

68 RESCUE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

68 Rescue Flight constituted, 17 Apr 2014

Activated, 3 Jun 2014

Redesignated as 68 Rescue Squadron, 1 Jun 2017

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 3 Jun 2014

ASSIGNMENTS

563 Rescue Group, 3 Jun 2014

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Approved, 12 Jan 2015; newest rendition approved, 6 Jun 2017

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFNS) -- As one of the only human based weapon systems in the Air Force, Guardian Angel must have highly trained personnel dedicated to the Air Force core function of personnel recovery. Guardian Angel is comprised of combat rescue officers, pararescuemen, and survival, evasion, resistance, and escape specialists. The 68th Rescue Flight, also known as the Guardian Angel Formal Training Unit, was stood up in 2014 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. "The mission of the 68th RQF and soon to be 68th Rescue Squadron is to provide standardized and efficient upgrade training for the entire Guardian Angel weapon system in order to support the Combatant Commanders Personnel Recovery requirements," said Capt. Michael Ellingsen, the 68th RQF commander. Ellingsen relinquished command at a change of command ceremony and the 68th RQF transitioned to the 68th RQS on June 1, 2017.

"We only had 25 positions assigned when we were initially stood up by (combatant commander)," Ellingsen said. "We're sitting at about 44 personnel right now. That was enough to convert us to a full-fledged rescue squadron from a numbered flight." With the growth of the squadron there is an increase in positions, the commander's billet is now an O-5 and the superintendent is an established E-9. "Now that the 68th is converting to a full-fledged rescue squadron it's standardizing what Guardian Angel squadrons look like not only across the 23rd Wing, but the entire Air Force as well," Ellingsen said. "It's going to be pretty awesome to see where this place is going to be in the next three, five, ten years from now."

The 68th RQS focuses on training in three major courses: a pararescue team leader course, a mission qualification training course, and a U.S. Special Operations Command approved military freefall jumpmaster course. This transition also allows for future growth in the form of new courses, new training and new upgrade opportunities for multitudes of Battlefield Airmen. "Going back to General Goldfein's priorities, squadrons are the fundamental building blocks of

the Air Force,” Ellingsen said. “That’s where people live, that’s where people reside, and that’s where families and Airmen flourish.”2017

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.