAS YUMA	2	2
USMC TOTAL	2	2
COMBAT SUPPORT AGENCY		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency		
CSA TOTAL		
CIVIL AIR PATROL		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
NHQ CAP	341	159
AL CAP	1	
AZ CAP	21	
AR CAP	2	
CA CAP	46	
CO CAP	8	
CT CAP	3	
DE CAP	1	
FL CAP	60	2
GA CAP	24	
HI CAP	1	
ID CAP	8	4
IL CAP	5	
IN CAP	6	
IA CAP	3	
KS CAP	4	
KY CAP	2	
LA CAP	5	
ME CAP	4	
MD CAP	12	
MA CAP	6	
MI CAP	6	

MN CAP	10	1
MS CAP	3	
MO CAP	10	1
MT CAP	4	
NE CAP	3	
NV CAP	5	2
NH CAP	2	
NM CAP	56	1
NJ CAP	7	
NY CAP	13	
NC CAP	18	
ND CAP	8	
OH CAP	5	
OK CAP	7	
OR CAP	7	1
PA CAP	8	1
RI CAP	3	
SC CAP	5	
SD CAP	4	1
TN CAP	6	1
TX CAP	37	
UT CAP	3	
VT CAP	2	
VA CAP	8	
WA CAP	7	
WV CAP	2	
WI CAP	12	3
WY CAP	9	
PR CAP	2	
CAP Total	851	73
ALL SRUs TOTAL	993	486

**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 the AFRCC at afrc.console@us.af.mil or at 850-283-5129.



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