



COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE

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There are several options to recover isolated personnel (IP), but combat search and rescue (CSAR) is the Air Force's preferred method. The Air Force organizes, trains, and equips unique forces that focus specifically on personnel recovery (PR). When PR assets cannot avoid the threat on their own, other assets can be employed to protect the recovery forces thereby permitting PR to proceed with the best chance of success. CSAR represents the Air Force's method for PR in both denied and hostile environments. CSAR is often the only feasible means the Air Force has to execute PR. While PR is not limited to combat operations, CSAR, by definition, is a combat task and not conducted in humanitarian assistance, civil SAR or casualty evacuation (CASEVAC).

Components of CSAR

There are three CSAR components: command and control (C2), recovery forces, and IP. As an element assigned to the [air component commander](#), the personnel recovery coordination cell (PRCC) provides C2 and coordinates PR force activities with the joint personnel recovery center (JPRC) and other components. The recovery forces represent the dedicated Air Force assets that organize, train, and perform PR operations and augmentation forces. The Air Force normally employs recovery forces under the [CSAR task force](#) (CSARTF) structure. Although the CSARTF is not limited to Air Force assets only, this publication's scope is authoritative only to Air Force personnel. The final component of CSAR is the most vital element of the PR system: the IP.

CSAR is the primary recovery mechanism employed by the Air Force to accomplish the "recover" task of the joint execution tasks. Combining the proper mix of air and ground PR elements, the Air Force is well postured to recover any IP in a variety of environments.
