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**AIR FORCE RESCUE  
COORDINATION CENTER**



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**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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### **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.

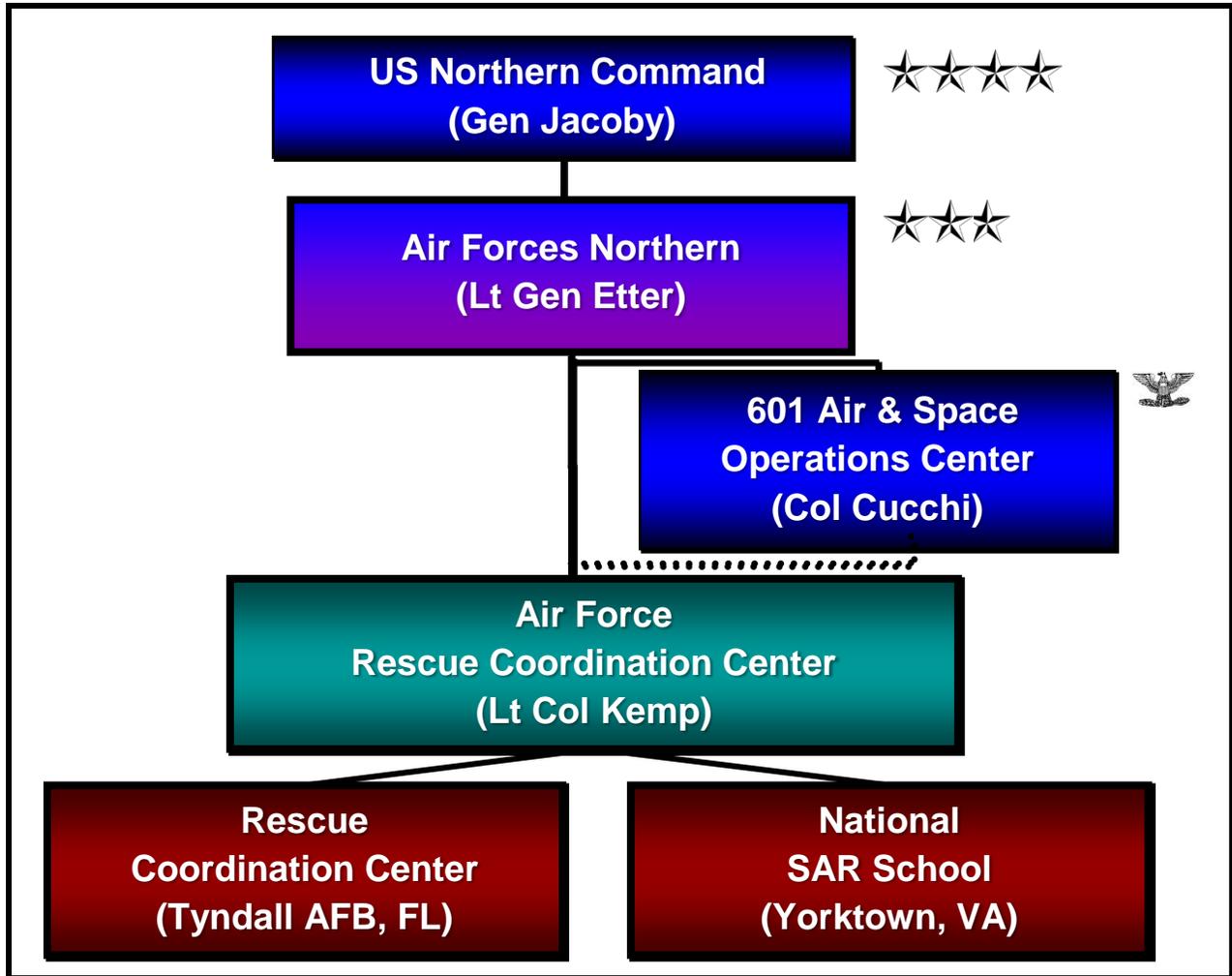
### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

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.

## AFRCC ORGANIZATION



## AFRCC MISSION STATEMENT

Continuously building a coordinated search and rescue network ensuring timely, effective lifesaving operations whenever and wherever needed through cooperation, coordination and education.

## TEN YEAR SYNOPSIS

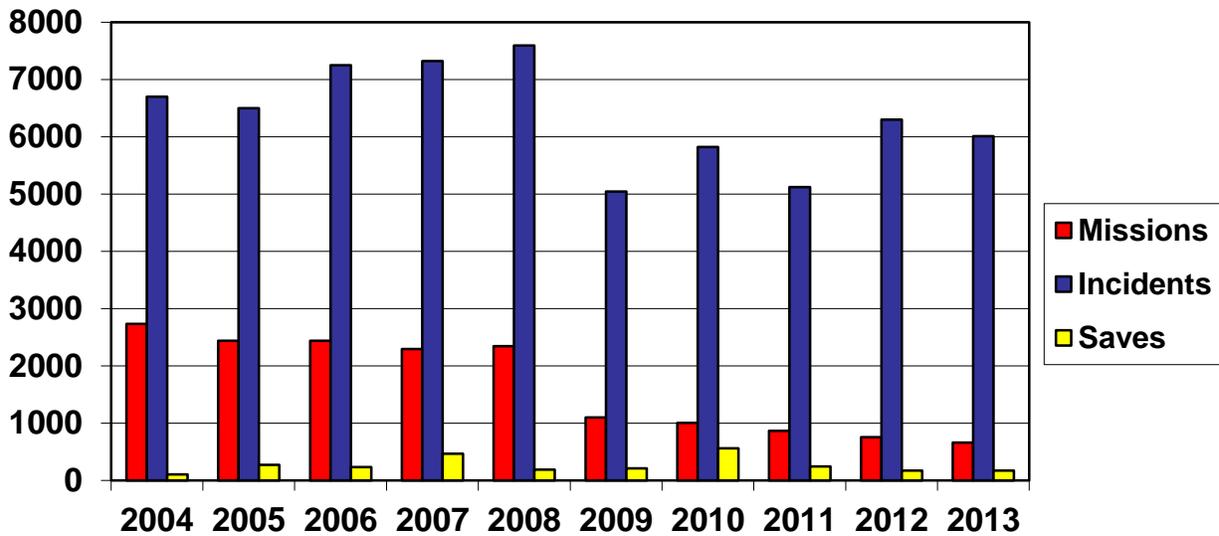
The AFRCC's yearly activity table illustrates the unit's total operational workload (missions, incidents and saves) over the past ten years.

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

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

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

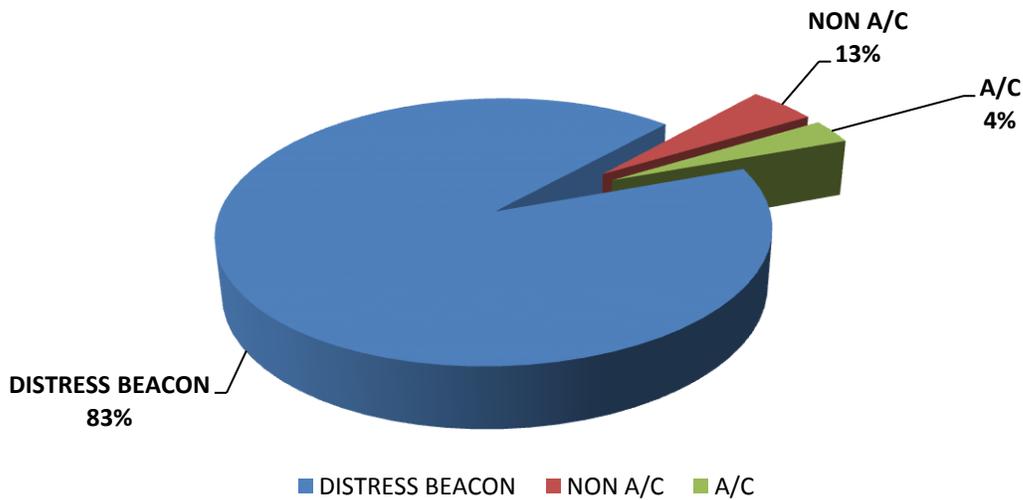
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Missions	2,734	2,441	2,438	2,296	2,344	1,100	1,004	866	755	660
Incidents	6,697	6,500	7,249	7,322	7,595	4,179	5,823	5,120	6,299	6010
Saves	107	275	237	468	190	214	561	245	172	171



## INCIDENT/MISSION/SAVE SUMMARY

The incident/mission/save summary identifies the total number of incidents, distress beacon incidents, non-aircraft incidents, aircraft incidents, total number of missions and the number of saves the AFRCC prosecuted during 2013.

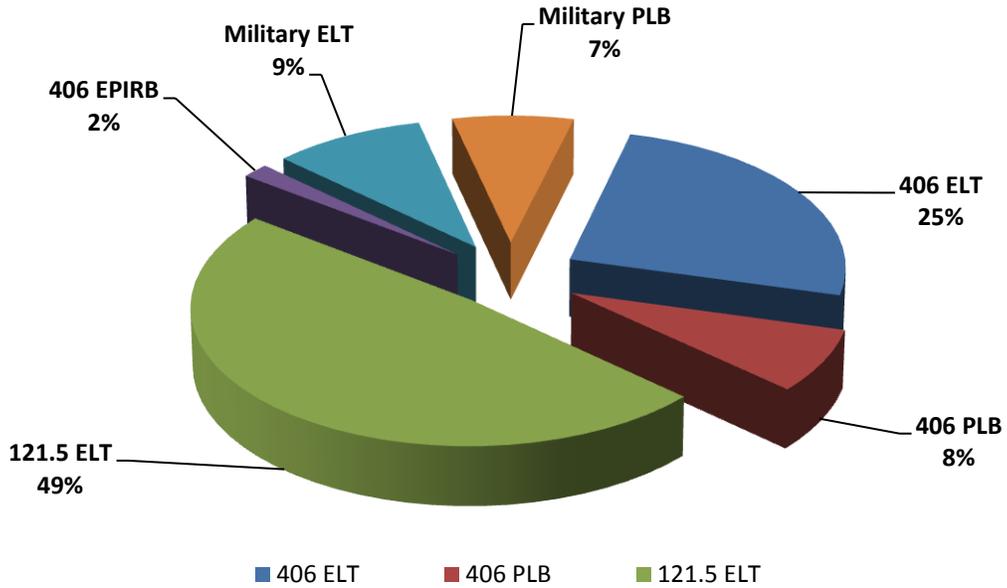
Through telephone and internet investigations, the AFRCC resolved 5,350 of the 6,010 incidents without expending federal resources, saving approximately \$2.46M and 321K work hours. The AFRCC coordinated 660 missions resulting in 171 lives saved.



SUMMARY	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Distress Beacon Incidents	5,529	414	25
Non-Aircraft Incidents	284	195	133
Aircraft Incidents	197	51	13

## BEACON SUMMARY

During 2013, 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.



TYPE	INCIDENTS <sup>1</sup>	MISSIONS	SAVES
406 ELT	3,293	105	6
406 PLB	266	31	5
121.5 ELT	326	201	0
406 EPIRB	176	7	0
Military ELT	695	39	14
Military PLB	773	31	0

Note 1: 598 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 2013.

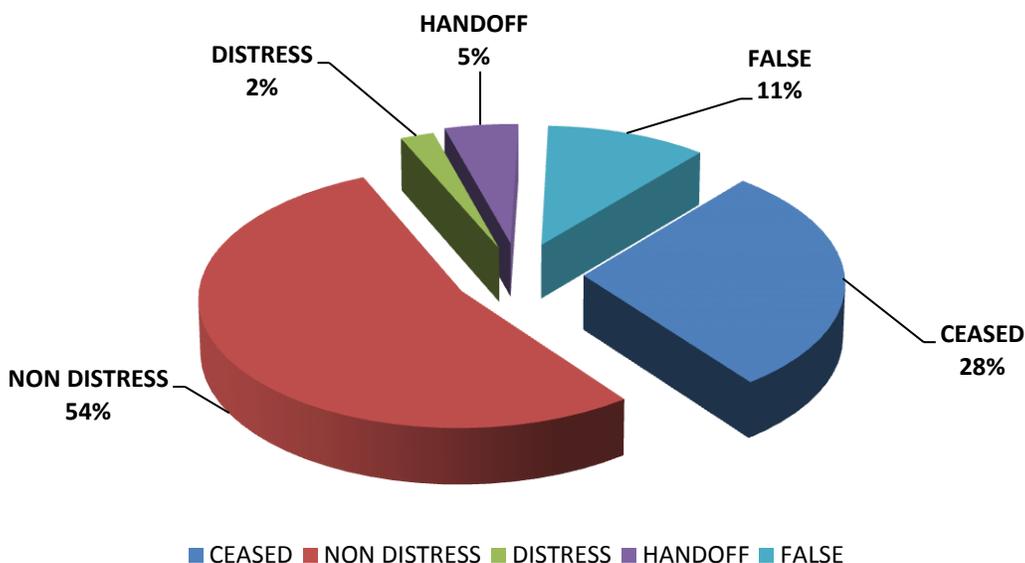
**NON-DISTRESS:** Upon investigation it was revealed that there was not an actual distress situation, e.g. accidental activation.

**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.



RESULT	NUMBER
Non Distress	2,840
Ceased	1,584
Handoff	397
Distress	68
False	640

## NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

In 2013 the AFRCC prosecuted several different types of Non-Aircraft related incidents. This chart breaks down the various types and number of incidents 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.

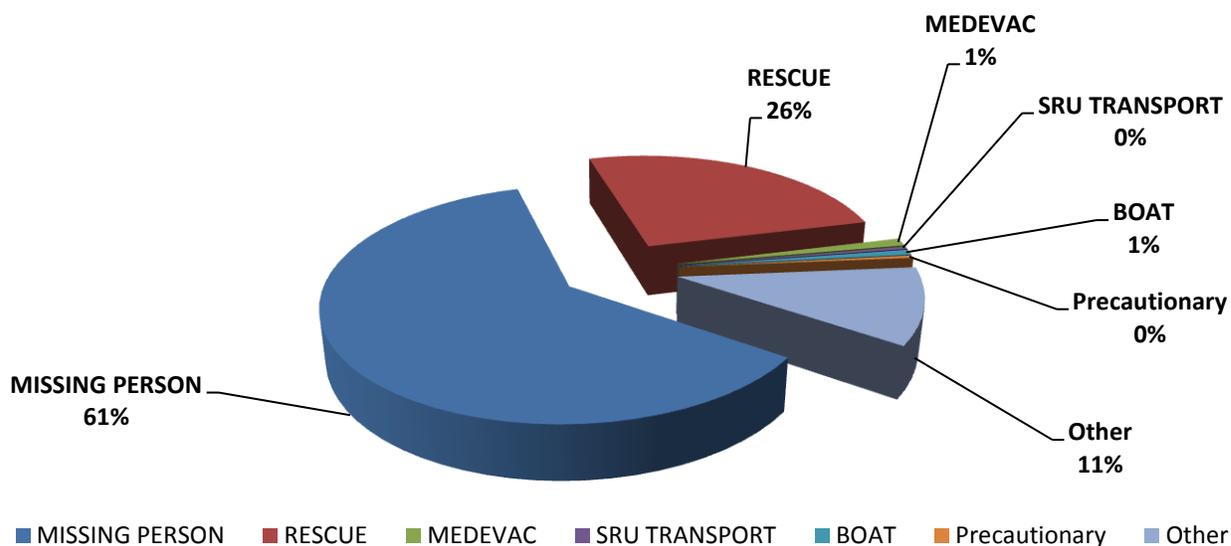
**MASS RESCUE:** Extraction of persons in distress from an accident/incident involving a large number of persons.

**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.

**RECOVERY:** On special occasions, when all other state resources are exhausted and there are no limiting factors for the federal asset, the AFRCC may grant approval for a unit to assist with the recovery of the deceased.

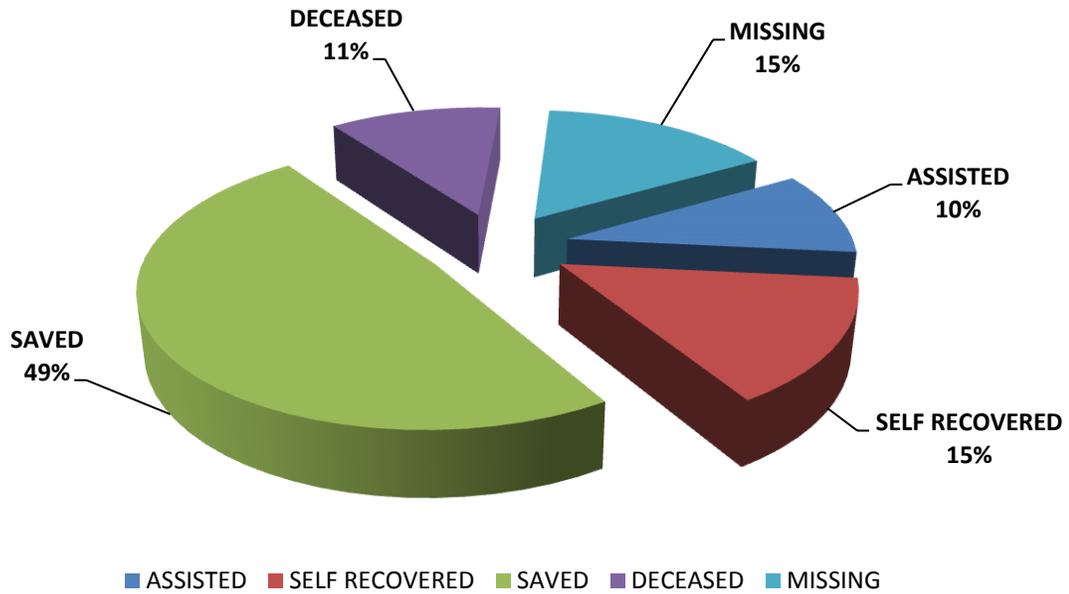


**NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY CONTINUED**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>INCIDENTS</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
Missing Person(s)	170	136	80
Rescue	71	46	45
MEDEVAC	9	8	6
Mercy	0	0	0
SRU Transport	1	1	0
Recovery	0	0	0
Mass Rescue	0	0	0
Boat	2	1	2
Vehicle	0	0	0
Precautionary	1	1	0
Other	30	2	0

## NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart indicates mission results for non-aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2013.



RESULT	NUMBER
Saved	133
Missing	42
Deceased	31
Assisted	27
Self Recovered	40

## **AIRCRAFT SUMMARY**

The chart shows the types of aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2013, the number of incidents overall, missions involving federal assets, and lives saved.

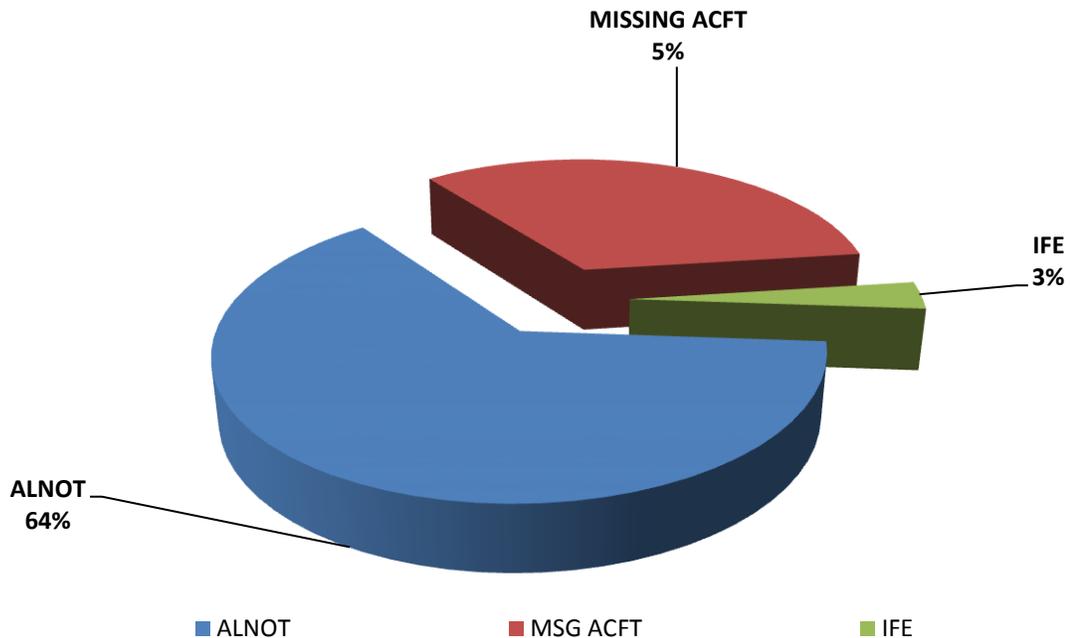
**MISSING AIRCRAFT:** The investigation of the report of an overdue aircraft which remains missing.

**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.



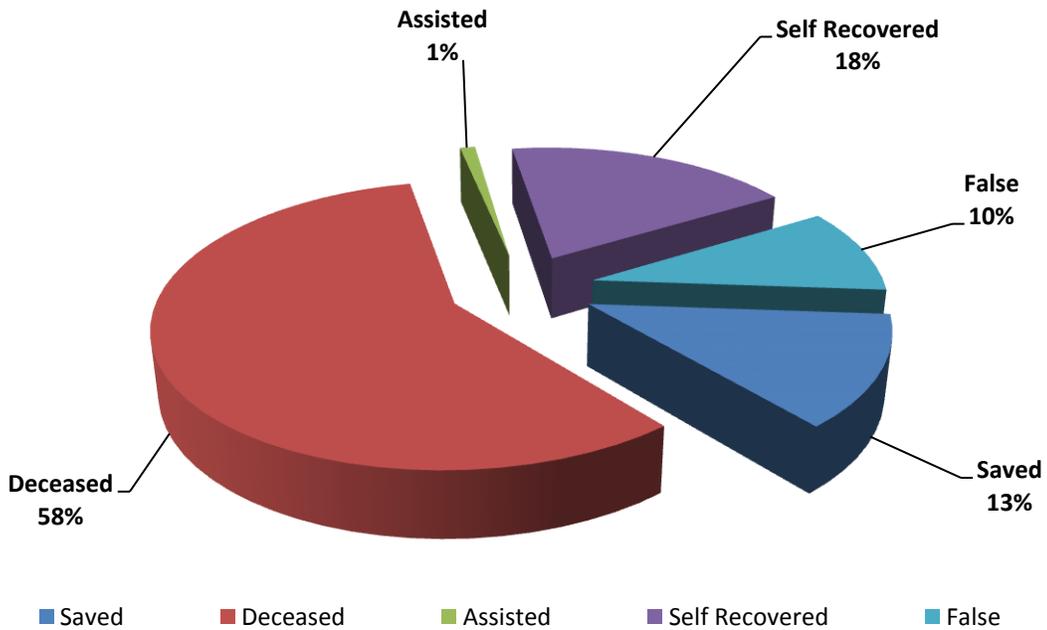
TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
ALNOT	128	33	7
IFE	6	2	0
Crash	0	0	0
Missing Aircraft	63	16	6
Precautionary	0	0	0

## AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

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This chart indicates mission results for aircraft related incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2013.

“False” is an incident initiated by the AFRCC which subsequently turns out to be a false alarm e.g. the pilot forgot to close the flight plan.

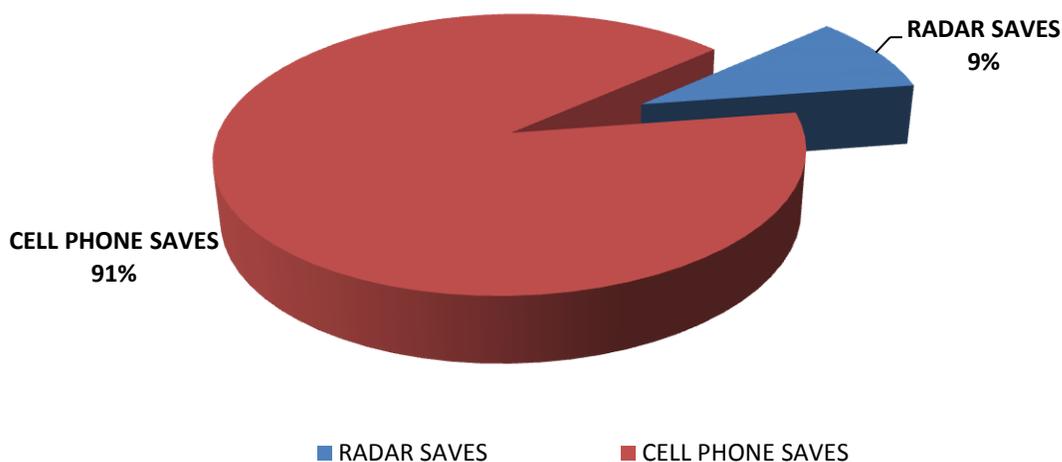


RESULT	NUMBER
Saved	13
Missing	0
Deceased	59
Assisted	1
Self-Recovered	19
False	10

## **RADAR AND CELL PHONE FORENSICS**

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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.



<b>TYPE</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
Radar Forensics	40	5
Cell Forensics	101	49

**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.

<b>COAST GUARD</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
CGD13	9	9
CGD11	3	1
CGD08	5	5
CGD07	4	1
CGD01	2	2
CGD09	10	12
CGAS TRAVERSE CITY	2	1
CGAS ASTORIA	1	1
<b>USCG TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>ARMY</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
2916 GENERAL AVIATION BATTALION	1	1
501 AVN	1	1
Native Air (Ft. Bliss)	1	1
<b>USA TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ARMY NATIONAL GUARD</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
HAATS	22	15
AASF	6	3
BRAVO COMPANY 1ST/214TH	3	3
1-189th	1	0
183 AASF	1	1
AASF BOISE	1	2
183RD AVIATION BATTALION	1	4
183RD AVIATION SQ.	1	0
<b>ARNG TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>NAVY</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND	7	7
NAS CHINA LAKE	2	1
NAS FALLEN	6	9
<b>USN TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>AIR FORCE (AD/RESERVE)</b>		

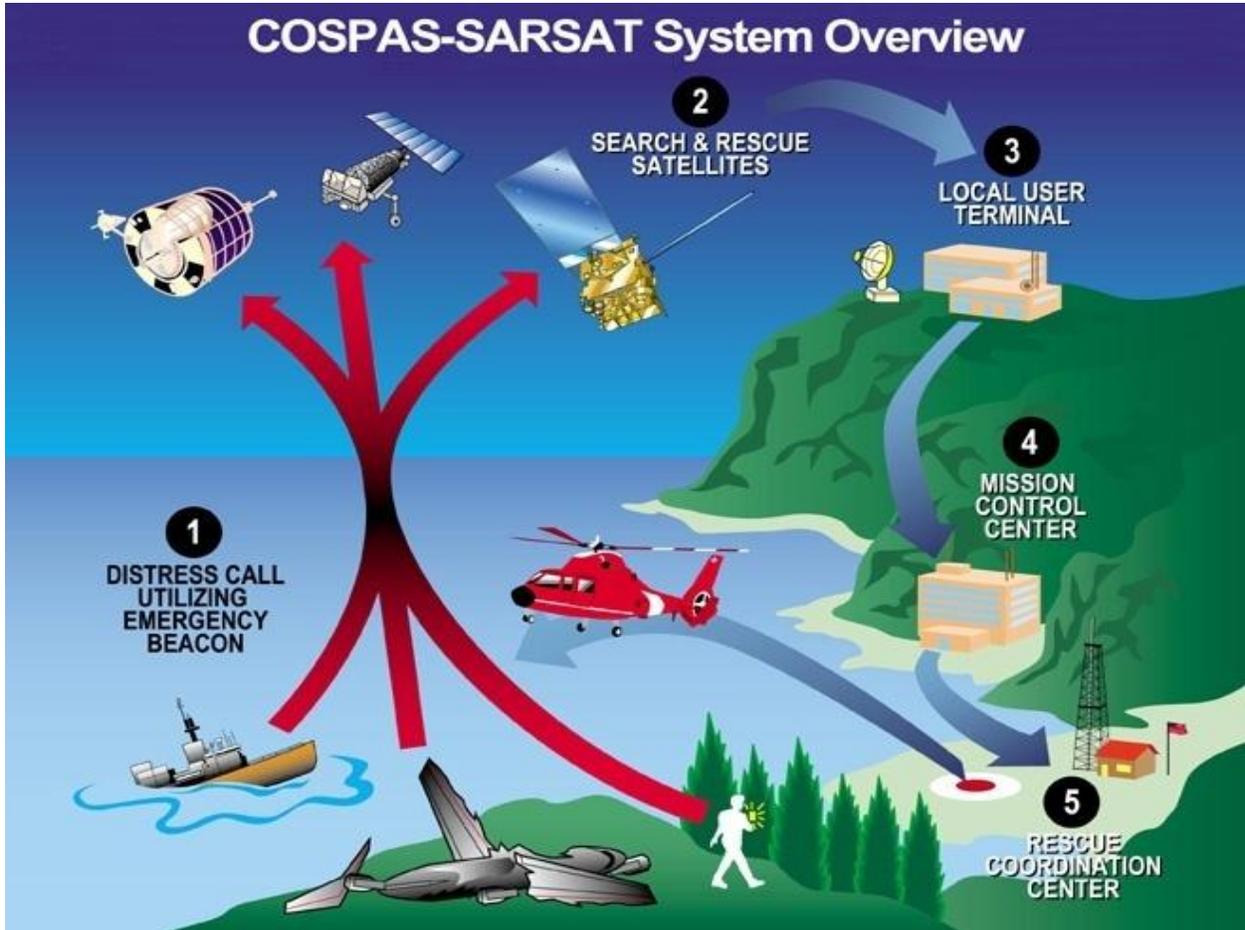
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
304th RQS	4	4
308th RQS	1	0
66th RQS	3	3
36th RQF	7	3
37th HELO SQUADRON	3	0
40th HF	7	5
512th RESCUE SQUADRON	1	0
79th RQS	1	1
305th RQS	5	5
563rd RQS	1	1
55ND RQS	1	1
<b>AF TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
129th RQW	2	1
Gowen Field	3	2
112TH SNS	1	1
ALPHA CO 168	1	0
D112TH	1	0
<b>ANG TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MARINES</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
MCAS YUMA	3	2
<b>USMC TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CIVIL AIR PATROL</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
FL CAP	68	0
CA CAP	51	0
CT CAP	4	0
RI CAP	2	0
TX CAP	39	0
VT CAP	1	0
IN CAP	7	0
GA CAP	16	0
NC CAP	13	0
DE CAP	4	0
PA CAP	15	0
MD CAP	12	0
LA CAP	14	0
KY CAP	6	0

MO CAP	12	0
AL CAP	4	0
MA CAP	7	0
OR CAP	8	1
NY CAP	15	0
AZ CAP	18	2
MT CAP	7	2
CO CAP	25	1
MI CAP	10	0
OK CAP	6	0
NM CAP	10	4
MN CAP	9	0
NV CAP	7	10
WY CAP	11	7
UT CAP	4	0
WA CAP	4	0
SC CAP	4	0
IL CAP	10	0
NE CAP	1	0
WI CAP	6	0
KS CAP	7	0
OH CAP	12	0
TN CAP	6	0
AR CAP	6	0
SD CAP	2	0
ND CAP	2	0
NJ CAP	6	0
ME CAP	5	0
VA CAP	4	0
NH CAP	2	1
IA CAP	1	0
ID CAP	5	0
WV CAP	1	0
MS CAP	4	0
DC CAP	1	0
<b>CAP TOTAL</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>ALL SRUs TOTAL</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>133</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 Mr. Stephen Bell at 850-283-5427 or [stephen.bell.8@us.af.mil](mailto:stephen.bell.8@us.af.mil).



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