

will enhance the national SAR capability, and promote the coordinated development of all national SAR resources.

There are three geographic regions of jurisdiction identified in the National SAR Plan:

**Inland Region :** Continental U.S., except inland Alaska and waters under jurisdiction of U.S.

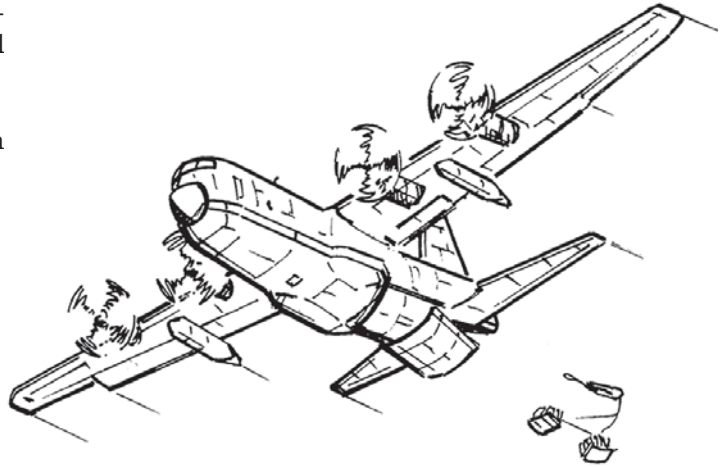
**Maritime Region:** U.S. Waters, Hawaii, specific areas off the west coast of Canada (*south of Alaska*), and the high seas.

**Overseas Region:** Overseas unified command areas, inland Alaska, areas not included in Inland or Maritime Regions.

Each of the regions is administered by a "SAR Coordinator" or agency responsible for SAR in the specific region. The United States Air Force (*USAF*) is the coordinator for the Inland Region, the USCG for the Maritime Region and the overseas unified command (*and the Alaskan Air Command in their respective areas*) in the Overseas Region. Each SAR Coordinator establishes agreements with, and maintains files for, military agencies; civilian agencies; as well as state, local, and private agencies in order to provide for the fullest practical cooperation and utilization in SAR missions. What is important to know is that according to the National SAR Plan, coordination of federal assets in all maritime or navigable water SAR is the responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard. Coordination of all federal assets in the inland region is the responsibility of the U.S. Air Force. These two are the coordinating agencies for federal resources responding to SAR incidents within their respective regions.

### Air Force Rescue Coordination Center

The US Air Force operates the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (*AFRCC*), which is the single federal agency responsible for coordinating SAR activities in the 48 contiguous states. The AFRCC's prime mission is the coordination of SAR, both for military and civilian personnel. The AFRCC is located at Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, Florida. It is operated 24 hours a day by personnel trained and experienced in SAR operations. The Center is equipped with excellent audio and communications equipment and maintains a comprehensive resource file listing all federal, state, local, and volunteer organizations capable of



conducting or assisting with SAR operations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. However, the AFRCC is not authorized to commit federal funds to hire SAR resources. The Center is administratively divided into three sections: an operations section to prosecute individual SAR missions; a directorship to provide overall management and formulate SAR plans, agreements, and policy; and a reports section to maintain data and records.

There are four basic types of AFRCC missions:

- Search
- Medivac
- Rescue
- Mercy

**Search:** Once a missing or lost situation is determined to exist, federal SAR assets may be activated to assist local jurisdictions in their search efforts.

**Rescue:** If a person or persons are located and determined to be in distress in a remote or hard to access location, federal SAR assets may be called upon to assist.

**Medi-vac:** Aero medical evacuations call for transport from one medical facility to another and usually occur where no other transportation option is available.

**Mercy:** Transportation of blood, organs, medical equipment, serum or personnel are usually tasked for specific time-critical life threatening situations.

Although any search and/or rescue resource belonging to the federal government may be requested, time, distance, location, equipment requirements and urgency are all evaluated as well as any other asset that might accomplish the task. The bottom