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**AIR FORCE RESCUE  
COORDINATION CENTER**



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**2016 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, also known as the Langley SRR. 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 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.

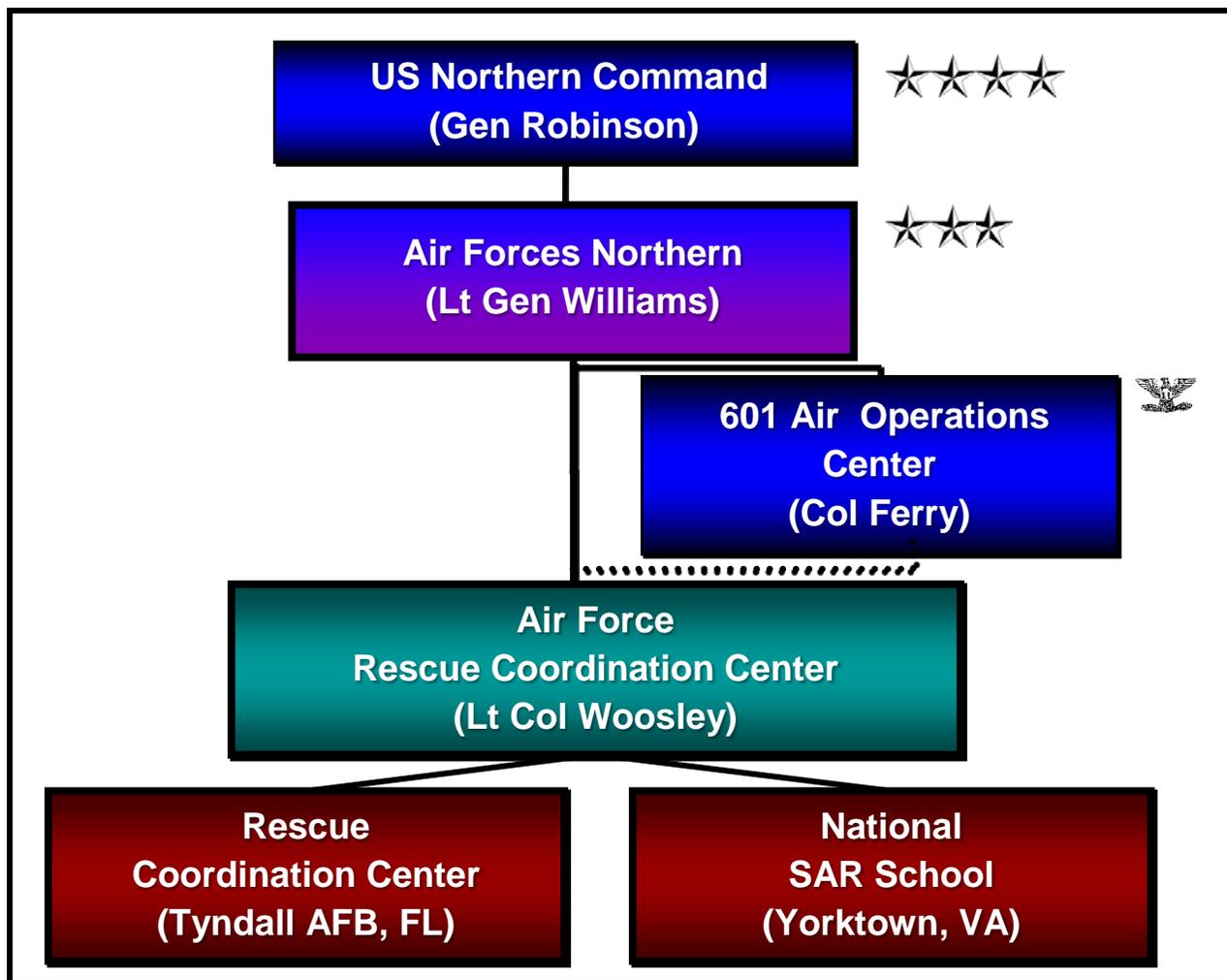
### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

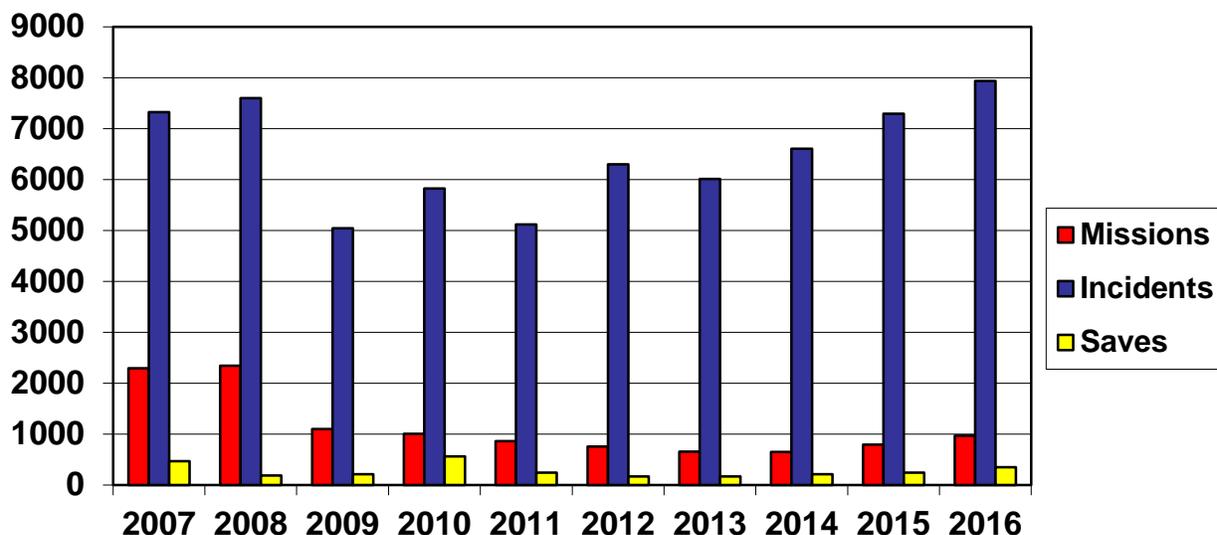
The AFRCC's yearly activity table illustrates the unit's total operational workload (missions, incidents and saves) over the past ten years.

**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.

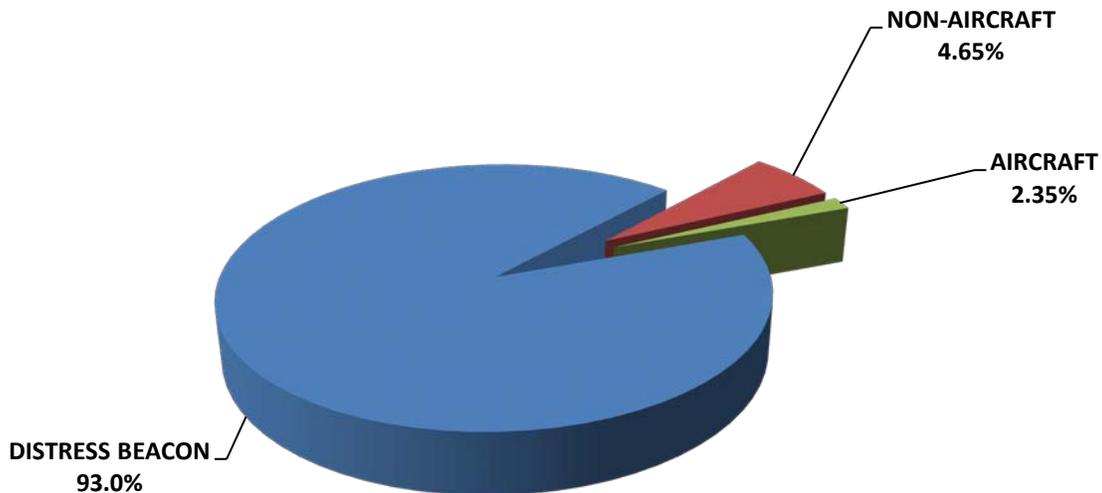
Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Missions	2296	2344	1100	1004	866	755	660	654	797	969
Incidents	7322	7595	4179	5823	5120	6299	6010	6603	7293	7936
Saves	468	190	214	561	245	172	171	212	244	354



## 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 2016.

Through telephone and internet investigations, the AFRCC resolved 6,967 (88%) of the 7,936 incidents without expending federal resources, saving approximately \$7.9 million dollars and 501,000 work hours. The AFRCC coordinated 969 missions resulting in 354 lives saved.

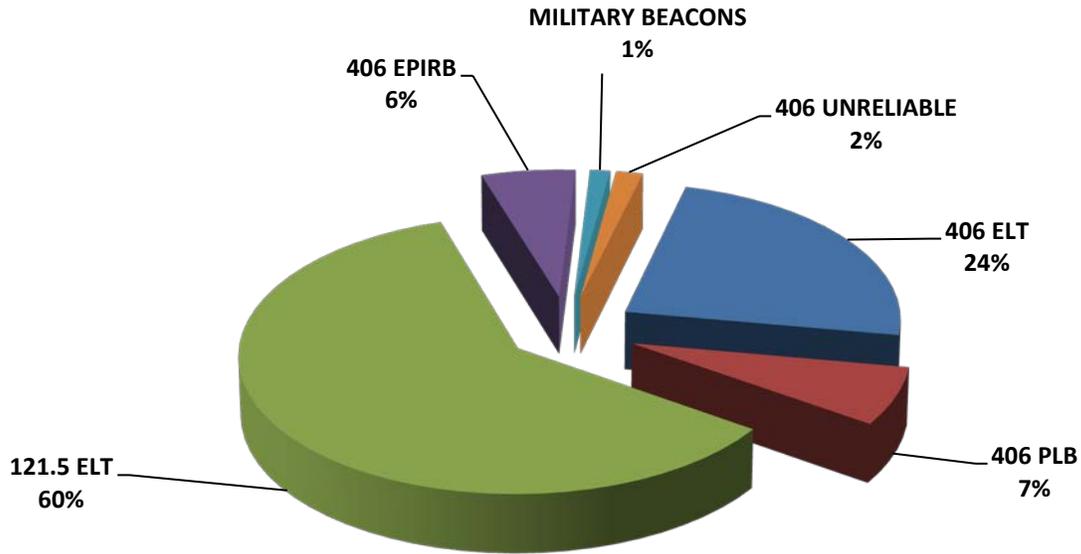


### NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

SUMMARY	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Distress Beacon Incidents	7320	482	66
Non-Aircraft Incidents	495	427	278
Aircraft Incidents	121	60	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>7936</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>354</b>

## BEACON SUMMARY

During 2016, 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 <sup>1</sup>	MISSIONS	SAVES
406 ELT	4924	115	6
406 PLB	599	33	48
406 – Unreliable	143	8	2
121.5 ELT	556	292	1
406 EPIRB	327	28	0
Military Beacons	771	6	9

Note 1: 863 Incidents were beacons coordinated with overseas agencies in more than 50 countries.

## BEACON INCIDENT/MISSION RESULTS

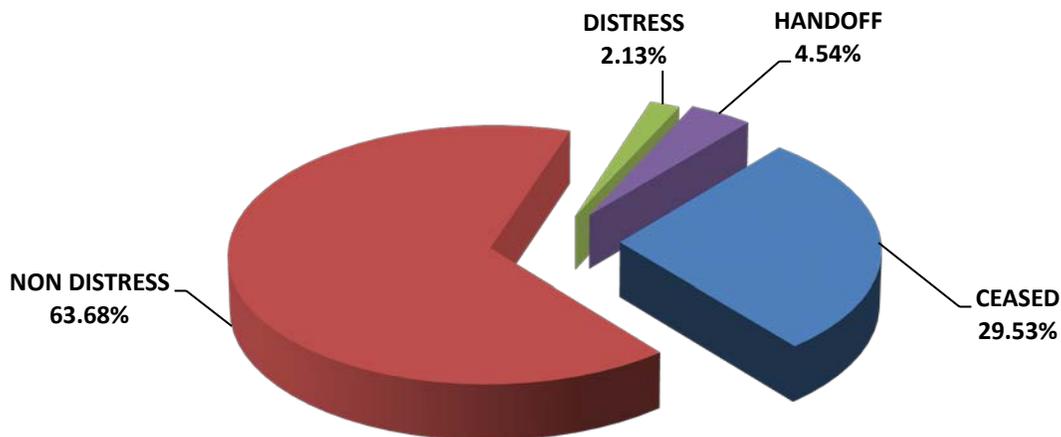
This chart and corresponding table indicate the results of all distress beacon incidents coordinated by the AFRCC during 2016.

**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	4689
Ceased	1992
Handoff	296
Distress	141

## **NON-AIRCRAFT SUMMARY**

In 2016 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.

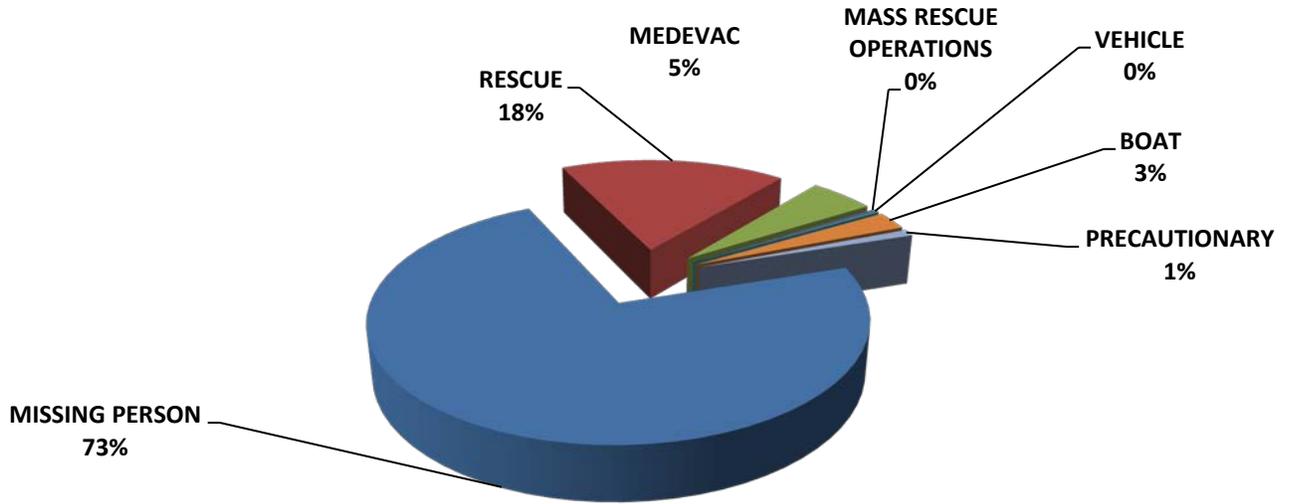
**MEDEVAC:** Evacuation of persons for medical reasons and hospital-to-hospital patient transfer.

**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

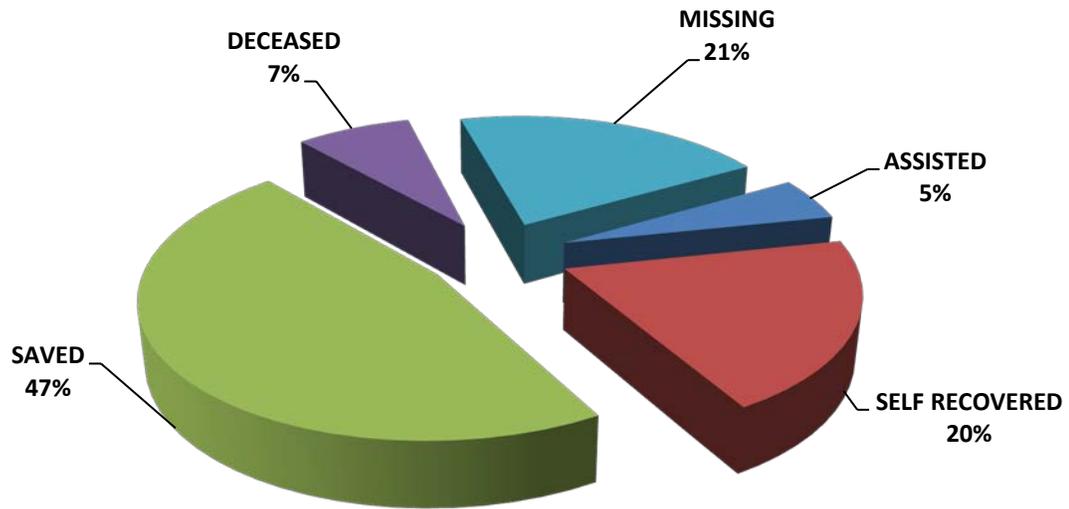


### NON-AIRCRAFT MISSIONS

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
Missing Person(s)	354	313	111
Rescue	91	77	87
MEDEVAC	31	22	28
Mercy	3	1	1
SRU Transport	0	0	0
Mass Rescue	1	1	46
Boat	12	11	5
Vehicle	1	1	0
Precautionary	2	2	0

## NON-AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart and corresponding table indicate mission results for non-aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2016.



### NON-AIRCRAFT SAVES

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	278
Missing	123
Deceased	45
Assisted	30
Self Recovered	119

## AIRCRAFT SUMMARY

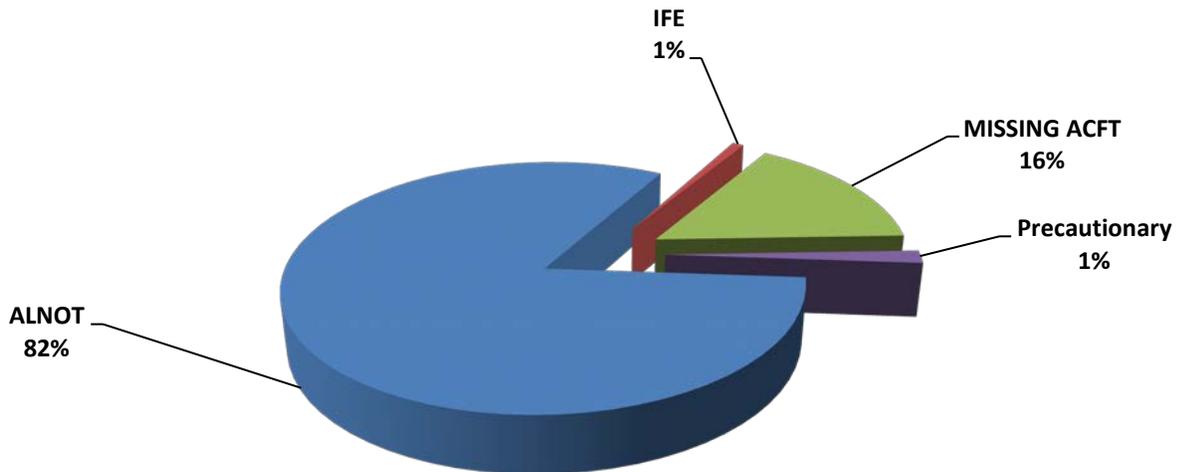
This chart and corresponding table shows the types of aircraft incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2016, the number of incidents overall, missions involving federal assets, and lives saved.

**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.

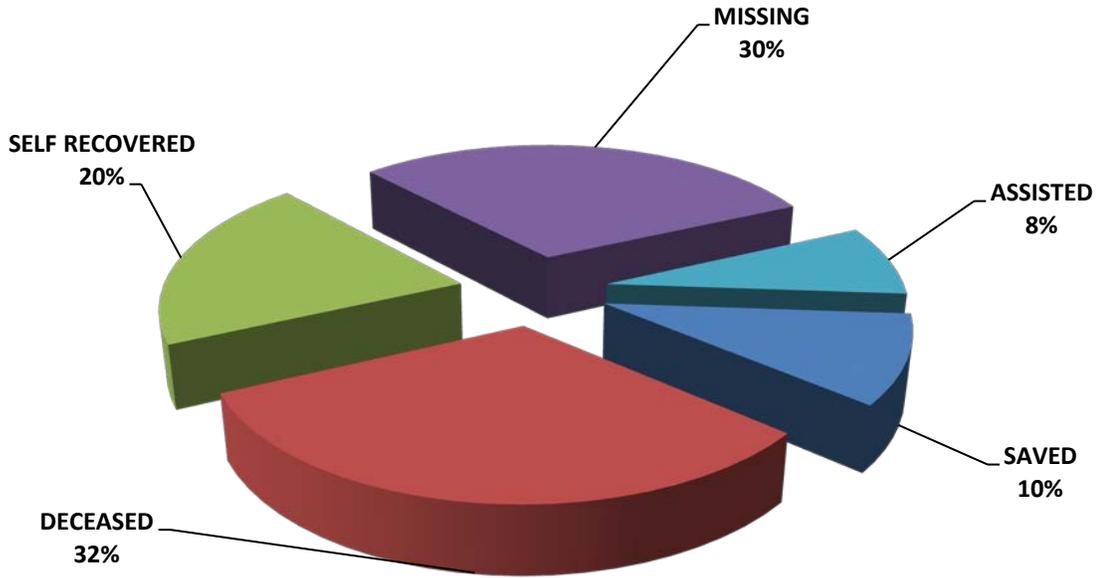


## AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

TYPE	INCIDENTS	MISSIONS	SAVES
ALNOT	99	50	7
IFE	1	0	0
Missing Aircraft	19	8	3
Precautionary	2	2	0

## AIRCRAFT MISSION RESULTS

This chart and corresponding table indicate mission results for aircraft related incidents prosecuted by the AFRCC in 2016.

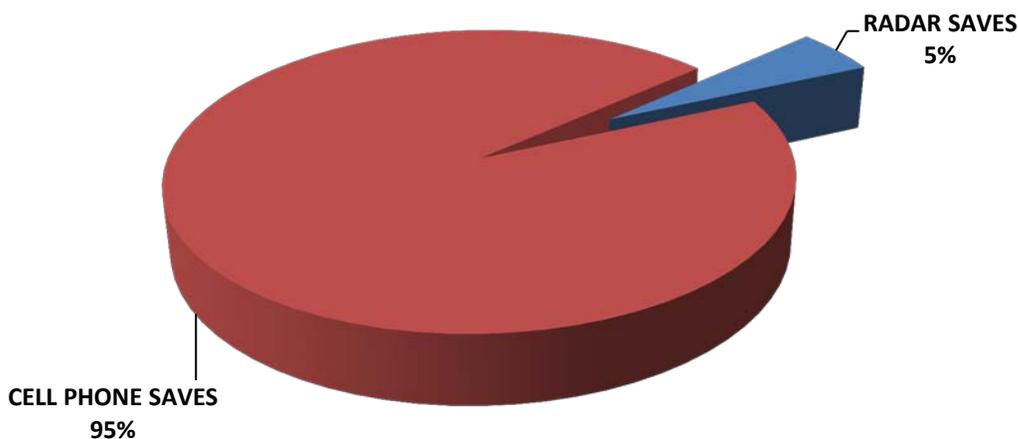


### MISION RESULTS

RESULT	INDIVIDUALS
Saved	10
Missing	30
Deceased	32
Assisted	8
Self-Recovered	20

## **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**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
Radar Forensics	58	5
Cell Forensics	262	95
Joint Cell and Radar Forensics	22	4

**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
CGAS ATLANTIC CITY	1	1
CGAS ASTORIA	9	10
CGAS CAPE COD	1	1
CGAS DETROIT	1	0
CGAS NORTH BEND	1	1
CGAS PORT ANGELES	5	48
CGAS SAN FRANCISCO	1	2
CGAS SAULT SAINTE MARIE	2	1
CGAS TRAVERSE CITY	4	2
<b>USCG TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>66</b>
ARMY		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
16 COMBAT ACTION BRIGADE	1	1
YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER	8	10
<b>USA TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
HAATS	17	31
BRAVO COMPANY 1ST/214TH	3	2
AASF BUCKLEY	4	3
AASF BOISE	6	8
AASF BANGOR	8	6
AASF CHEYENNE	5	4
66 TAC	2	2
AASF WEST BEND	1	1
<b>ARNG TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>
NAVY		
SRU NAME	MISSIONS	SAVES
NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND	37	39
NAS FALLON	6	8
NAS LEMOORE	4	3
<b>USN TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>

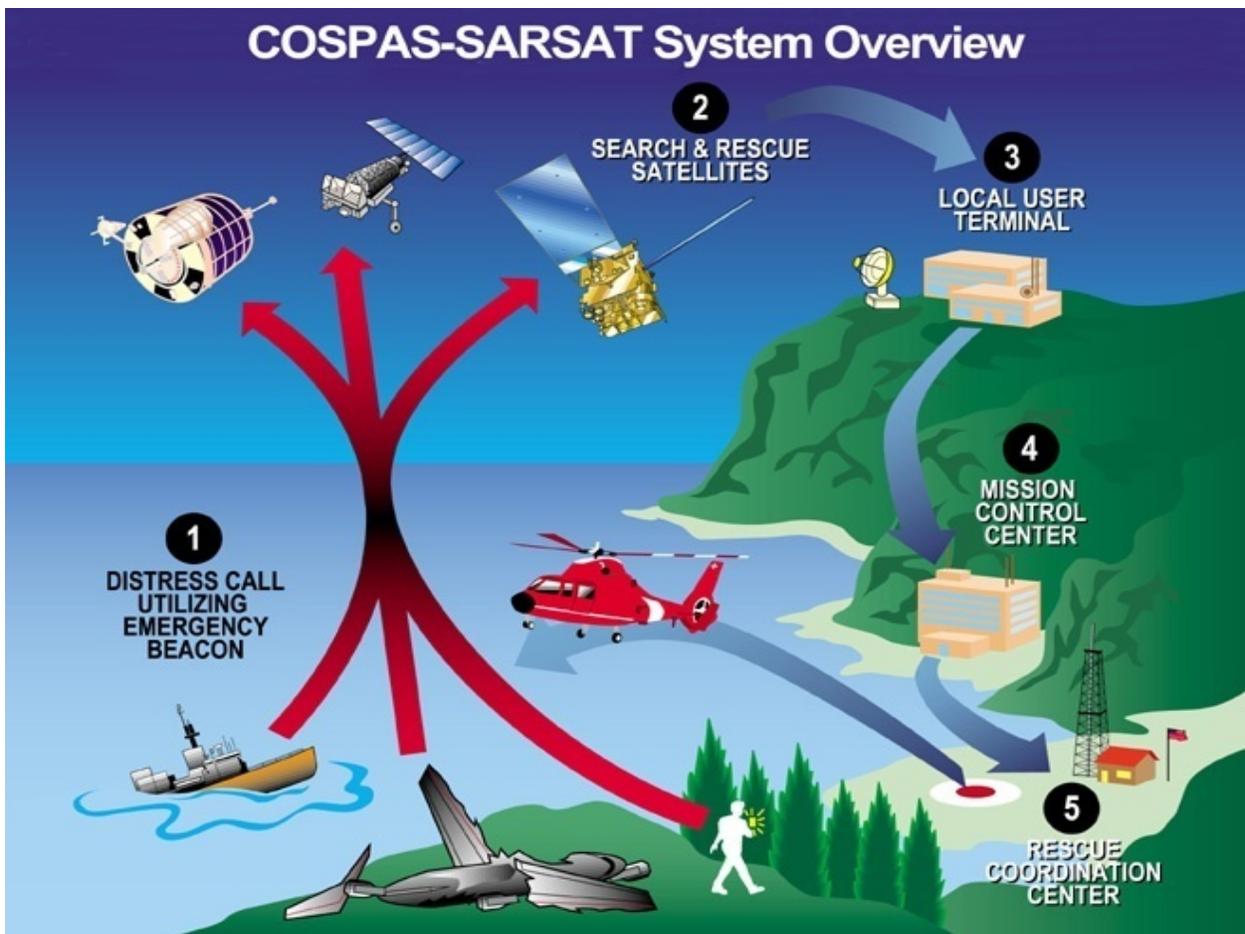
<b>AIR FORCE (AD/RESERVE)</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
15th SOS	1	0
36th RQF	2	1
37th HS	3	6
38th RQS	1	1
40th HF	4	5
55th RQS	1	0
58th SOW	1	1
71st RQS	1	1
79th RQS	1	1
305th RQS	2	2
304th RQS	3	1
563rd RQS	1	1
<b>USAF TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
129th RQW	3	3
<b>ANG TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MARINES</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
MCAS YUMA	6	6
<b>USMC TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>COMBAT SUPPORT AGENCY</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency	1	0
<b>CSA TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CIVIL AIR PATROL</b>		
<b>SRU NAME</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>SAVES</b>
NHQ CAP	320	100
AL CAP	5	0
AK CAP	0	0
AZ CAP	20	0
AR CAP	7	0
CA CAP	76	6
CO CAP	14	2
CT CAP	6	0
DE CAP	4	0
FL CAP	76	0
GA CAP	12	0
HI CAP	0	0
ID CAP	8	1

IL CAP	10	0
IN CAP	7	0
IA CAP	2	0
KS CAP	3	0
KY CAP	4	0
LA CAP	15	0
ME CAP	7	1
MD CAP	4	0
MA CAP	2	0
MI CAP	5	0
MN CAP	9	0
MS CAP	11	2
MO CAP	11	0
MT CAP	2	1
NE CAP	2	0
NV CAP	6	2
NH CAP	1	0
NM CAP	6	0
NJ CAP	7	0
NY CAP	11	1
NC CAP	7	0
ND CAP	4	1
OH CAP	14	0
OK CAP	6	0
OR CAP	12	3
PA CAP	8	1
RI CAP	0	0
SC CAP	4	0
SD CAP	3	3
TN CAP	9	0
TX CAP	57	0
UT CAP	1	0
VT CAP	0	0
VA CAP	16	2
WA CAP	7	1
WV CAP	2	0
WI CAP	13	1
WY CAP	12	1
PR CAP	3	1
<b>CAP Total</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>ALL SRUs TOTAL</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>345</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"***