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**AIR FORCE RESCUE  
COORDINATION CENTER**



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**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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GENERAL INFORMATION.....	3
AFRCC ORGANIZATION/MISSION STATEMENT .....	4
TEN YEAR SYNOPSIS .....	5
INCIDENT/MISSION/SAVE SUMMARY .....	6
BEACON SUMMARY .....	7
BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS .....	9
NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY.....	10
NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS .....	12
AIRCRAFT SUMMARY .....	13
AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS.....	14
RADAR/CELL FORENSICS SUMMARY .....	15
PRECAUTIONARY SUMMARY .....	16
SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT DATA .....	17
BEACON REGISTRATION INFORMATION.....	21
AFRCC CONTACT INFO .....	22

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### **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.

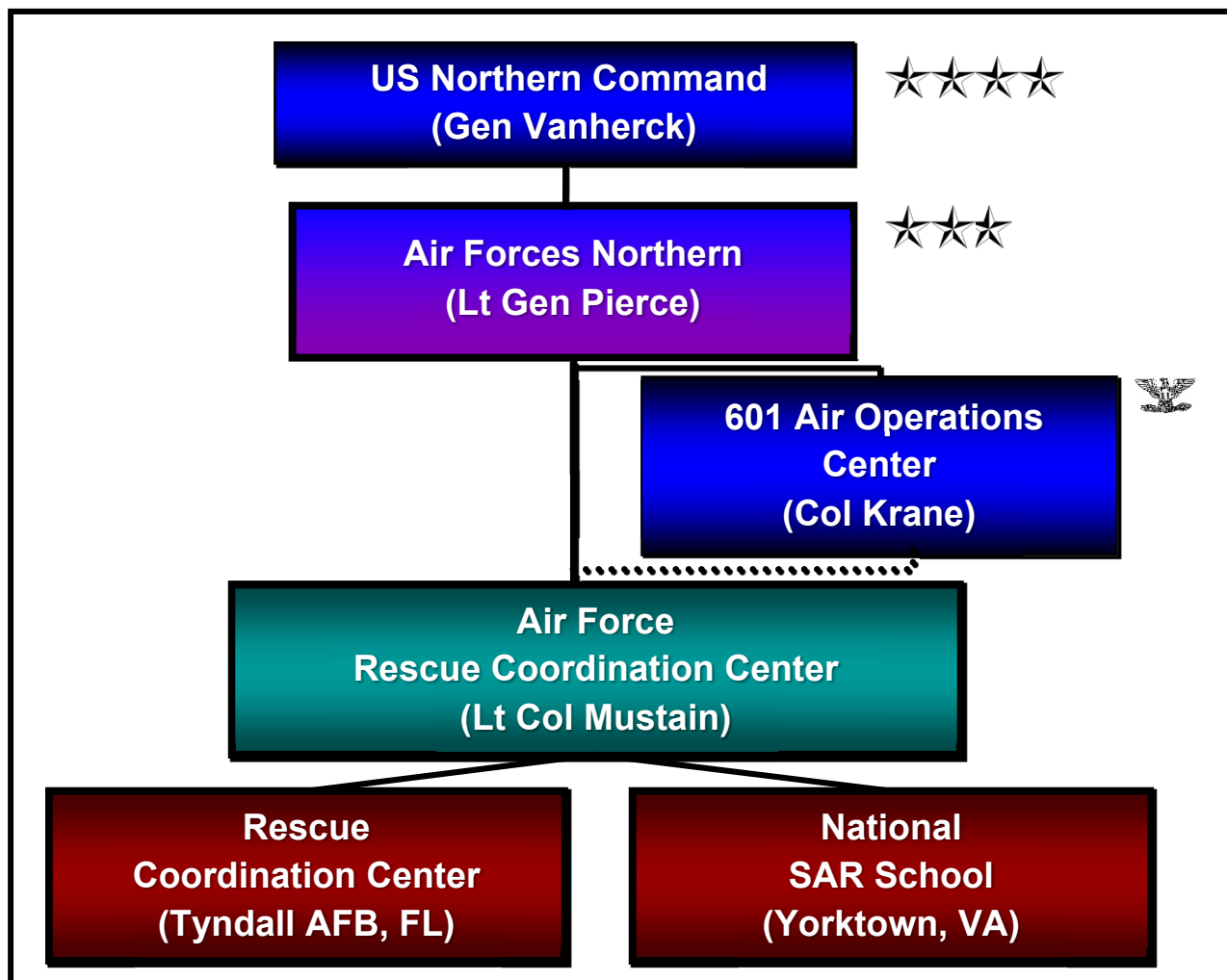
### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

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.**

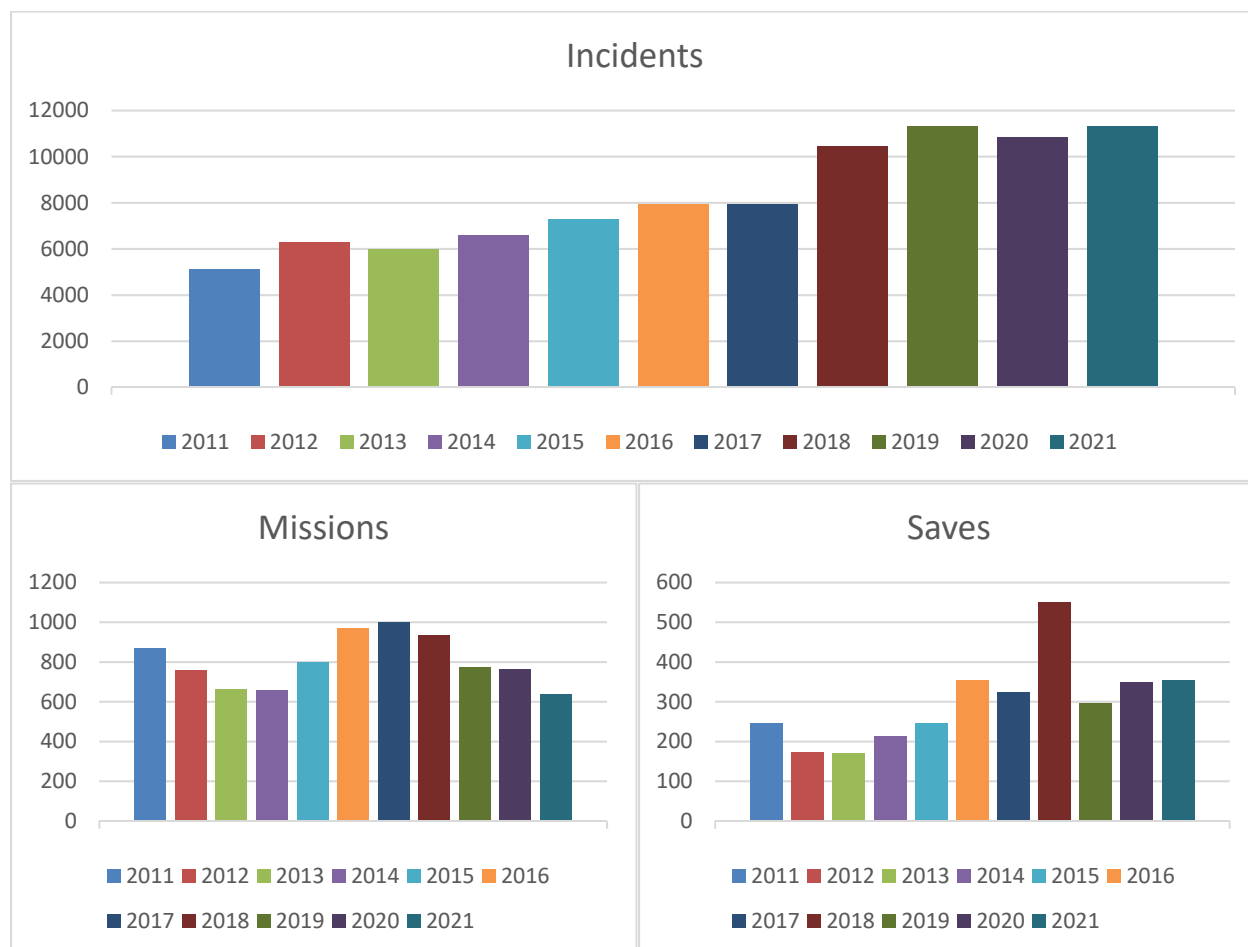
## TEN YEAR SYNOPSIS

The AFRCC’s yearly activity tables illustrate 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	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Incidents	5120	6299	6010	6603	7293	7936	9762	10469	11319	10849	11322
Missions	866	755	660	654	797	969	997	933	772	762	639
Saves	245	172	171	212	244	354	323	550	296	348	354

## 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 2021.

Through telephone and internet investigations, the AFRCC resolved 10,683 (94%) of the 11,322 incidents without expending federal resources, saving approximately \$12.2 million dollars and 769,176 work hours. The AFRCC coordinated 639 missions resulting in 354 lives saved.



### NUMBER OF INCIDENTS/MISSIONS/SAVES

SUMMARY	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Distress Beacon Incidents	10,777	174	108
Non-Aircraft Incidents	469	412	236
Aircraft Incidents	71	49	10
Precautionary	5	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,322</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>354</b>

## BEACON SUMMARY

During 2021, 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 SUMMARY CONTINUED

### BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION/SAVE TYPES

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>INCIDENTS</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
406 ELT	7756	94	30
406 PLB	1093	7	74
406 – Unreliable	63	0	0
121.5 MHz	119	54	1
243 MHz	3	1	0
406 EPIRB	511	10	0
Military Beacons	1232	8	3

Note 1: 155 beacons were coordinated with overseas agencies in more than 50 countries.

Note 2: An “Unreliable” beacon is a message that fails a validation check and does not provide a known 15 digit hexadecimal identification (HEXID/beacon ID). These beacons are not associated with any other beacons the AFRCC prosecuted.



## BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS

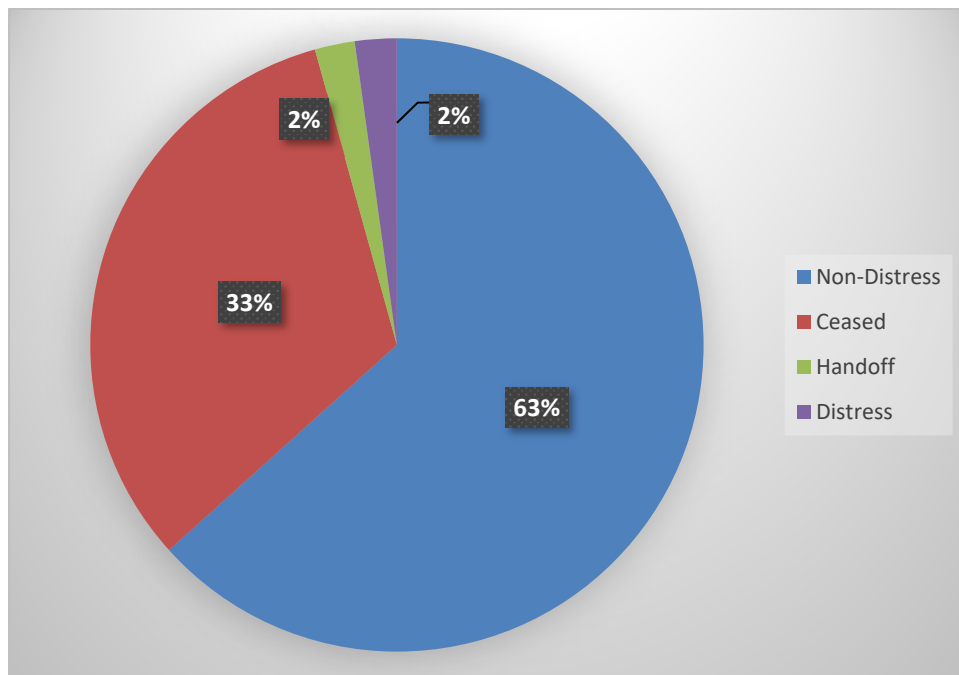
This chart and corresponding table indicate the results of all distress beacon incidents coordinated by the AFRCC during 2021.

**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 INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS

RESULT	NUMBER
Non-Distress	6822
Ceased	3483
Handoff	227
Distress	237

## **NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY**

In 2021, 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.

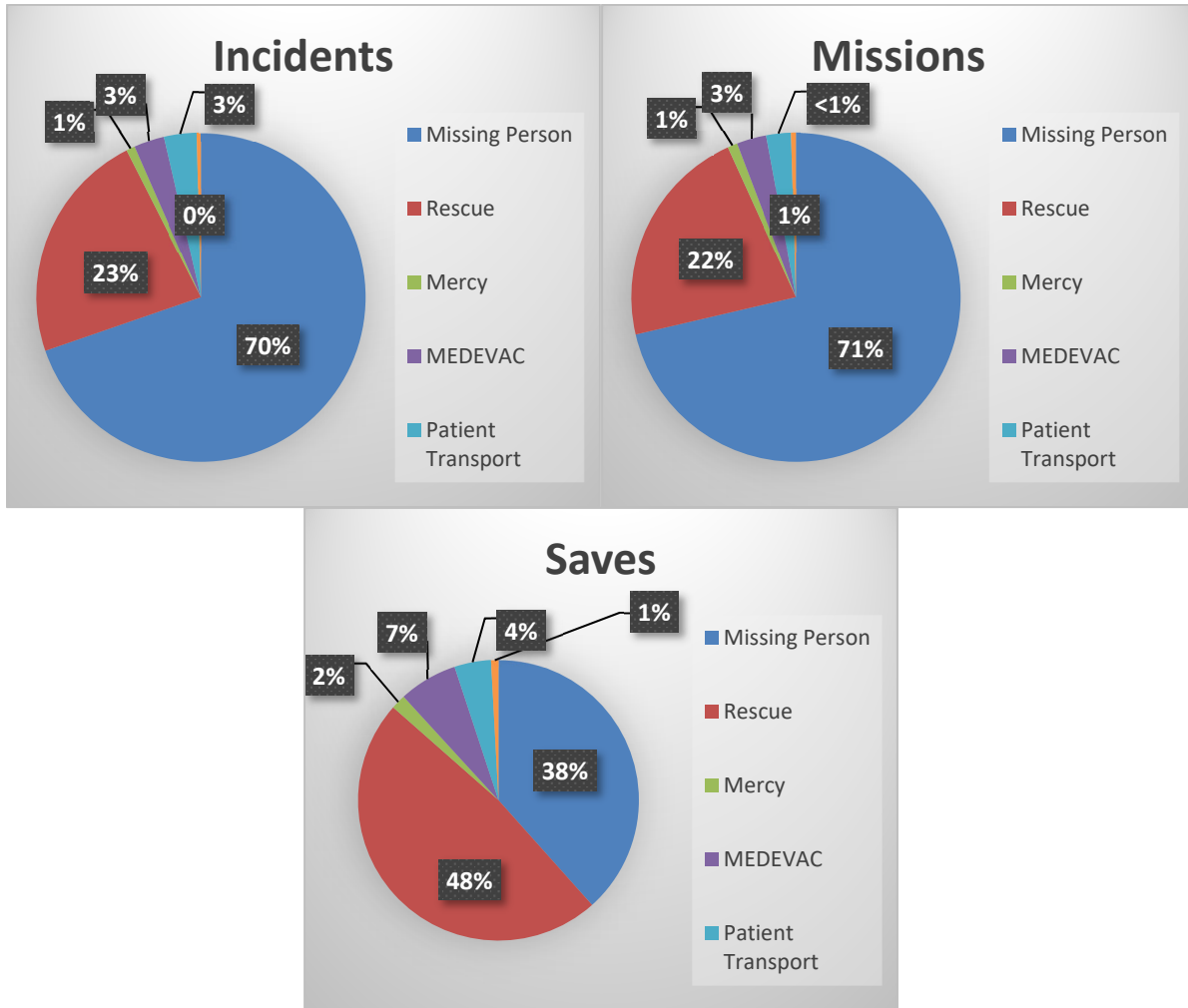
**MASS RESCUE:** SAR services characterized by the need for immediate response to large numbers of persons in distress, such that the capabilities normally available to SAR authorities are inadequate.

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

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

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

## NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY CONTINUED

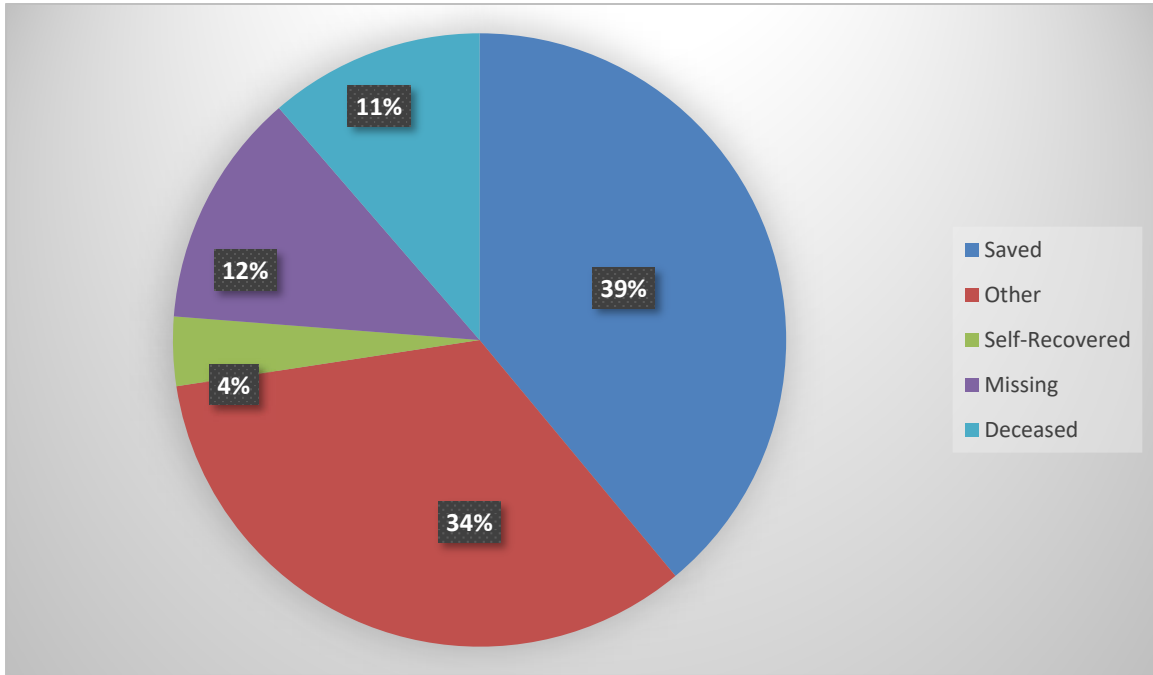


### NON-AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS/MISSIONS/SAVES

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Missing Person/Boat/Vehicle	327	294	91
Rescue	107	90	114
MEDEVAC	14	12	16
Mercy	4	4	4
SRU Transport	2	2	2
Mass Rescue	0	0	0
Patient Transport	15	10	10

## NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart and corresponding table indicate mission results for non-aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2021.



### NON-AIRCRAFT SAVES

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	236
Missing	58
Deceased	53
Self-Recovered	17
Other*	157

Note 1: Non-Aircraft incidents resulting in 'Other' were either Non-Distress or Cancelled Requests

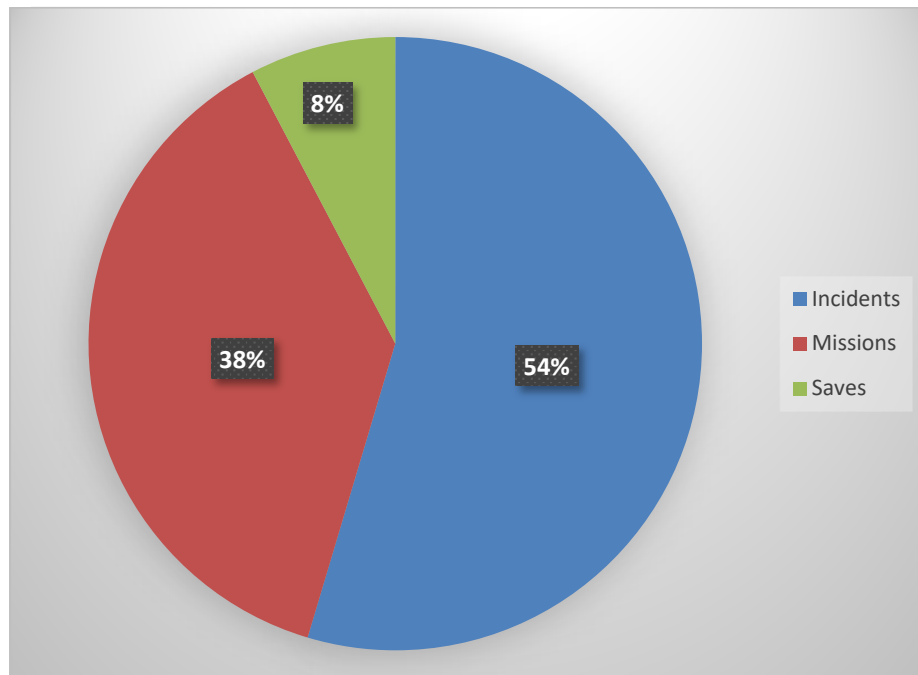
## **AIRCRAFT SUMMARY**

This chart and corresponding table shows the types of aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2021, 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.

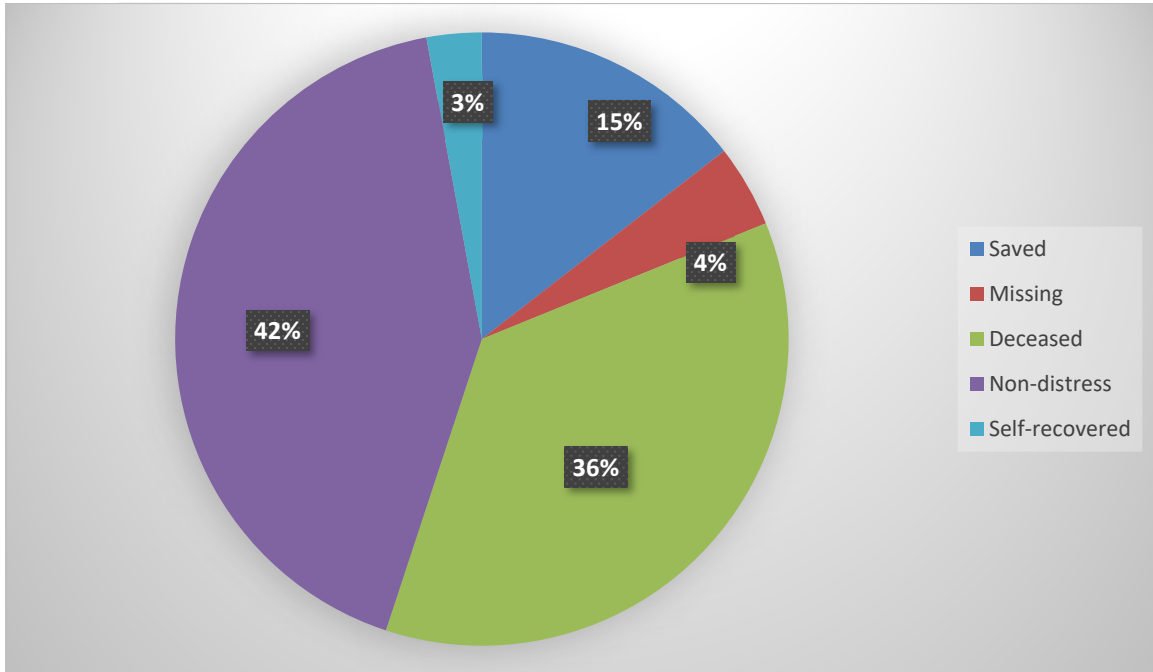


### **AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS/MISSIONS/SAVES**

<b>INCIDENTS</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
71	49	10

## AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart and corresponding table indicate mission results for aircraft related incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2021.

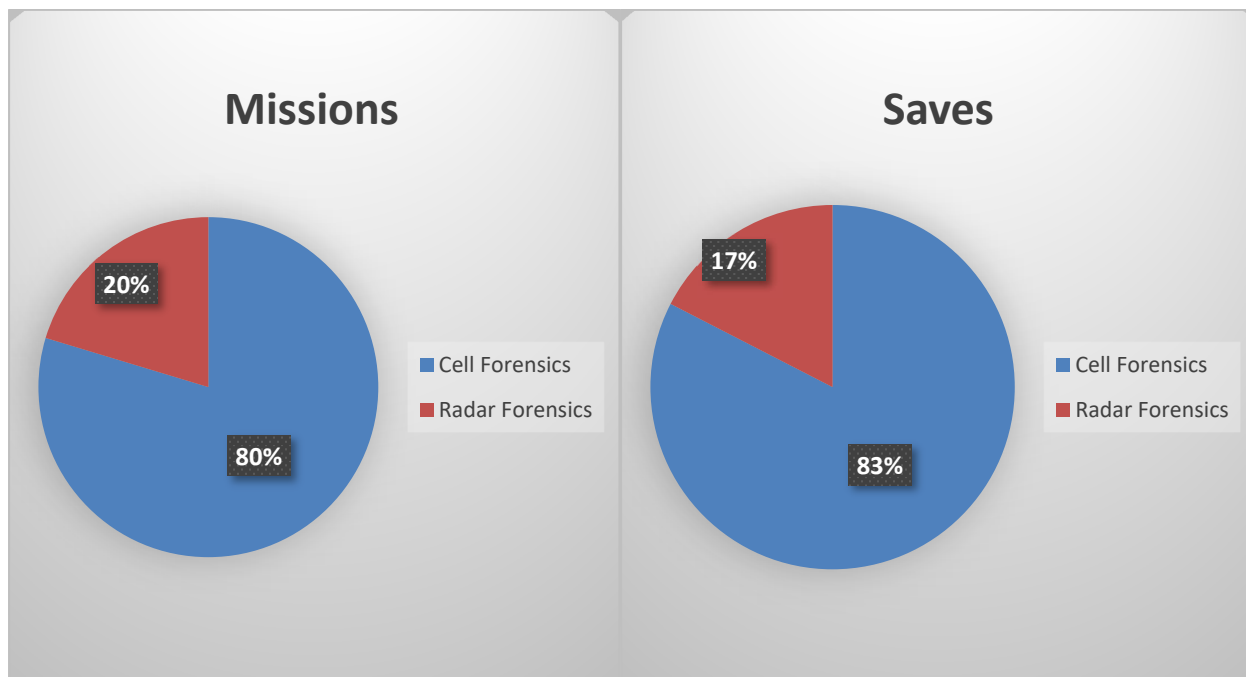


### MISSION RESULTS

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	10
Missing	3
Deceased	25
Non-distress	29
Self-recovered	2

## **RADAR AND CELL PHONE FORENSICS**

These charts 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	61	15
Cell Forensics	239	71

**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.

## **PRECAUTIONARY MISSION SUMMARY**

The precautionary mission summary identifies the number of events the Civil Air Patrol supported.

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

The below chart shows what events the Civil Air Patrol supported and SAR events that took place.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type of Event</b>	<b>SAR Events</b>
FL CAP	Sun 'n Fun	09 – 19 April	Air Show	0
AZ CAP	Lake Havasu	27 – 31 May	Air Show	0
AZ CAP	Lake Havasu	02 – 06 July	Air Show	0
WI CAP	Oshkosh	21 July – 08 August	Air Show	0
AZ CAP	Lake Havasu	02 – 06 September	Air Show	0



## 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 mission totals on this page may be higher than the actual annual number due to multiple SRUs being involved in the same mission. The save totals on this page may be lower than the actual annual number due to no federal resources being used.

<b>COAST GUARD</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
CGAS CAPE CODE	1	0
CGAS COLUMBIA RIVER	5	13
CGAS NORTH BEND	3	16
CGAS PUEGEOT SOUND	6	7
CGAS SAN DIEGO	1	1
CGAS TRAVERSE CITY	3	2
<b>USCG TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>ARMY</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
1-112 AVN	1	1
1-147 AVN	2	0
1-168 GSAB	2	1
1-183 AHB	2	1
1-189 GSAB	2	1
2-135 AVN	1	0
2-238 GSAB	1	0
2-916 AVN BN	1	0
82 ABN DIVARTY	1	0
AASF BANGOR	5	11
AASF BUCKLEY	9	8
AASF BURLINGTON	2	0
AASF CHEYENNE	6	3
AASF GRAY	1	1
AASF SALT LAKE	1	0
AASF WEST BEND	3	2
HAATS EAGLE	6	4
YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER	6	5
<b>ARMY TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>NAVY</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
NAWS CHINA LAKE	5	2
NAS FALLON	7	5
NAS LEMOORE	10	11
NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND	45	46
<b>USN TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>64</b>

<b>AIR FORCE</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
129 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	2	0
130 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	2	2
131 <sup>ST</sup> RQS	2	2
19 <sup>TH</sup> SOS	1	0
301 <sup>ST</sup> RQS	1	0
304 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	2	0
305 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	1	1
355 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	1	1
36 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	3	2
39 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	3	0
40 <sup>TH</sup> HS	7	4
66 <sup>TH</sup> RQS	3	2
<b>USAF TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>MARINES</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
<b>USMC TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>COMBAT SUPPORT AGENCY</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
<b>CSA TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

CIVIL AIR PATROL		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
NHQ CAP	300	86
AK CAP	0	0
AL CAP	4	0
AR CAP	2	1
AZ CAP	14	0
CA CAP	20	1
CO CAP	5	0
DE CAP	0	0
FL CAP	28	1
GA CAP	7	0
HI CAP	0	0
IA CAP	0	0
ID CAP	6	3
IL CAP	0	0
IN CAP	1	0
KS CAP	7	4
KY CAP	2	0
LA CAP	4	0
MA CAP	4	0
MD CAP	4	2
ME CAP	1	1
MI CAP	5	1
MN CAP	5	0
MO CAP	3	0
MS CAP	2	0
MT CAP	3	0
NC CAP	7	3
ND CAP	2	0
NH CAP	1	0
NJ CAP	2	0
NM CAP	3	5
NV CAP	6	2
NY CAP	2	0
OH CAP	8	0
OK CAP	5	0
OR CAP	6	0
PA CAP	6	0
PR CAP	1	0
RI CAP	0	0

SC CAP	3	0
SD CAP	0	0
TN CAP	5	0
TX CAP	14	0
UT CAP	4	0
VA CAP	5	0
VT CAP	1	0
WA CAP	0	0
WI CAP	10	0
WV CAP	3	1
WY CAP	3	0
<b>CAP Total</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>ALL SRUs TOTAL</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>267</b>

**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](mailto:afrc.console@us.af.mil) or at 850-283-5129.



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